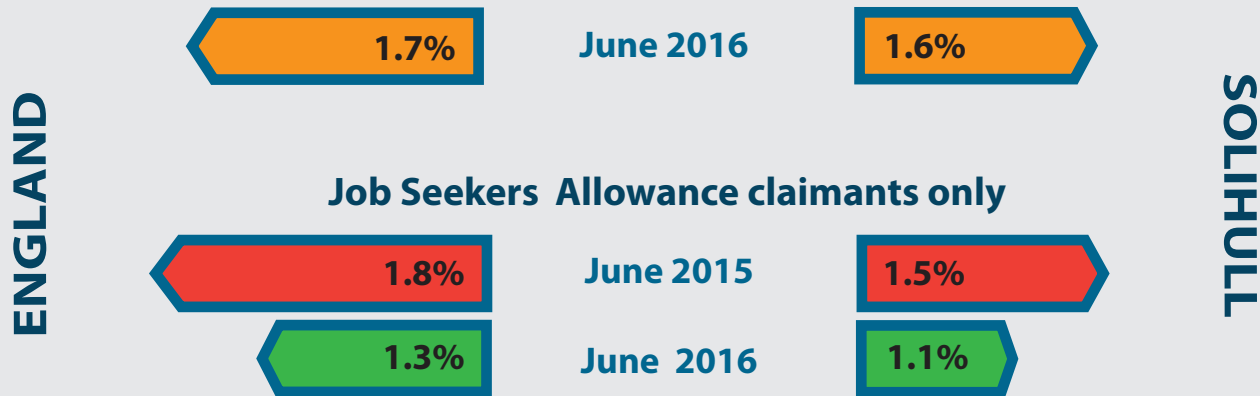


Overall Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants



Youth Unemployment in Solihull

Universal Credit + JSA claimants



Job Seekers Allowance claimants only



Youth Employment Initiative Update

Solihull Council's Independent Travel Trainers are now offering disadvantaged young people across the Borough advice, guidance and support to help them move closer to employment, education or training.

Funded through ESF and YEI money the team are working with any eligible young person (NEET aged 15-29) to offer travel training to help clients move independently around the region. Whilst it is a universal service, there is a particular focus on supporting vulnerable young people in need of extra help to provide them with the confidence to travel around the Borough and access more opportunities. If you want to find out more about this service email: katrina.carroll@solihull.gov.uk

The Employment and Skills Team continue to provide young people with practical help to move them closer to work. The team have engaged around 30 young people to date, and this is set to rapidly increase as they are now working in Chelmsley Wood and Solihull jobcentres supporting 18-24 year olds who would previously have been referred onto the Destination Work programme.

A full round up of the Destination Work project will be provided in a future employment briefing.

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 June 2016 there were 1,435 individuals in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 562 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 1,997 claimants represents 1.6% of the working age population.

On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is below those for England (1.7%), West Midlands (2.2%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (2.9%), but above the average for our CIPFA comparator Local Authorities (1.2%)¹. Solihull has the lowest claimant unemployment rate among the 36 Metropolitan Councils in England.

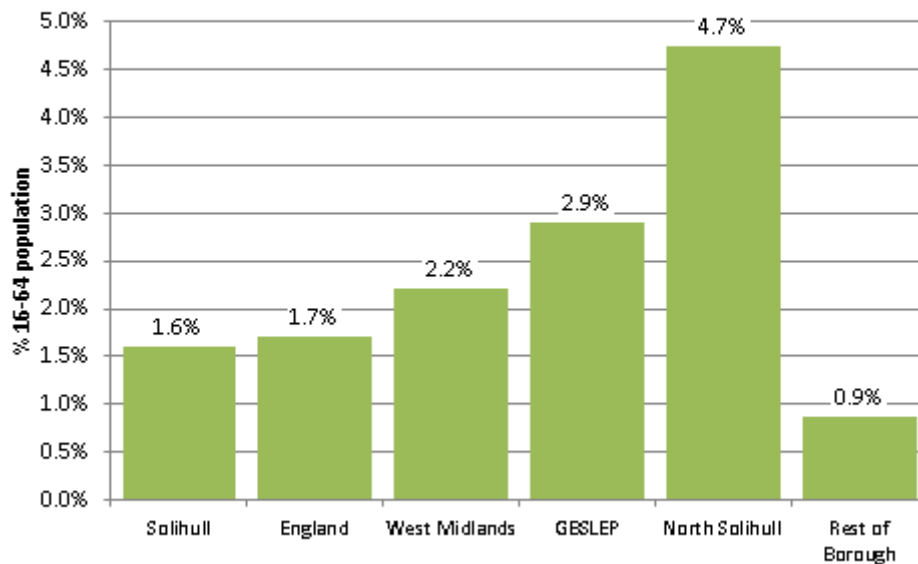
Around 55% of claimants in Solihull (1,100 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 4.7% compared with 0.9% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – June 2016						
Area	Claimant Count June 2016 [^]	% 16-64		Annual Change (June 2015-2016)		
		Jun 2015	June 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	1,997 (1,435)	1.5%	1.6% (1.1%)	+105 (-404)	+6% (-22%)	
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,100 (817)	4.5%	4.7% (3.5%)	+65 (-197)	+6% (-19%)	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	895 (618)	0.8%	0.9% (0.6%)	+40 (-207)	+5% (-25%)	
England	590,110	1.8%	1.7% (1.3%)	-24,070	-4% (-21%)	
West Midlands	79,225	2.2%	2.2% (1.8%)	+315	0% (-18%)	
GBSLEP	36,020	2.8%	2.9% (2.3%)	+775	+2% (-17%)	
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	206,640	2.8%	2.8% (2.0%)	-3,995	-2% (-21%)	

