

Gloucestershire Unemployment Bulletin

Volume 2: September 2008

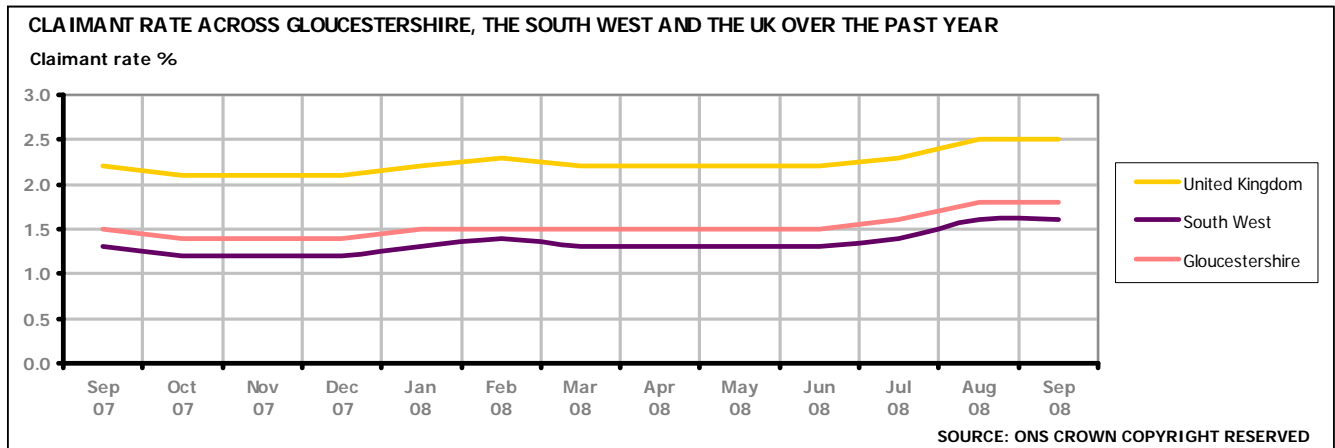


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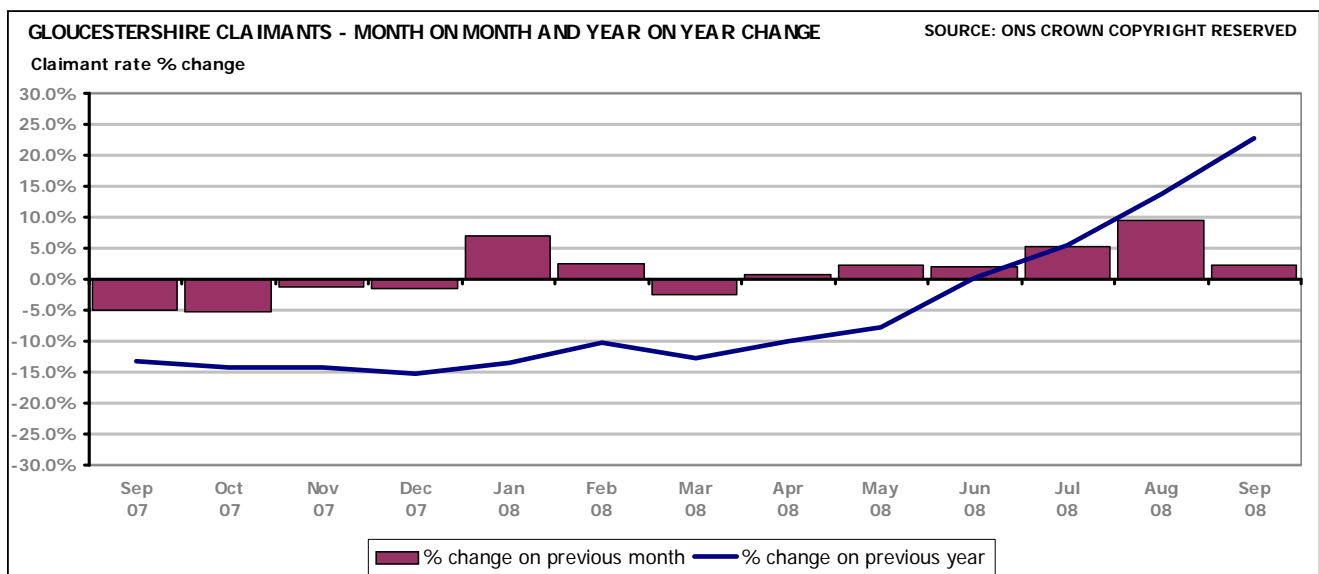
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October 2008

SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 1.8% in September 2008. This has increased by 0.04% from the August 2008 figure. This change is so small it is not reflected in the overall rate because of rounding. This is the fourth consecutive monthly increase, albeit small. The rate is slightly above the South West average of 1.6%, but over 0.5% lower than the UK average of 2.5%.



The claimant count in Gloucestershire in September 2008 rose by 148 people. The amount of people claiming in September 2008 was 2.4% higher than the number in August 2008. The increase was 2.5% across the South West, and 2.3% for the UK. A September increase has not been seen since the recession of the early 1990's.



The average growth in unemployment in Gloucestershire for the six months to September 2008 was 3.5%. This was slightly higher than the South West average of 3.2%, but much higher than the UK average of 2.1%.

1,660 people left the claimant count between August 2008 and September 2008, Almost 40% of those leaving the claimant count did so because they found work.

1,802 people joined the claimant count between August 2008 and September 2008. This was an increase of 14% on the same period last year.

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55% of Gloucestershire claimants in September 2008 have been claiming for three months or less. This figure was 10% lower a year ago, indicating that people are finding it harder in the short term to find work than they were last year.

Gloucestershire and district claimants

| Area | Claimant Count in September 2008 | % Change on August 2008 | Average % increase over the last six months | Consecutive months increasing |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Cheltenham | 1,602 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 6 |
| Cotswolds | 487 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 3 |
| Forest | 952 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 5 |
| Gloucester | 1,806 | -0.6 | 3.4 | - |
| Stroud | 866 | -0.2 | 3.6 | - |
| Tewkesbury | 700 | 4.0 | 2.2 | 4 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,407 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 6 |
| South West | 49,241 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 4 |
| UK | 944,716 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 4 |

The change in the claimant count between August 2008 and September 2008 varied across Gloucestershire. Cotswolds, Cheltenham, Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury districts all increased slightly, while Gloucester and Stroud districts decreased slightly.

- 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 September 2008 was the highest for two years and has been increasing since July 2008. Blockley ward had a 0.4% increase in claimants in September 2008, and was above the district average for the first time since October 2007.
- In the **Forest of Dean District** the claimant count in September 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 September 2008 fell for the first time 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 fell for the first time since June 2008. Minchinhampton ward also remained above the district average for the second month running.
- **Tewkesbury Borough** had a 4% increase on the August 2008 count. 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.

Service Implications

Although there is not a marked increase in the number of people unemployed since last month, the possibility of a worsening situation looms. This will inevitably impact across county wide services. Preparation both in terms of contingency arrangements as well as forward planning will be vital in addressing emerging client issues.

Labour force planning may need to take account of the changing labour force in terms of a larger proportion of unemployed people. Contingency arrangements may need to address an increasing demand for example for free schools meals, health related issues and other social support.

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Part 1: UK, South West and Gloucestershire Indicators

Claimant Rate¹

Figure 1

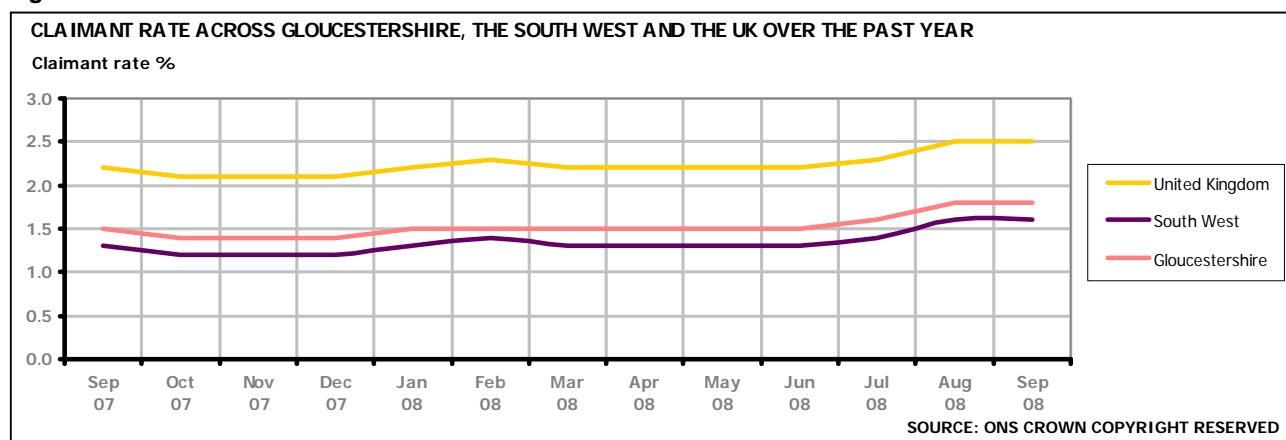


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 1.8% in September 2008. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.5% against the UK average during the same period. September 2008 represented a very small increase on the previous month.

Claimant Count²

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

| Area | Claimant Count in September 2008 | % change on August ³ 2008 | Average % increase over the last six months ⁴ | Consecutive months increasing |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| UK | 944,716 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 4 |
| South West | 49,241 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 4 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,407 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 6 |

Table 1 shows that in September 2008, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 2.4% higher than the number in August 2008. This is comparable with UK and South West increases. The September 2008 increase, although not as high as the August 2008 figure of 9.5%, is still unusual. This is because over the past twenty years, it has been typical for the number of claimants to fall between August and September.

Figure 2 shows that the economy was in recession the last time the claimant count increased between August and September. This is an indication that the current condition of Gloucestershire's labour market is starting to follow the trend shown during the last economic downturn.

