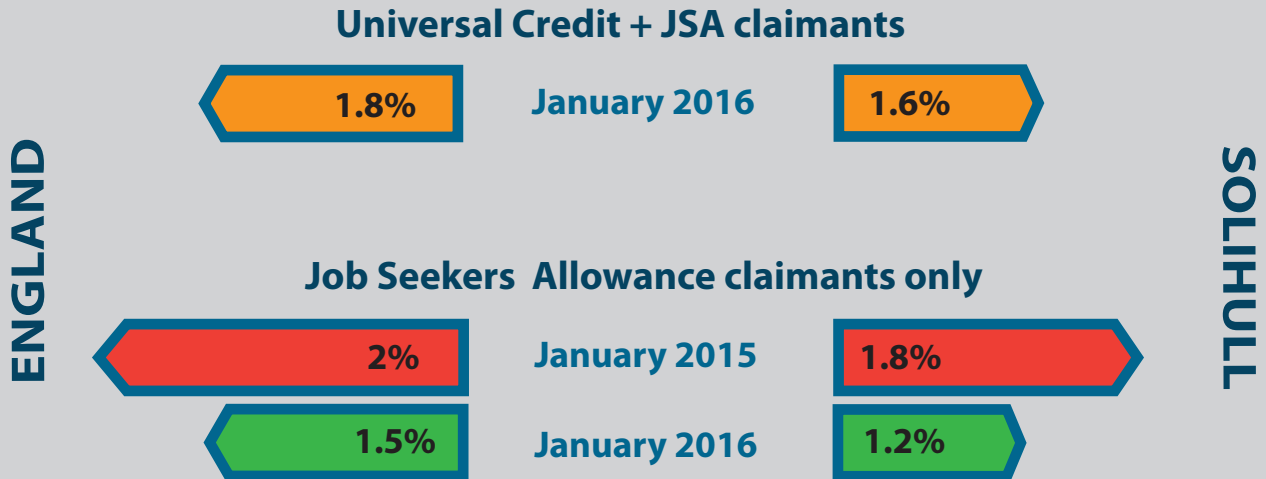


Overall Unemployment



Youth Unemployment in Solihull

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

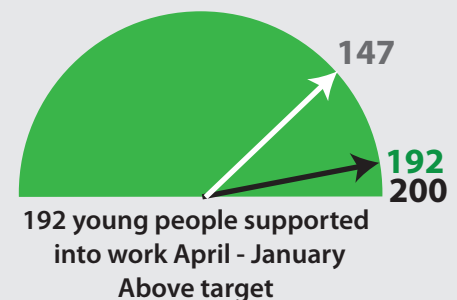
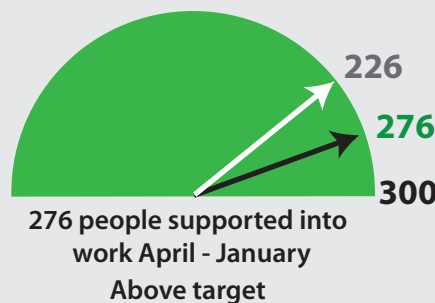


Job Seekers Allowance claimants only



Employment and Skills Team outcomes

Working directly with Solihull residents, the team have achieved the following:



This briefing introduces a new headline measure for claimant unemployment in Solihull, which is more representative of the true level of benefit related unemployment than Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). Since June 2015 there has been a phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Solihull which has replaced a number of existing benefits, including JSA for new claimants. These new claimants would probably be receiving JSA in the absence of UC; therefore focusing only on JSA figures does not give a wholly representative view on the current level of unemployment. Headline claimant unemployment will therefore combine JSA claimants and those UC claimants not in work.

The new headline measure of claimant is available down to ward level on an age and gender basis.








It should be noted that these figures are new and are considered as experimental. Most significantly they are likely to include a small number of UC claimants who are not in employment, but not required to seek work to be eligible for benefits and would therefore not meet the required claimant unemployment definition. The ONS has indicated that it is working to resolve these issues and that the figures are liable to retrospective revision.

Headline Claimant Unemployment


In January 2016 there were 1,517 individuals in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 520 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 2,037 claimants represents 1.6% of the working age population.

