

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 who are required to be available for and actively seeking work.

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









It should be noted that as the ONS is still working on the methodology for creating these figures they are liable to retrospective revision. In July 2016, figures dating back to April 2015 were revised by the ONS.

Headline Claimant Unemployment

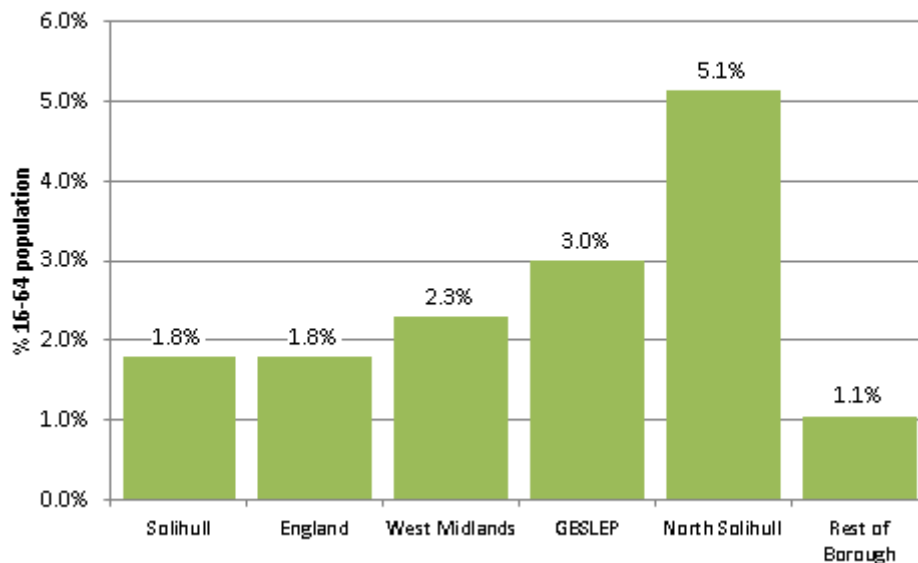
In October 2016 there were 2,280 individuals in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents a claimant unemployment rate of 1.8%.

On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is in line with the England average, but lower than the West Midlands (2.3%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (3.0%).

Around 52% of claimants in Solihull (1,190 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 5.1% compared with 1.1% across the rest of the Borough.

| Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – October 2016 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|------|---|
| Area | Claimant Count Oct 2016 | % 16-64 | | Annual Change (Oct 2015-2016) | | |
| | | Oct 2015 | Oct 2016 | Count | % | Trend |
| Solihull | 2,280 | 1.6% | 1.8% | +270 | +13% |  |
| <i>North Solihull</i> | 1,190 | 4.6% | 5.1% | +130 | +12% |  |
| <i>Rest of Borough</i> | 1,090 | 0.9% | 1.1% | +140 | +15% |  |
| England | 615,890 | 1.7% | 1.8% | +15,230 | +3% |  |
| West Midlands | 83,555 | 2.1% | 2.3% | +6,925 | +9% |  |
| GBSLEP | 37,880 | 2.8% | 3.0% | +2,510 | +7% |  |
| Other Comparators | | | | | | |
| Met Councils | 210,055 | 2.8% | 2.8% | +4,155 | +2% |  |
| CIPFA Comparator Councils | 30,040 | 1.3% | 1.3% | -130 | 0% |  |
| Data Source: ONS/Nomis | | | | | | |