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

Figure 2

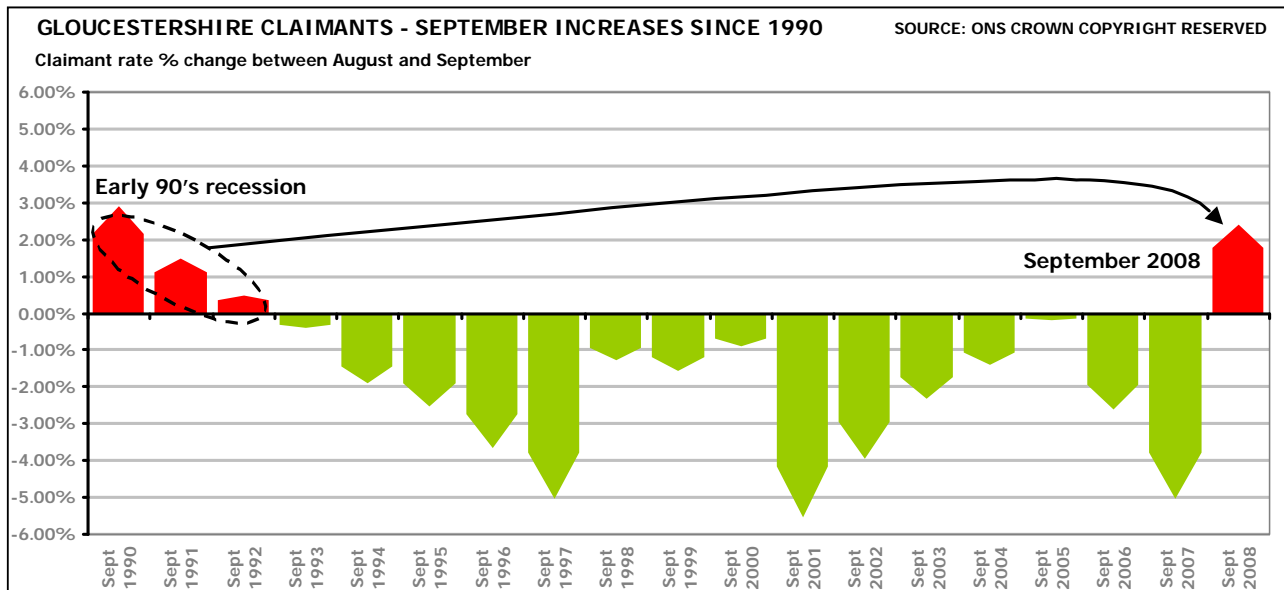
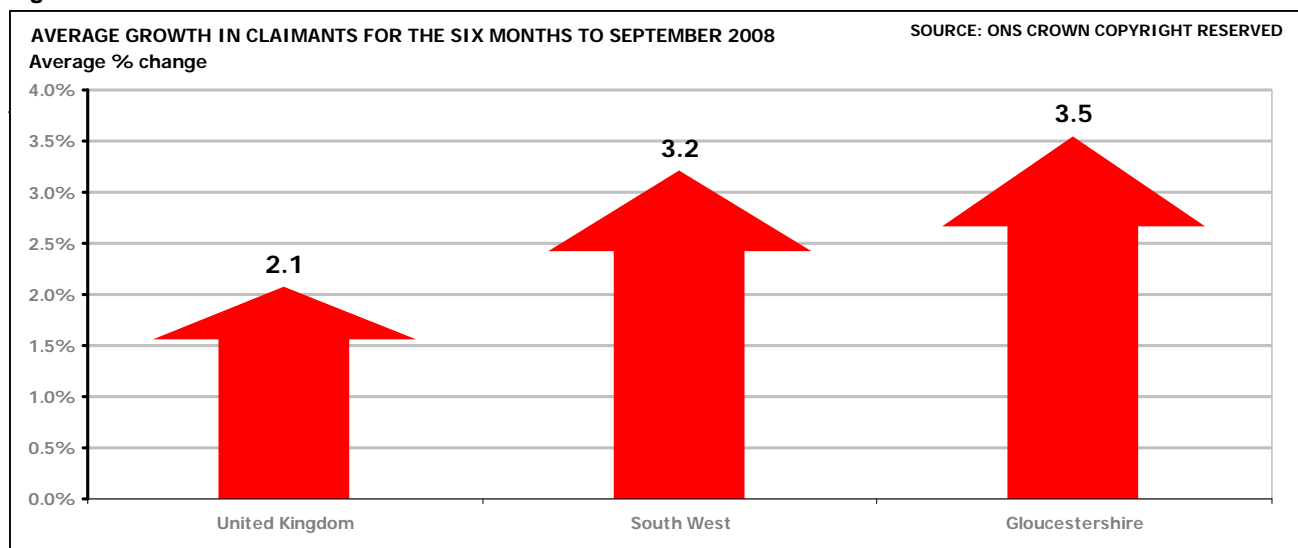


Figure 3 shows the growth in claimants over the six months to September 2008. Although Gloucestershire has the highest growth compared to the South West and the UK, the gap did close somewhat between August 2008 and September 2008.

Figure 3



Claimant Flows⁵

Table 2: Analysis of UK, South West and Gloucestershire Claimant Flows

| Area | Number leaving the claimant count between August and September | % of August claimants who left the claimant count | Number joining the claimant count between August and September | % of September claimants who joined the claimant count |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|
| UK | 230,797 | 25 | 253,456 | 27 |
| South West | 14,540 | 30 | 15,807 | 32 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,660 | 27 | 1,802 | 28 |

⁵ The claimant flow shows the movement of claimants on and off the claimant count. The change month-on-month in the overall claimant counts is represented by the net difference between those coming on to the count – “the in flows”, and those leaving the count – “the off flows”. The remainder each month are known as “the stock”

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Table 2 shows the claimant flows between August 2008 and September 2008. The figures for the percentage of August 2008 claimants leaving the count show that Gloucestershire performed slightly better than the South West rate, but slightly worse than the UK rate. Likewise, the figures for the percentage of September 2008 claimants joining the count show that Gloucestershire performed slightly better than the South West rate, but slightly worse than the UK rate.

Figure 4 shows the claimant flows between August 2008 and September 2008.

Figure 4

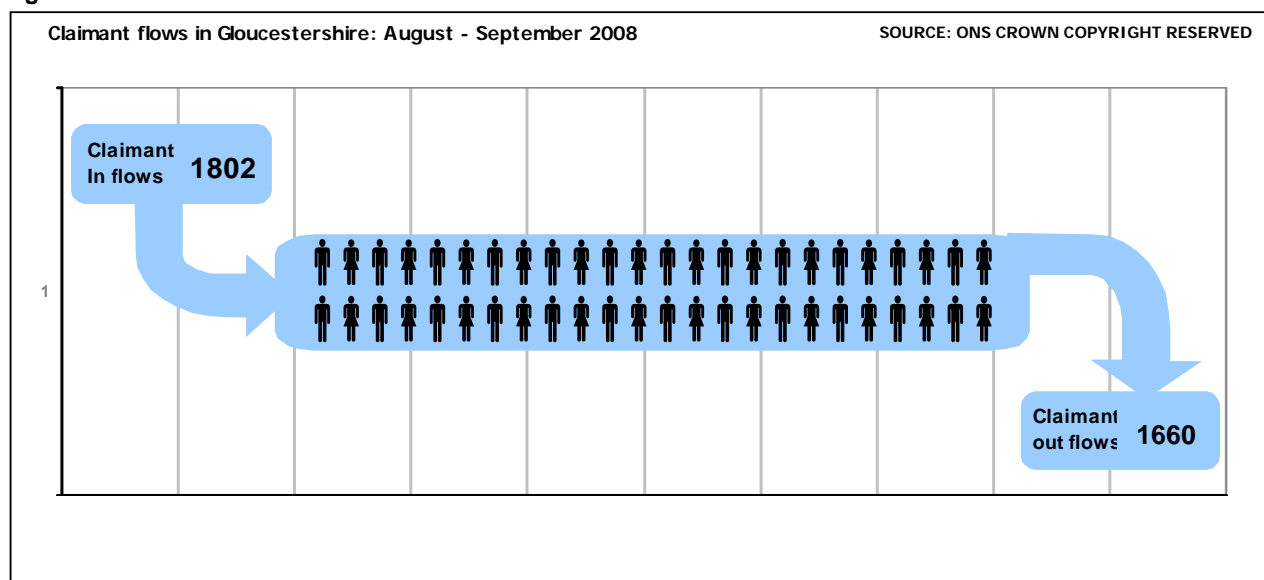


Figure 5

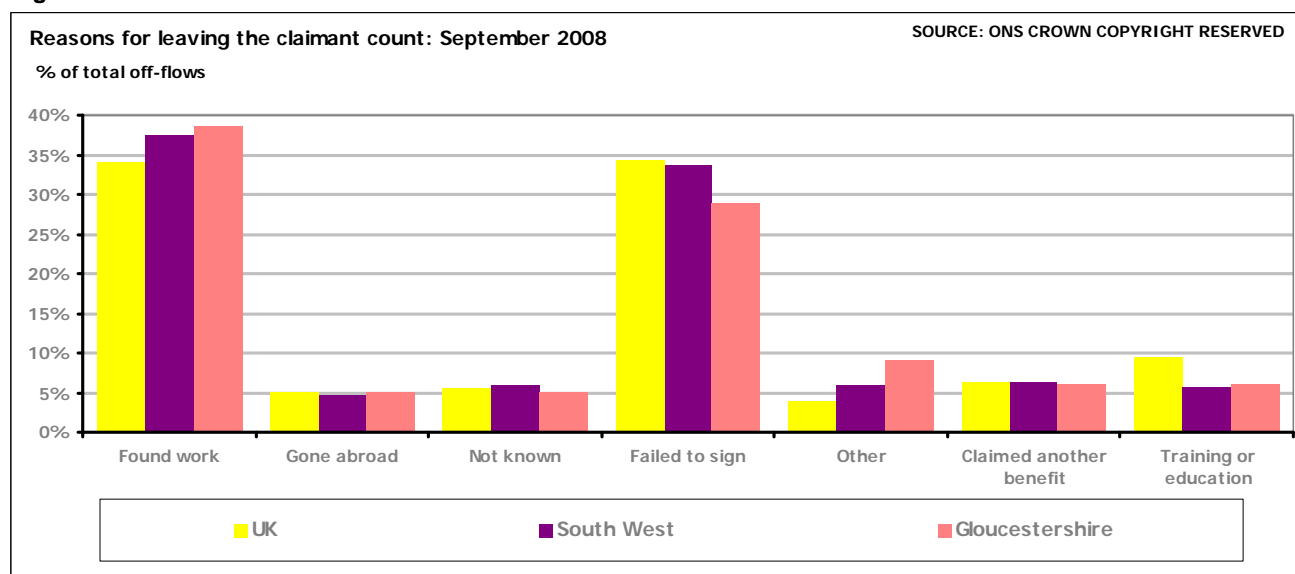


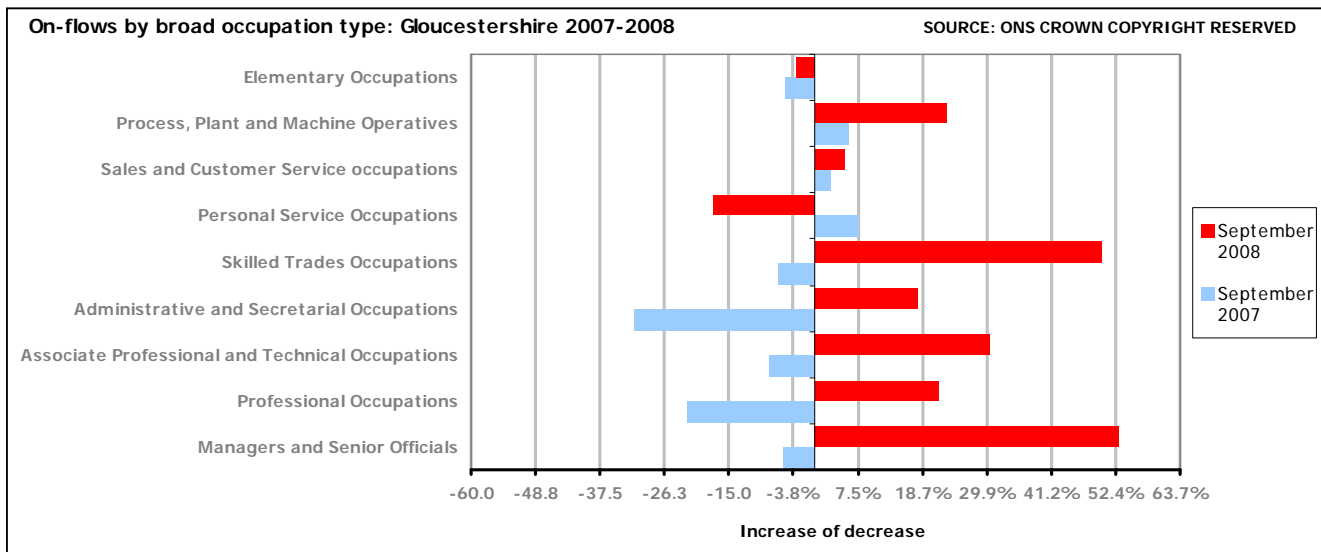
Figure 5 shows the reasons⁶ for claimants leaving the count between August 2008 and September 2008. The most common reasons for claims ceasing are the claimant finding work or entering training or education. Fluctuations occur during the year, particularly with training and education where peaks coincide with academic calendars. The “failed to sign” category is effectively a further unknown group and will include all other categories, except for “claimed other benefit” which can be accurately measured.

⁶ There are more discrete categories than appear on the graph. For ease of reporting, several of these have been aggregated based on similarity.

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Figure 6 shows claimants coming on to the count by usual occupation⁷ during September 2008 compared with September 2007. The occupations are aggregated to broad groups. The data allows analysis of which areas of the labour market are being subjected to upward pressures from the recent economic downturn.

Figure 6



Examining the background detail yields interesting information about the broad groups.