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

CIPFA Comparator Councils	29,270	1.2%	1.2% (0.8%)	+155	+1% (-21%)	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis ^ Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

Headline Claimant Unemployment June 2016

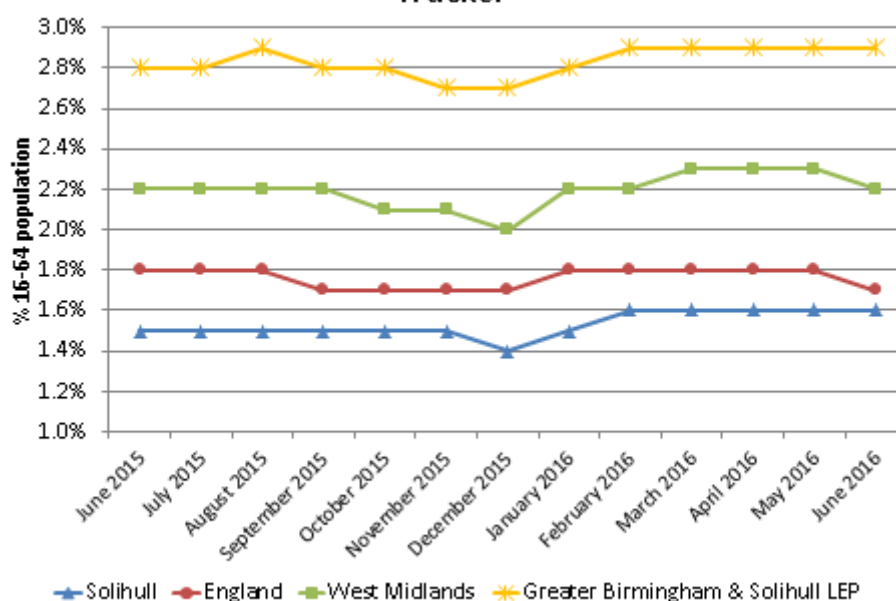


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The combined number of JSA and UC claimants in Solihull fell by -1.7% (-35 individuals) between May and June 2016. However, compared with the same month last year the number of claimants in Solihull has increased (+105, +6%). This is broadly in-line with the regional trend, but contrasts with a slight fall across England as a whole (-4%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +6% (+65 individuals) over this period and by +5% (+40 individuals) in the rest of the borough.

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between June 2015 and 2016 resulted in an increase in the claimant unemployment rate of 10 percentage points (from 1.5% to 1.6%). Similar increases in the rate were recorded in North Solihull (from 4.5% to 4.7%) and the rest of the Borough (from 0.8% to 0.9%).

