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Just over a third of Solihull's Claimant Count total are in receipt of UC which is in-line with the England average. However, proportionally more 18-24 year olds in Solihull are in receipt of UC than nationally (72% of the Claimant Count total compared to 66%).

Overall Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

Youth Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

*Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and the previous month's figures are retrospectively revised.

Since the summer of 2015 Claimant Count unemployment has combined Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants and those Universal Credit (UC) claimants who are required to be available for and actively seeking work. UC is designed so that a broader span of claimants is required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance, meaning that once UC is fully rolled out, the Claimant Count is likely to be higher than it would otherwise be under Jobseeker's Allowance.

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Headline Claimant Unemployment

In March 2017 there were 2,345 individuals in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents a claimant unemployment rate of 1.9%.

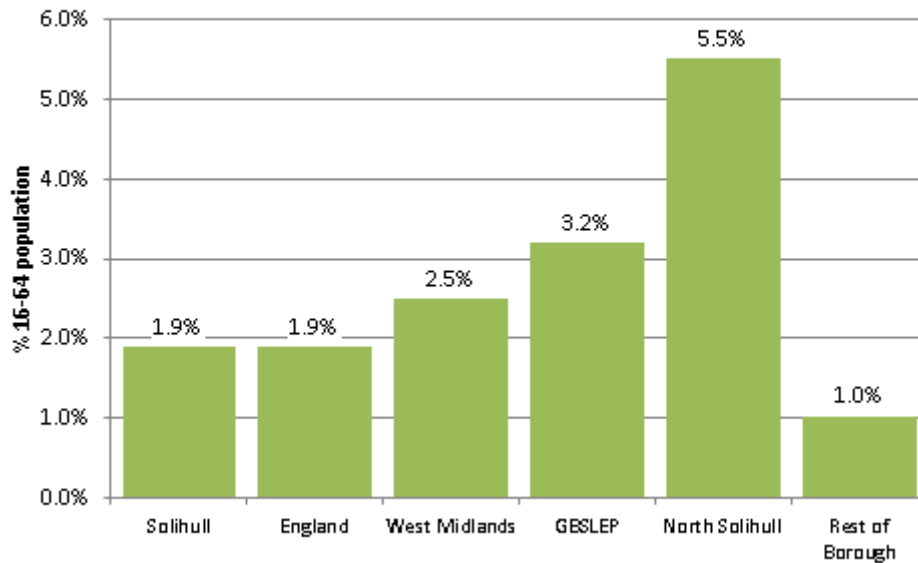
On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is the same as England but lower than that for the West Midlands (2.5%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (3.2%).

Around 55% of claimants in Solihull (1,280 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 5.5% compared with 1.0% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – March 2017						
Area	Claimant Count Mar 2017	% 16-64		Annual Change (Mar 2016-2017)		
		Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	2,345	1.7%	1.9%	+175	+8%	↑
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,280	5.0%	5.5%	+110	+9%	↑
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	1,060	1.0%	1.0%	+60	+6%	↑
England	662,420	1.8%	1.9%	+22,495	+4%	↑
West Midlands	87,975	2.3%	2.5%	+4,800	+6%	↑
GBSLEP	39,605	3.0%	3.2%	+1,985	+5%	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	218,820	2.9%	2.9%	+2,830	+1%	↑
CIPFA Comparator Councils	31,805	1.3%	1.3%	+525	+2%	↑
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Headline Claimant Unemployment