- Managers and Senior Officials.** Claimants within this group in September 2008 were up 53% on September 2007 having been down 5% between September 2006 and September 2007. Within the broad group there was large upward pressure from claimants described as “Corporate Managers” and “Managers and Proprietors in Agriculture and Services”.
- Professional Occupations.** Here, claimants within this group in September 2008 increased by 22% against September 2007, having been down 21% compared to September 2006. The largest upward pressure within this group came from an increase in claimants described as “Business and Public Service Professionals”.
- Associate Professional and Technical Occupations.** In September 2008 this group increased by 30% against September 2007 having been down by 8% compared to the same point in September 2006. the increases within this group were largely caused by claimants described as “Culture, Media and Sports Occupations” and “Science and Technology Associate Professionals”.
- Administrative and Secretarial Occupations.** This group was up 18% between September 2007 and September 2008 having been down 32% between September 2007 and September 2006. The increase within this group was caused by claimants described as “general Administrative Occupations”.
- Skilled Trades Occupations.** Within this group, claimants in September 2008 increased by 50% on September 2007, compared to a 6% fall between September 2006 and September 2007. The largest upward pressures within this group came from claimants described as “Skilled Metal and Electronic Trades”, “Skilled Construction and Building Trades”, and “Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades”. There was however downward pressure from claimants described as “Skilled Agricultural Trades”.

⁷ The “usual occupation” is the occupation the claimant indicates as being the occupation they normally work in.

- **Personal Service Occupations.** This group represent one of only two overall falls in claimant groups. Within this group, claimants described as “Caring Personal Service Occupations” were down between September 2007 and September 2008.
- **Sales and Customer Service occupations.** There was very little change in this group between September 2007 and September 2008.
- **Process, Plant and Machine Operatives.** This group was up between September 2007 and September 2008. This was caused by a large increase in claimants described as “Process, Plant and Machine Operatives” and “Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives”.
- **Elementary Occupations group.** This group was very slightly down between September 2007 and September 2008. This was caused by very small decreases in claimants described as “Elementary Trades”, “Plant and Storage Related Occupations” and “Elementary Administration and Service Occupations”

Duration of claims

Figure 7

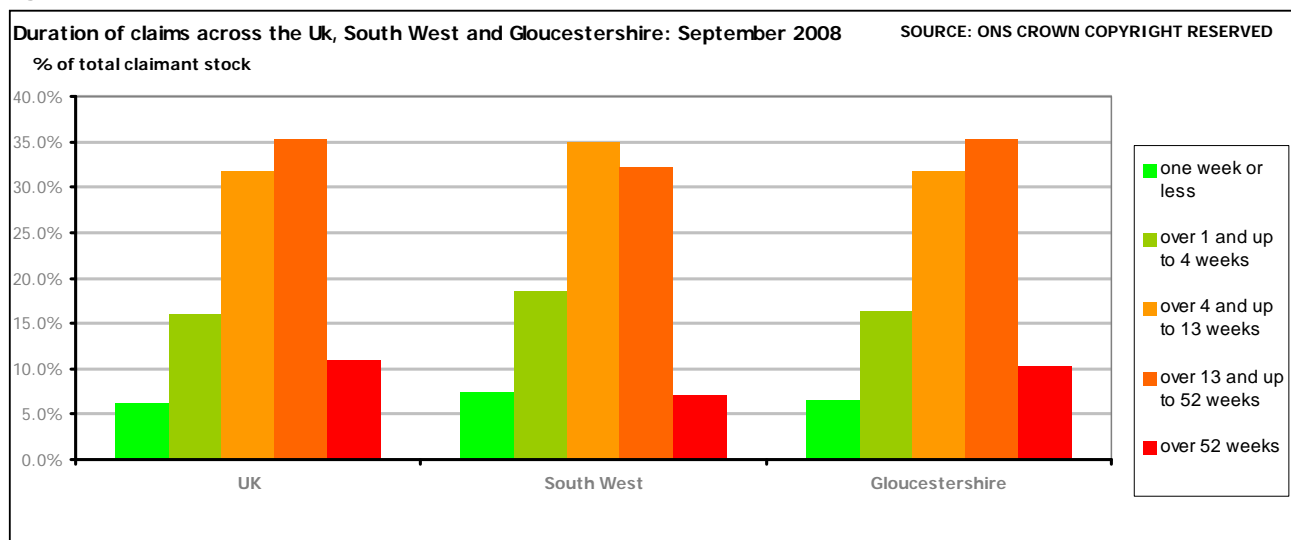


Figure 7 shows the length of time that existing claimants have been making their claims. The figures show that Gloucestershire is virtually identical to the UK averages, but differs slightly to the South West. Comparing the figures from September 2008 with September 2007, it can be seen that the proportion of those claiming for less than three months is 10% higher than it was a year ago. This suggests that the recent economic downturn is causing problems for claimants immediately finding work after they start claiming. At the same time, the proportion of people claiming for one year or more has dropped by 8%.

Inflation

Figure 8

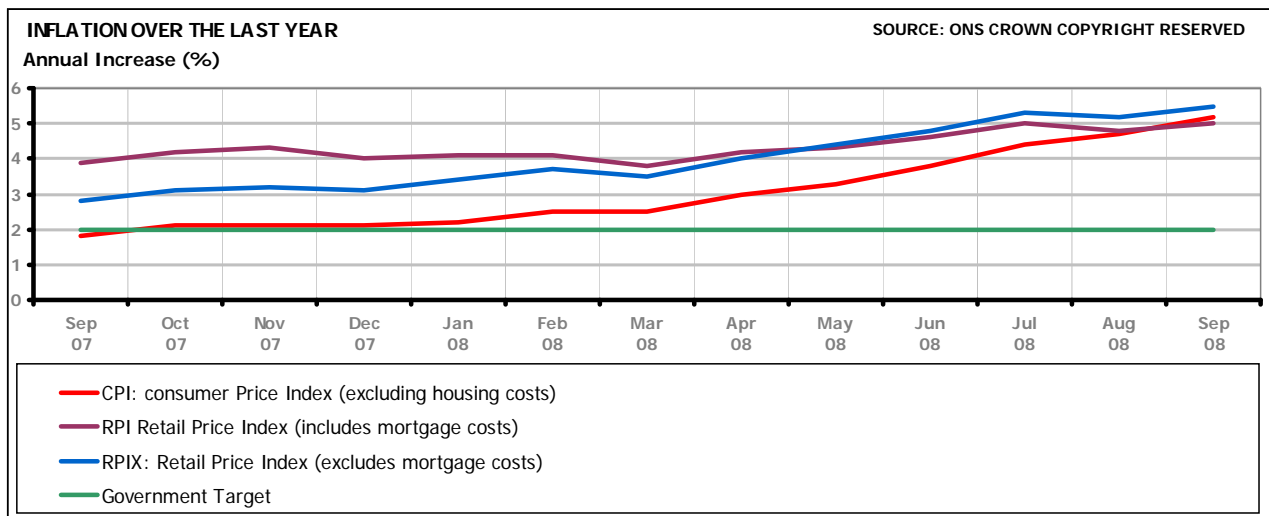


Figure 8 shows the national level of inflation since September 2007. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI), which the Government use for their target measure, was 5 per cent in September 2008, up from 4.7 per cent in August 2008. The Retail Prices Index (RPI) was 5 per cent in September 2008, up from 4.8 per cent in August 2008. The Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) was 5.5 per cent in September 2008, up from 5.2 per cent in August 2008.

Upward pressures on inflation.

- Housing and household services due to a rise in average gas and electricity bills;
- Recreation and culture where, prices rose by more than a year ago. The pressures came mainly from computer games, data processing equipment, admission to live music events and foreign holidays.
- Clothing and footwear, where prices rose by more than a year ago, particularly for men's outerwear.
- Air and sea fares falling at the end of the summer by less than a year ago.

Downward pressures on inflation

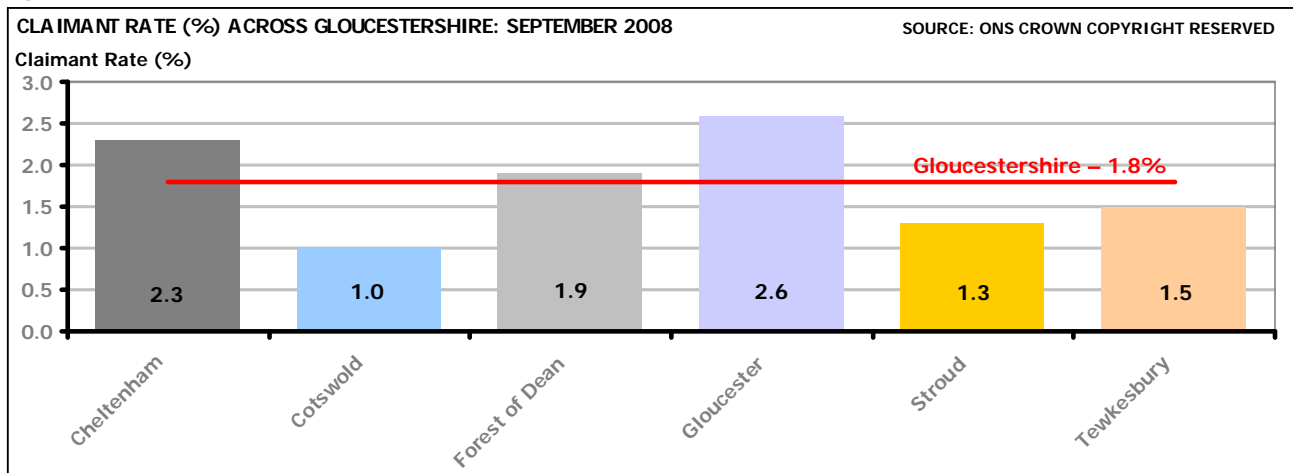
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages, with the largest single effect coming from shop-bought milk whose prices were little changed this year but rose by 4 pence a pint a year ago. There was also a large downward effect from fruit and smaller effects from bread and cereals, oils and fats, and mineral waters, soft drinks and juices. These were partially offset by a large upward effect from meat.
- Second-hand cars and fuels and lubricants, with prices of both groups falling by more than a year ago.

As an internationally comparable measure of inflation, the CPI shows that the UK inflation rate in August, at 4.7 per cent, was above the provisional figure for the European Union as a whole of 4.2 per cent.

Part 2: Gloucestershire and Local Authority District analysis

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 9



The claimant rate for September 2008 was fairly static for all the districts in Gloucestershire as shown in Figure 9. Cheltenham increased by 0.1% to 2.3%, the Cotswolds remained the same at 1%, the Forest of Dean increased by 0.1% to 1.9%, Gloucester and Stroud remained the same at 2.6% and 1.3% respectively and Tewkesbury increased by 0.1% to 1.5%.