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 64% of Solihull claimants are male (1,265 individuals) and 36% female (725 individuals), which is broadly 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 - June 2016					
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,265	725	64%	36%	2.0%	1.1%
England	370,565	219,545	63%	37%	2.2%	1.3%
West Midlands	50,800	28,425	64%	36%	2.8%	1.6%
GBSLEP	23,485	12,535	65%	35%	3.8%	2.0%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

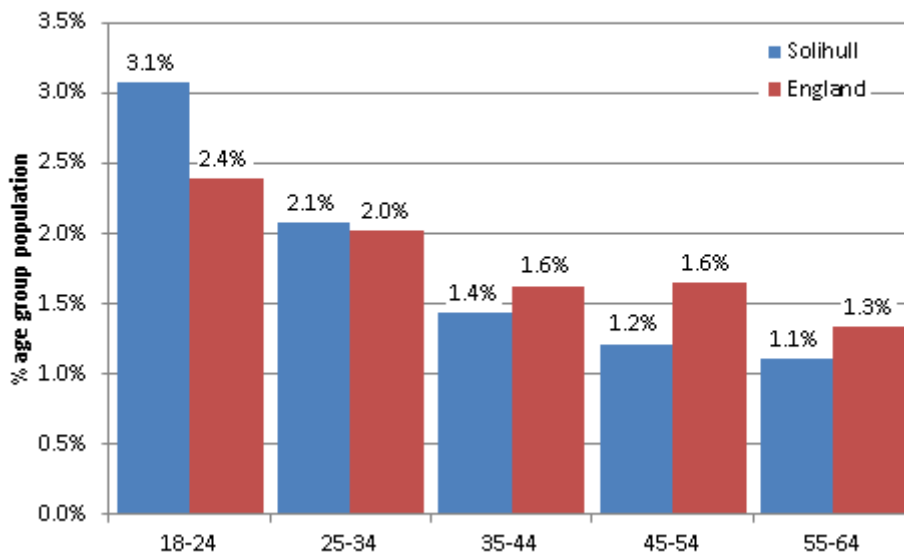
Age Breakdown

In June 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 (490 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.

Solihull's claimant unemployment rate is above the England average among 18-24 year olds and is also marginally higher for those aged 25-34 years. However, it is below average among older age groups.

	Solihull Claimants June 2016				Rates (% age group)	
	JSA	UC	Total (JSA+UC)	% Solihull Total	Solihull	England
18-24	230	260	490	25%	3.1%	2.4%
25-34	340	135	475	24%	2.1%	2.0%
35-44	295	70	365	18%	1.4%	1.6%
45-54	325	60	385	19%	1.2%	1.6%
55-64	240	35	275	14%	1.1%	1.3%
Total	1,435	562	1,997		1.6%	1.7%
JSA claimants: ONS/Nomis UC claimants: DWP/Stat Xplore 16-64 population: ONS mid year population estimates 2014						

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group June 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

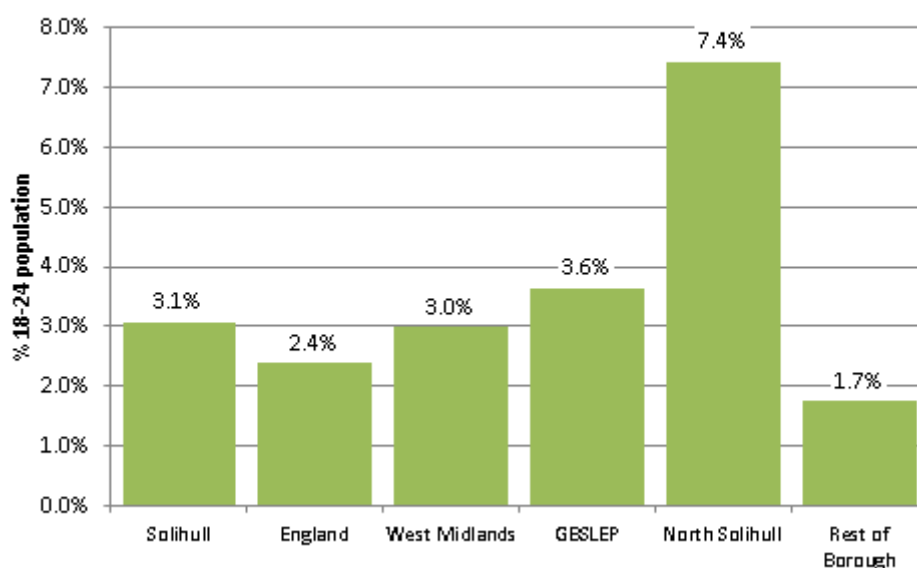
In June 2016 there were 230 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 260 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 490 claimants represents 3.1% of the 18-24 population.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than the England average (2.4%), and marginally above that for the West Midlands (3.0%). In order to match the England average rate the number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull would have to fall by just over 100.