Headline Claimant Unemployment October 2016

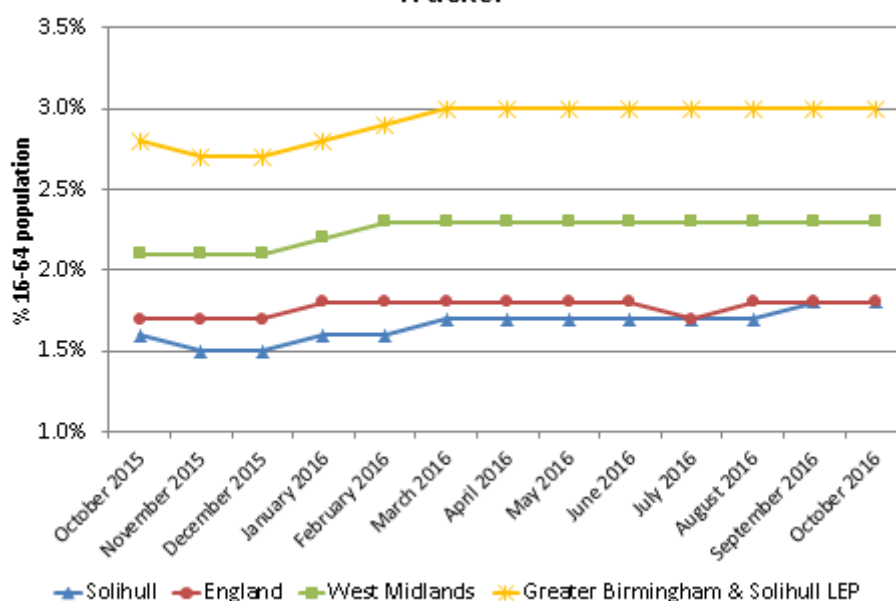


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The claimant unemployment count in Solihull increased by 2.9% (+65 individuals) between September and October 2016, the 4th consecutive monthly rise, although it should be noted that the number of claimants across England as a whole has risen in each of the last three months as well. These recently monthly increases mean that the number of claimants in Solihull is now 13% higher than in October 2015 (+270 individuals). This rise in Solihull is consistent with, albeit more pronounced than national and regional trends (England +3%, West Midlands +9%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +12% (+130 individuals) over the last year, mirroring a rise across the rest of the borough (+15%, +140 individuals).

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between October 2015 and 2016 resulted in an increase in the claimant unemployment rate of 20 percentage points (from 1.6% to 1.8%). The rate increased in both North Solihull (from 4.6% to 5.1%) and across the rest of the Borough (from 0.9% to 1.1%) over this period.

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 62% of Solihull claimants are male (1,410 individuals) and 38% female (875 individuals), which is consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is in-line with the national average for both males and females.

| | Claimant Unemployment by Gender - October 2016 | | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|------|--------|
| | Count | | % all claimants | | Rate | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Solihull | 1,410 | 875 | 62% | 38% | 2.3% | 1.4% |
| England | 381,820 | 234,070 | 62% | 38% | 2.2% | 1.3% |
| West Midlands | 52,505 | 31,050 | 63% | 37% | 2.9% | 1.7% |
| GBSLEP | 24,185 | 13,695 | 64% | 36% | 3.9% | 2.2% |

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

Age Breakdown

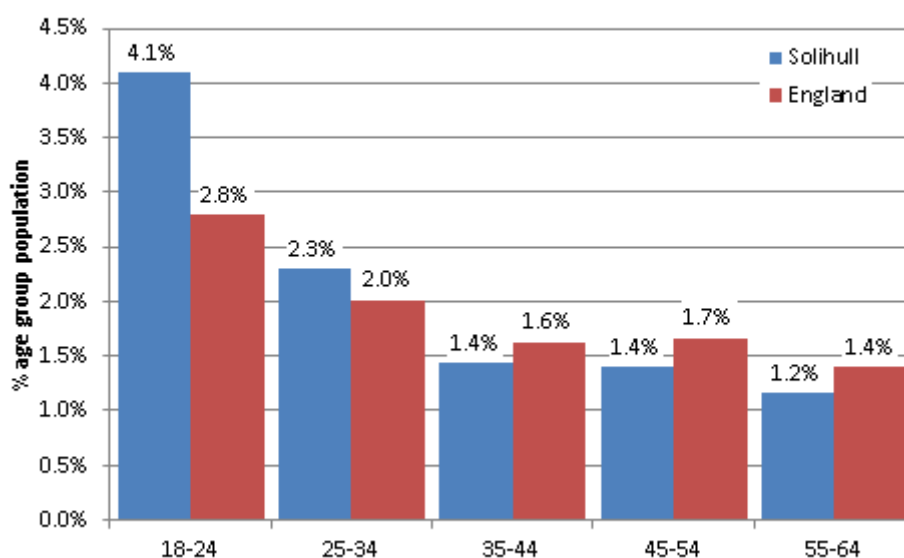
In October 2016 just over a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (660 individuals, 29% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, particularly 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 October 2016 | | Rates (% Age Group) | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | Claimant Count | % Total | Solihull | England |
| Age 18-24 | 660 | 29% | 4.1% | 2.8% |
| Age 25-34 | 525 | 23% | 2.3% | 2.0% |
| Age 35-44 | 365 | 16% | 1.4% | 1.6% |
| Age 45-54 | 445 | 19% | 1.4% | 1.7% |
| Age 55-64 | 290 | 13% | 1.2% | 1.4% |
| Total | | | 1.8% | 1.8% |