Figure 10

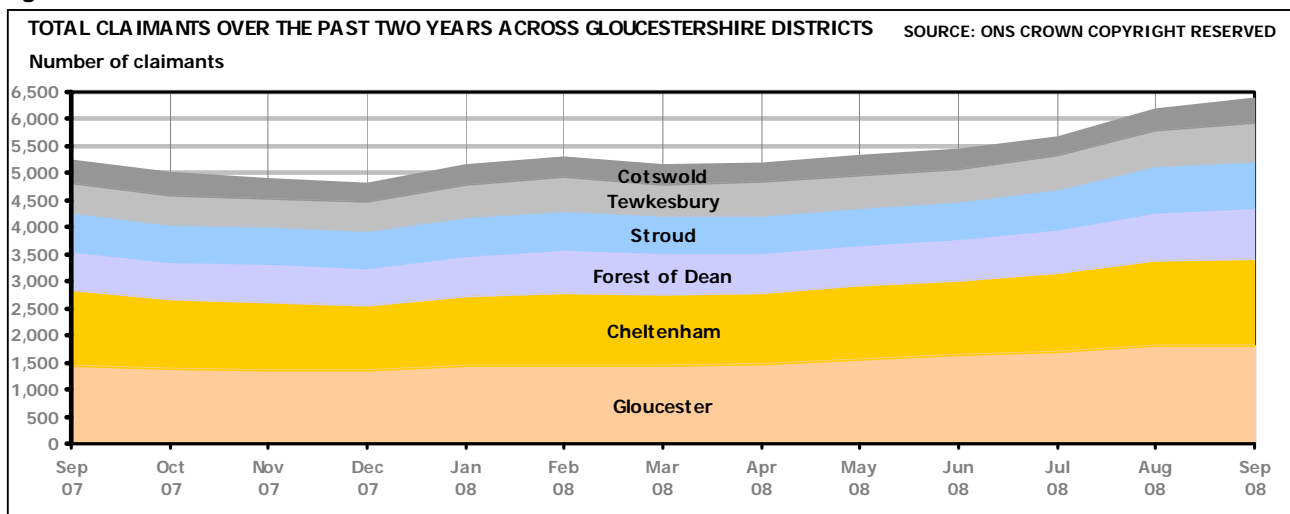


Table 3: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

| Area | Claimant Count in September 2008 | % Change on August 2008 | Average % increase over the last six months | Consecutive months increasing |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Cheltenham | 1,602 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 6 |
| Cotswolds | 487 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 3 |
| Forest | 952 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 5 |
| Gloucester | 1,806 | -0.6 | 3.4 | - |
| Stroud | 866 | -0.2 | 3.6 | - |
| Tewkesbury | 700 | 4.0 | 2.2 | 4 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,407 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 6 |

Table 3 shows the change in the claimant count in September 2008 compared with August 2008. It is apparent that the September 2008 increase in Gloucestershire's claimant count was not typical across the six districts. Gloucester City and Stroud District experienced a drop in claimants while Cotswolds, Cheltenham, Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury all experienced an increase in claimants.

Duration of claims

Figure 11

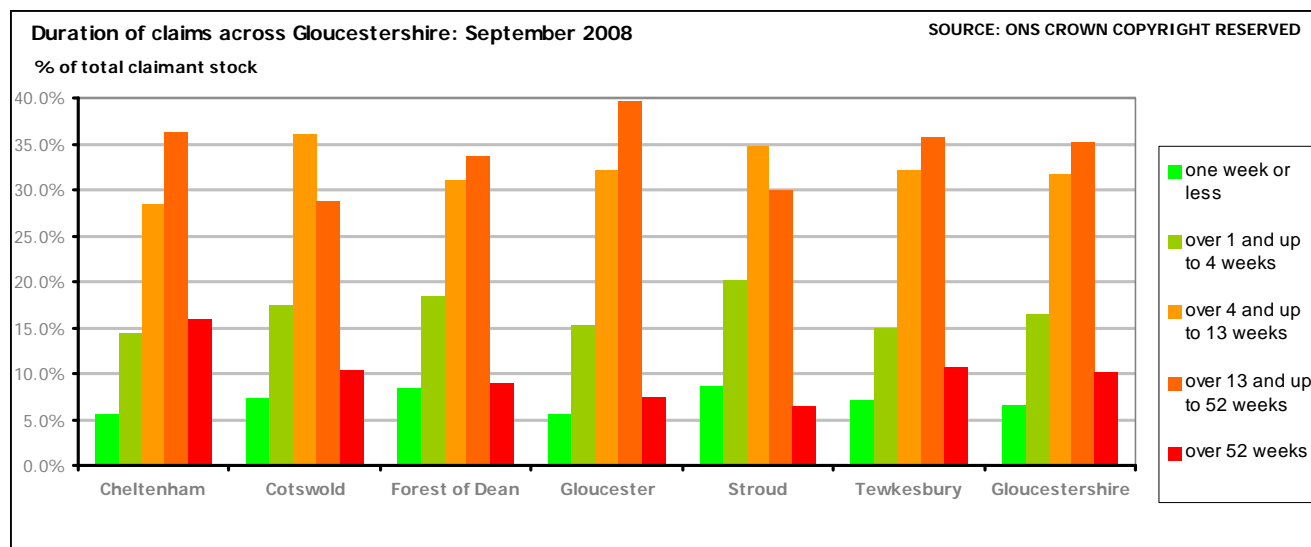


Figure 11 shows the length of time Gloucestershire's claimants have been receiving jobless benefits.

The key findings are that the urban districts of Cheltenham and Gloucester have the lowest proportion of people claiming for less than one week, less than one month, and less than three months. This suggests claimants in Cheltenham and Gloucester are able to find new work relatively quickly compared to their rural counterparts. An example of this would be in a rural area like Stroud, which has the highest proportion of people claiming for less than one week, less than one month, and less than three months.

When comparing the figures from September 2008 to September 2007 it can be seen that there has been a shift across Gloucestershire towards greater levels of claimants on the count for three months or less. This shift has been caused by the large in flows of claimants since June 2008 who have not been able to find re-employment. This is typical across Gloucestershire.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Cheltenham Borough

Claimant Rate

Figure 12

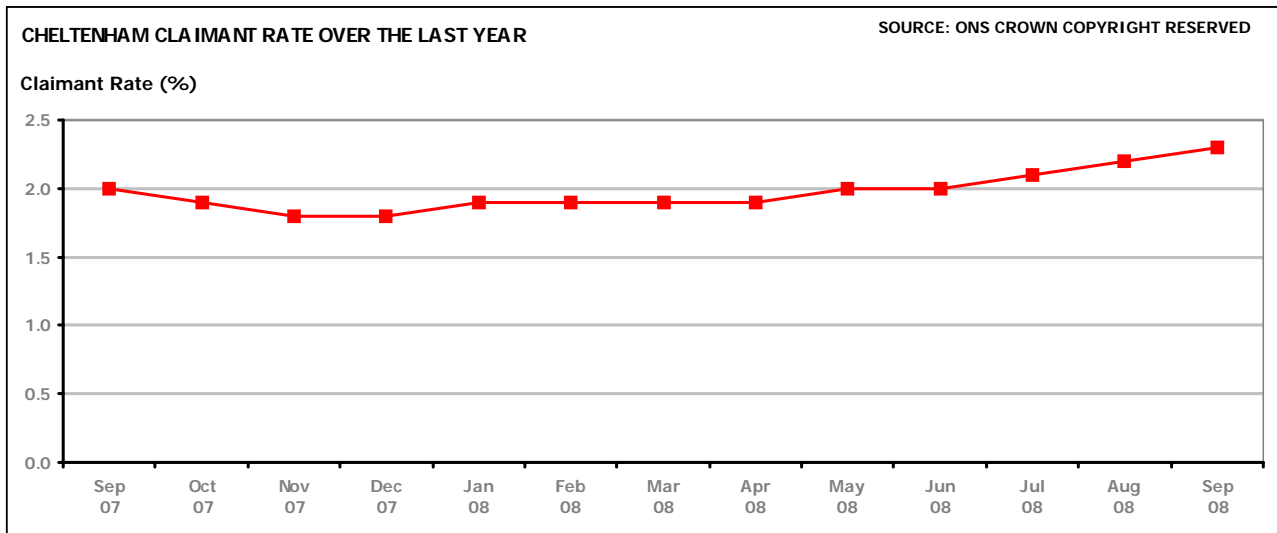
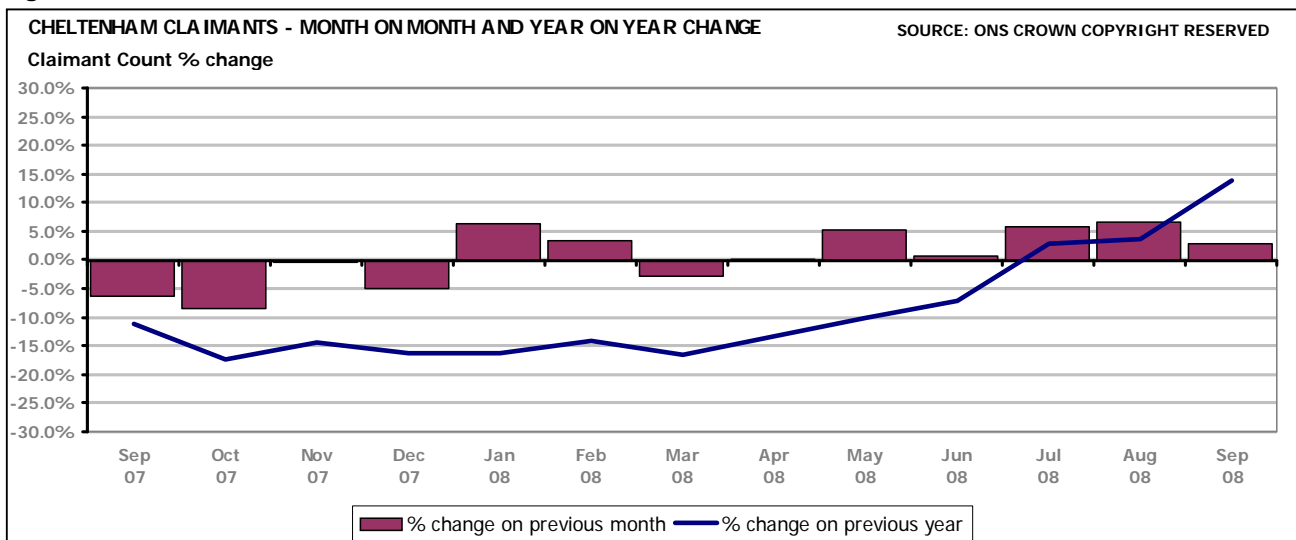


Figure 12 shows the claimant count in Cheltenham at its highest rate for a year. The rate has been climbing for six months.

Claimant Count

Figure 13



The claimant count in Cheltenham Borough was 1,602 people in September 2008. Figure 13 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.

Cheltenham Borough – Wards

Figure 14

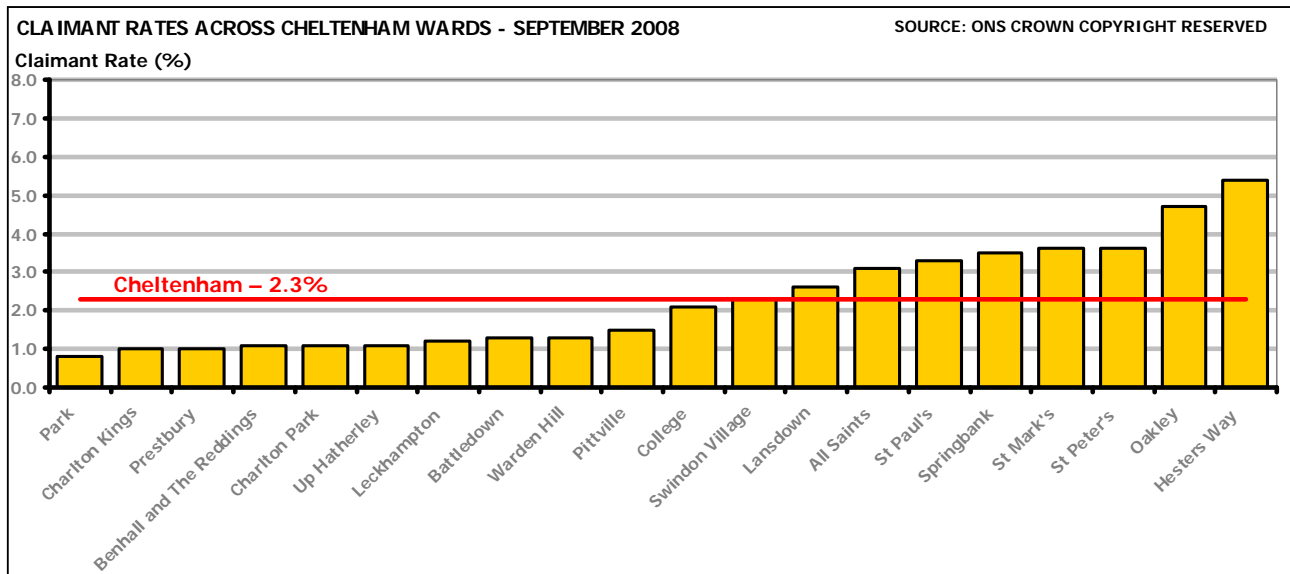


Figure 14 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with eight wards above the average.