Around 57% (280 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 (7.4% compared to 1.7%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – June 2016						
Area	Claimant Count June 2016 [^]	% 18-24		Annual Change (June 2015-2016)		
		June 2015	June 2016 [^]	Count [^]	% [^]	Trend
Solihull	490 (230)	3.1%	3.1% (1.4%)	0 (-240)	0% (-51%)	↔
<i>North Solihull</i>	280 (145)	8.4%	7.4% (3.8%)	-35 (-165)	-11% (-53%)	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	215 (85)	1.5%	1.7% (0.7%)	+35 (-75)	+19% (-47%)	↑
England	117,490	2.7%	2.4% (1.3%)	-14,270	-11% (-45%)	↓
West Midlands	16,120	3.2%	3.0% (1.6%)	-930	-5% (-46%)	↓
GBSLEP	7,380	3.6%	3.6% (1.8%)	+40	+1% (-44%)	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	44,045	4.0%	3.6% (1.7%)	-4,245	-9% (-44%)	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,240	2.1%	2.0% (0.7%)	-295	-5% (-42%)	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis [^] Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

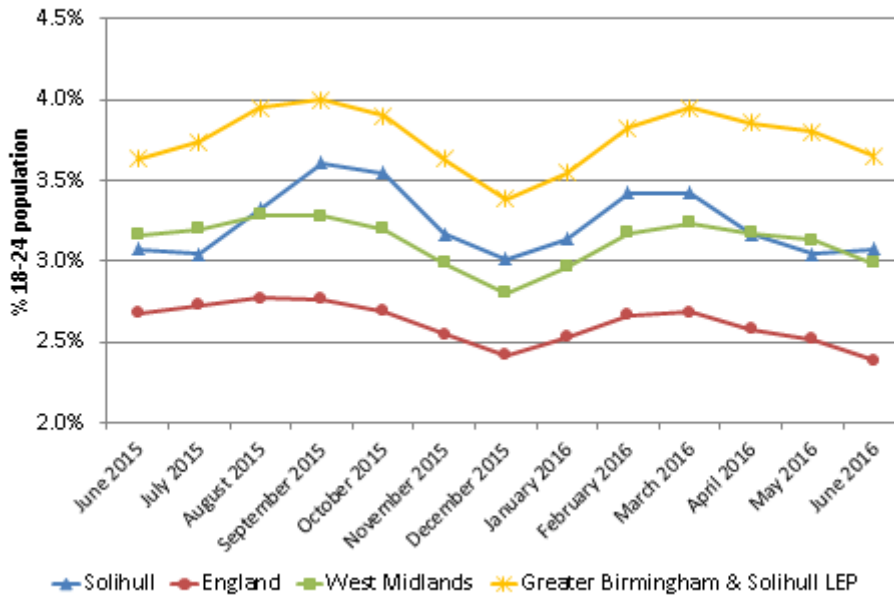
18-24 Claimant Unemployment June 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull and the claimant unemployment rate among this group is largely unchanged from that recorded in June 2015, although there have been monthly fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -11% in the year to June 2016 (-35 individuals), compared with a slight increase in the rest of the Borough of +19%, (+35 individuals).

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

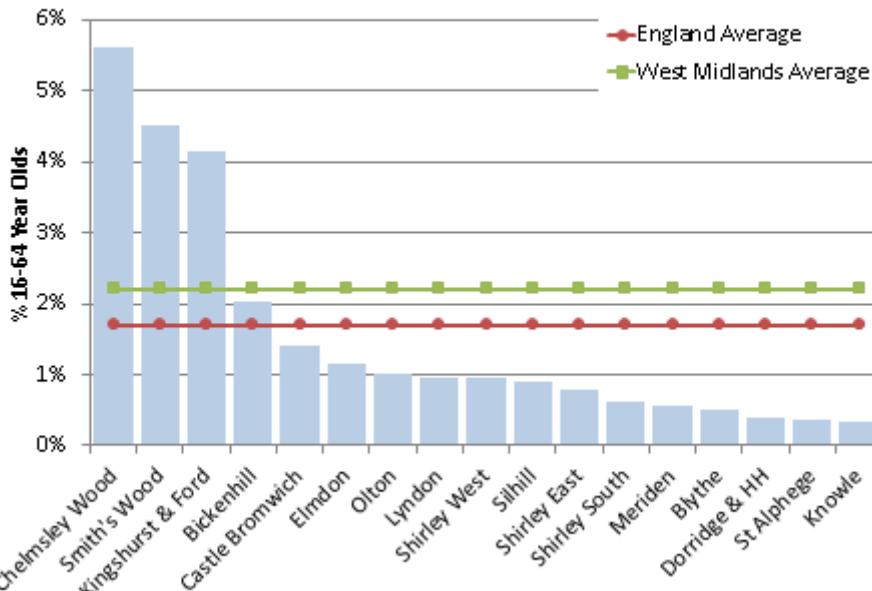


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.6%), Smith's Wood (4.5%) and Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.1%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment June 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