On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is below those for England (1.8%), West Midlands (2.2%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (2.9%), but above the average for our CIPFA comparator Local Authorities (1.4%)¹. Solihull has the lowest claimant unemployment rate among the 36 Metropolitan Councils in England.

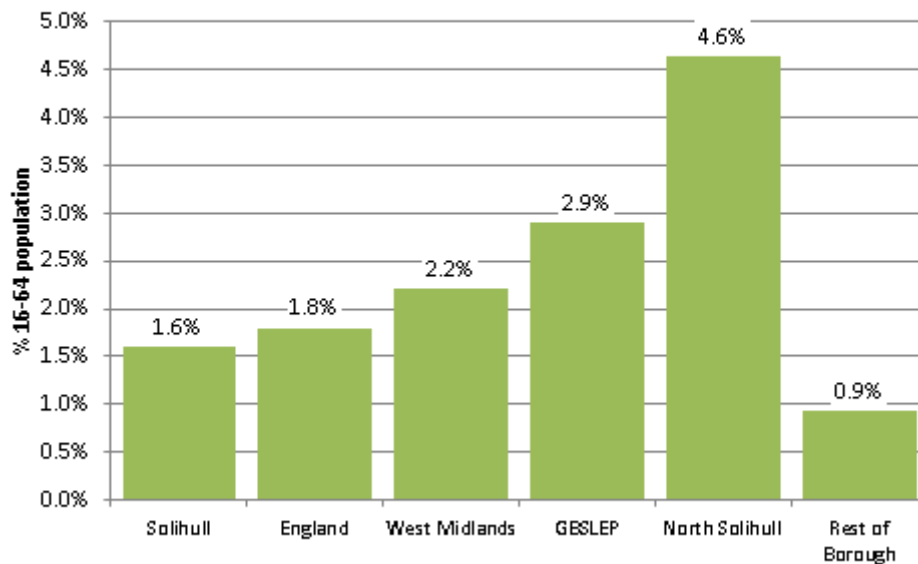
Around 53% of claimants in Solihull (1,075 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 4.6% compared with 0.9% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – January 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Jan 2016 [^]	% 16-64		Annual Change (Jan 2015-2016)		
		Jan 2015	Jan 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	2,037 (1,517)	1.8%	1.6% (1.2%)	-235 (-759)	-10% (-33%)	
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,075 (849)	5.4%	4.6% (3.7%)	-185 (-411)	-15% (-33%)	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	965 (668)	1.0%	0.9% (0.6%)	-50 (-348)	-5% (-34%)	
England	628,240	2.0%	1.8% (1.5%)	-60,865	-9% (-23%)	
West Midlands	79,755	2.5%	2.2% (1.9%)	-9,390	-11% (-24%)	
GBSLEP	35,925	3.1%	2.9% (2.3%)	-3,070	-8% (-25%)	
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	215,055	3.1%	2.9% (2.2%)	-15,530	-7% (-25%)	

¹ For explanation of comparator areas see methodology notes at end of this briefing

CIPFA Comparator Councils	32,320	1.4%	1.4% (0.9%)	+35	0% (-28%)	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis ^ Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

