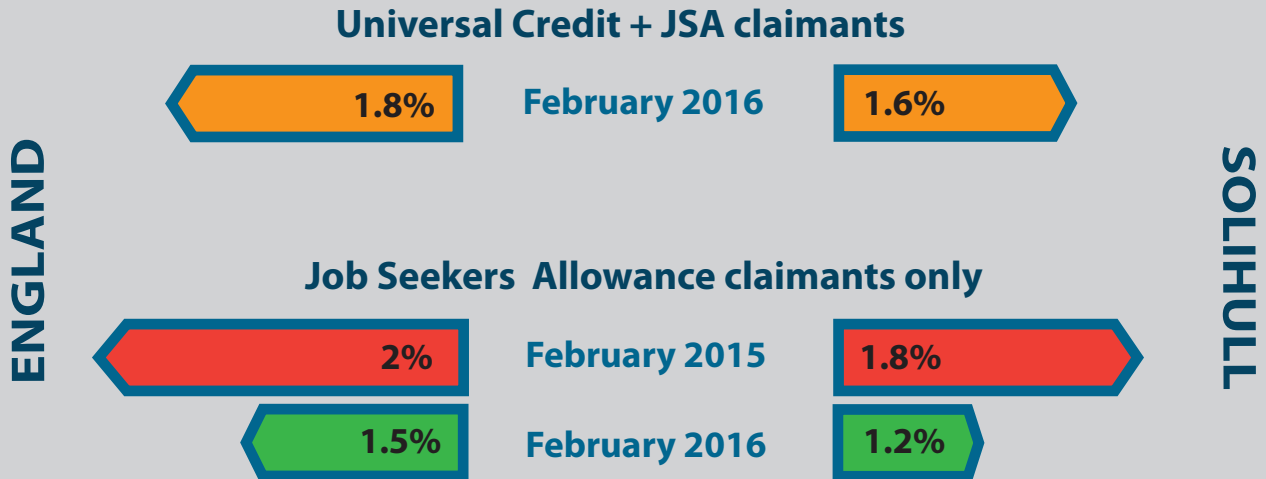


Overall Unemployment



Youth Unemployment in Solihull

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

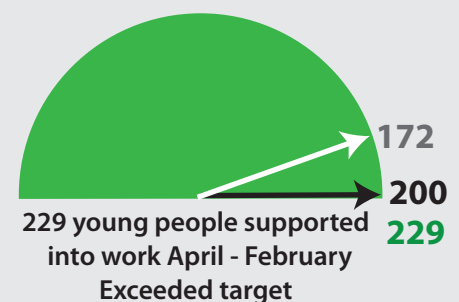
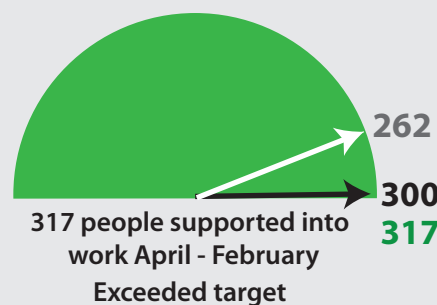


Job Seekers Allowance claimants only



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 February 2016 there were 1,480 individuals in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 484 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 1,964 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 (1.3%)¹. Solihull has the lowest claimant unemployment rate among the 36 Metropolitan Councils in England.

