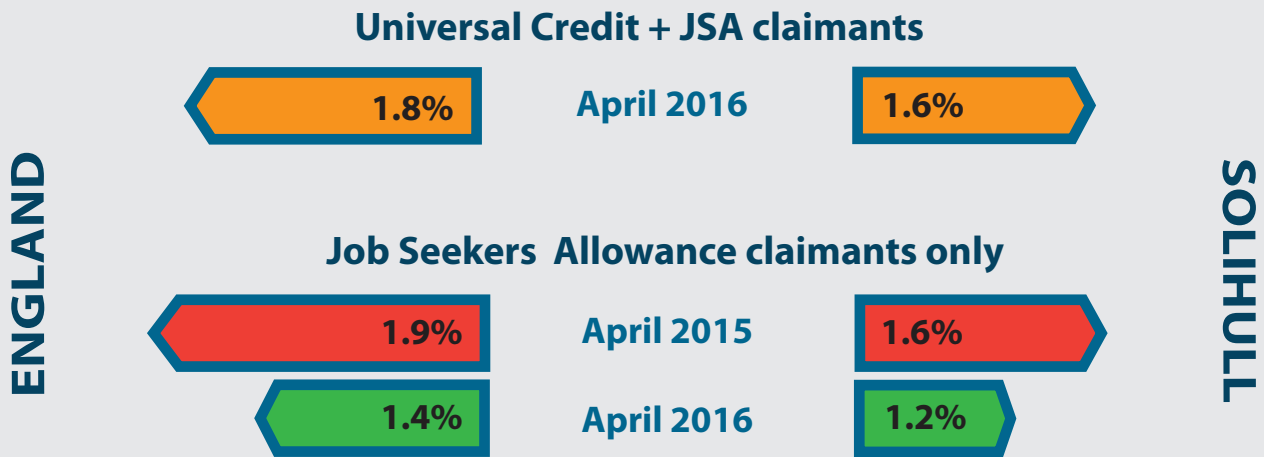


Overall Unemployment



Youth Unemployment in Solihull

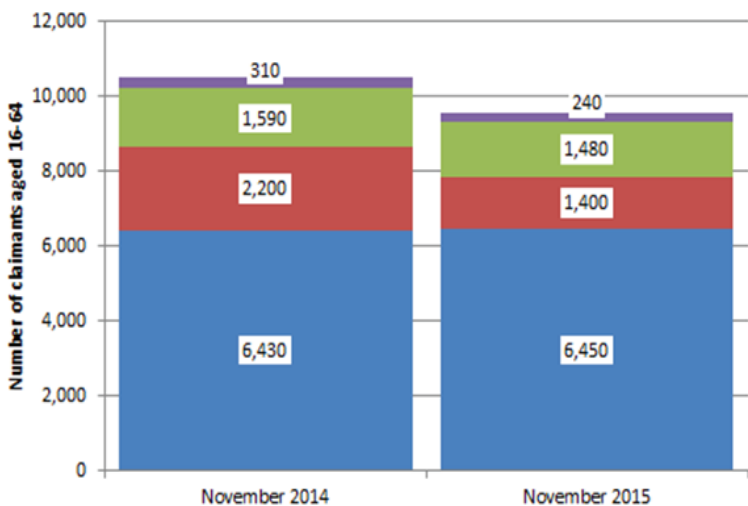
Universal Credit + JSA claimants

3.1% youth unemployment
April 2016
500 claimants

Job Seekers Allowance claimants only

1.6% youth unemployment
April 2016
250 claimants

3.6% youth unemployment
April 2015
580 claimants



Out of Work Benefit Claimants (Worklessness) in Solihull

November 2015

- ESA and Incapacity Benefits
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Lone Parents on Income Support
- Others on Income related benefit

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 April 2016 there were 1,490 individuals in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 524 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 2,014 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 (2.3%) 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.