March 2017

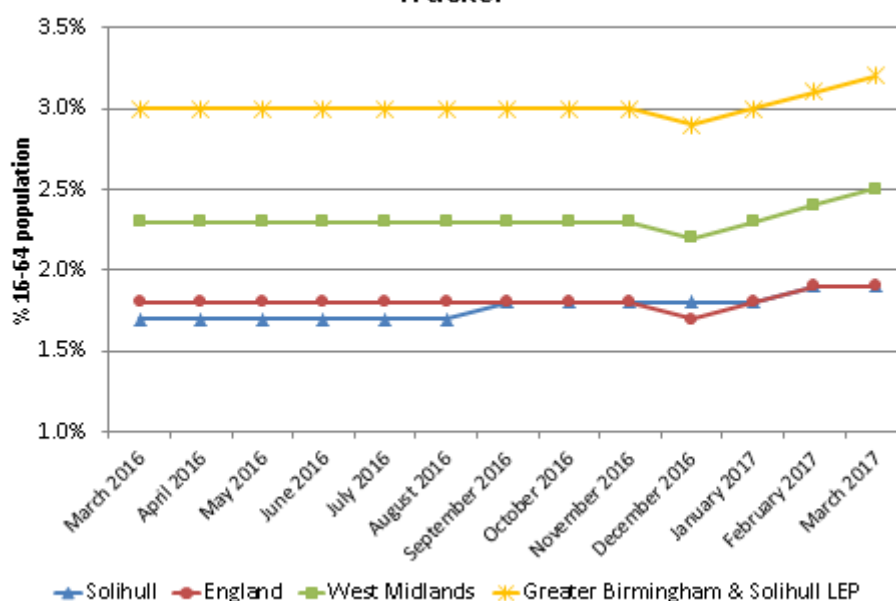


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Following two seasonal post-Christmas seasonal related increases, the Solihull claimant unemployment count was static in March 2017. The number of claimants in Solihull is +8% higher than in March 2016 (+175 individuals). This rise in Solihull is consistent with, albeit more pronounced than national and regional trends (England +4%, West Midlands +6%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +9% (+110 individuals) over the last year, with a rise across the rest of the borough of +6% (+60 individuals).

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between March 2016 and 2017 resulted in an increase in the claimant unemployment rate of 20 basis points (from 1.7% to 1.9%). The rate increased in North Solihull (from 5.0% to 5.5%) over this period, but remained the same across the rest of the Borough (at 1.0%).

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 61% of Solihull claimants are male (1,435 individuals) and 39% female (905 individuals), which is consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is lower than the national average for males, but the same for females.

Claimant Unemployment by Gender - March 2017						
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,435	905	61%	39%	2.3%	1.4%
England	416,175	246,240	63%	37%	2.4%	1.4%
West Midlands	55,760	32,215	63%	37%	3.1%	1.8%
GBSLEP	25,330	14,275	64%	36%	4.1%	2.3%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

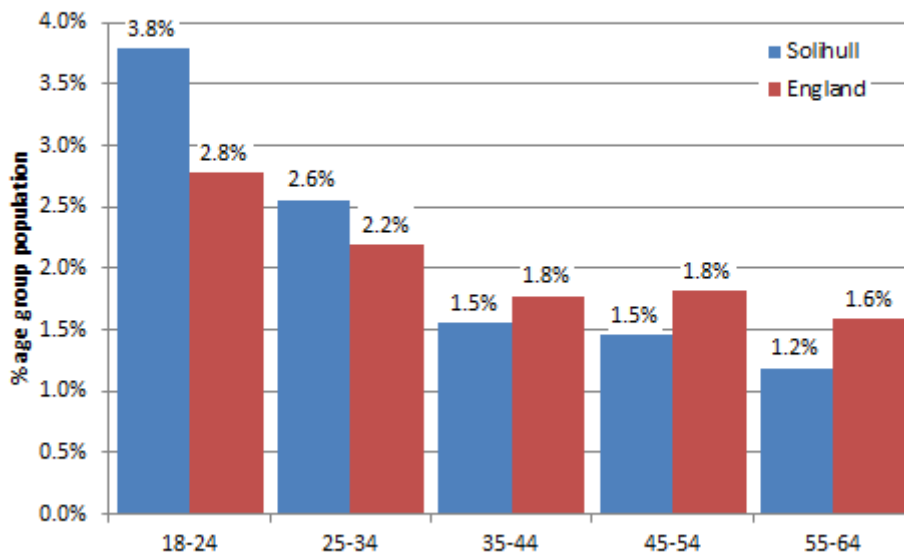
Age Breakdown

In March 2017 just over a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (610 individuals, 26% 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 both 18-24 year olds and those aged 25-34 years. However, it is below average among older age groups.