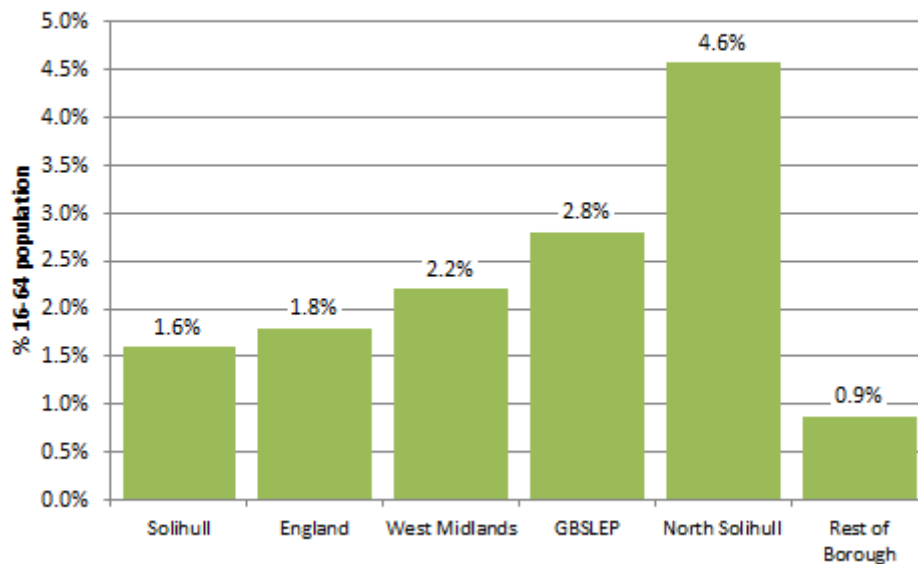
Around 54% of claimants in Solihull (1,060 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 4.6% compared with 0.9% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – February 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Feb 2016 [^]	% 16-64		Annual Change (Feb 2015-2016)		
		Feb 2015	Feb 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	1,964 (1,480)	1.8%	1.6% (1.2%)	-290 (-776)	-13% (-34%)	↓
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,060 (841)	5.3%	4.6% (3.6%)	-175 (-396)	-14% (-32%)	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	905 (639)	1.0%	0.9% (0.6%)	-115 (-380)	-11% (-37%)	↓
England	622,550	2.0%	1.8% (1.5%)	-76,115	-11% (-23%)	↓
West Midlands	79,230	2.5%	2.2% (1.9%)	-10,870	-12% (-25%)	↓
GBSLEP	35,485	3.2%	2.8% (2.3%)	-3,905	-10% (-26%)	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	210,155	3.1%	2.8% (2.2%)	-23,550	-10% (-25%)	↓

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

CIPFA Comparator Councils	30,800	1.4%	1.3% (0.9%)	-2,160	-7% (-27%)	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis ^ Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

Headline Claimant Unemployment February 2016



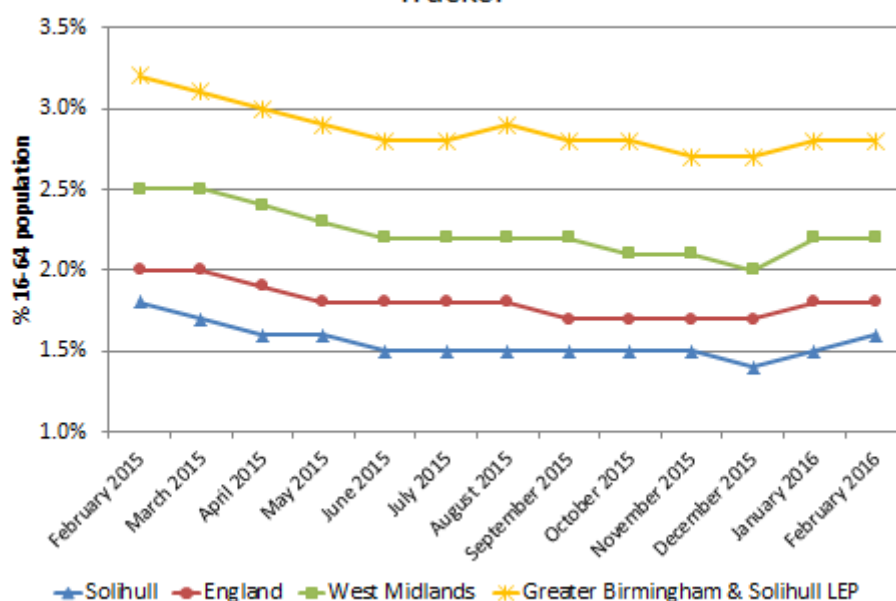
Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The combined number of JSA and UC claimants in Solihull increased by just over 1% (+15 individuals) between January and February 2016. However, a post Christmas seasonal increase in unemployment is the norm in the first two months of the year, as temporary Christmas jobs come to an end.

Compared with the same month last year Solihull recorded a slightly larger fall in claimant unemployment (-13%, -290 individuals) than across England as a whole (-11%). The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -14% (-175 individuals) over this period compared to a fall of -11% (-115) in the rest of the borough.