Headline Claimant Unemployment January 2016



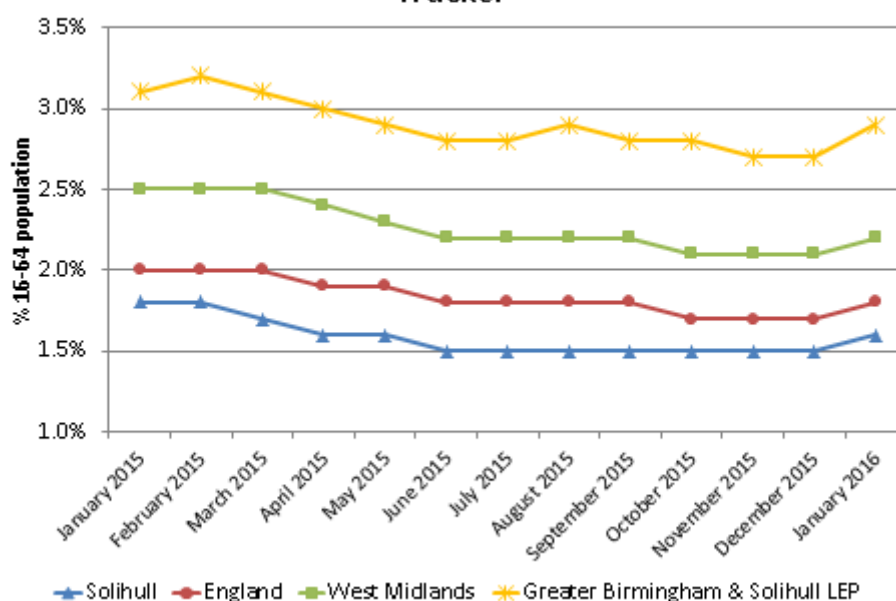
Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The combined number of JSA and UC claimants in Solihull increased by 8.6% (+175 individuals) between December 2015 and January 2016. However, a post Christmas seasonal increase in unemployment is the norm, as temporary Christmas jobs come to an end.

Compared with the same month last year Solihull recorded a slightly larger fall in claimant unemployment (-10%, -235 individuals) than across England as a whole (-9%). The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -15% (-185 individuals) over this period compared to a fall of -5% (-50) in the rest of the borough.

The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull fell by -0.2 percentage points between January 2015 and 2016 (from 1.8% to 1.6%).

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 63% of Solihull claimants are male (1,275 individuals) and 37% female (765 individuals), which is consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is below the national average for both males and females.

	Claimant Unemployment by Gender - January 2016					
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,275	765	62.5%	37.5%	2.1%	1.2%
England	399,670	228,570	63.6%	36.4%	2.3%	1.3%
West Midlands	51,405	28,350	64.5%	35.5%	2.9%	1.6%
GBSLEP	23,325	12,600	64.9%	35.1%	3.8%	2.0%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

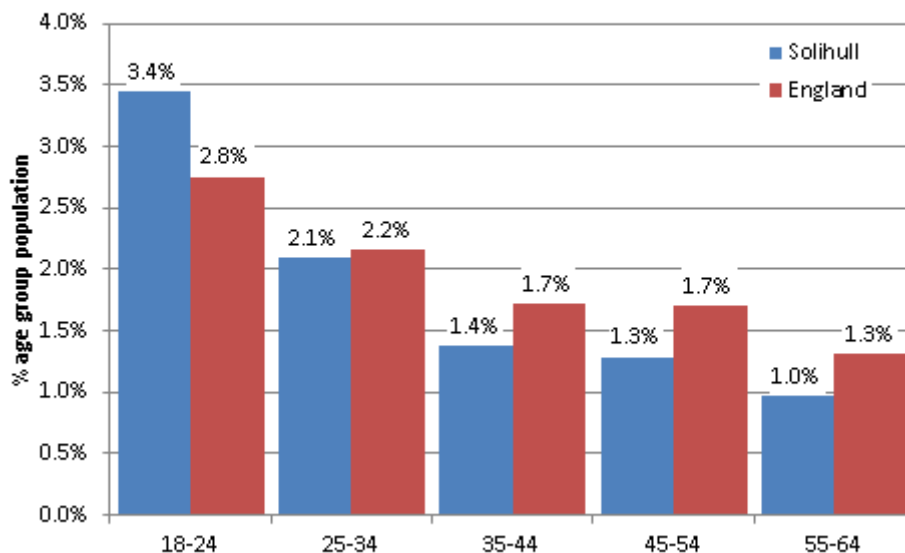
Age Breakdown

In January 2016 more than a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (555 individuals, 27% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, particularly sickness benefits such as Employment Support Allowance, among older age groups as increasing employment rates.

18-24 year olds are the only age group in Solihull where the claimant unemployment rate is above the England average.