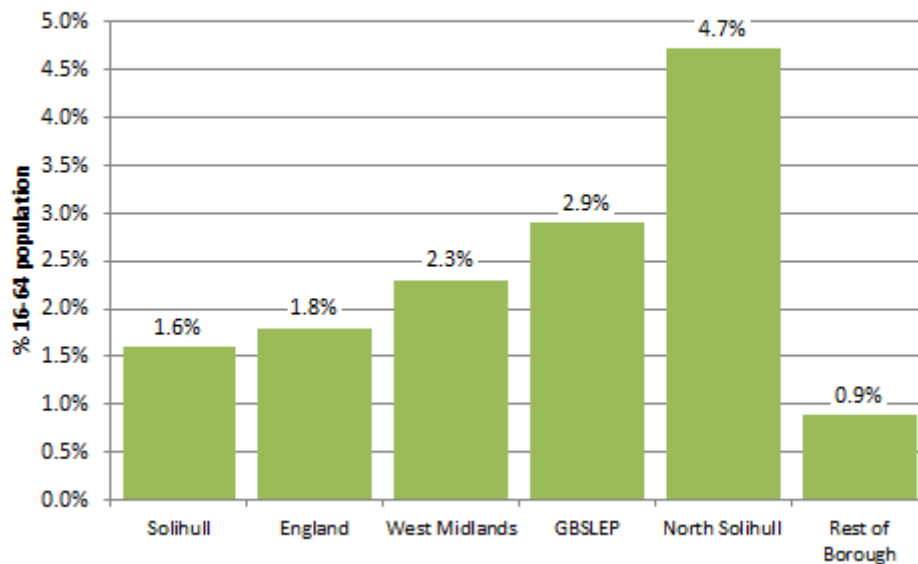
Around 54% of claimants in Solihull (1,095 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 4.7% compared with 0.9% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – April 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Apr 2016 [^]	% 16-64		Annual Change (Apr 2015-2016)		
		Apr 2015	Apr 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	2,014 (1,490)	1.6%	1.6% (1.2%)	-50 (-576)	-2% (-28%)	
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,095 (842)	5.0%	4.7% (3.6%)	-60 (-314)	-5% (-27%)	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	920 (648)	0.9%	0.9% (0.6%)	+10 (-262)	+1% (-29%)	
England	613,060	1.9%	1.8% (1.4%)	-43,500	-7% (-22%)	
West Midlands	80,745	2.4%	2.3% (1.8%)	-4,475	-5% (-22%)	
GBSLEP	36,405	3.0%	2.9% (2.3%)	-1,275	-3% (-23%)	
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	211,400	3.0%	2.8% (2.1%)	-12,445	-6% (-23%)	

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

CIPFA Comparator Councils	30,300	1.3%	1.3% (0.8%)	-560	-2% (-23%)	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis ^ Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

Headline Claimant Unemployment April 2016

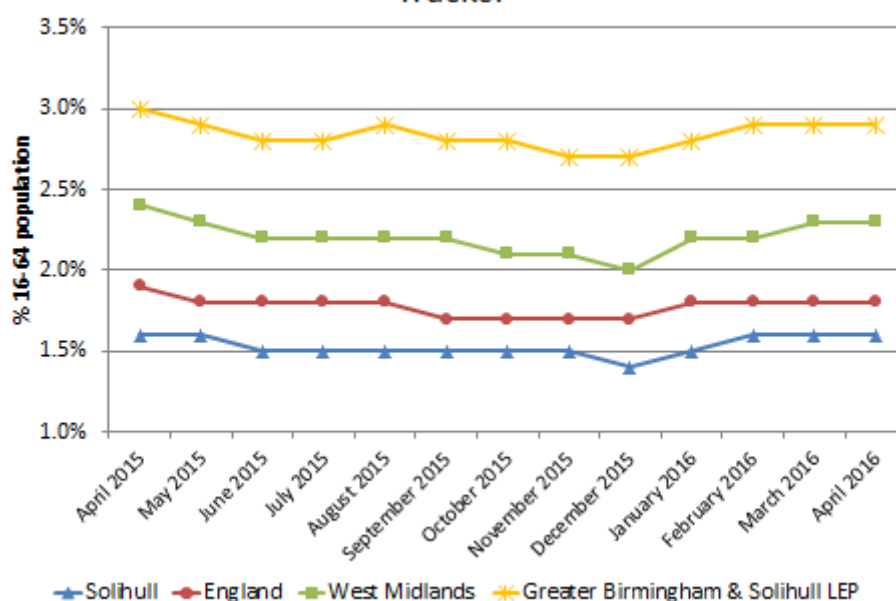


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The combined number of JSA and UC claimants in Solihull fell by just over -1% (-25 individuals) between March and April 2016. Compared with the same month last year Solihull recorded a fall in claimant unemployment of -2% (-50 individuals), a slightly smaller fall than across England as a whole (-7%). The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -5% (-60 individuals) over this period compared to an increase of +1% (+10) in the rest of the borough.