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

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 63% of Solihull claimants are male (1,240 individuals) and 37% female (720 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 - February 2016					
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,240	720	63.3%	36.7%	2.0%	1.1%
England	395,180	227,370	63.5%	36.5%	2.3%	1.3%
West Midlands	51,200	28,030	64.6%	35.4%	2.9%	1.6%
GBSLEP	23,200	12,280	65.4%	34.6%	3.7%	2.0%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

Age Breakdown

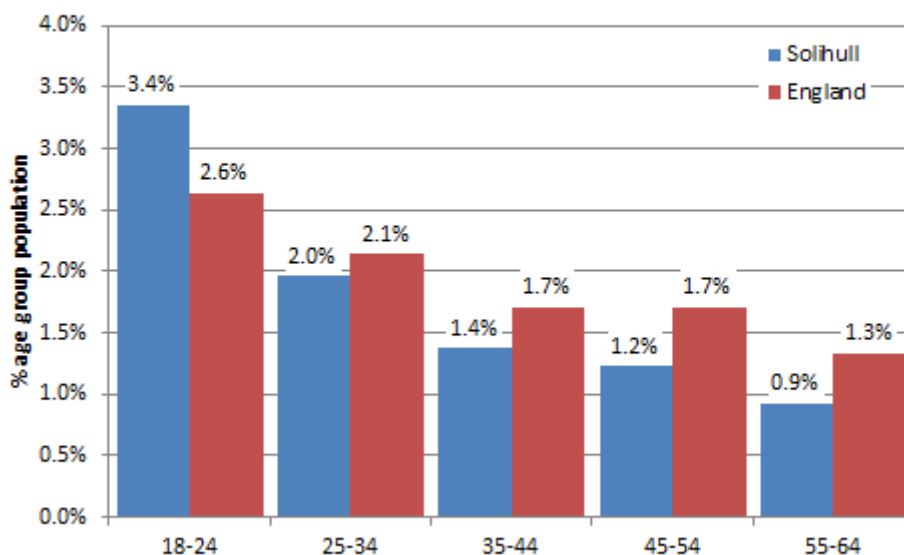
In February 2016 around a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (540 individuals, 28% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, particularly 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 February 2016				Rates (% age group)	
	JSA	UC	Total (JSA+UC)	% Solihull Total	Solihull	England
18-24	270	270	540	28%	3.4%	2.6%
25-34	345	105	450	23%	2.0%	2.1%
35-44	300	50	350	18%	1.4%	1.7%
45-54	345	45	390	20%	1.2%	1.7%
55-64	210	20	230	12%	0.9%	1.3%
Total	1,480	485	1,965		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 February 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

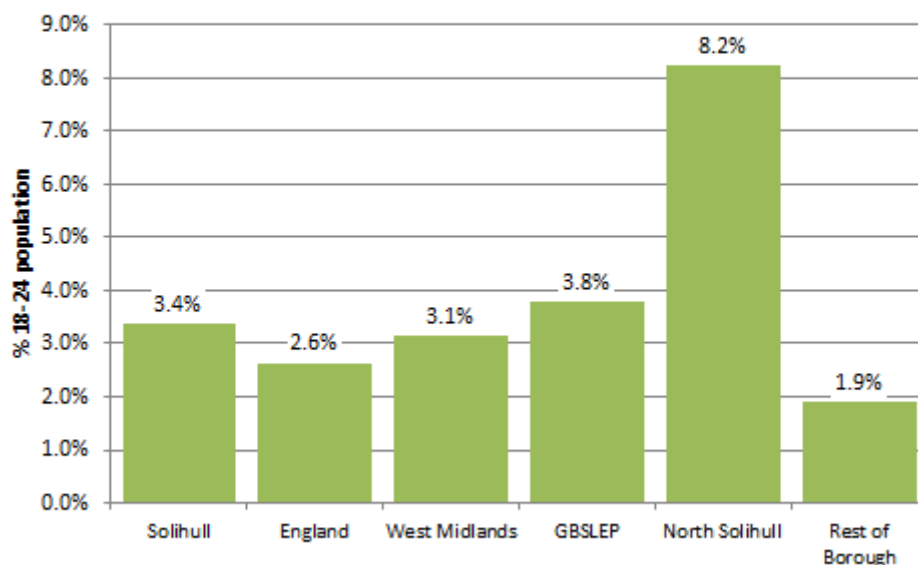
In February 2016 there were 270 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 270 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 540 claimants represents 3.4% of the 18-24 population.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than both the England (2.6%) and West Midlands (3.1%) averages.