	Solihull Claimants March 2017		Rates (% Age Group)	
	Claimant Count	% Total	Solihull	England
Age 18-24	610	26%	3.8%	2.8%
Age 25-34	585	25%	2.6%	2.2%
Age 35-44	395	17%	1.5%	1.8%
Age 45-54	465	20%	1.5%	1.8%
Age 55-64	295	13%	1.2%	1.6%
Total	2,345		1.9%	1.9%
Source: ONS/Nomis				

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group March 2017



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

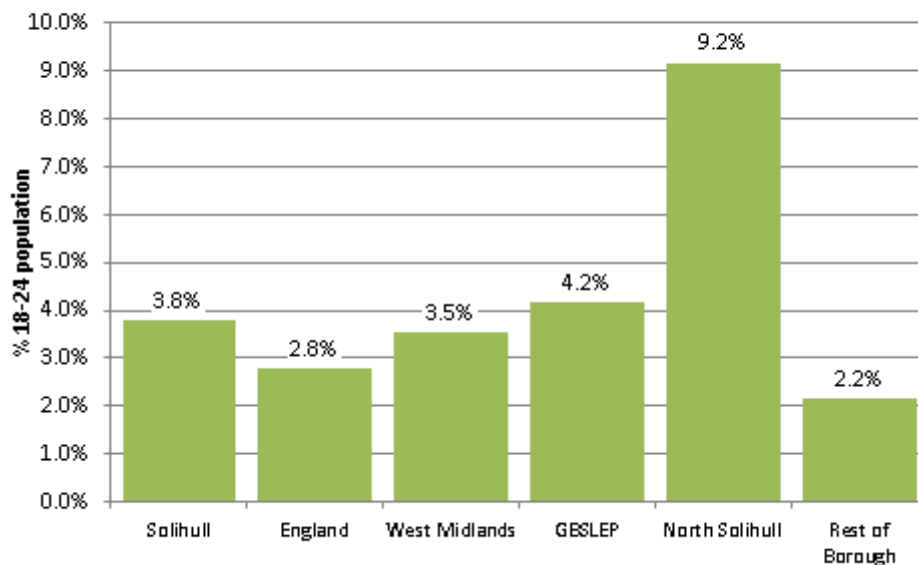
In March 2017 there were 610 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate of 3.8%.

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 (3.5%). In order to match the England average rate the number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull would have to fall by 163 individuals.

Around 57% (345 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 (9.2% compared to 2.2%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – March 2017						
Area	Claimant Count Mar 2017	% 18-24		Annual Change (Mar 2016-2017)		
		Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	610	3.8%	3.8%	0	0%	↔
<i>North Solihull</i>	345	9.0%	9.2%	+5	+1%	↑
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	265	2.2%	2.2%	-5	-2%	↓
England	136,680	2.8%	2.8%	-1,335	-1%	↓
West Midlands	19,075	3.4%	3.5%	+525	+3%	↑
GBSLEP	8,440	4.2%	4.2%	-90	-1%	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	47,545	4.1%	3.9%	-2,075	-4%	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,670	2.3%	2.1%	-620	-9%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