Table 4: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Ward level – September 2008

| District | Ward | Rate | Rank | |
|------------|--------------------------|------|------|---------------------------|
| Cheltenham | Park | 0.8 | 24 | bottom 10% of county |
| Cheltenham | Charlton Kings | 1.0 | 37 | first quartile of county |
| Cheltenham | Prestbury | 1.0 | 37 | second quartile of county |
| Cheltenham | Benhall and The Reddings | 1.1 | 49 | third quartile of county |
| Cheltenham | Charlton Park | 1.1 | 49 | fourth quartile of county |
| Cheltenham | Up Hatherley | 1.1 | 49 | highest 10% of county |
| Cheltenham | Leckhampton | 1.2 | 64 | |
| Cheltenham | Battledown | 1.3 | 70 | |
| Cheltenham | Warden Hill | 1.3 | 70 | |
| Cheltenham | Pittville | 1.5 | 84 | |
| Cheltenham | College | 2.1 | 108 | |
| Cheltenham | Swindon Village | 2.3 | 116 | |
| Cheltenham | Lansdown | 2.6 | 119 | |
| Cheltenham | All Saints | 3.1 | 123 | |
| Cheltenham | St Paul's | 3.3 | 125 | |
| Cheltenham | Springbank | 3.5 | 129 | |
| Cheltenham | St Mark's | 3.6 | 130 | |
| Cheltenham | St Peter's | 3.6 | 130 | |
| Cheltenham | Oakley | 4.7 | 139 | |
| Cheltenham | Hesters Way | 5.4 | 141 | |

Table 4 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. Hesters 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

Claimant Rate

Figure 15

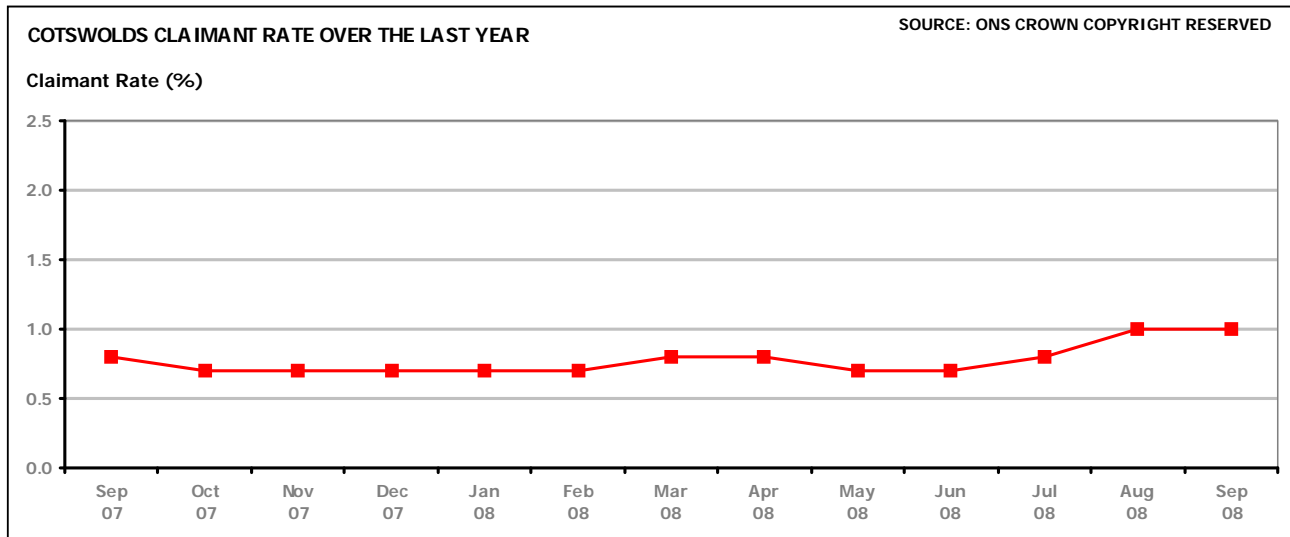
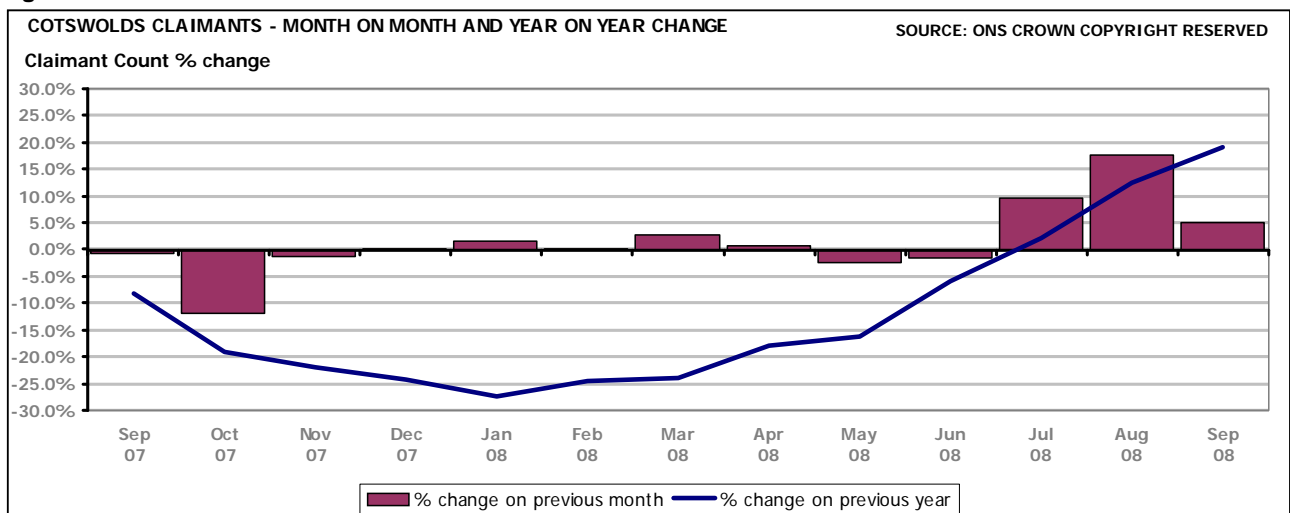


Figure 15 shows the claimant count in the Cotswolds at its highest rate for a year. The rate has been increasing since June 2008.

Figure 16



The claimant count in Cotswold District was 487 people in September 2008, the highest for over two years. This was an increase of 4.5% on the August 2008 total. Figure 16 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.

Cotswold District – Wards

Figure 17

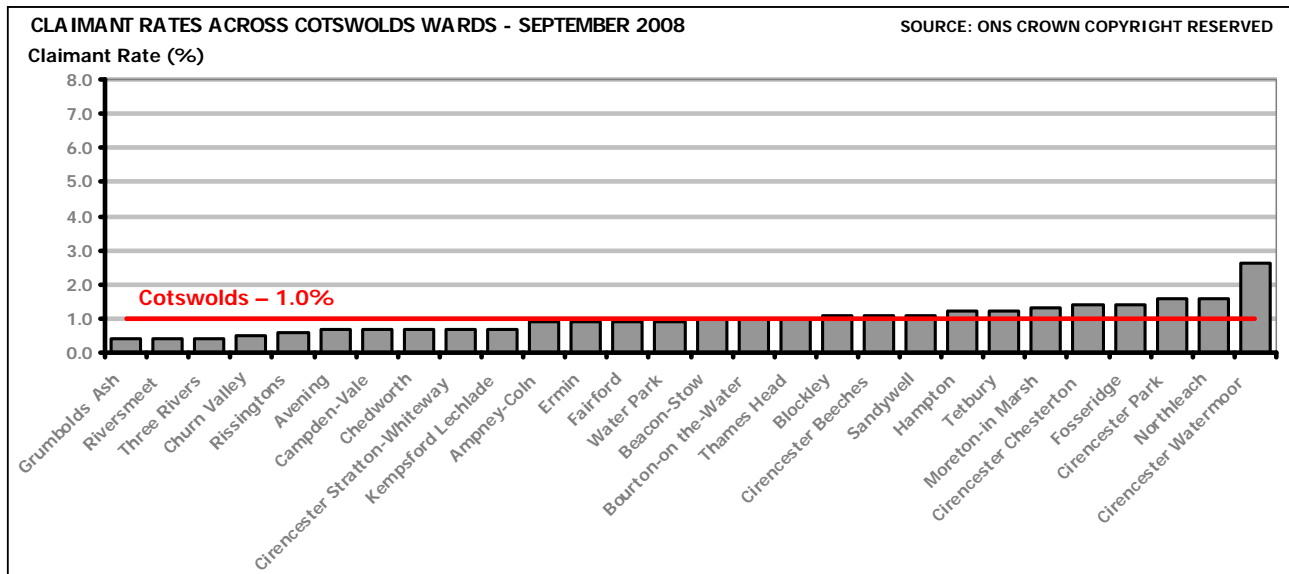


Figure 17 shows the claimant rate for the wards in Cotswold District. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Eleven wards are above the Cotswold District average.

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswolds Ward level – September 2008

| District | Ward | Rate | Rank |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Cotswolds | Grumbolds Ash | 0.4 | 1 |
| Cotswolds | Riversmeet | 0.4 | 1 |
| Cotswolds | Three Rivers | 0.4 | 1 |
| Cotswolds | Churn Valley | 0.5 | 6 |
| Cotswolds | Rissingtons | 0.6 | 9 |
| Cotswolds | Avening | 0.7 | 14 |
| Cotswolds | Campden-Vale | 0.7 | 14 |
| Cotswolds | Chedworth | 0.7 | 14 |
| Cotswolds | Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway | 0.7 | 14 |
| Cotswolds | Kempsford Lechlade | 0.7 | 14 |
| Cotswolds | Ampney-Coln | 0.9 | 29 |
| Cotswolds | Ermin | 0.9 | 29 |
| Cotswolds | Fairford | 0.9 | 29 |
| Cotswolds | Water Park | 0.9 | 29 |
| Cotswolds | Beacon-Stow | 1.0 | 37 |
| Cotswolds | Bourton-on-the-Water | 1.0 | 37 |
| Cotswolds | Thames Head | 1.0 | 37 |
| Cotswolds | Blockley | 1.1 | 49 |
| Cotswolds | Cirencester Beeches | 1.1 | 49 |
| Cotswolds | Sandywell | 1.1 | 49 |
| Cotswolds | Hampton | 1.2 | 64 |
| Cotswolds | Tetbury | 1 | 64 |
| Cotswolds | Moreton-in-Marsh | 1.3 | 70 |
| Cotswolds | Cirencester Chesterton | 1.4 | 78 |
| Cotswolds | Fosseridge | 1.4 | 78 |
| Cotswolds | Cirencester Park | 1.6 | 87 |
| Cotswolds | Northleach | 1.6 | 87 |
| Cotswolds | Cirencester Watermoor | 2.6 | 119 |

| |
|---------------------------|
| 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 5 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.