	Solihull Claimants January 2016				Rates (% age group)	
	JSA	UC	Total (JSA+UC)	% Solihull Total	Solihull	England
18-24	270	285	555	27%	3.4%	2.8%
25-34	360	120	480	24%	2.1%	2.2%
35-44	300	50	350	17%	1.4%	1.7%
45-54	360	50	410	20%	1.3%	1.7%
55-64	220	20	240	12%	1.0%	1.3%
Total	1,517	520	2,037		1.6%	1.8%
JSA claimants: ONS/Nomis						
UC claimants: DWP/Stat Xplore						
16-64 population: ONS mid year population estimates 2014						

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group January 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

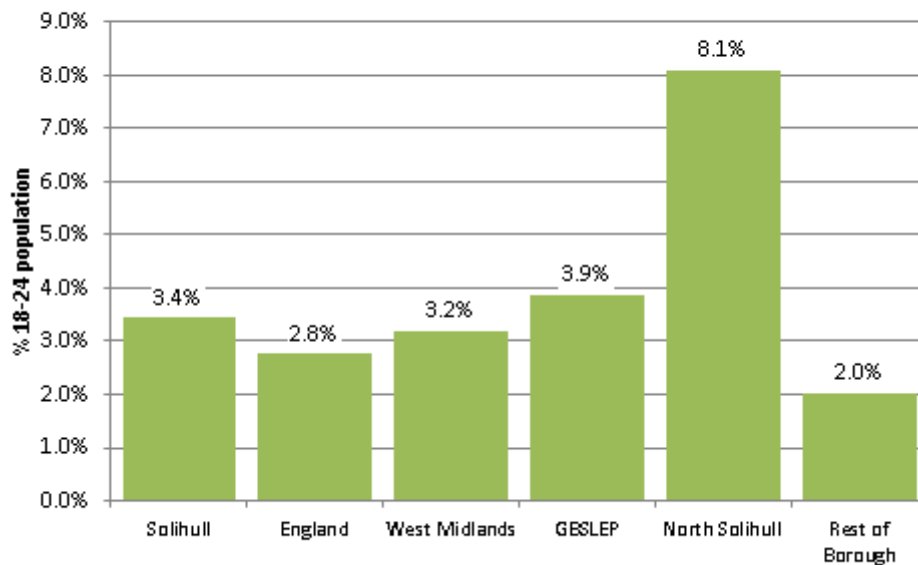
In January 2016 there were 270 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 285 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 555 claimants represents 3.4% of the 18-24 population.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than both the England (2.8%) and West Midlands (3.2%) averages.

Around 55% (305 individuals) of 18-24 year old claimants live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood), where the rate is four times higher than across the rest of the Borough (8.1% compared to 2.0%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – January 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Jan 2016 [^]	% 18-24		Annual Change (Jan 2015-2016)		
		Jan 2015	Jan 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	555 (270)	3.9%	3.4% (1.7%)	-75 (-360)	-12% (-57%)	↓
<i>North Solihull</i>	305 (180)	10.6%	8.1% (4.8%)	-95 (-220)	-24% (-55%)	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	250 (95)	1.9%	2.0% (0.8%)	+15 (-140)	+6% (-60%)	↑
England	135,545	3.2%	2.8% (1.8%)	-19,780	-13% (-40%)	↓
West Midlands	17,245	3.8%	3.2% (2.1%)	-3,160	-15% (-45%)	↓
GBSLEP	7,835	4.3%	3.9% (2.2%)	-870	-10% (-50%)	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	49,965	4.6%	4.1% (2.3%)	-5,170	-9% (-42%)	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	7,855	2.5%	2.5% (1.0%)	+160	+2% (-49%)	↑
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						
[^] Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