Source: ONS/Nomis

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group October 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

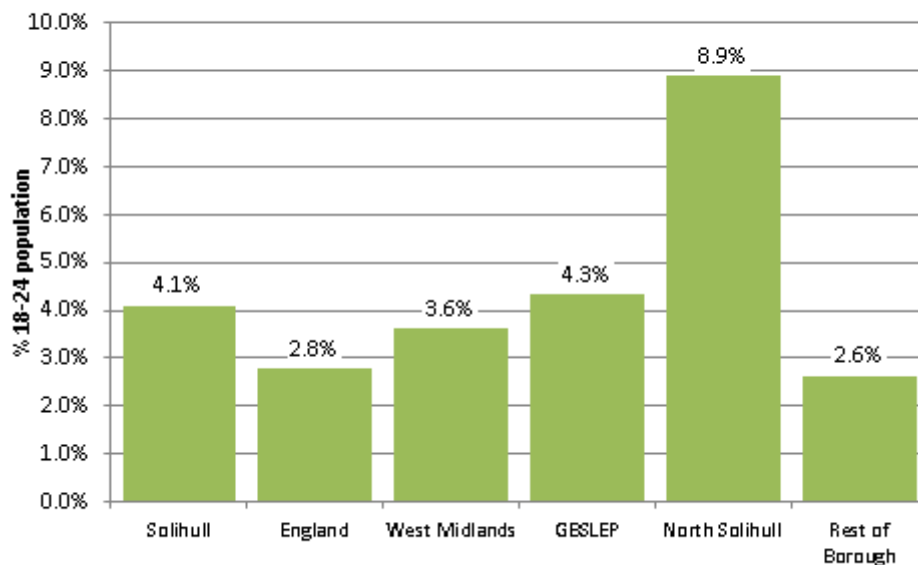
In October 2016 there were 660 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate of 4.1%.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than the England average (2.8%) and that for the West Midlands (3.6%). In order to match the England average rate the number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull would have to fall by 211 individuals.

Around 51% (335 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 nearly three and a half times higher than across the rest of the Borough (8.9% compared to 2.6%).

| 18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – October 2016 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|------|-------|
| Area | Claimant Count Oct 2016 | % 18-24 | | Annual Change (Oct 2015-2016) | | |
| | | Oct 2015 | Oct 2016 | Count | % | Trend |
| Solihull | 660 | 3.8% | 4.1% | +45 | +7% | ↑ |
| <i>North Solihull</i> | 335 | 8.9% | 8.9% | 0 | 0% | ↔ |
| <i>Rest of Borough</i> | 325 | 2.3% | 2.6% | +45 | +16% | ↑ |
| England | 137,235 | 2.8% | 2.8% | +260 | 0% | ↔ |
| West Midlands | 19,455 | 3.3% | 3.6% | +1,485 | +8% | ↑ |
| GBSLEP | 8,760 | 4.1% | 4.3% | +405 | +5% | ↑ |
| Other Comparators | | | | | | |
| Met Councils | 49,525 | 4.2% | 4.1% | -1,005 | -2% | ↓ |
| CIPFA Comparator Councils | 6,905 | 2.4% | 2.2% | -640 | -8% | ↓ |
| Data Source: ONS/Nomis | | | | | | |