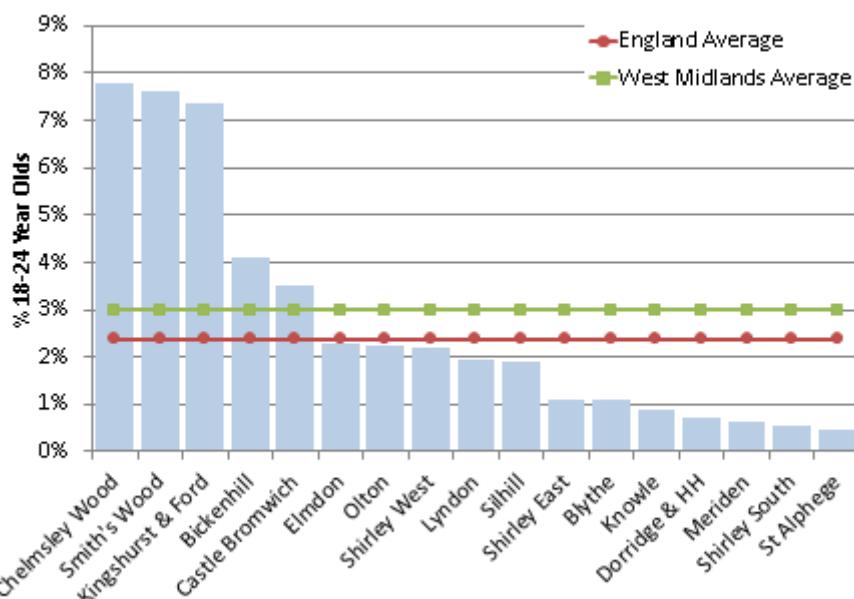
Between June 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment fell in five out of Solihull's 17 wards, with increases in nine.

Claimant Unemployment – June 2016						
	Count June2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (June 2015-2016)		
		June 2015	June 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	155	2.1%	2.0%	-5	-3%	
Blythe	45	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	
Castle Bromwich	100	1.3%	1.4%	+10	+11%	
Chelmsley Wood	420	5.1%	5.6%	+40	+11%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	25	0.3%	0.4%	+5	+25%	
Elmdon	85	1.0%	1.2%	+10	+13%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	330	4.1%	4.1%	+5	+2%	
Knowle	20	0.4%	0.3%	-5	-20%	
Lyndon	80	1.1%	1.0%	-10	-11%	
Meriden	40	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	
Olton	75	0.8%	1.0%	+15	+25%	
Shirley East	55	0.8%	0.8%	0	0%	
Shirley South	45	0.5%	0.6%	+10	+29%	
Shirley West	70	1.0%	1.0%	-5	-7%	
Silhill	65	0.6%	0.9%	+25	+63%	
Smith's Wood	350	4.2%	4.5%	+25	+8%	
St Alphege	30	0.5%	0.4%	-10	-25%	
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%), Smith's Wood (7.6%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (7.3%), Bickenhill (4.1%) and Castle Bromwich (3.5%).




Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment June 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between June 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in each of the three North Solihull wards. In the Rest of the Borough there were increases in seven wards, although the increase amounted to just 5 claimants in each one except Bickenhill (+10).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment – June 2016						
	Count June 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (June 2015-2016)		
		June 2015	June 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	40	3.6%	4.1%	+5	+14%	↑
Blythe	10	0.6%	1.1%	+5	+100%	↑
Castle Bromwich	35	2.5%	3.5%	+10	+40%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	95	8.6%	7.8%	-10	-10%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmton	20	2.3%	2.3%	0	0%	↔
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	95	8.1%	7.3%	-10	-10%	↓
Knowle	5	0.9%	0.9%	0	0%	↔
Lyndon	20	1.9%	1.9%	0	0%	↔
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	20	1.7%	2.2%	+5	+33%	↑
Shirley East	10	0.6%	1.1%	+5	+100%	↑
Shirley South	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Shirley West	20	1.7%	2.2%	+5	+33%	↑

Silhill	15	1.3%	1.9%	+5	+50%	
Smith's Wood	95	8.8%	7.6%	-15	-14%	
St Alphege	5	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	
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.