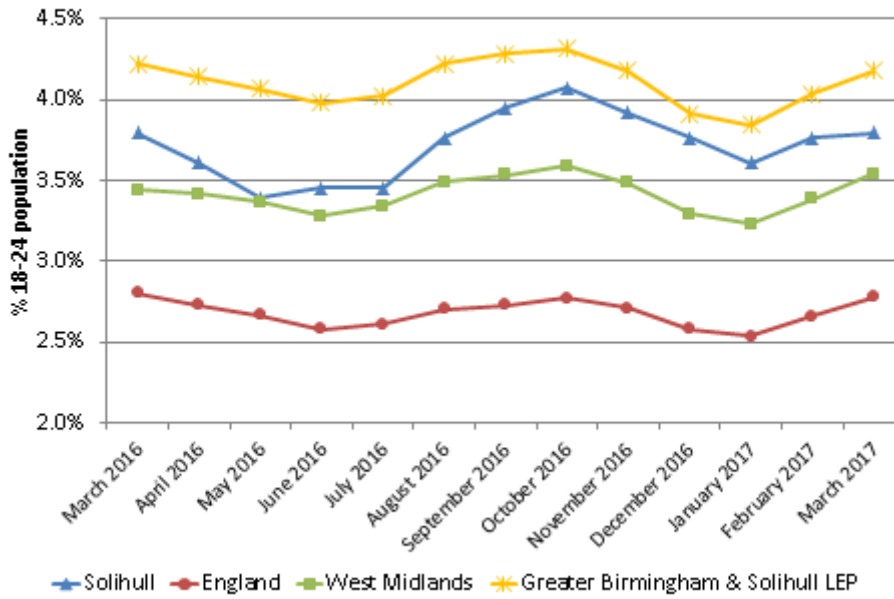
18-24 Claimant Unemployment March 2017



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull is the same as in March 2016. The claimant rate among this group has remained unchanged at 3.8% as a result, although there have been substantial seasonal fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by just 1% (+5 individuals) compared with March 2017, with the number in the rest of the borough falling slightly over this period (-2%, -5 individuals).

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

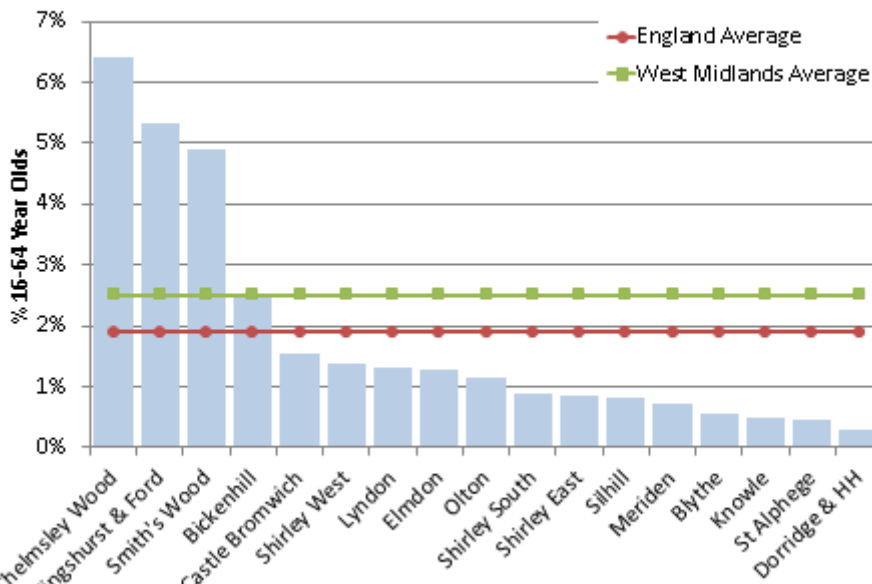


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only the three wards in the North Solihull regeneration area have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (6.4%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (5.3%) and Smith's Wood (4.9%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment March 2017