The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull remained unchanged between April 2015 and 2016 (1.6%).

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 62% of Solihull claimants are male (1,245 individuals) and 38% female (770 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 - April 2016						
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,245	770	62%	38%	2.0%	1.2%
England	387,300	255,760	63%	37%	2.3%	1.3%
West Midlands	51,815	28,930	64%	36%	2.9%	1.6%
GBSLEP	23,705	12,700	65%	35%	3.8%	2.0%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

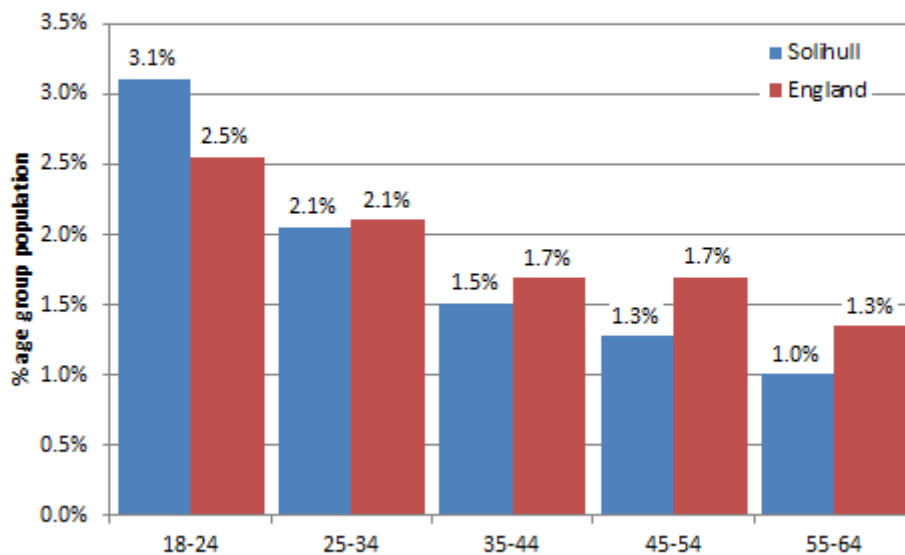
Age Breakdown

In April 2016 just under a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (500 individuals, 25% 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 April 2016				Rates (% age group)	
	JSA	UC	Total (JSA+UC)	% Solihull Total	Solihull	England
18-24	250	250	500	25%	3.1%	2.5%
25-34	340	130	470	23%	2.1%	2.1%
35-44	320	65	385	19%	1.5%	1.7%
45-54	350	55	405	20%	1.3%	1.7%
55-64	230	20	250	12%	1.0%	1.3%
Total	1,490	524	2,014		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 April 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

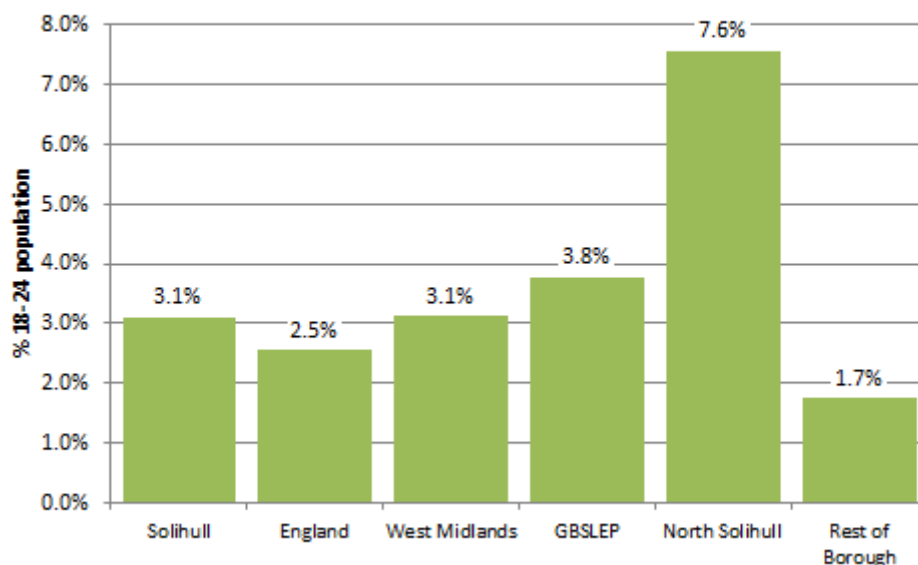
In April 2016 there were 250 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 250 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 500 claimants represents 3.1% of the 18-24 population.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than the England average (2.5%), but is in-line with that for the West Midlands (3.1%).