Around 57% (310 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 more than four times higher than across the rest of the Borough (8.2% compared to 1.9%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – February 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Feb 2016 [^]	% 18-24		Annual Change (Feb 2015-2016)		
		Feb 2015	Feb 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	540 (270)	4.0%	3.4% (1.7%)	-105 (-370)	-16% (-57%)	↓
<i>North Solihull</i>	310 (180)	10.6%	8.2% (4.8%)	-90 (-220)	-23% (-55%)	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	235 (95)	2.0%	1.9% (0.8%)	-10 (-150)	-4% (-61%)	↓
England	129,860	3.3%	2.6% (1.8%)	-32,855	-20% (-42%)	↓
West Midlands	16,925	4.0%	3.1% (2.0%)	-4,430	-31% (-48%)	↓
GBSLEP	7,625	4.5%	3.8% (2.2%)	-1,470	-16% (-52%)	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	46,760	4.7%	3.9% (2.3%)	-10,525	-18% (-44%)	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,830	2.6%	2.2% (1.0%)	-1,140	-14% (-49%)	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						
^ Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

18-24 Claimant Unemployment February 2016

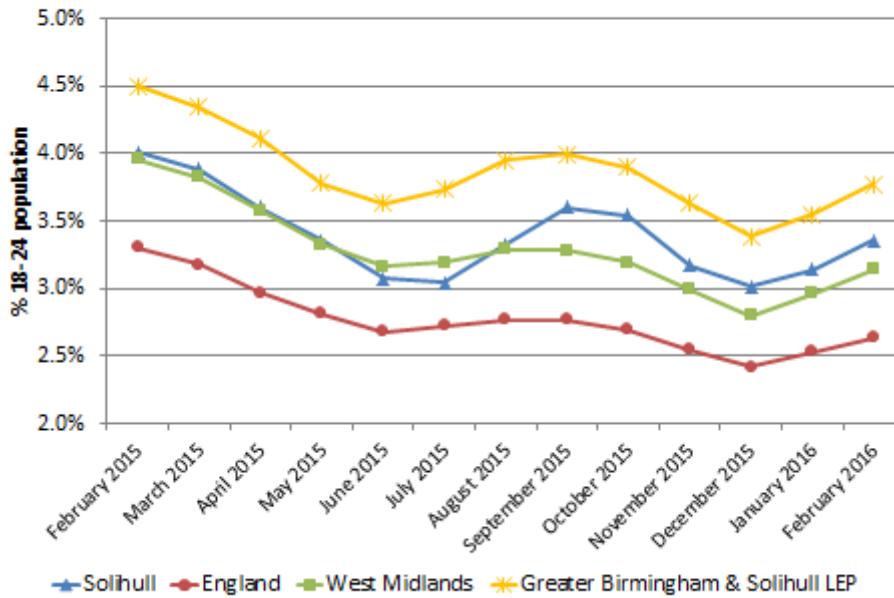


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull increased by 7% (+35 individuals) in February. However, the number of claimants is -16% (-105 individuals) lower than the same month last year. As a result the 18-24 claimant rate has fallen by -0.6 percentage points over this period (from 4.0% to 3.4%).

The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -23% in the year to February 2016 (-90 individuals), compared with a fall across the rest of the Borough of -4%, (-10 individuals).

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

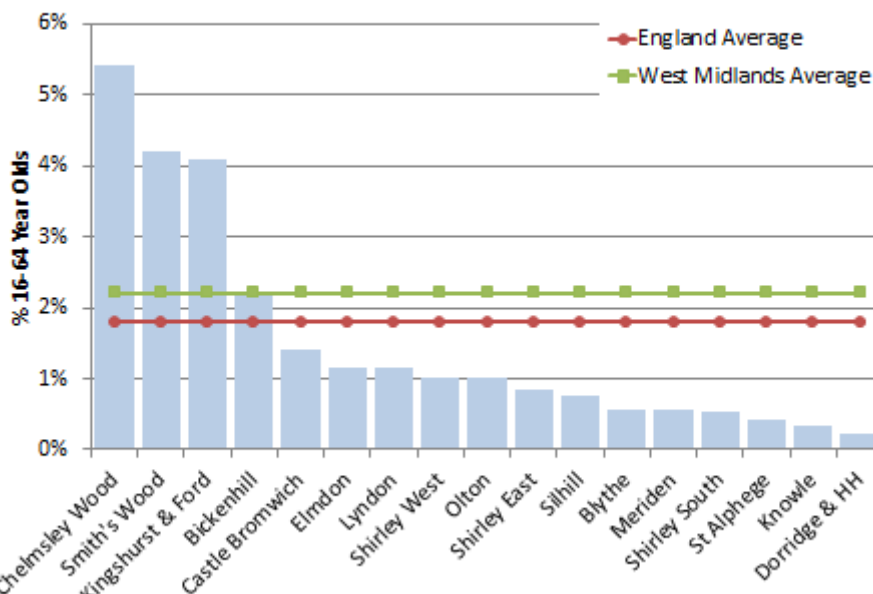


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment

Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.4%), Smith's Wood (4.2%) and Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.1%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment February 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