18-24 Claimant Unemployment January 2016

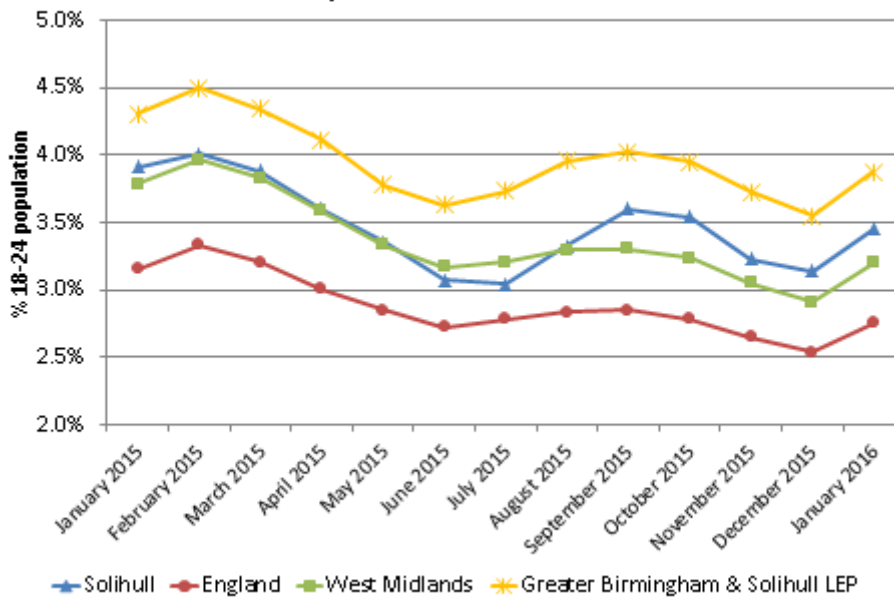


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull increase by 9% (50 individuals) in January. However, the number of claimants is -12% (-75 individuals) lower than the same month last year. As a result the 18-24 claimant rate has fallen by -0.5 percentage points over this period (from 3.9% to 3.4%).

The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -24% in the year to December 2015 (-95 individuals), contrasting with a small increase across the rest of the Borough (+6%, +15 individuals).

Youth Claimant Unemployment Rates (18-24 Year olds): 12 Month Tracker

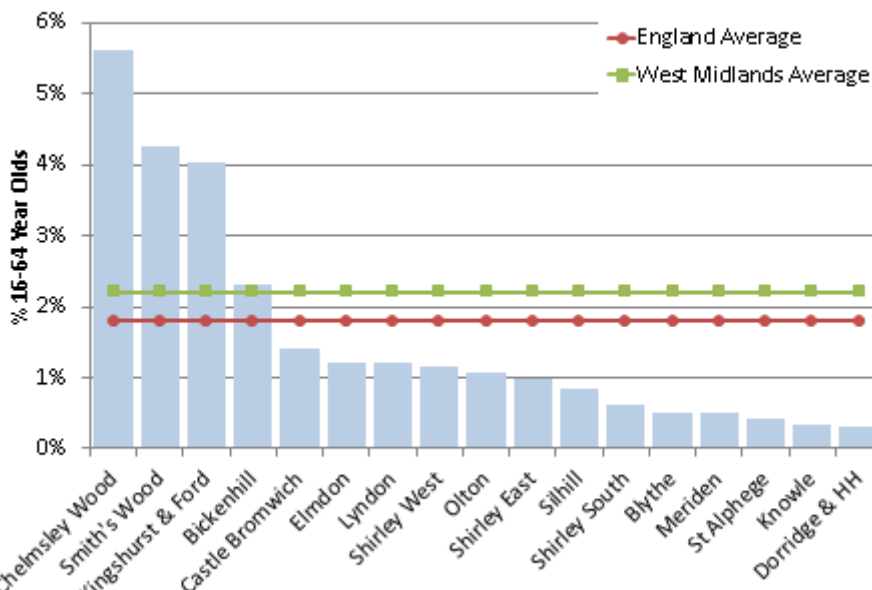


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment

Only four wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.6%), Smith's Wood (4.3%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.0%) and Bickenhill (2.3%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment January 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between January 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment fell in 10 out of Solihull's 17 wards and increased slightly in two (Olton and Shirley South).