Source: ONS/NOMIS

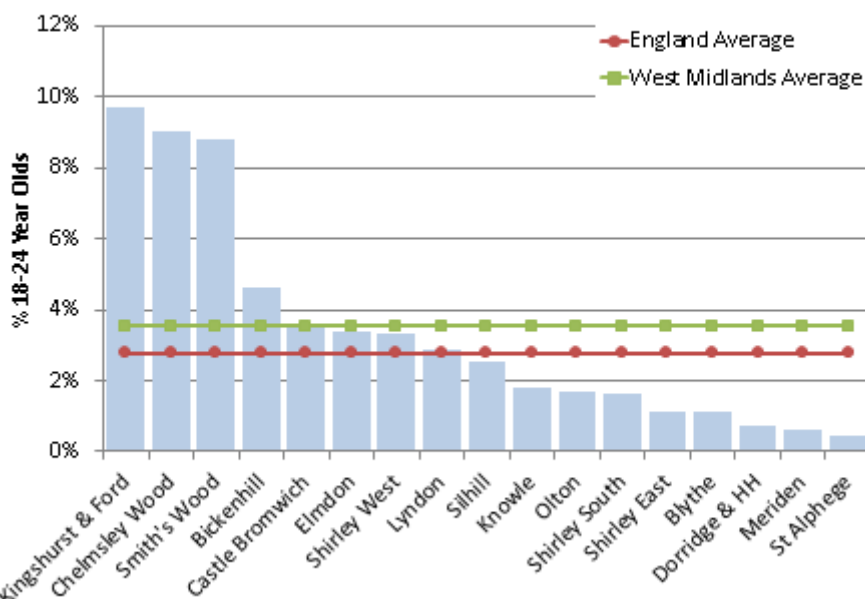
Between March 2016 and 2017 claimant unemployment increased in ten of Solihull's 17 wards and fell in four.

Claimant Unemployment – March 2017						
	Count Mar 2017	% 16-64		Annual Change (Mar 2016-2017)		
		Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	190	2.2%	2.5%	+25	+15%	
Blythe	50	0.6%	0.6%	-5	-9%	
Castle Bromwich	110	1.6%	1.6%	-5	-4%	
Chelmsley Wood	480	6.0%	6.4%	+30	+7%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	20	0.3%	0.3%	0	0%	
Elmdon	95	1.3%	1.3%	0	0%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	425	4.6%	5.3%	+55	+15%	
Knowle	30	0.3%	0.5%	+10	+50%	
Lyndon	110	1.1%	1.3%	+15	+16%	
Meriden	50	0.6%	0.7%	+5	+11%	
Olton	85	1.0%	1.1%	+10	+13%	
Shirley East	60	0.9%	0.8%	-5	-8%	
Shirley South	65	0.8%	0.9%	+10	+18%	
Shirley West	100	1.2%	1.4%	+10	+11%	
Silhill	60	0.9%	0.8%	-5	-8%	
Smith's Wood	380	4.4%	4.9%	+35	+10%	
St Alphege	40	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

There are four Solihull wards that have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Kingshurst & Fordbridge (9.7%), Chelmsley Wood (9.0%), Smith's Wood (8.8%) and Bickenhill (4.6%).



Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment March 2017



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between March 2016 and 2017 the number of 18-24 year old claimants increased in five out of Solihull's 17 wards and fell in five.

	18-24 Claimant Unemployment – March 2017					
	Count Mar 2017	% 18-24		Annual Change (Mar 2016-2017)		
		Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	45	5.1%	4.6%	-5	-10%	↓
Blythe	10	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	35	4.5%	3.5%	-10	-22%	↓
Chelmsley Wood	110	9.4%	9.0%	-5	-4%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmdon	30	2.8%	3.4%	+5	+20%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	125	9.3%	9.7%	+5	+4%	↑
Knowle	10	0.0%	1.8%	+10	+100%	↑
Lyndon	30	2.4%	2.9%	+5	+20%	↑
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	15	1.7%	1.7%	0	0%	↔
Shirley East	10	1.7%	1.1%	-5	-33%	↓
Shirley South	15	1.7%	1.7%	0	0%	↔
Shirley West	30	3.3%	3.3%	0	0%	↔
Silhill	20	2.5%	2.5%	0	0%	↔

Smith's Wood	110	8.4%	8.8%	+5	+5%	
St Alphege	5	0.9%	0.5%	-5	-50%	
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 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.