Blockley had a 0.4% increase in claimants in September 2008, and was above the district average for the first time since October 2007.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Forest of Dean District

Claimant Rate

Figure 18

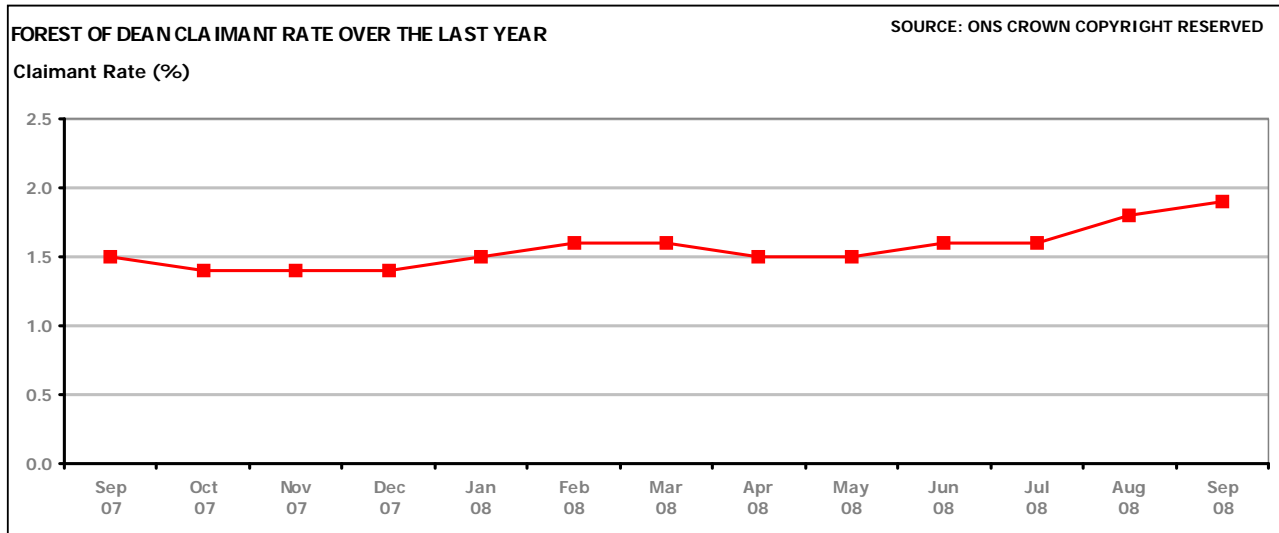
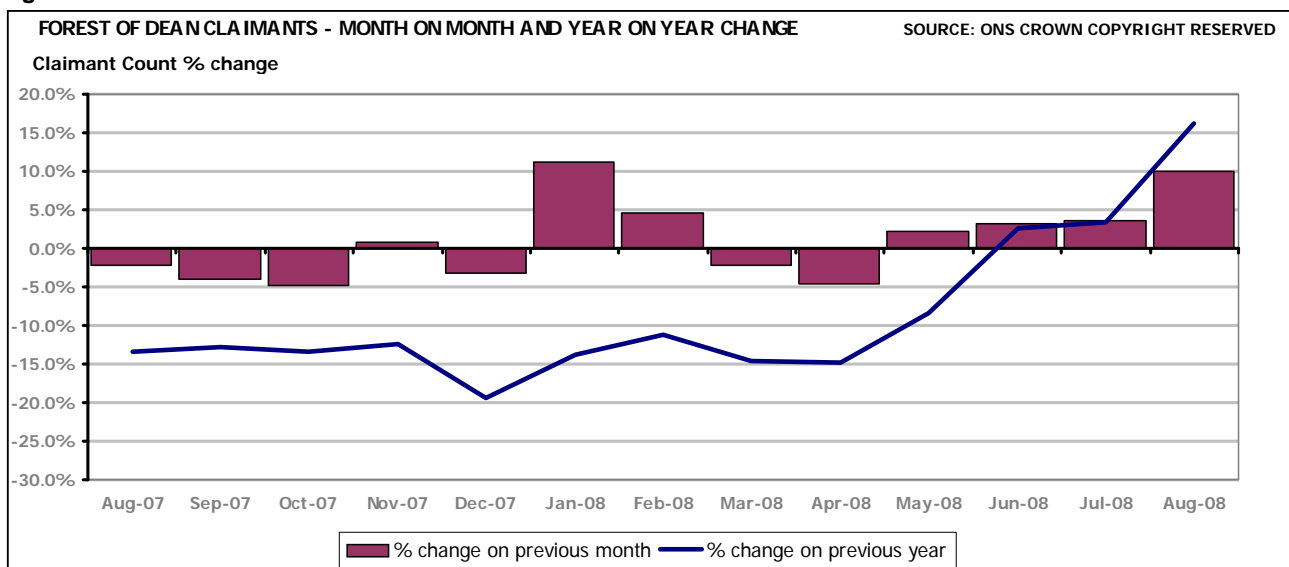


Figure 18 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean at the highest point for over a year.

Figure 19



The claimant count in the Forest of Dean District was 952 people for September 2008, the highest amount since April 2007. Figure 19 shows that monthly claimant counts have been increasing since May 2008, and the claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008.

Forest of Dean District – Wards

Figure 20

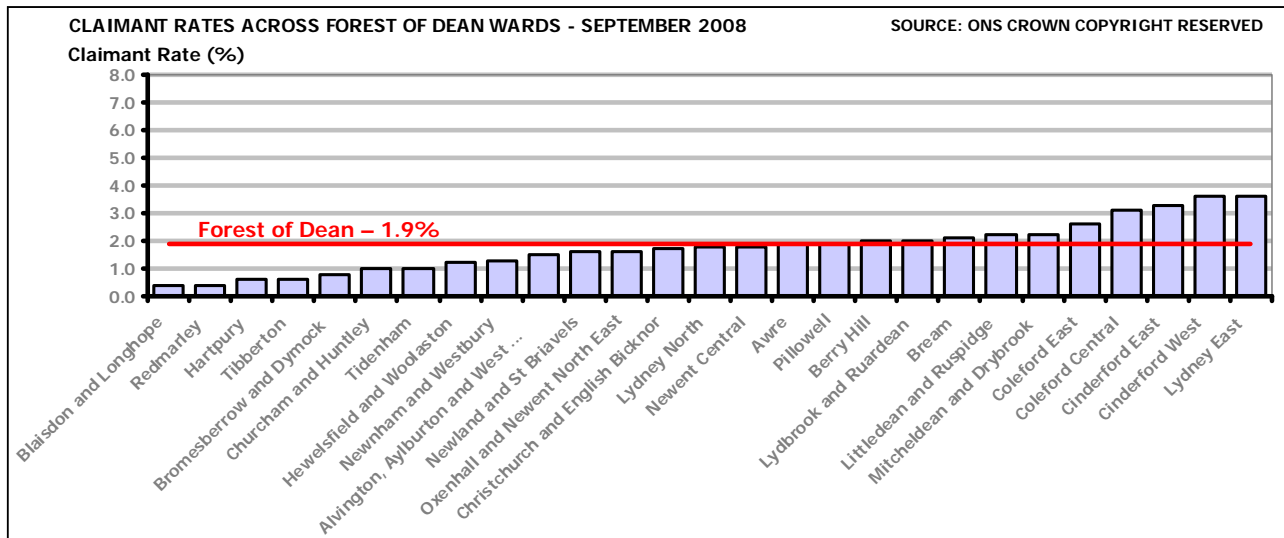


Figure 20 shows the claimant rate for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District, and ten wards are above this average

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean Ward level – September 2008

| District | Ward | Rate | Rank |
|----------|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| Forest | Blaisdon and Longhope | 0.4 | 1 |
| Forest | Redmarley | 0.4 | 1 |
| Forest | Hartpury | 0.6 | 9 |
| Forest | Tibberton | 0.6 | 9 |
| Forest | Bromesberrow and Dymock | 0.8 | 24 |
| Forest | Churcham and Huntley | 1.0 | 37 |
| Forest | Tidenham | 1.0 | 37 |
| Forest | Hewelsfield and Woolaston | 1.2 | 64 |
| Forest | Newnham and Westbury | 1.3 | 70 |
| Forest | Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney | 1.5 | 84 |
| Forest | Newland and St Briavels | 1.6 | 87 |
| Forest | Oxenhall and Newent North East | 1.6 | 87 |
| Forest | Christchurch and English Bicknor | 1.7 | 92 |
| Forest | Lydney North | 1.8 | 97 |
| Forest | Newent Central | 1.8 | 97 |
| Forest | Awre | 1.9 | 101 |
| Forest | Pillowell | 1.9 | 101 |
| Forest | Berry Hill | 2.0 | 104 |
| Forest | Lydbrook and Ruardean | 2.0 | 104 |
| Forest | Bream | 2.1 | 108 |
| Forest | Littledean and Ruspidge | 2.2 | 111 |
| Forest | Mitcheldean and Drybrook | 2.2 | 111 |
| Forest | Coleford East | 2.6 | 119 |
| Forest | Coleford Central | 3.1 | 123 |
| Forest | Cinderford East | 3.3 | 125 |
| Forest | Cinderford West | 3.6 | 130 |
| Forest | Lydney East | 3.6 | 130 |

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | 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 6 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 and Lydbrook and Ruardean have frequently been above the District average over the past six months, having been below it for the previous eighteen months.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Gloucester City

Claimant Rate

Figure 21

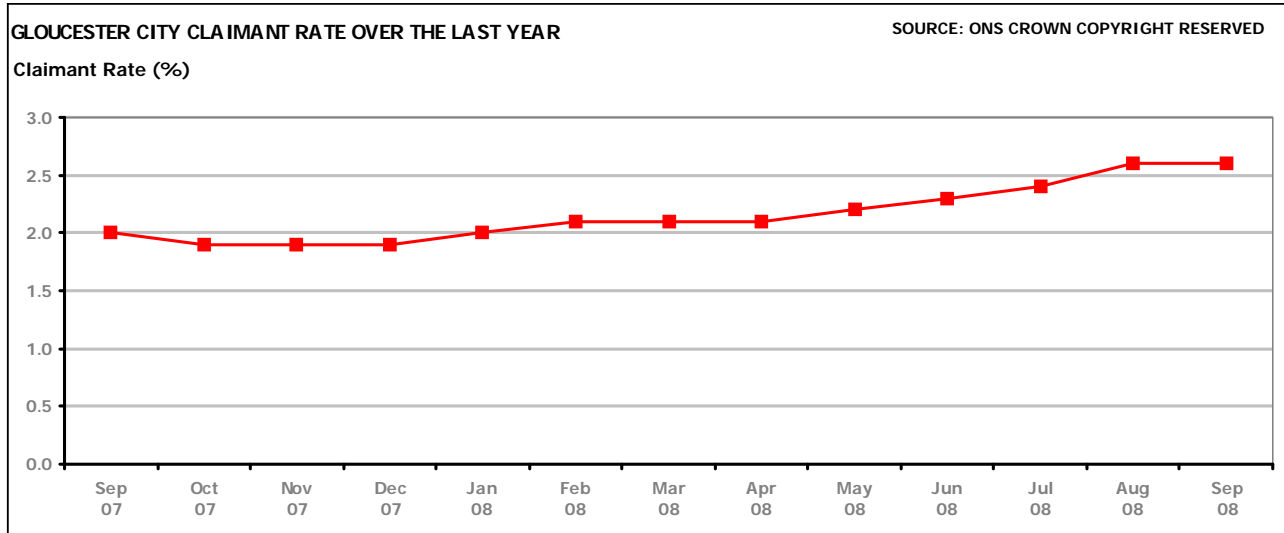
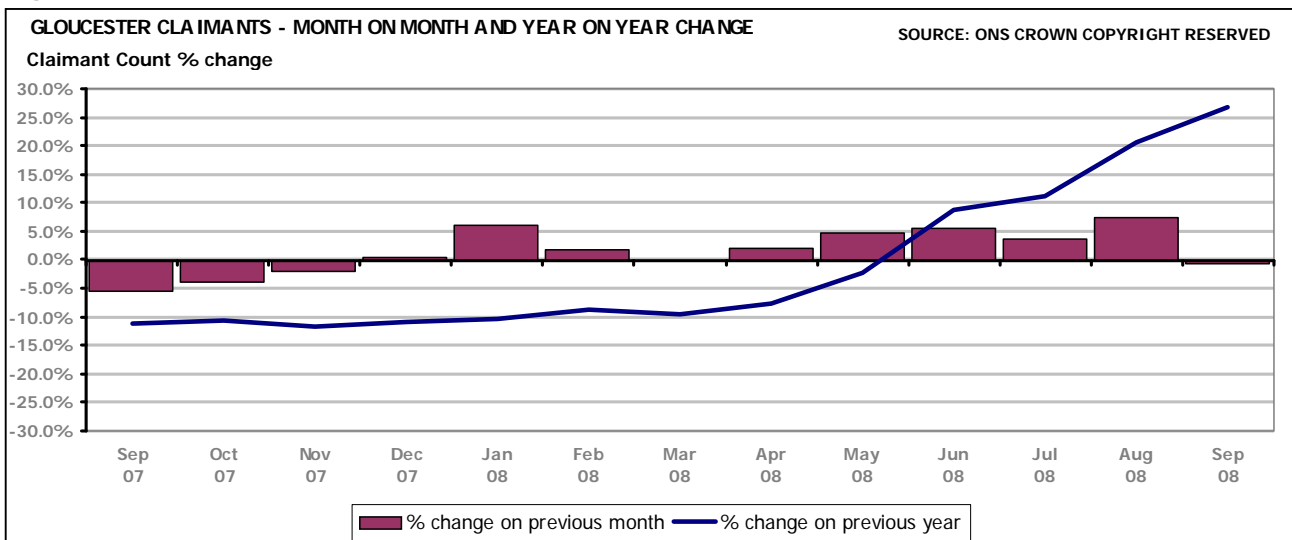


Figure 21 shows the claimant rate of 2.6%. Although the rate for September 2008 stayed the same as August 2008, the level is still the highest for over two years.