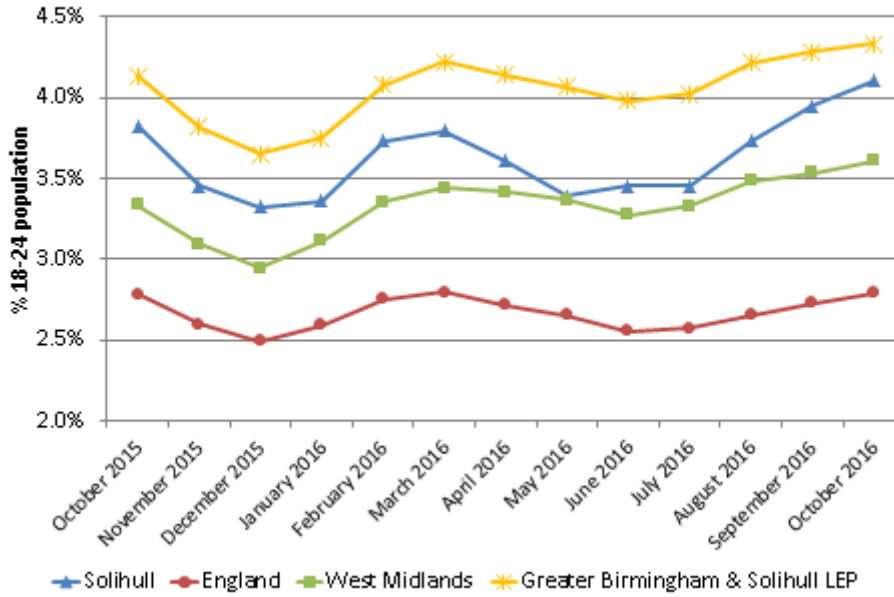
18-24 Claimant Unemployment October 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull increased by +7% (+45 individuals) between October 2015 and 2016. The rate among this group has risen from 3.8% to 4.1% as a result, although there have been substantial seasonal fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull remained unchanged in the year to October 2016, although this was not enough to offset an increase in the rest of the Borough of +16%, (+45 individuals).

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

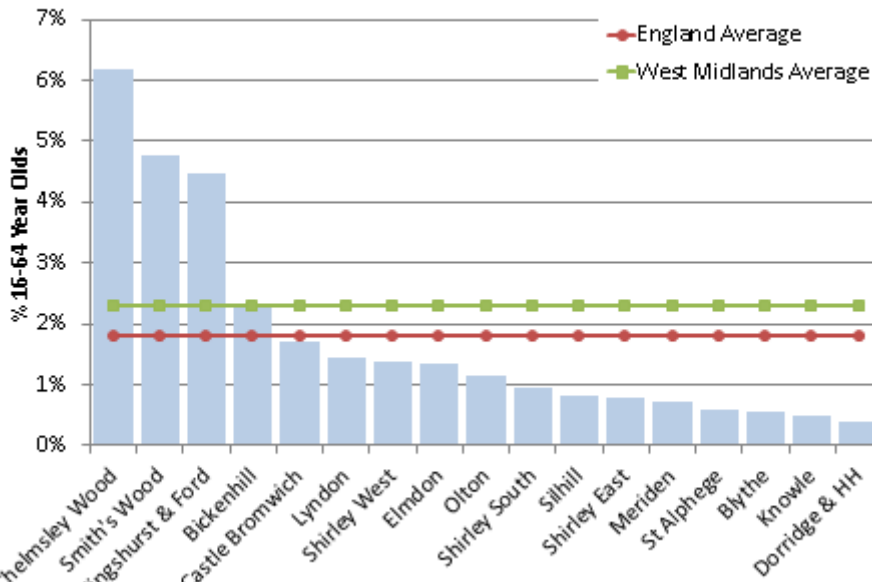


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (6.2%), Smith's Wood (4.8%) and Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.5%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment October 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