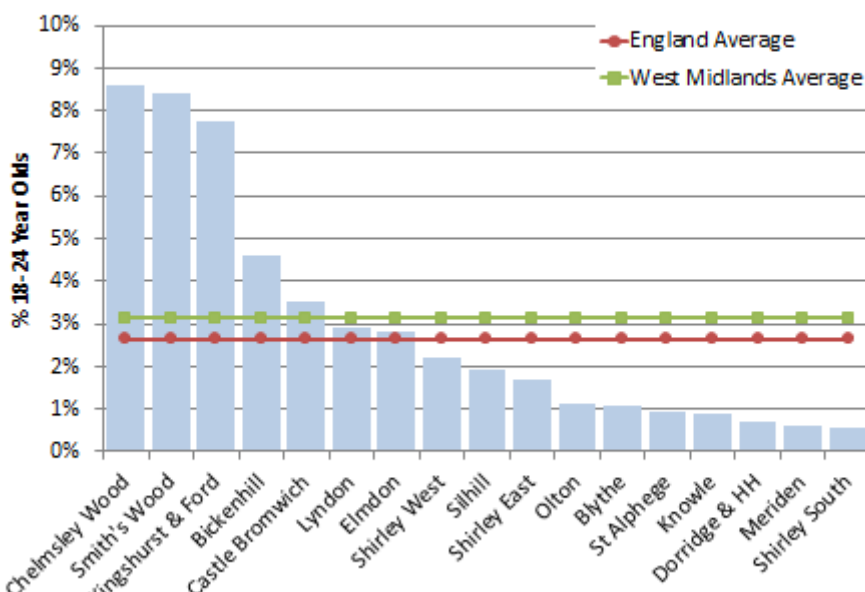
Between February 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment fell in 13 out of Solihull's 17 wards and was unchanged in the rest.

Claimant Unemployment – February 2016						
	Count Feb2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Feb 2015-2016)		
		Feb 2015	Feb 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	165	2.6%	2.2%	-35	-18%	↓
Blythe	50	0.6%	0.6%	-5	-9%	↓
Castle Bromwich	100	1.4%	1.4%	0	0%	↔
Chelmsley Wood	405	6.1%	5.4%	-55	-12%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	15	0.4%	0.2%	-10	-40%	↓
Elmdon	85	1.4%	1.2%	-15	-15%	↓
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	325	4.6%	4.1%	-45	-12%	↓
Knowle	20	0.4%	0.3%	-5	-20%	↓
Lyndon	95	1.3%	1.1%	-10	-10%	↓
Meriden	40	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	75	1.1%	1.0%	-5	-6%	↓
Shirley East	60	1.0%	0.8%	-10	-14%	↓
Shirley South	40	0.6%	0.5%	-5	-11%	↓
Shirley West	75	1.1%	1.0%	-5	-6%	↓
Silhill	55	0.8%	0.8%	0	0%	↔
Smith's Wood	325	5.2%	4.2%	-80	-20%	↓
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 (8.4%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (7.7%), Bickenhill (4.6%) and Castle Bromwich (3.5%).





Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment February 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between February 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in eight out of Solihull's 17 wards, with the three North Solihull wards accounting for the majority of the fall in the borough (Smith's Wood -35 claimants, Kingshurst & Fordbridge -30 claimants, Chelmsley Wood -25 claimants). There were increases in four wards, although the increase amounted to just 5 claimants in each ward.

18-24 Claimant Unemployment – February 2016						
	Count Feb2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Feb 2015-2016)		
		Feb 2015	Feb 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	45	5.1%	4.6%	-5	-10%	↓
Blythe	10	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	35	3.0%	3.5%	+5	+17%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	105	10.6%	8.6%	-25	-19%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmdon	25	2.8%	2.8%	0	0%	↔
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	100	10.1%	7.7%	-30	-23%	↓
Knowle	5	0.0%	0.9%	+5	-	↑
Lyndon	30	2.9%	2.9%	0	0%	↔
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	10	2.8%	1.1%	-15	-60%	↓
Shirley East	15	1.1%	1.7%	+5	+50%	↑
Shirley South	5	1.1%	0.6%	-5	-50%	↓

Shirley West	20	2.8%	2.2%	-5	-20%	
Silhill	15	2.5%	1.9%	-5	-25%	
Smith's Wood	105	11.2%	8.4%	-35	-25%	
St Alphege	10	0.5%	0.9%	+5	+100%	
Source: Claimant Count, ONS/Nomis						

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.