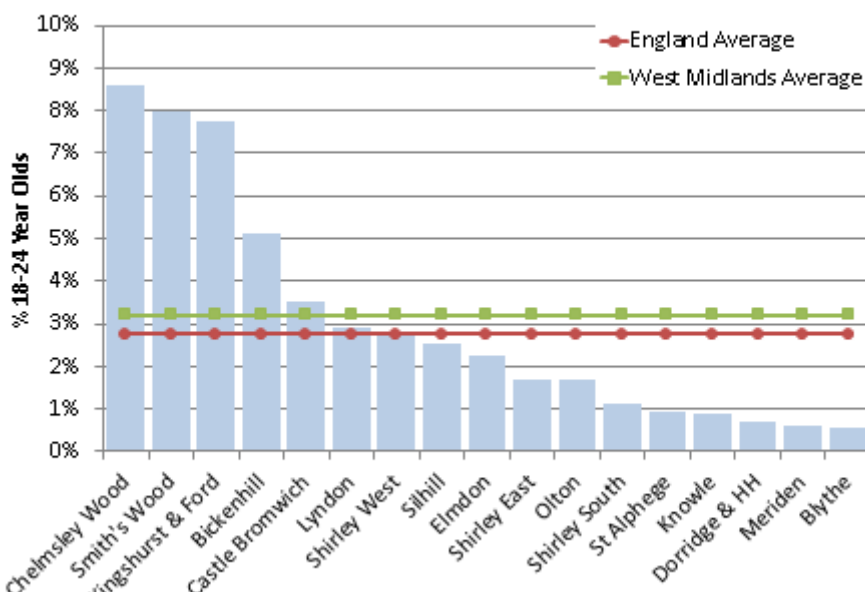
Claimant Unemployment – January 2016						
	Count Jan2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Jan 2015-2016)		
		Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	175	2.6%	2.3%	-20	-10%	↓
Blythe	45	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	100	1.4%	1.4%	0	0%	↔
Chelmsley Wood	420	6.2%	5.6%	-45	-10%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	20	0.4%	0.3%	-5	-20%	↓
Elmdon	90	1.2%	1.2%	0	0%	↔
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	320	4.9%	4.0%	-70	-18%	↓
Knowle	20	0.6%	0.3%	-15	-43%	↓
Lyndon	100	1.3%	1.2%	-5	-5%	↓
Meriden	35	0.7%	0.5%	-15	-30%	↓
Olton	80	1.0%	1.1%	5	7%	↑
Shirley East	70	1.1%	1.0%	-5	-7%	↓
Shirley South	45	0.5%	0.6%	5	13%	↑
Shirley West	85	1.2%	1.2%	-5	-6%	↓
Silhill	60	0.8%	0.8%	0	0%	↔
Smith's Wood	330	5.2%	4.3%	-75	-19%	↓
St Alphege	35	0.4%	0.4%	0	0%	↔

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

Five wards in Solihull have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (8.6%), Smith's Wood (8.0%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (7.7%), Bickenhill (5.1%) and Castle Bromwich (3.5%).





Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment January 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between January 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in five out of Solihull's 17 wards, with two North Solihull wards accounting for the majority of the fall in the borough (Kingshurst & Fordbridge –45 claimants, Smith's Wood -30 claimants, Chelmsley Wood -15 claimants). There were increases in five wards, although the increase amounted to just 5 claimants in each ward.

18-24 Claimant Unemployment – January 2016						
	Count Jan2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Jan 2015-2016)		
		Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	50	4.6%	5.1%	5	11%	↑
Blythe	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	35	3.0%	3.5%	5	17%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	105	9.8%	8.6%	-15	-13%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmdon	20	2.3%	2.3%	0	0%	↔
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	100	11.2%	7.7%	-45	-31%	↓
Knowle	5	0.9%	0.9%	0	0%	↔
Lyndon	30	2.9%	2.9%	0	0%	↔
Meriden	5	1.2%	0.6%	-5	-50%	↓
Olton	15	2.2%	1.7%	-5	-25%	↓
Shirley East	15	1.1%	1.7%	5	50%	↑
Shirley South	10	0.6%	1.1%	5	100%	↑







Shirley West	25	2.8%	2.8%	0	0%	
Silhill	20	2.5%	2.5%	0	0%	
Smith's Wood	100	10.4%	8.0%	-30	-23%	
St Alphege	10	0.5%	0.9%	5	100%	
Source: Claimant Count, ONS/Nomis						

Worklessness

In line with Government guidance, worklessness is defined as the number of working age people claiming a key out of work benefit (Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance/Incapacity Benefit, Lone Parents on Income Support, Others on Income Related Benefit). The Department of Work and Pensions has now released the data for August 2015.