Around 57% (285 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 (7.6% compared to 1.7%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – April 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Apr 2016 [^]	% 18-24		Annual Change (Apr 2015-2016)		
		Apr 2015	Apr 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	500 (250)	3.6%	3.1% (1.6%)	-80 (-330)	-14% (-57%)	↓
<i>North Solihull</i>	285 (155)	10.0%	7.6% (4.1%)	-90 (-220)	-24% (-59%)	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	215 (90)	1.6%	1.7% (0.7%)	+15 (-110)	+8% (-55%)	↑
England	125,480	3.0%	2.5% (1.5%)	-20,770	-14% (-44%)	↓
West Midlands	16,855	3.6%	3.1% (1.8%)	-2,430	-13% (-49%)	↓
GBSLEP	7,645	4.1%	3.8% (2.0%)	-670	-8% (-50%)	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	46,330	4.4%	3.8% (2.0%)	-6,830	-13% (-44%)	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,635	2.3%	2.1% (0.8%)	-535	-7% (-43%)	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis [^] Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

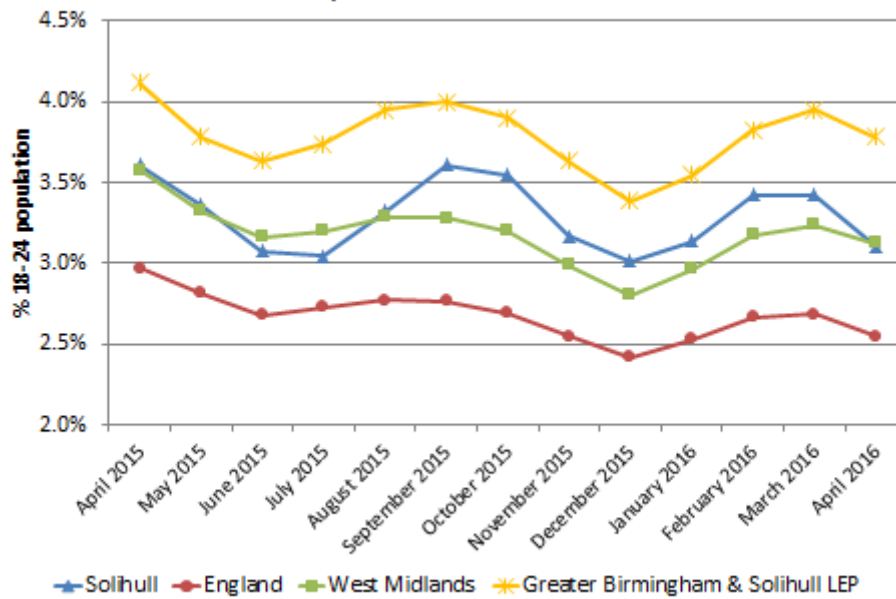
18-24 Claimant Unemployment April 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull fell by -9% (-50 individuals) in April and the number of claimants is now -14% (-80 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 3.6% to 3.1%). The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -24% in the year to April 2016 (-90 individuals), compared with a slight increase in the rest of the Borough of +8%, (+15 individuals).