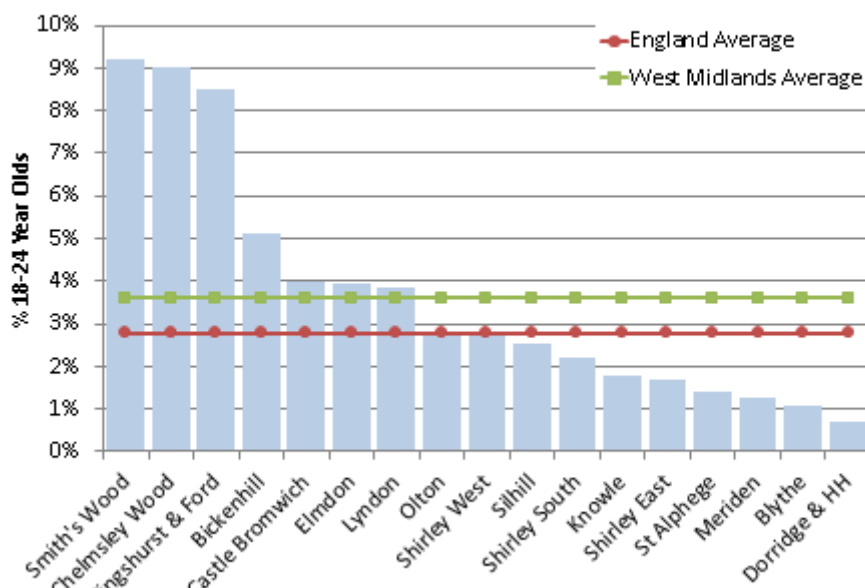
Between October 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment increased in all except three of Solihull's 17 wards.

| Claimant Unemployment – October 2016 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|------|---|
| | Count Oct 2016 | % 16-64 | | Annual Change (Oct 2015-2016) | | |
| | | Oct 2015 | Oct 2016 | Count | % | Trend |
| Bickenhill | 175 | 2.4% | 2.3% | -5 | -3% |  |
| Blythe | 50 | 0.5% | 0.6% | +10 | +25% |  |
| Castle Bromwich | 120 | 1.4% | 1.7% | +20 | +20% |  |
| Chelmsley Wood | 465 | 5.5% | 6.2% | +55 | +13% |  |
| Dorridge & Hockley Heath | 25 | 0.3% | 0.4% | +5 | +25% |  |
| Elmdon | 100 | 1.2% | 1.4% | +10 | +11% |  |
| Kingshurst & Fordbridge | 355 | 4.1% | 4.5% | +25 | +8% |  |
| Knowle | 30 | 0.3% | 0.5% | +10 | +50% |  |
| Lyndon | 120 | 1.2% | 1.4% | +20 | +20% |  |
| Meriden | 50 | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0 | 0% |  |
| Olton | 85 | 1.1% | 1.1% | +5 | +6% |  |
| Shirley East | 55 | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0 | 0% |  |
| Shirley South | 70 | 0.7% | 1.0% | +20 | +40% |  |
| Shirley West | 100 | 1.0% | 1.4% | +25 | +33% |  |
| Silhill | 60 | 0.8% | 0.8% | +5 | +9% |  |
| Smith's Wood | 370 | 4.2% | 4.8% | +45 | +14% |  |
| St Alphege | 50 | 0.5% | 0.6% | +10 | +25% |  |
| Data Source: ONS/Nomis | | | | | | |

Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

The number of Solihull wards that have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average has now increased to seven: Smith's Wood (9.2%), Chelmsley Wood (9.0%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (8.5%), Bickenhill (5.1%), Castle Bromwich (4.0%), Elmdon (4.0%) and Lyndon (3.9%).




Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment October 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between October 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in two out of the three North Solihull wards. In the Rest of the Borough there were increases in eight wards.

| 18-24 Claimant Unemployment – October 2016 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Count Oct 2016 | % 18-24 | | Annual Change (Oct 2015-2016) | | |
| | | Oct 2015 | Oct 2016 | Count | % | Trend |
| Bickenhill | 50 | 5.1% | 5.1% | 0 | 0% | ↔ |
| Blythe | 10 | 0.6% | 1.1% | +5 | +100% | ↑ |
| Castle Bromwich | 40 | 3.0% | 4.0% | +10 | +33% | ↑ |
| Chelmsley Wood | 110 | 9.4% | 9.0% | -5 | -4% | ↓ |
| Dorridge & Hockley Heath | 5 | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0 | 0% | ↔ |
| Elmdon | 35 | 2.8% | 4.0% | +10 | +40% | ↑ |
| Kingshurst & Fordbridge | 110 | 8.9% | 8.5% | -5 | -4% | ↓ |
| Knowle | 10 | 0.9% | 1.8% | +5 | +100% | ↑ |
| Lyndon | 40 | 3.4% | 3.9% | +5 | +14% | ↑ |
| Meriden | 10 | 0.6% | 1.2% | +5 | +100% | ↑ |
| Olton | 25 | 2.8% | 2.8% | 0 | 0% | ↔ |
| Shirley East | 15 | 1.7% | 1.7% | 0 | 0% | ↔ |
| Shirley South | 20 | 1.7% | 2.2% | +5 | +33% | ↑ |
| Shirley West | 25 | 2.8% | 2.8% | 0 | 0% | ↔ |







| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|---|
| Silhill | 20 | 2.5% | 2.5% | 0 | 0% |  |
| Smith's Wood | 115 | 8.4% | 9.2% | +10 | +10% |  |
| St Alphege | 15 | 1.4% | 1.4% | 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 May 2016.