Figure 22



Gloucester City's claimant count was 1,806 people in September 2008, a small drop on the August 2008 amount. Figure 22 shows the claimant count increasing since April 2008, before falling during September 2008. Despite this fall, claimant counts have been up every month on the same month the previous year since May 2008.

Gloucester City – Wards

Figure 23

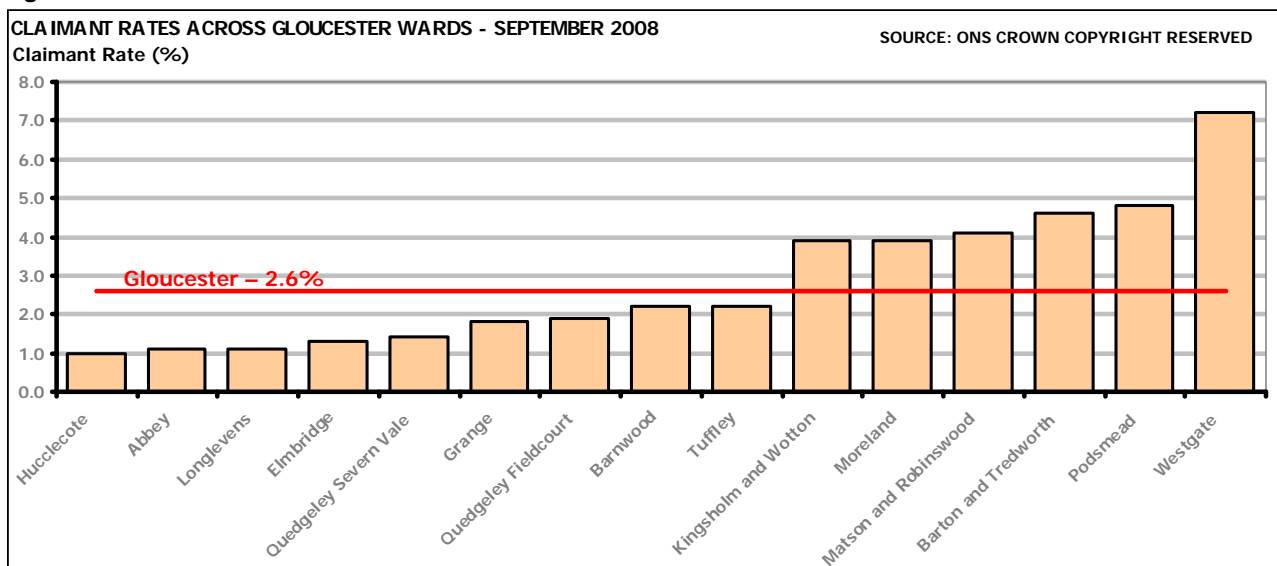


Figure 23 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City and six of the wards are above the City average.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City Ward level – September 2008

| District | Ward | Rate | Rank | |
|------------|-----------------------|------|------|---------------------------|
| Gloucester | Hucclecote | 1.0 | 37 | bottom 10% of county |
| Gloucester | Abbey | 1.1 | 49 | first quartile of county |
| Gloucester | Longlevens | 1.1 | 49 | second quartile of county |
| Gloucester | Elmbridge | 1.3 | 70 | third quartile of county |
| Gloucester | Quedgeley Severn Vale | 1.4 | 78 | fourth quartile of county |
| Gloucester | Grange | 1.8 | 97 | highest 10% of county |
| Gloucester | Quedgeley Fieldcourt | 1.9 | 101 | |
| Gloucester | Barnwood | 2.2 | 111 | |
| Gloucester | Tuffley | 2.2 | 111 | |
| Gloucester | Kingsholm and Wotton | 3.9 | 134 | |
| Gloucester | Moreland | 3.9 | 134 | |
| Gloucester | Matson and Robinswood | 4.1 | 137 | |
| Gloucester | Barton and Tredworth | 4.6 | 138 | |
| Gloucester | Podsmead | 4.8 | 140 | |
| Gloucester | Westgate | 7.2 | 142 | |

Table 7 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 and Tredworth, Matson and Robinswood, Kingsholm and Wotton and Moreland have had claimant rates higher than the average for Gloucester City every month for at least the last two years.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Stroud District

Claimant Rate

Figure 24

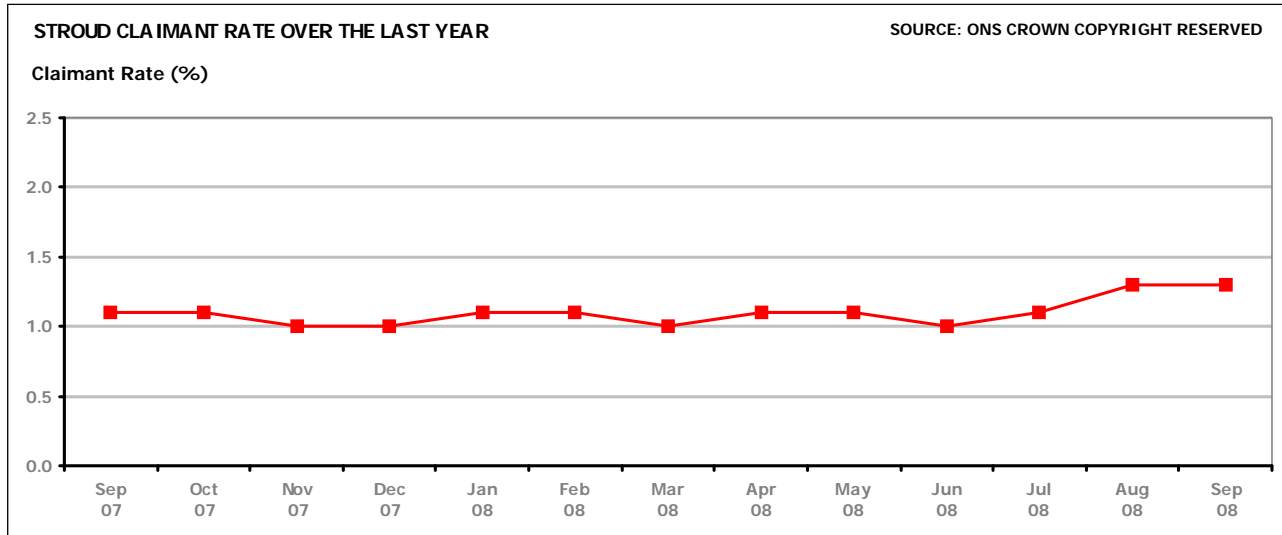
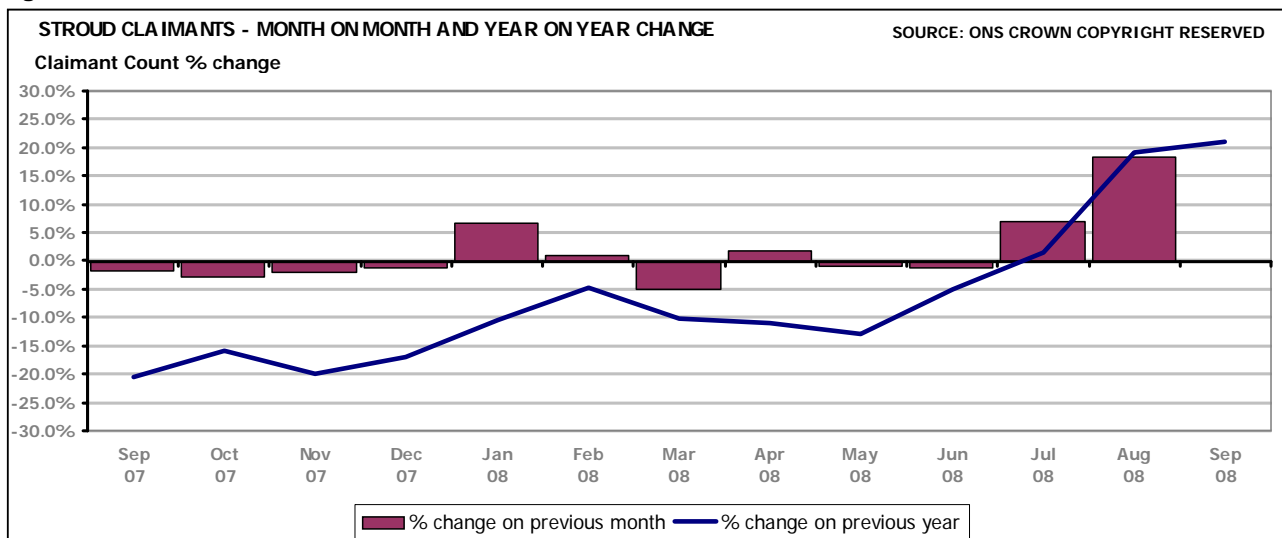


Figure 24 shows the claimant rate for Stroud district. Although the rate for September 2008 stayed the same as August 2008, the level is still the highest for over two years.

Figure 25



The claimant count in Stroud District was 866 people in September 2008. Figure 25 shows claimant counts rising since June 2008, before falling slightly in September 2008. In addition, figure 25 also shows that when compared to the same month one year previous, claimant counts have been up since July 2008.

Stroud District – Wards

Figure 26

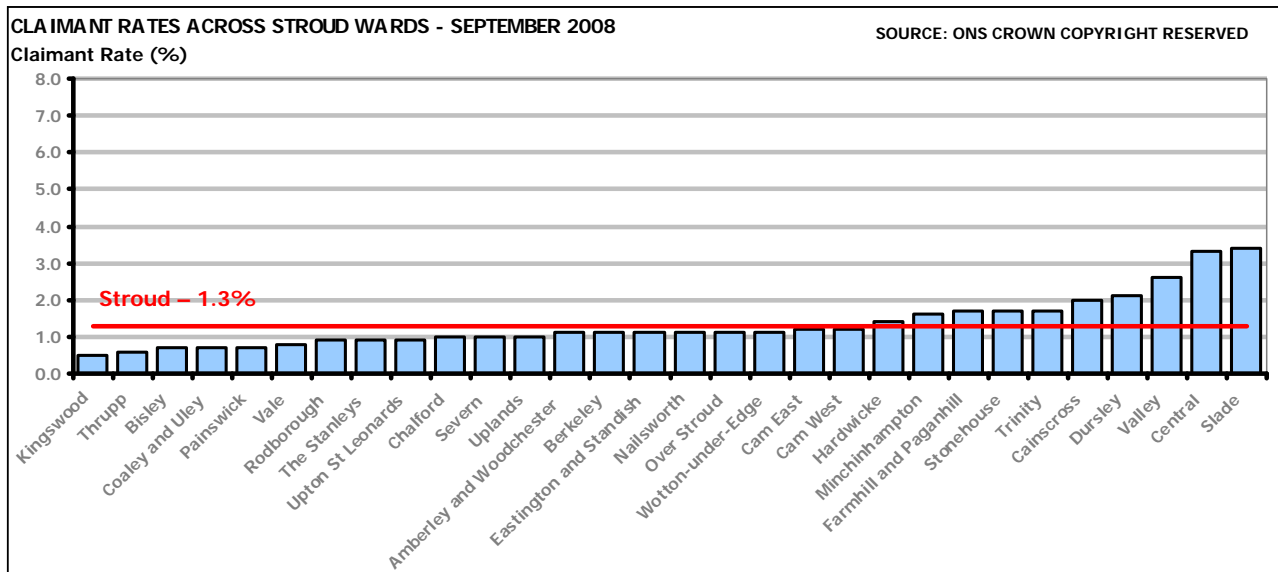


Figure 26 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. Ten wards exceed this district average.