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

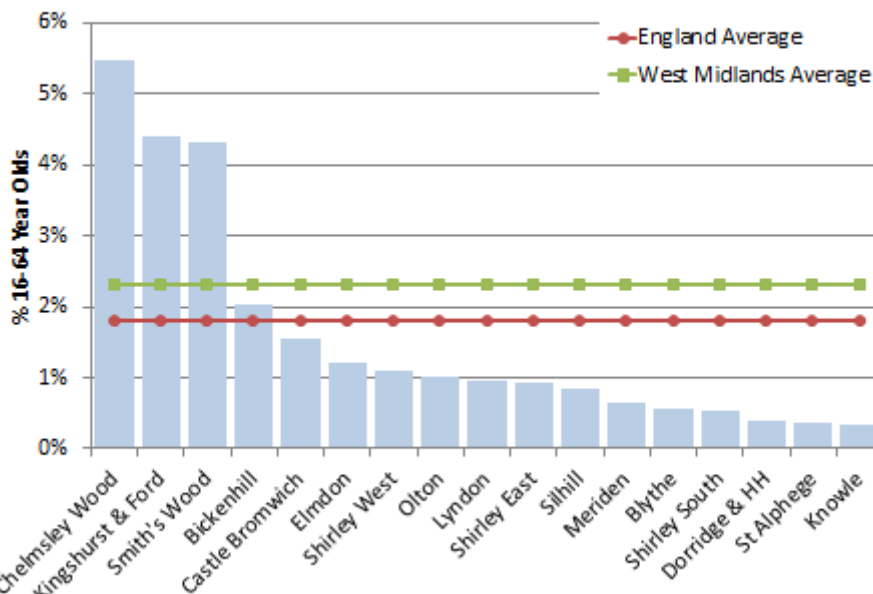


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.5%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.4%) and Smith's Wood (4.3%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment April 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

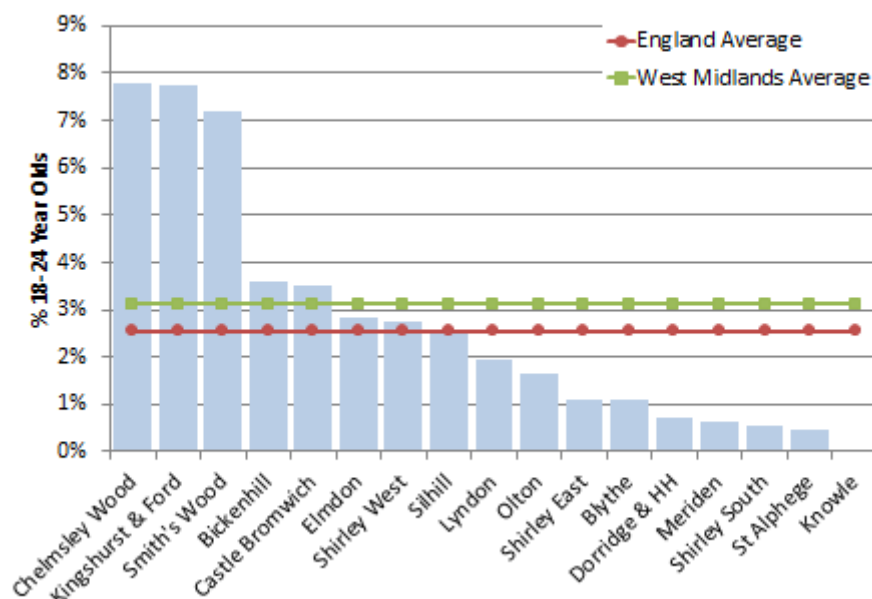
Between April 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment fell in seven out of Solihull's 17 wards, with small increases in seven.

Claimant Unemployment – April 2016						
	Count Apr2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Apr 2015-2016)		
		Apr 2015	Apr 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	155	2.3%	2.0%	-20	-11%	
Blythe	50	0.4%	0.6%	+15	+43%	
Castle Bromwich	110	1.4%	1.6%	+10	+10%	
Chelmsley Wood	410	5.7%	5.5%	-20	-5%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	25	0.3%	0.4%	+5	+25%	
Elmdon	90	1.3%	1.2%	-5	-5%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	350	4.5%	4.4%	-5	-1%	
Knowle	20	0.3%	0.3%	0	0%	
Lyndon	80	1.1%	1.0%	-10	-11%	
Meriden	45	0.6%	0.6%	+5	+13%	
Olton	75	0.9%	1.0%	+5	+7%	
Shirley East	65	0.9%	0.9%	0	0%	
Shirley South	40	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	
Shirley West	80	1.2%	1.1%	-5	-6%	
Silhill	60	0.7%	0.8%	+10	+20%	
Smith's Wood	335	4.8%	4.3%	-35	-9%	
St Alphege	30	0.3%	0.4%	+5	+20%	
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 (7.8%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (7.7%), Smith's Wood (7.2%), Bickenhill (3.6%) and Castle Bromwich (3.5%).





Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment April 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between April 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in seven 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 -40 claimants, Chelmsley Wood -30 claimants, Kingshurst & Fordbridge -25 claimants). There were increases in five wards, although the increase amounted to just 5 claimants in each ward except for Blythe (+10).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment – April 2016						
	Count Apr2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Apr 2015-2016)		
		Apr 2015	Apr 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	35	4.1%	3.6%	-5	-13%	↓
Blythe	10	0.0%	1.1%	+10	-	↑
Castle Bromwich	35	3.0%	3.5%	+5	+17%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	95	10.2%	7.8%	-30	-24%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmdon	25	2.3%	2.8%	+5	+25%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	100	9.7%	7.7%	-25	-20%	↓
Knowle	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0%	↔
Lyndon	20	2.4%	1.9%	-5	-20%	↓
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	15	2.2%	1.7%	-5	-25%	↓
Shirley East	10	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	↔
Shirley South	5	1.1%	0.6%	-5	-50%	↓







Shirley West	25	2.2%	2.8%	+5	+25%	
Silhill	20	1.9%	2.5%	+5	+33%	
Smith's Wood	90	10.4%	7.2%	-40	-31%	
St Alphege	5	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	
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 November 2015.

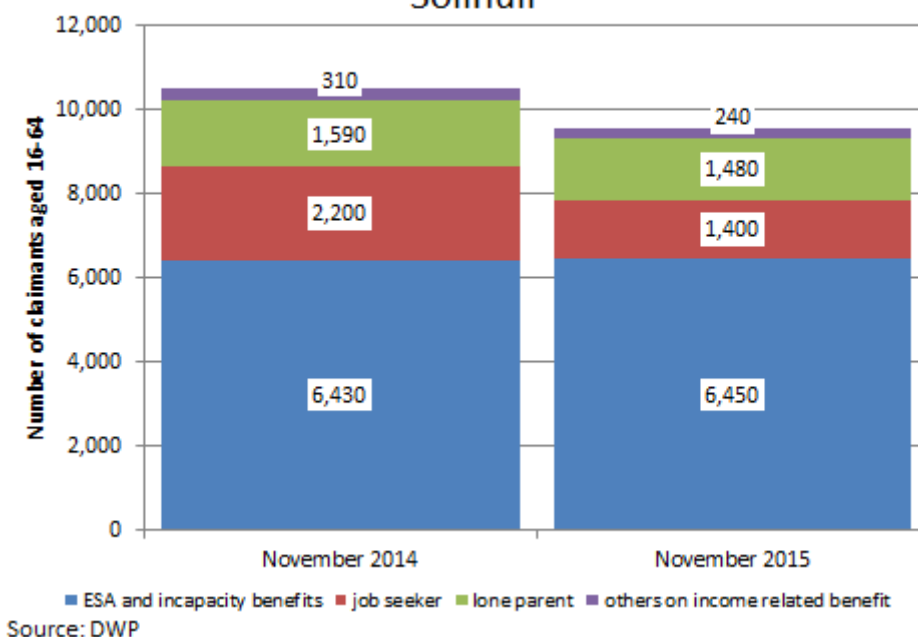
In November 2015 there were 9,570 individuals in Solihull claiming a key out of work benefit, equating to a worklessness rate of 7.6%. This is below the England (8.7%), West Midlands (10.0%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (10.9%) averages and the lowest it has been since records began in 1999. Between November 2014 and 2015 the number of claimants in Solihull fell by -9% (-950 individuals), a sharper reduction than across England as a whole.

Around 19% 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) – November 2015						
	Count Nov 2015	% 16-64		Annual Change (Nov 2014-2015)		
		Nov 2014	Nov 2015	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	9,570	8.3%	7.6%	-950	-9.0%	
<i>North Solihull</i>	4,450	21.0%	18.9%	-505	-10.2%	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	5,155	5.4%	4.9%	-485	-8.6%	
England	2,993,340	9.3%	8.7%	-221,390	-6.9%	
West Midlands	355,470	10.6%	10.0%	-24,160	-6.4%	
GBSLEP	136,090	11.7%	10.9%	-10,640	-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 (-800 individuals), and lone parents on income support (-110 individuals), offsetting a slight increase in the numbers claiming ESA/Incapacity benefit (+20 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.