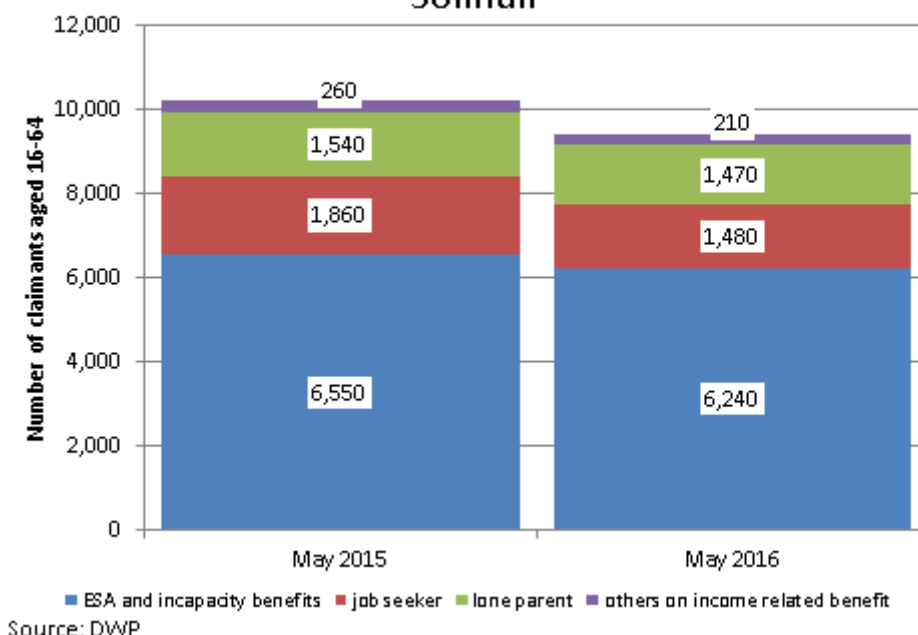
In May 2016 there were 9,410 individuals in Solihull claiming a key out of work benefit, equating to a worklessness rate of 7.4%. This is below the England (8.4%), West Midlands (9.7%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (10.6%) averages and the lowest it has been since records began in 1999. Between May 2015 and 2016 the number of claimants in Solihull fell by -8% (-800 individuals), a sharper reduction than across England as a whole.

Just over 18% 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) – May 2016 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------|---|
| | Count May 2016 | % 16-64 | | Annual Change (May 2015-2016) | | |
| | | May 2015 | May 2016 | Count | % | Trend |
| Solihull | 9,410 | 8.1% | 7.4% | -800 | -8% |  |
| <i>North Solihull</i> | 4,310 | 20.2% | 18.3% | -460 | -10% |  |
| <i>Rest of Borough</i> | 5,090 | 5.2% | 4.9% | -330 | -6% |  |
| England | 2,912,540 | 9.1% | 8.4% | -209,210 | -7% |  |
| West Midlands | 346,300 | 10.4% | 9.7% | -25,500 | -7% |  |
| GBSLEP | 132,670 | 11.5% | 10.6% | -10,880 | -8% |  |
| Source: DWP/Nomis | | | | | | |

In the course of the last year there were falls in Solihull in the number of claimants of all types of out of work benefits, including a reduction of -380 individuals claiming Job Seekers Allowance, -310 claiming ESA/Incapacity benefit and -70 Lone Parents on Income Support.

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 was changed to include out of work claimants of Universal Credit. In July 2016 this definition was again changed so that only those Universal Credit claimants who are required to be available for and actively seeking work are included. This change resulted in the ONS retrospectively revising figures dating back to April 2015

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.