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District Ward level – September 2008

| District | Ward | Rate | Rank |
|----------|--------------------------|------|------|
| Stroud | Kingswood | 0.5 | 6 |
| Stroud | Thrupp | 0.6 | 9 |
| Stroud | Bisley | 0.7 | 14 |
| Stroud | Coaley and Uley | 0.7 | 14 |
| Stroud | Painswick | 0.7 | 14 |
| Stroud | Vale | 0.8 | 24 |
| Stroud | Rodborough | 0.9 | 29 |
| Stroud | The Stanleys | 0.9 | 29 |
| Stroud | Upton St Leonards | 0.9 | 29 |
| Stroud | Chalford | 1.0 | 37 |
| Stroud | Severn | 1.0 | 37 |
| Stroud | Uplands | 1.0 | 37 |
| Stroud | Amberley and Woodchester | 1.1 | 49 |
| Stroud | Berkeley | 1.1 | 49 |
| Stroud | Eastington and Standish | 1.1 | 49 |
| Stroud | Nailsworth | 1.1 | 49 |
| Stroud | Over Stroud | 1.1 | 49 |
| Stroud | Wotton-under-Edge | 1.1 | 49 |
| Stroud | Cam East | 1.2 | 64 |
| Stroud | Cam West | 1.2 | 64 |
| Stroud | Hardwicke | 1.4 | 78 |
| Stroud | Minchinhampton | 1.6 | 87 |
| Stroud | Farmhill and Paganhill | 1.7 | 92 |
| Stroud | Stonehouse | 1.7 | 92 |
| Stroud | Trinity | 1.7 | 92 |
| Stroud | Cainscross | 2.0 | 104 |
| Stroud | Dursley | 2.1 | 108 |
| Stroud | Valley | 2.6 | 119 |
| Stroud | Central | 3.3 | 125 |
| Stroud | Slade | 3.4 | 128 |

| |
|---------------------------|
| 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 8 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.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Tewkesbury Borough

Figure 27

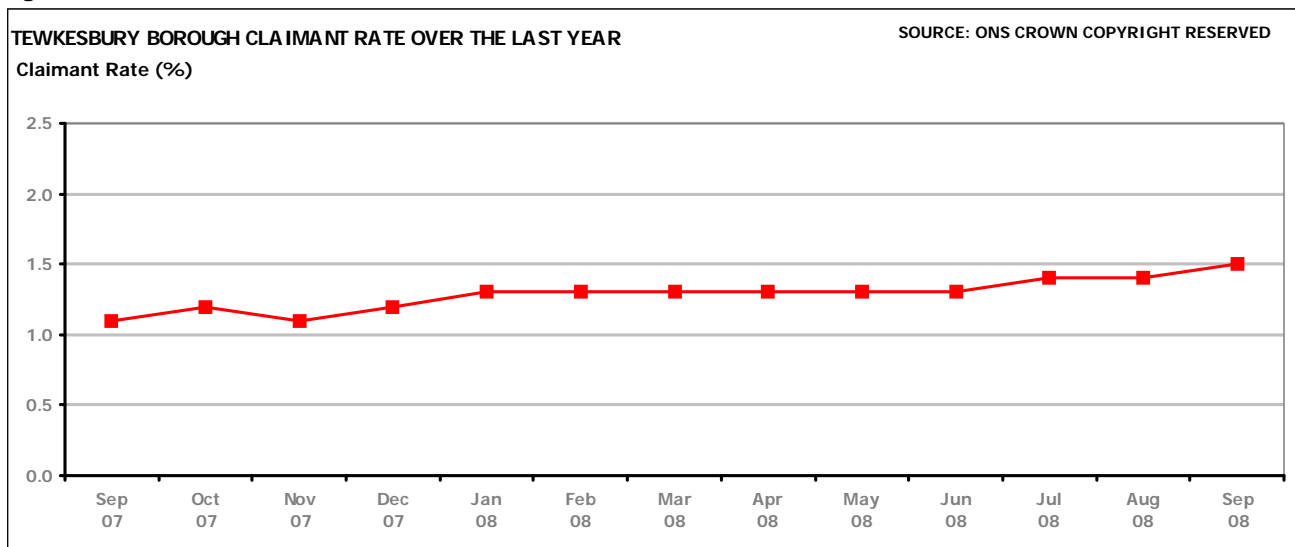
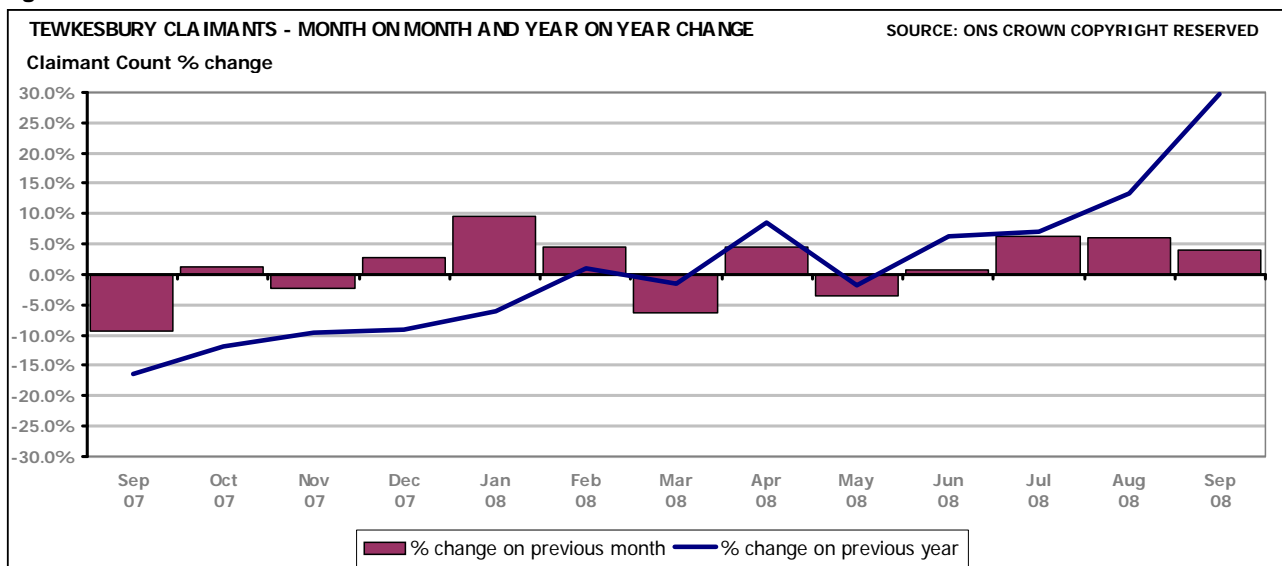


Figure 27 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough over the past year.

Figure 28



The claimant count in Tewkesbury Borough was 700 people in September 2008. Figure 28 shows that 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.

Tewkesbury Borough - Wards

Figure 29

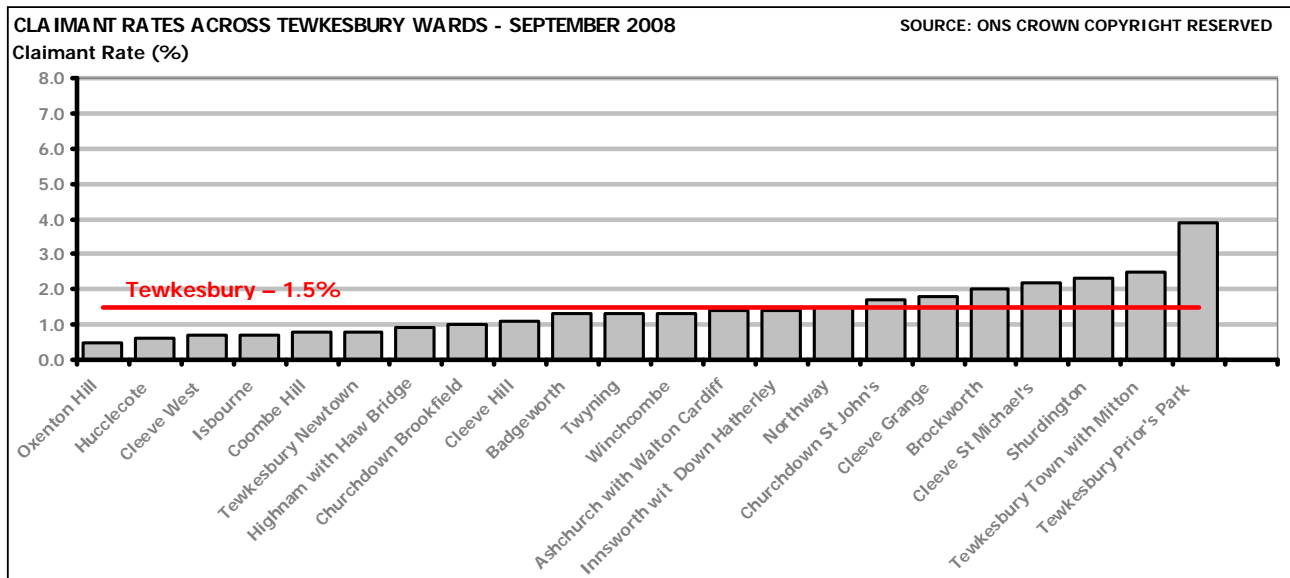


Figure 29 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough and nine of the wards are above the Borough average.

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough Ward level – September 2008

| District | Ward | Rate | Rank | |
|------------|-------------------------------|------|------|---------------------------|
| Tewkesbury | Oxenton Hill | 0.5 | 6 | bottom 10% of county |
| Tewkesbury | Hucclecote | 0.6 | 9 | first quartile of county |
| Tewkesbury | Cleeve West | 0.7 | 14 | second quartile of county |
| Tewkesbury | Isbourne | 0.7 | 14 | third quartile of county |
| Tewkesbury | Coombe Hill | 0.8 | 24 | fourth quartile of county |
| Tewkesbury | Tewkesbury Newtown | 0.8 | 24 | highest 10% of county |
| Tewkesbury | Highnam with Haw Bridge | 0.9 | 29 | |
| Tewkesbury | Churchdown Brookfield | 1.0 | 37 | |
| Tewkesbury | Cleeve Hill | 1.1 | 49 | |
| Tewkesbury | Badgeworth | 1.3 | 70 | |
| Tewkesbury | Twynning | 1.3 | 70 | |
| Tewkesbury | Winchcombe | 1.3 | 70 | |
| Tewkesbury | Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff | 1.4 | 78 | |
| Tewkesbury | Innsworth wit Down Hatherley | 1.4 | 78 | |
| Tewkesbury | Northway | 1.5 | 84 | |
| Tewkesbury | Churchdown St John's | 1.7 | 92 | |
| Tewkesbury | Cleeve Grange | 1.8 | 97 | |
| Tewkesbury | Brockworth | 2.0 | 104 | |
| Tewkesbury | Cleeve St Michael's | 2.2 | 111 | |
| Tewkesbury | Shurdington | 2.3 | 116 | |
| Tewkesbury | Tewkesbury Town with Mitton | 2.5 | 118 | |
| Tewkesbury | Tewkesbury Prior's Park | 3.9 | 134 | |

Table 9 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 ten of the past twelve months.