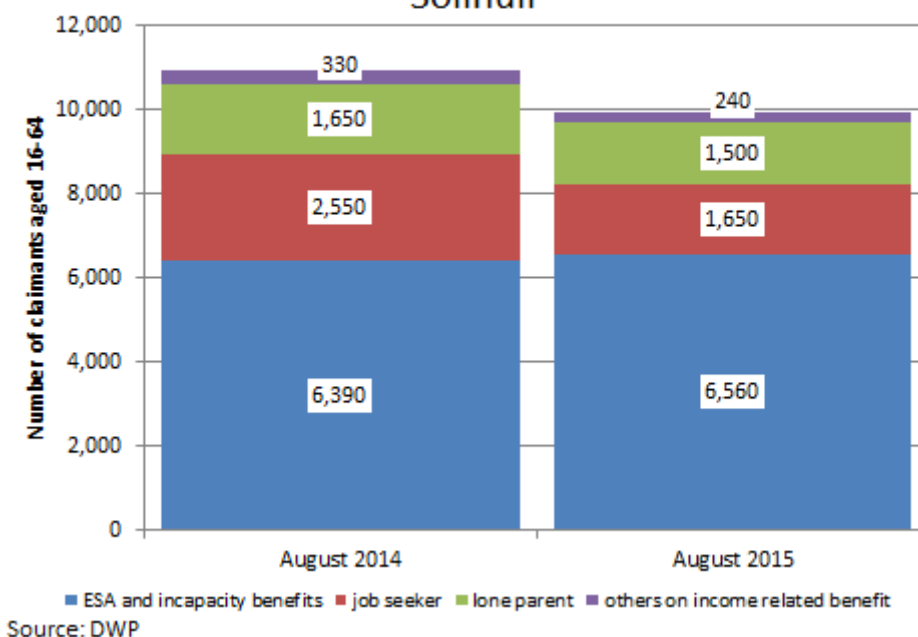
In August 2015 there were 9,940 individuals in Solihull claiming a key out of work benefit, equating to a worklessness rate of 7.8%. This is below the England (8.9%), West Midlands (10.2%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (11.3%) averages and the lowest it has been since records began in 1999. Between August 2014 and 2015 the number of claimants in Solihull fell by -9% (-980 individuals), slightly more than the reduction across England as a whole.

Nearly 20% of 16-64 year olds in the three North Solihull regeneration wards claim an out of work benefit compared with around 5% in the rest of the Borough.

Out of Work Benefit Claimants (Worklessness) – August 2015						
	Count Aug 2015	% 16-64		Annual Change (Aug 2014-2015)		
		Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	9,940	8.6%	7.8%	-980	-9.0%	
<i>North Solihull</i>	4,625	21.8%	19.6%	-520	-10.1%	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	5,285	5.5%	5.1%	-460	-8.0%	
England	3,064,290	9.6%	8.9%	-240,530	-7.3%	
West Midlands	365,360	11.0%	10.2%	-27,430	-7.0%	
GBSLEP	140,630	12.1%	11.3%	-11,110	-7.3%	
Source: Claimant Count, ONS/Nomis						

In the course of the last year there were falls in Solihull in the number of job seekers (-900 individuals), and lone parents on income support (-150 individuals), offsetting an increase in the numbers claiming ESA/Incapacity benefit (+170 individuals).

Out of Work Benefit Claimants (Worklessness) in Solihull



Methodology Notes

Universal Credit

From May 2015 onwards there has been a phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Solihull which will replace a number existing benefits including (means tested) Job Seekers Allowance for new claimants.

The Pathfinder for UC started on 29 April 2013 and the programme is being gradually rolled out across the country. At the moment UC is only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents (hence why more than half of current UC claimants in Solihull are under the age of 35 years).

In response to the growing number of areas introducing UC the ONS have announced a change to the definition of the measurement of the Claimant Count. From May 2015 the ONS headline measure of the Claimant Count will include out of work claimants of Universal Credit. It should be noted that these figures are new and are considered as experimental, therefore may be subject to revision.

Comparator Areas

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP): Birmingham, Solihull, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Wyre Forest

Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) nearest neighbour comparator Local Authorities: Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Bury, Chester East, Chester West & Chester, Stockport, Trafford, Warrington, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, Poole, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire, York

Metropolitan Councils: Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton.