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INTRODUCTION

The Unemployment Bulletin provides a monthly update on unemployment data for Gloucestershire, the South West region and the United Kingdom. It is produced by the Economic section of the County Council Chief Executive's Support Unit Research Team. The data is sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis (www.nomis.co.uk).

The claimant count measures the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefit (currently Job Seeker's allowance). The claimant rate is the number of claimants as a proportion of the working age population.

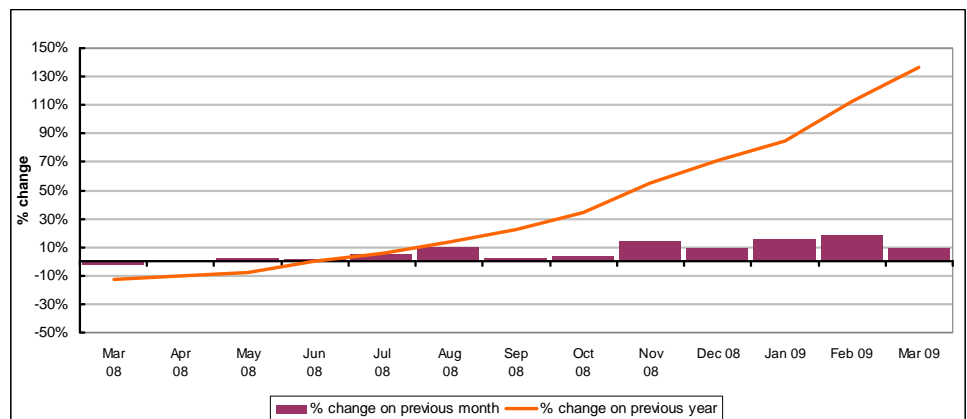
PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 3.5% in March 2009. This was an increase of 0.3% on the February 2009 figure. The rate has been continually increasing since July 2008. The UK rate has increased by 0.1% between February and March 2009 with the South West rate increasing by 0.2. Gloucestershire's rate remains above the South West average of 3.1%, but 0.5% lower than the UK average of 4.0%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in March 2009 rose by 979 people. The amount of people claiming in March 2009 was 8.7% higher than the number in February 2009 compared to a 4.9% increase in the South West and 4.4% for the UK.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire has been increasing since July 2008, it was 137% higher in March 2009 than at the same point in the previous year as shown in the graph below.

Gloucestershire claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

Produced by:

The Research Team (Economics)
Chief Executive Support Unit
Gloucestershire County Council
April 2009

DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

Claim count: Total number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in March 2009

Compared to last month: How much larger/smaller March's claim count is compared to February, expressed as a %

Claimant rate: The % of working population claiming Job Seekers Allowance in March 2009

Highest claiming ward: The ward with the highest claim count in that district and the rate

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Claim count:	2,761
Compared to last month:	+7.9%
Claimant rate:	3.9%
Highest claiming ward	Hesters Way (8.0%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claim count:	3,275
Compared to last month:	+8.3%
Claimant rate:	4.6%
Highest claiming ward	Westgate (8.1%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,036
Compared to last month:	+8.9%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward	Cirencester Watermoor (4.6%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,916
Compared to last month:	+12.9%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward	Central (6.4%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claim count:	1,844
Compared to last month:	+6.7%
Claimant rate:	3.8%
Highest claiming ward	Lydney East (6.3%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claim count:	1,388
Compared to last month:	+8.4%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward	Tewkesbury Priors Park (6.5%)

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

At the end of March 2009 there were 723 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.4% which shows an increase of 0.4% from last month. Analysis of numbers of NEET joiners in recent months reflects a 25-30% increase compared to the same period in 2008.

PART 2: UK, SW AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE INDICATORS

The unemployment situation in Gloucestershire compared to the South West and the UK.

Claimant Rate

Figure 1: Claimant Rate for Gloucestershire, the South West and UK over the past year

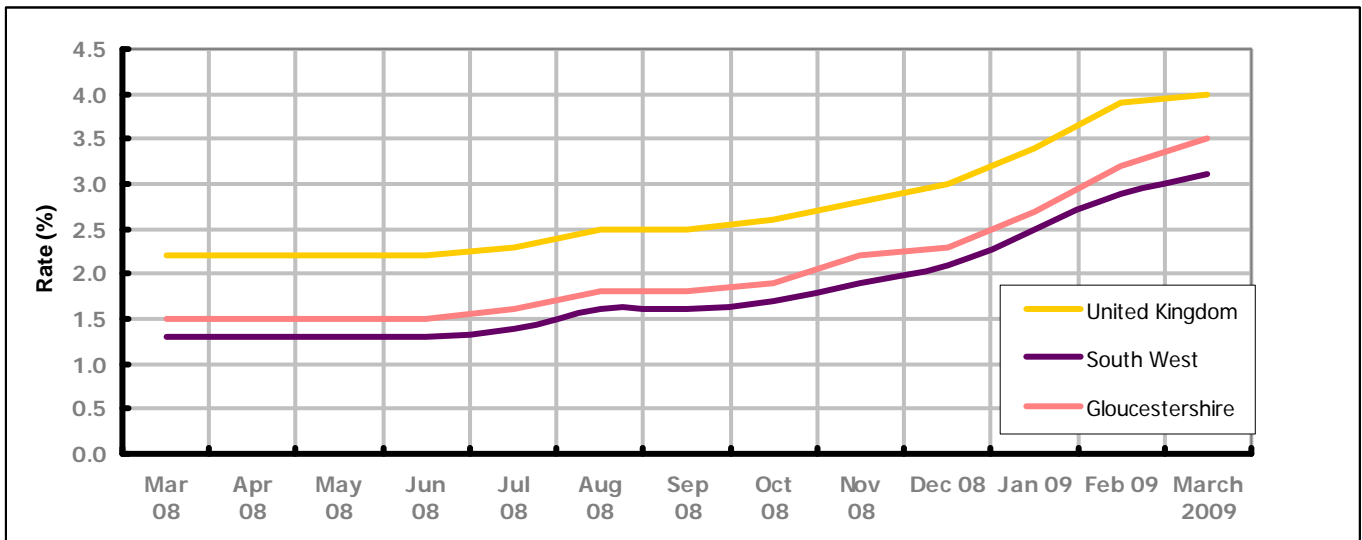


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 3.5% in March 2009. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.5% against the UK average during the same period. March 2009 represented a 0.3% increase on February 2009.

Claimant Count

Table 1: Analysis of UK, South West and Gloucestershire Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in March 2009	% change on February 2009	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,523,482	+4.4%	+7.8%	11
South West	96,045	+4.9%	+10.7%	11
Gloucestershire	12,220	+8.7%	+10.7%	12

Table 1 shows that in March 2009, the numbers of claimants in Gloucestershire was 8.7% higher than the numbers in February 2009. This is 4.3% higher than the UK figure and 3.8% higher than the South West.

The average growth in claimants in Gloucestershire for the six months to March 2009 was 10.7%. This is 2.9% higher than the UK average and equal to the South West region.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - March 2009

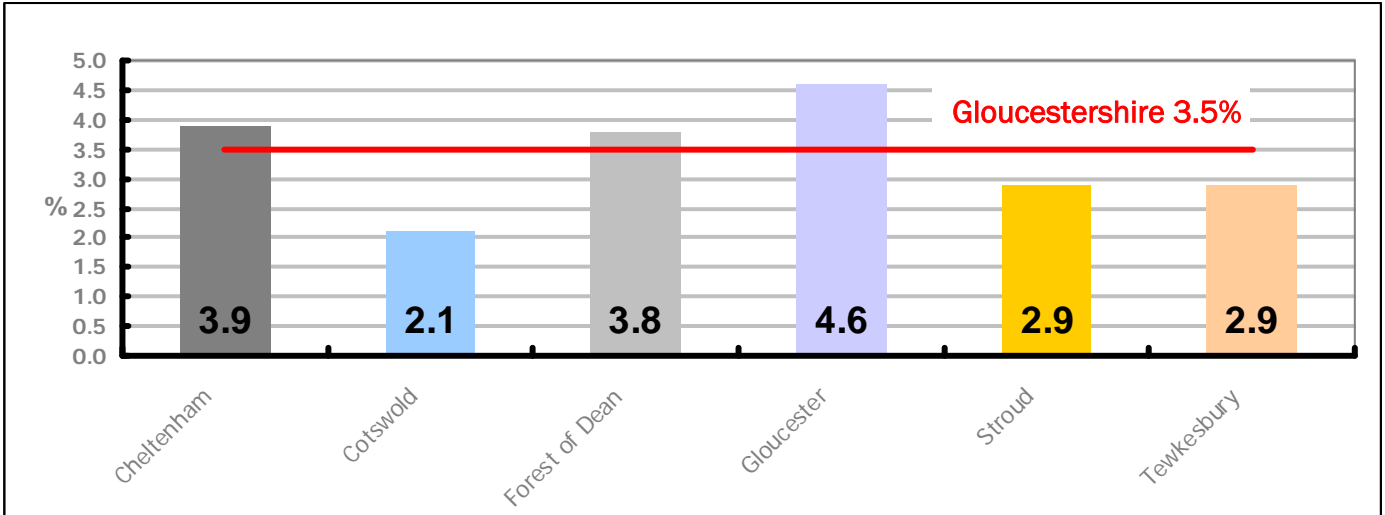


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for March 2009 in Gloucestershire. Every district in Gloucestershire experienced an increase in the claimant rate between February 2009 and March 2009.

Figure 3: Total claimants over the past year across Gloucestershire Districts

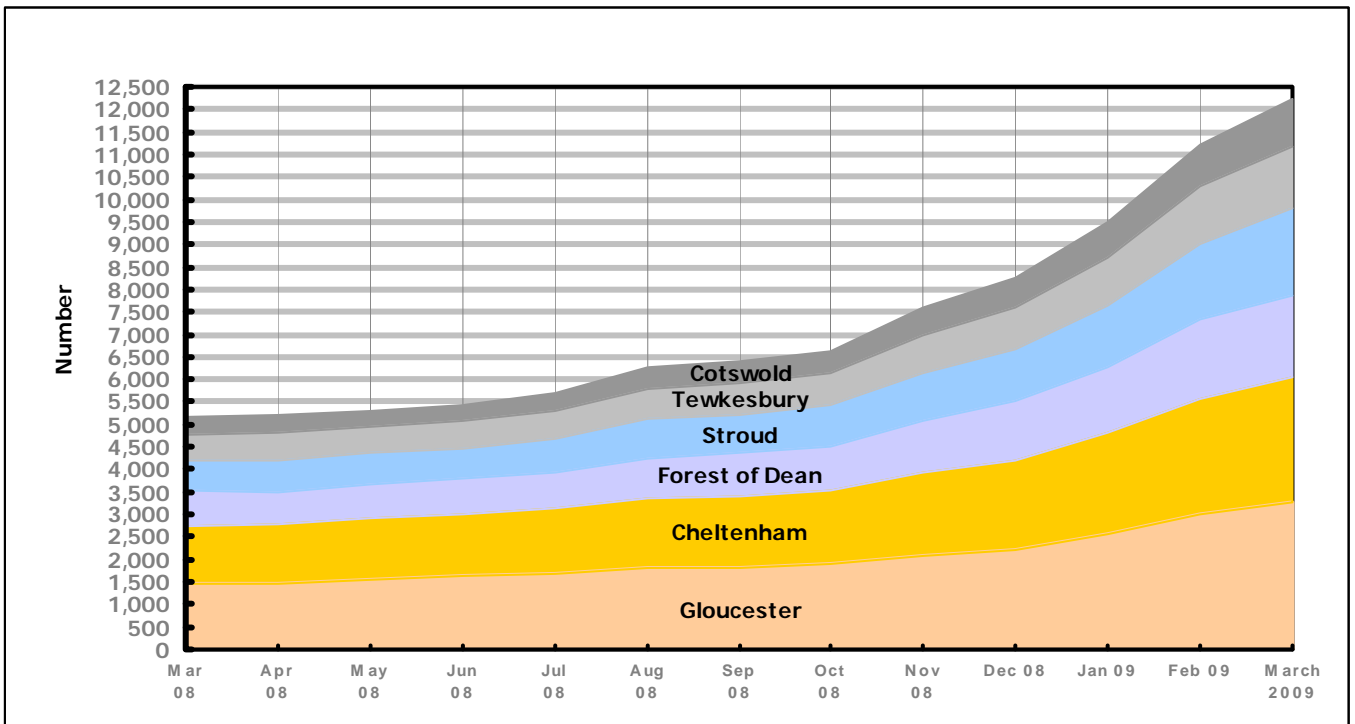


Figure 3 shows the overall claimant count for Gloucestershire over the past year. It demonstrates the gap that is widening across all the districts as the UK economy continues in recession. The widest gaps unsurprisingly reflect the urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	March 09 Number	March 09 Rate	Feb 09 Number	Feb 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	12,220	3.5	11,241	3.2	979	8.7%	0.3
Cheltenham	2,761	3.9	2,559	3.6	202	7.9%	0.3
Cotswold	1,036	2.1	951	1.9	85	8.9%	0.2
Forest of Dean	1,844	3.8	1,729	3.5	115	6.7%	0.3
Gloucester	3,275	4.6	3,024	4.2	251	8.3%	0.4
Stroud	1,916	2.9	1,697	2.6	219	12.9%	0.3
Tewkesbury	1,388	2.9	1,281	2.7	107	8.4%	0.2

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in March 2009 compared to February 2009. The March 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Stroud District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	March 09 Number	March 09 Rate	Feb 09 Number	Feb 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	9,149	5.0	8,441	4.6	708	8.4%	0.4
Cheltenham	2,100	5.7	1,943	5.3	157	8.1%	0.4
Cotswold	772	3.0	710	2.8	62	8.7%	0.2
Forest of Dean	1,323	5.1	1,239	4.8	84	6.8%	0.3
Gloucester	2,517	6.8	2,338	6.3	179	7.7%	0.5
Stroud	1,420	4.1	1,272	3.7	148	11.6%	0.4
Tewkesbury	1,017	4.1	939	3.8	78	8.3%	0.3

Table 3 shows the change in the claimant count of just males in March 2009 compared to February 2009. The March 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Stroud District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	March 09 Number	March 09 Rate	Feb 09 Number	Feb 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	3,071	1.8	2,800	1.7	271	9.7%	0.1
Cheltenham	661	2.0	616	1.9	45	7.3%	0.1
Cotswold	264	1.1	241	1.0	23	9.5%	0.1
Forest of Dean	521	2.3	490	2.1	31	6.3%	0.2
Gloucester	758	2.2	686	2.0	72	10.5%	0.2
Stroud	496	1.6	425	1.4	71	16.7%	0.2
Tewkesbury	371	1.7	342	1.5	29	8.5%	0.2

Table 4 shows the change in the claimant count of just females in March 2009 compared to February 2009. The March 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Stroud District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

This section covers the six districts and a comparison of their constituent wards.

4.1 Cheltenham Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 4: Cheltenham Borough claimant rate over the last year

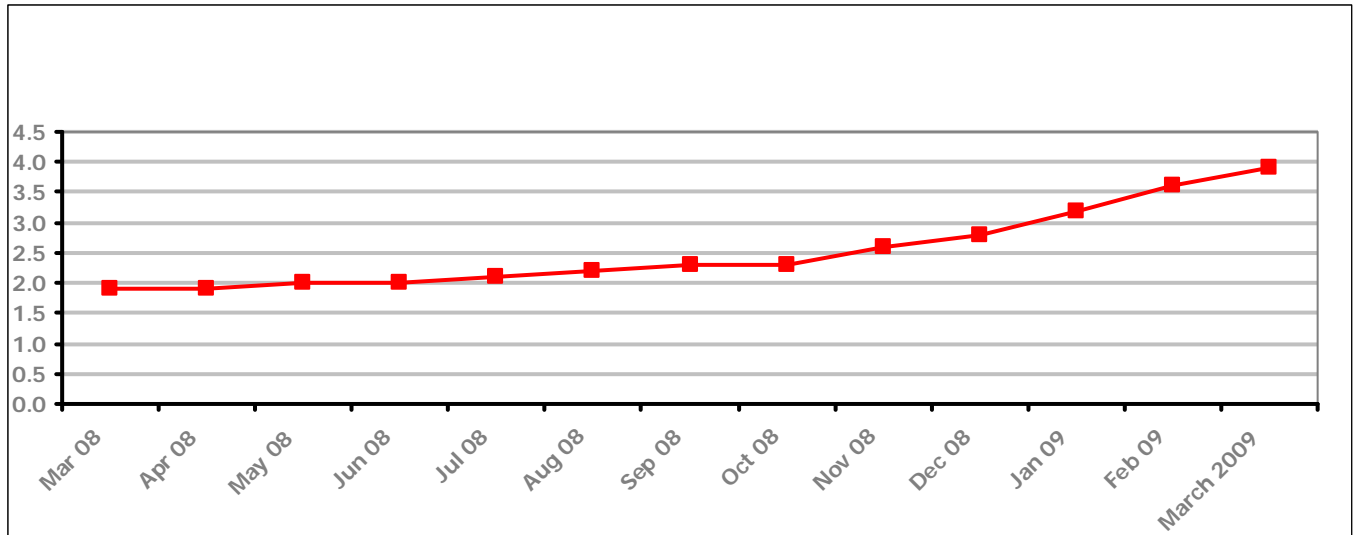


Figure 4 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham was at its highest for over a year at 3.9%. The rate has been climbing for eleven consecutive months.

Figure 5: Cheltenham Borough claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

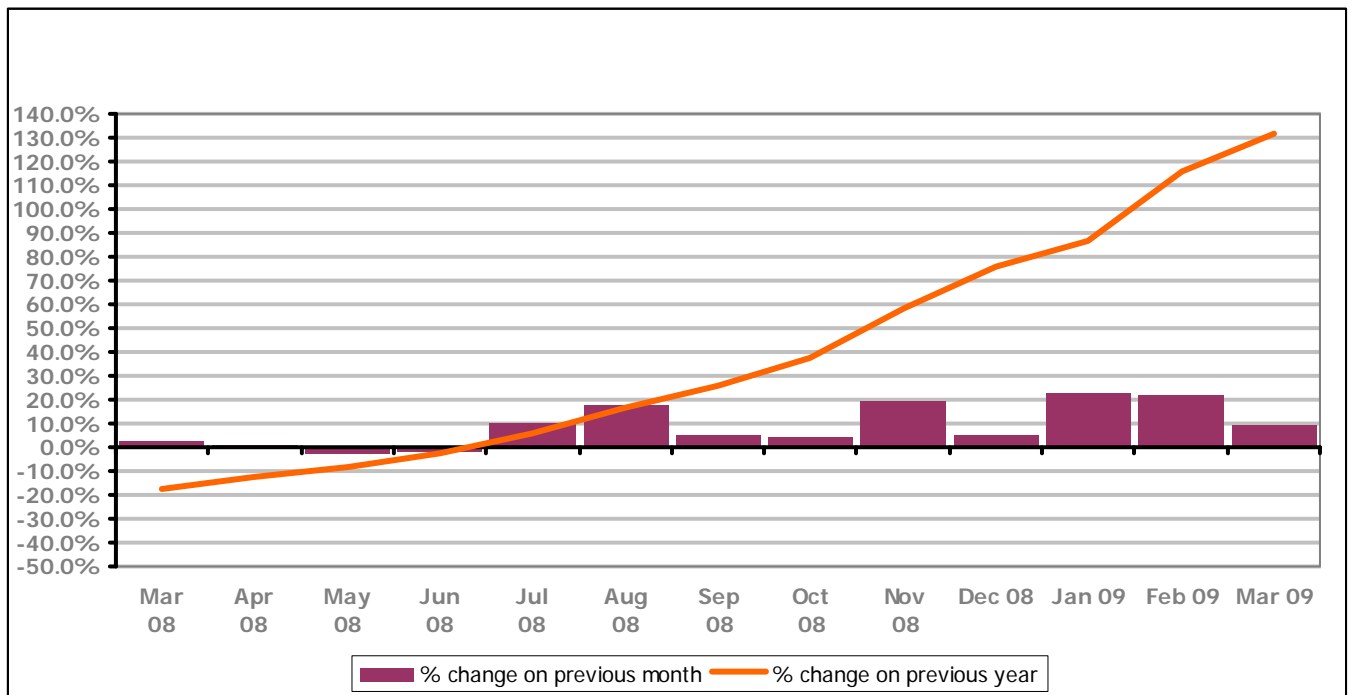


Figure 5 shows the claimant count continually increasing each month since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month in the previous year since July 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - March 2009

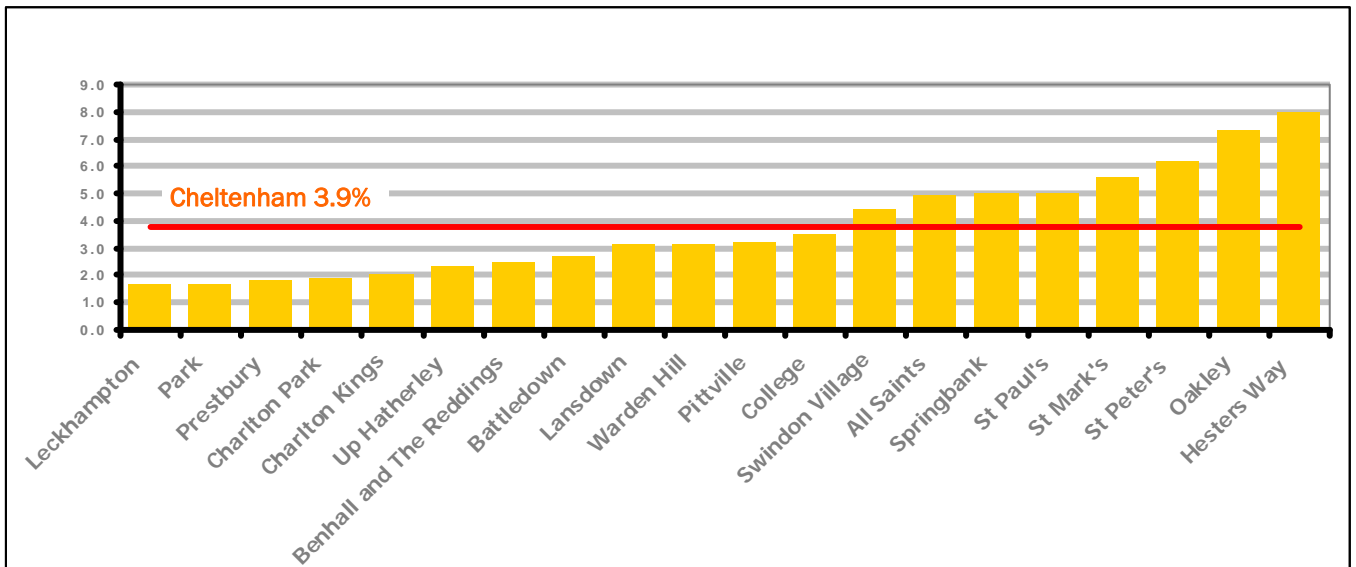


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with eight wards above the average of 3.9%.

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - March 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.7	17
Cheltenham	Park	1.7	17
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.8	21
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.9	30
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	2.0	36
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	2.3	52
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	2.5	65
Cheltenham	Battledown	2.7	73
Cheltenham	Lansdown	3.1	84
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	3.1	84
Cheltenham	Pittville	3.2	90
Cheltenham	College	3.5	96
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	4.4	115
Cheltenham	All Saints	4.9	123
Cheltenham	Springbank	5.0	125
Cheltenham	St Paul's	5.0	125
Cheltenham	St Mark's	5.6	129
Cheltenham	St Peter's	6.2	131
Cheltenham	Oakley	7.3	140
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	8.0	141

	bottom 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

Table 5 shows overall claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 7: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year

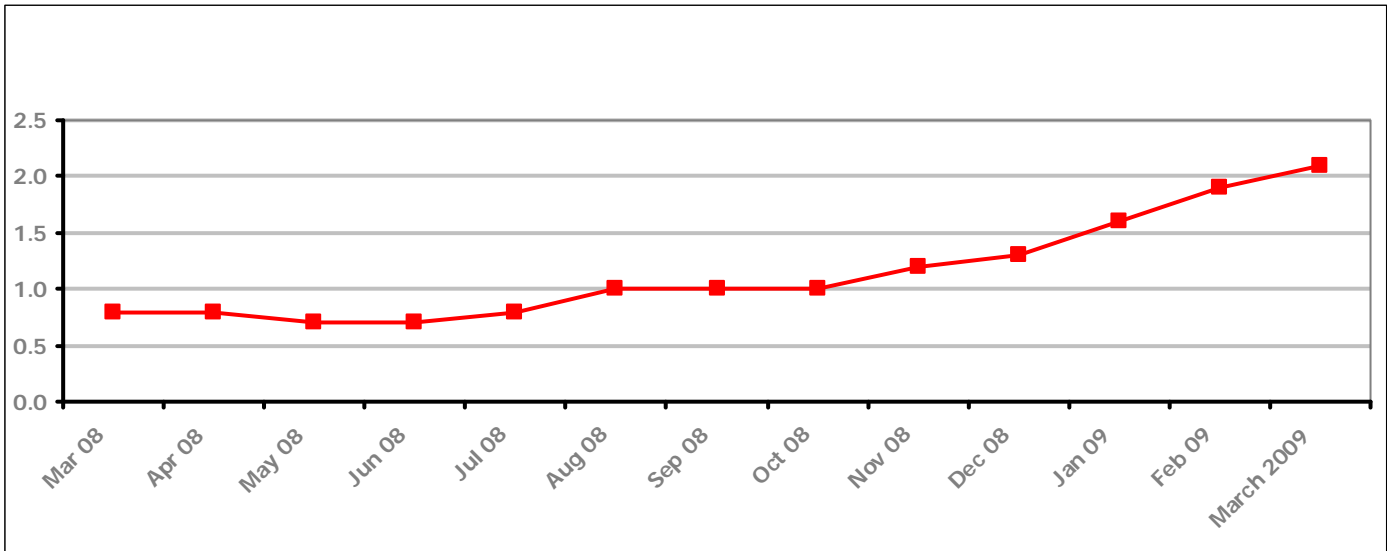


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District was at its highest for over a year at 2.1%. The rate has been increasing since June 2008.

Figure 8: Cotswold District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

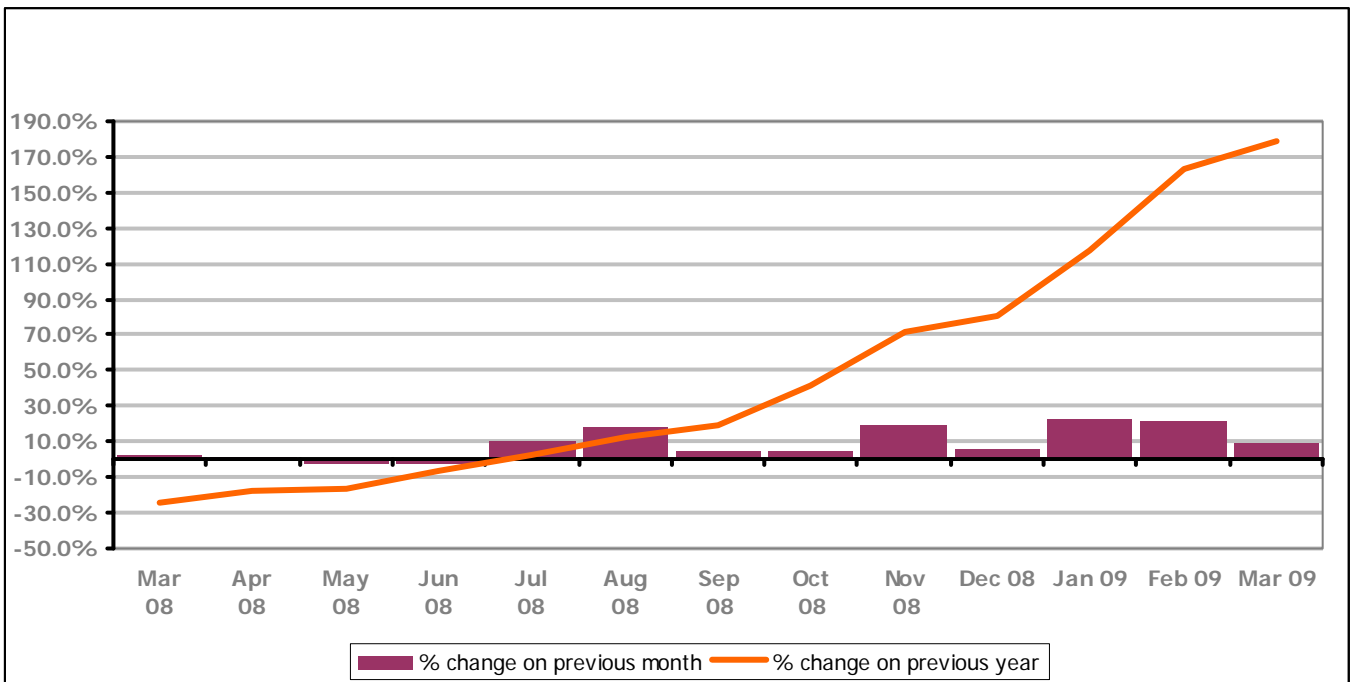


Figure 8 shows the claimant count increasing since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts are higher compared to the same month the previous year since July 2008. For example, in March 2009, the claimant count was over 179% higher than it was in March 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Figure 9: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards - March 2009

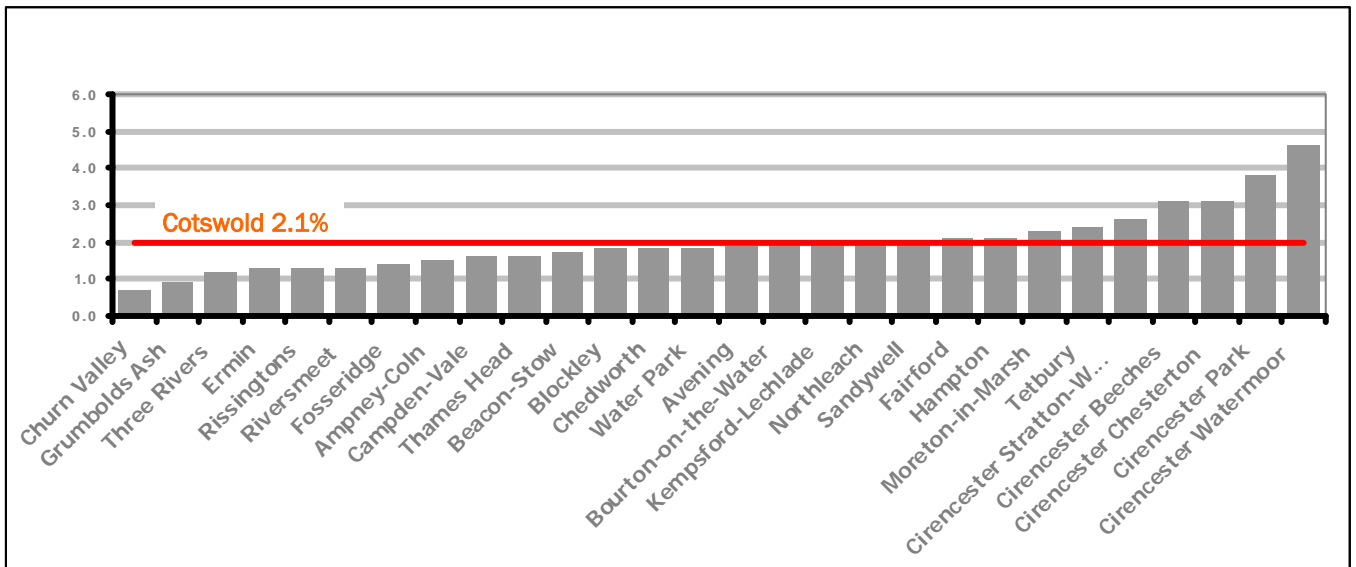
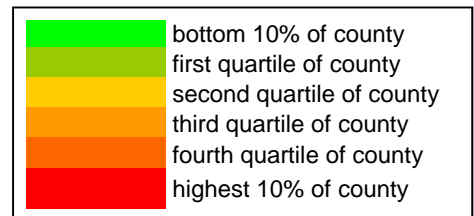


Figure 9 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Eight wards lie above the District average of 2.1%.

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - March 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	0.7	1
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	0.9	3
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	1.2	4
Cotswolds	Ermin	1.3	6
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	1.3	6
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	1.3	6
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.4	9
Cotswolds	Ampney-Coln	1.5	11
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	1.6	13
Cotswolds	Thames Head	1.6	13
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	1.7	17
Cotswolds	Blockley	1.8	21
Cotswolds	Chedworth	1.8	21
Cotswolds	Water Park	1.8	21
Cotswolds	Avening	1.9	30
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	2.0	36
Cotswolds	Kempford-Lechlade	2.0	36
Cotswolds	Northleach	2.0	36
Cotswolds	Sandywell	2.0	36
Cotswolds	Fairford	2.1	44
Cotswolds	Hampton	2.1	44
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	2.3	52
Cotswolds	Tetbury	2.4	57
Cotswolds	Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway	2.6	70
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	3.1	84
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	3.1	84
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	3.8	101
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	4.6	117



* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

Table 6 shows overall claimant rates for Cotswold District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.3 Forest of Dean District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 10: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year

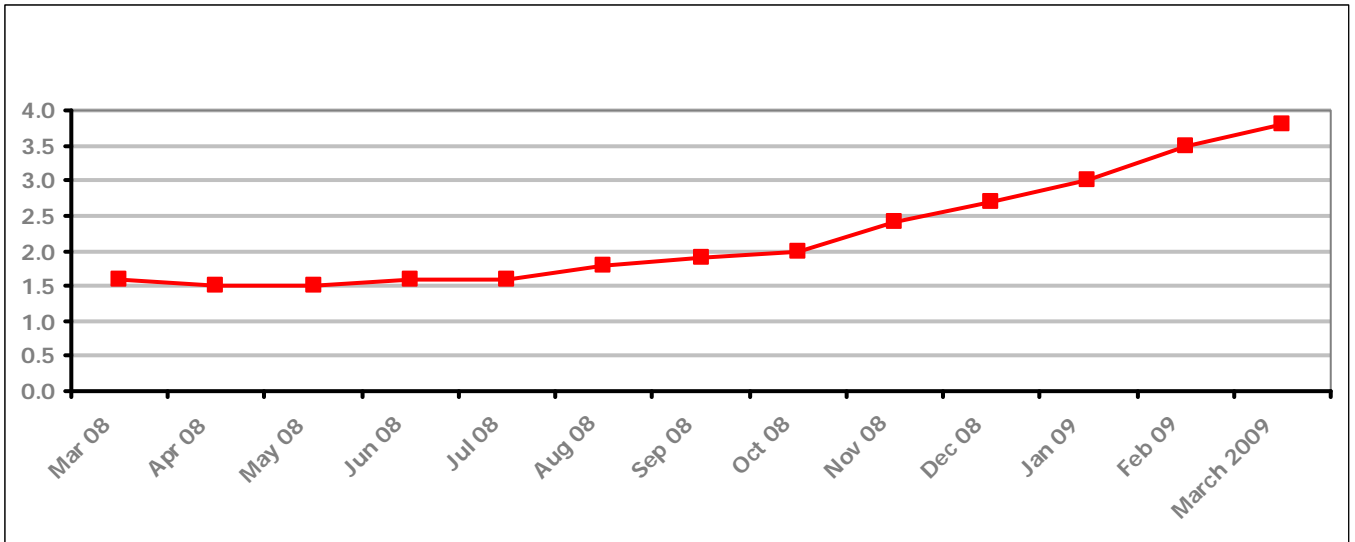


Figure 10 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean was at its highest for over a year at 3.8%. The rate has been increasing since July 2008.

Figure 11: Forest of Dean District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

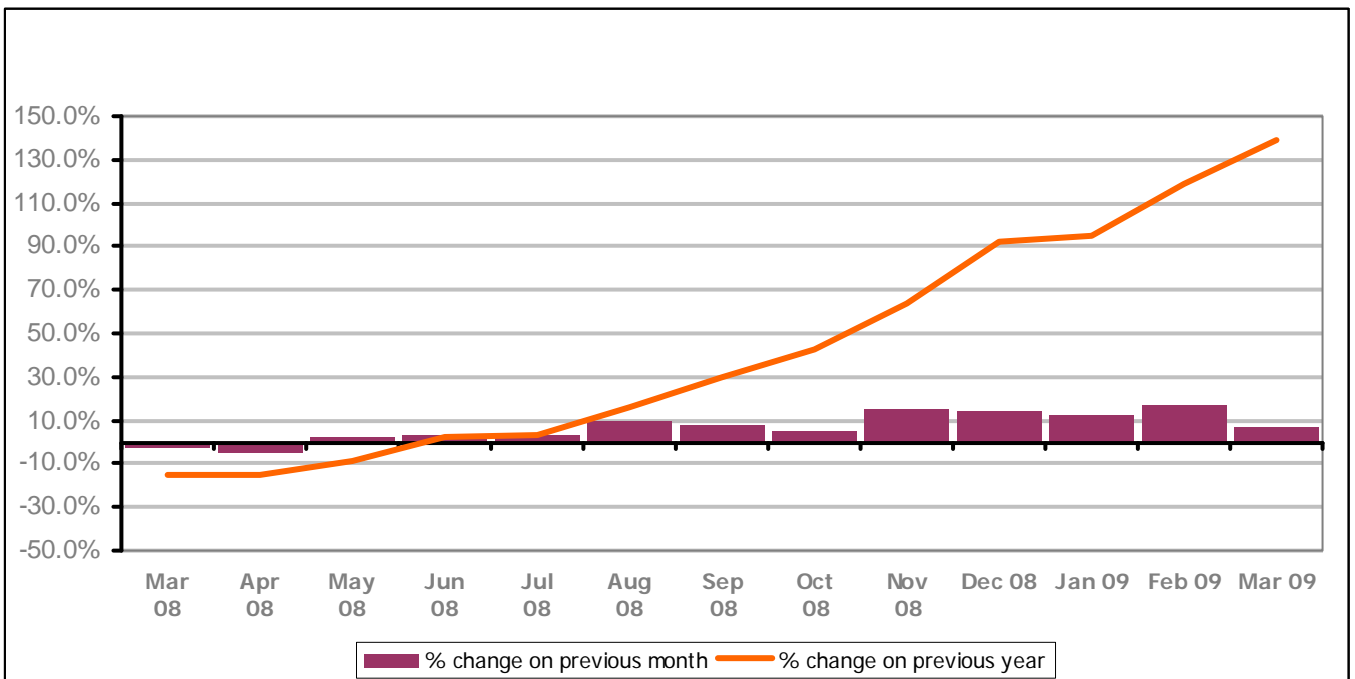


Figure 11 shows the claimant count has increased since May 2008, and that claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008. The number of claimants in March 2009 exceeded that of March 2008 by around 139%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.3 Forest of Dean District continued...

Figure 12: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards - March 2009

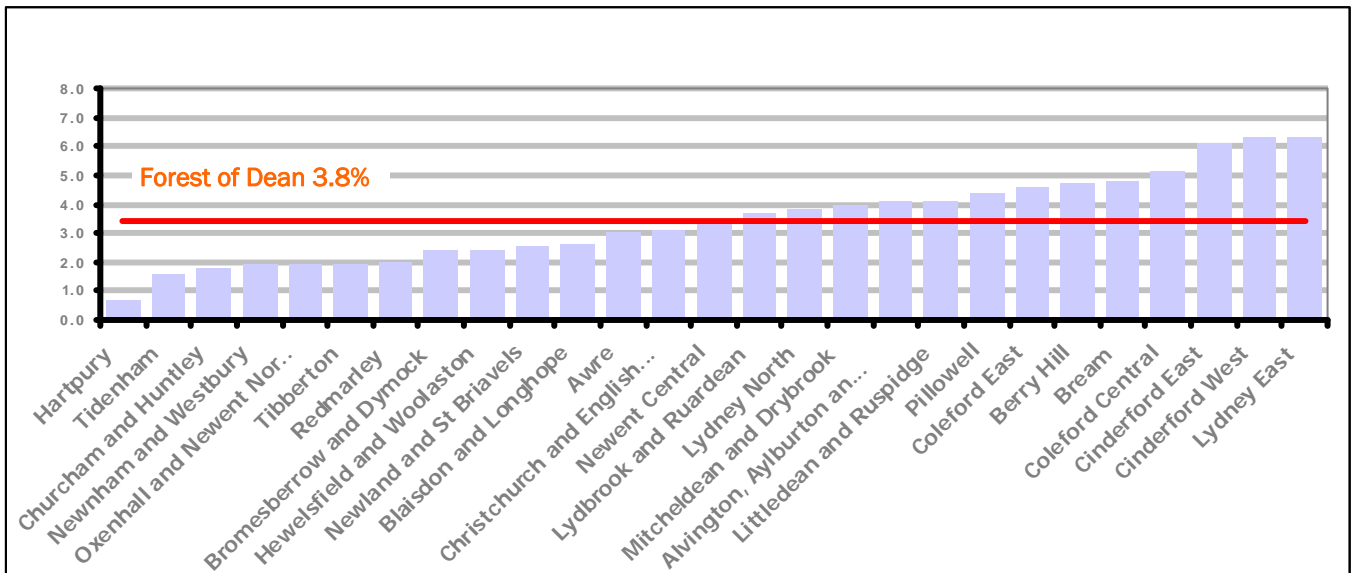


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Thirteen wards are above the District average of 3.8%.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - March 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury	0.7	1
Forest	Tidenham	1.6	13
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	1.8	21
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	1.9	30
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent North East	1.9	30
Forest	Tibberton	1.9	30
Forest	Redmarley	2.0	36
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	2.4	57
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	2.4	57
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	2.5	65
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	2.6	70
Forest	Awre	3.0	83
Forest	Christchurch and English Bicknor	3.1	84
Forest	Newent Central	3.4	94
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	3.7	99
Forest	Lydney North	3.8	101
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	4.0	106
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney	4.1	107
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	4.1	107
Forest	Pillowell	4.4	115
Forest	Coleford East	4.6	117
Forest	Berry Hill	4.7	120
Forest	Bream	4.8	122
Forest	Coleford Central	5.1	127
Forest	Cinderford East	6.1	130
Forest	Cinderford West	6.3	132
Forest	Lydney East	6.3	132

	bottom 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

Table 7 shows overall claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 13: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year

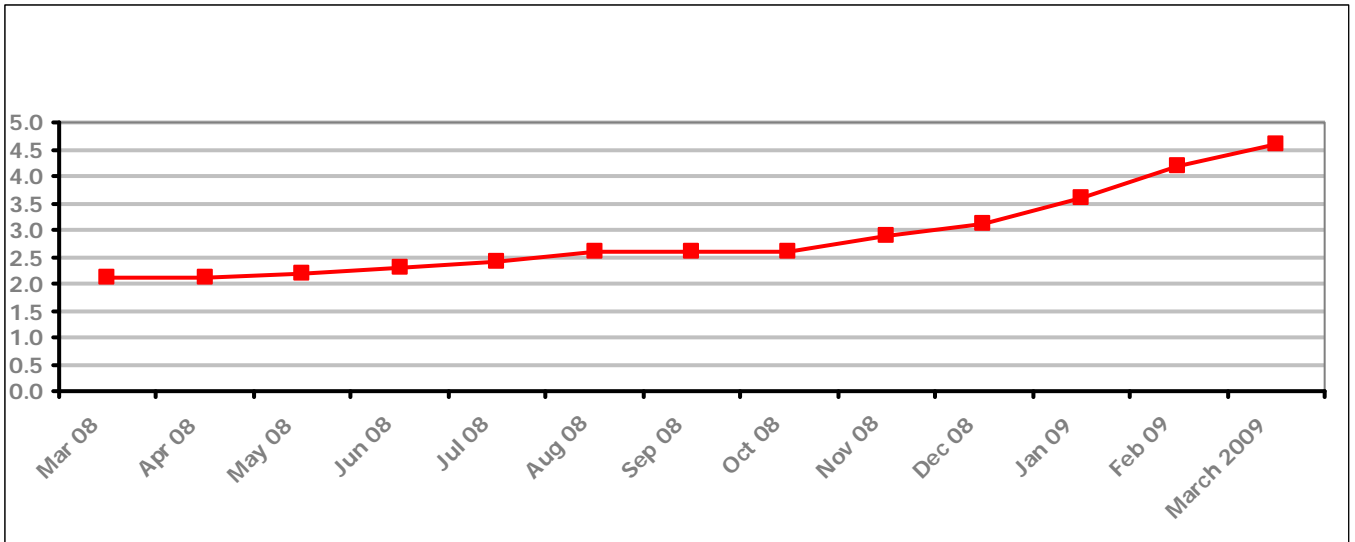


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City was at the highest point for over a year at 4.6%. The rate has been increasing since May 2008.

Figure 14: Gloucester City claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

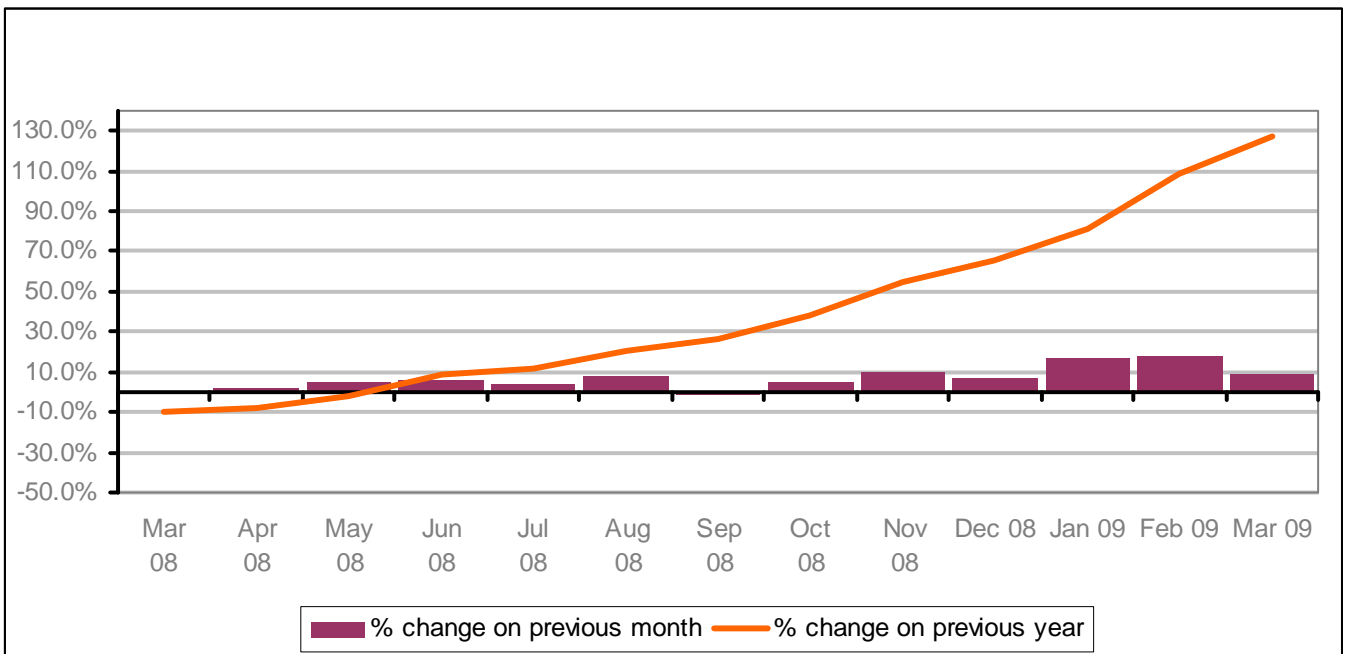


Figure 14 shows the monthly claimant count increased since October 2008. Claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month on the previous year since June 2008. The number of claimants in March 2009 exceeded that of March 2008 by around 127%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

Figure 15: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - March 2009

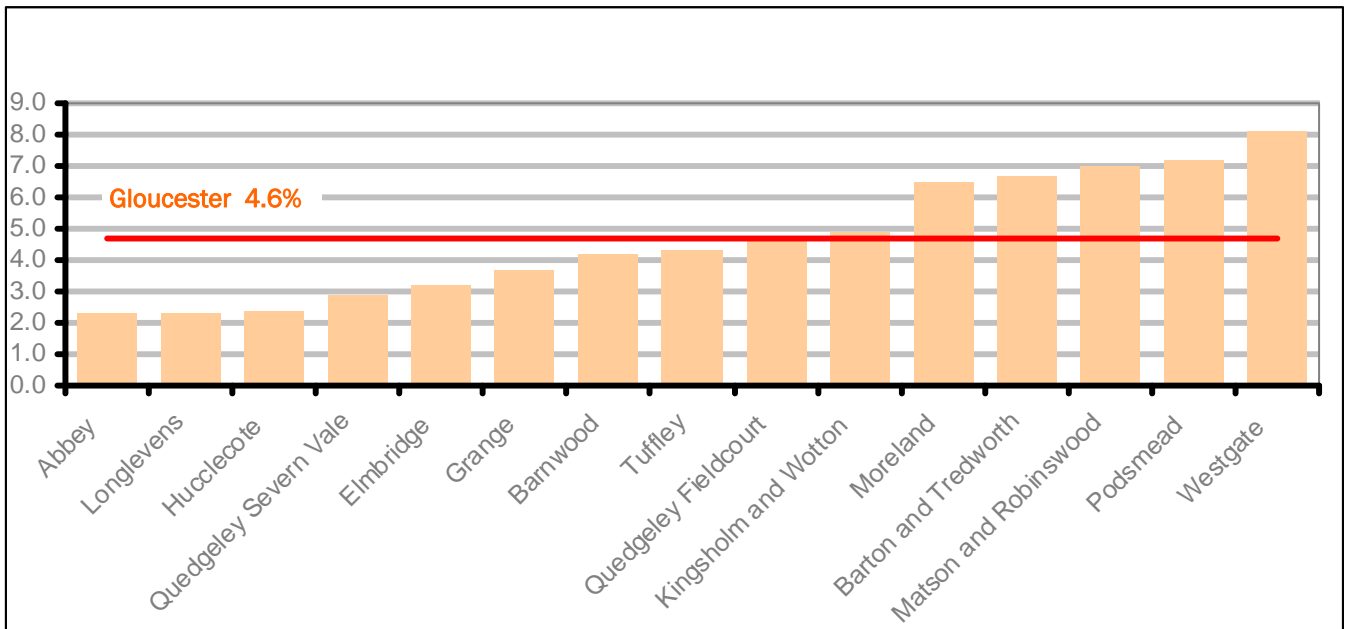


Figure 15 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City. Seven wards are above the City average of 4.6%.

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - March 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Abbey	2.3	52
Gloucester	Longlevens	2.3	52
Gloucester	Hucclecote	2.4	57
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	2.9	80
Gloucester	Elmbridge	3.2	90
Gloucester	Grange	3.7	99
Gloucester	Barnwood	4.2	110
Gloucester	Tuffley	4.3	114
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	4.6	117
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.9	123
Gloucester	Moreland	6.5	135
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	6.7	137
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	7.0	138
Gloucester	Podsmead	7.2	139
Gloucester	Westgate	8.1	142

	bottom 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

Table 8 shows overall claimant rates for Gloucester City wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 16: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year

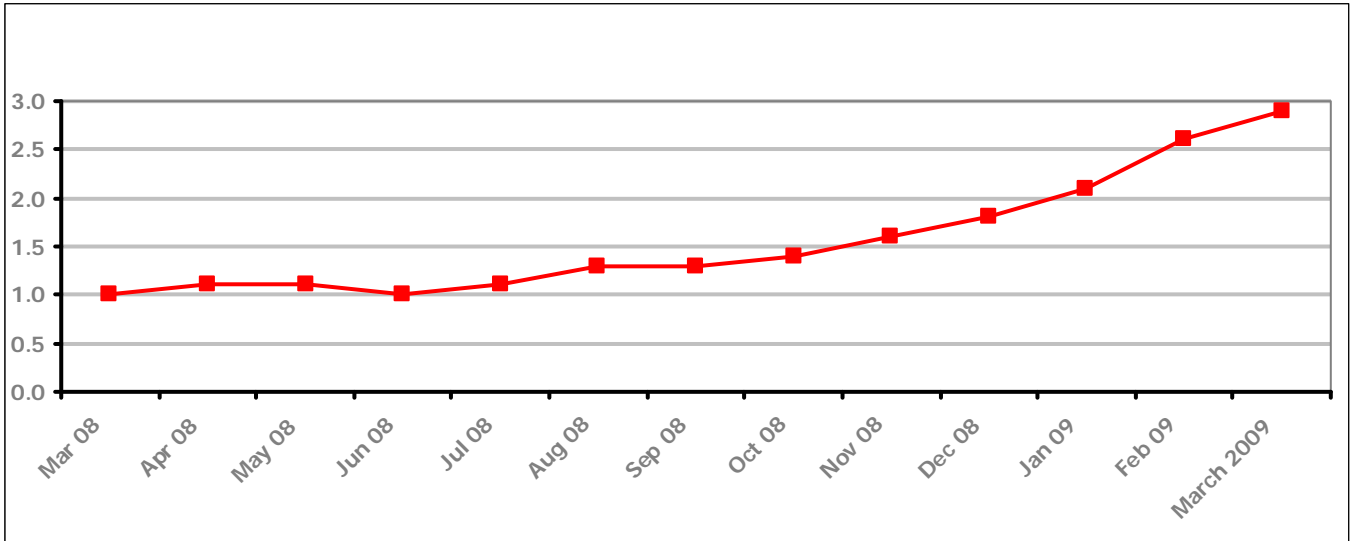


Figure 16 shows the claimant rate for Stroud District was at 2.9%, the highest it has been for over two years.

Figure 17: Stroud District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

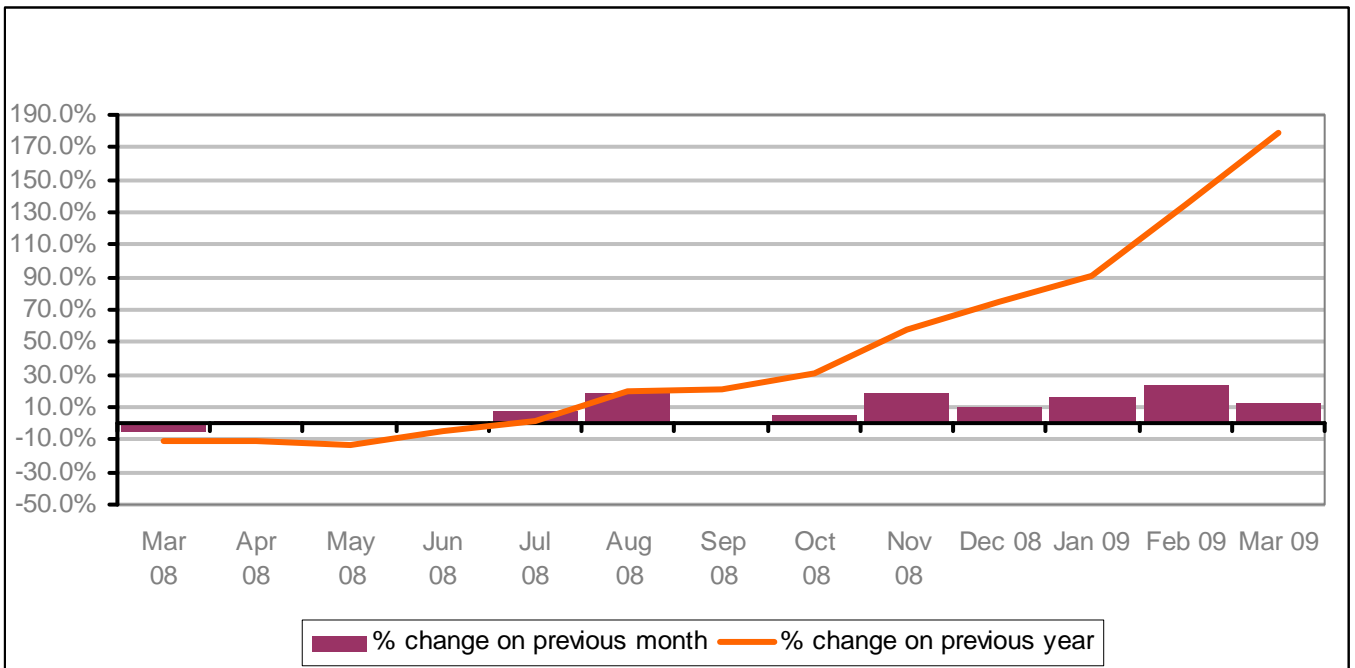


Figure 17 shows that when compared to the same month in the previous year, the claimant count has been increasing since July 2008. The March 2009 figure was 179% higher than it was in March 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

Figure 18: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - March 2009

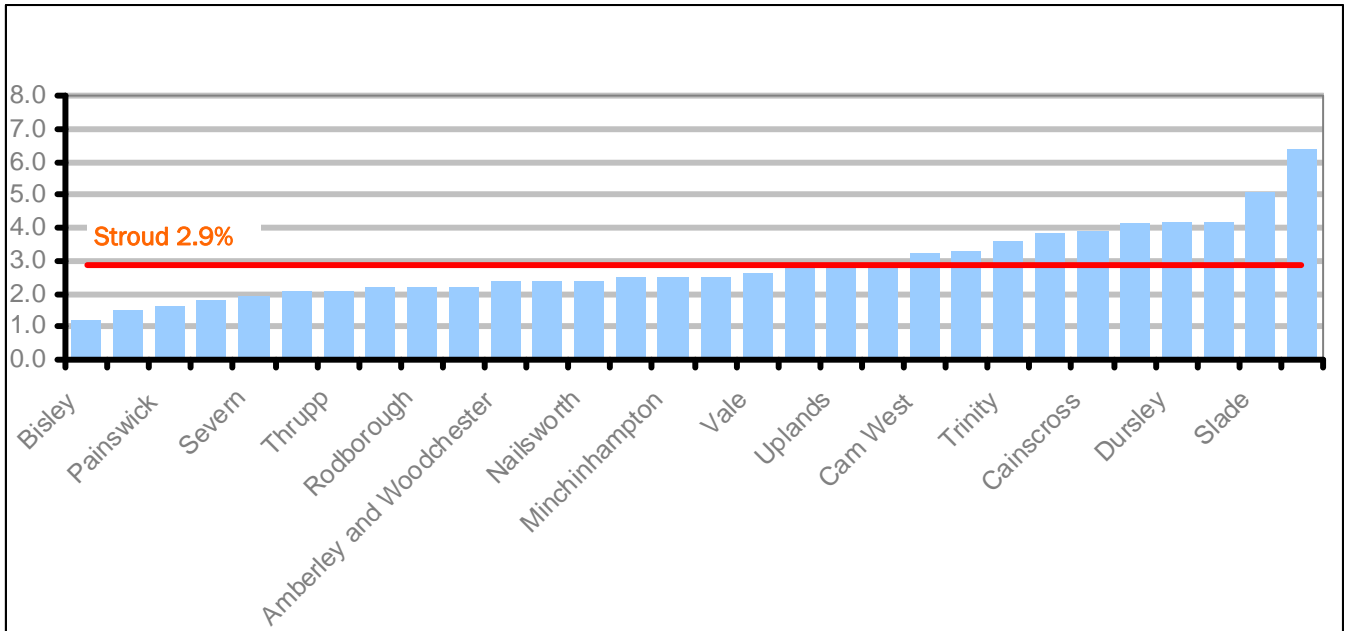
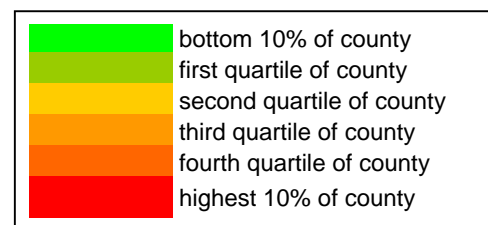


Figure 18 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and eleven of the wards are above the District average of 2.9%.

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - March 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Bisley	1.2	4
Stroud	Kingswood	1.5	11
Stroud	Painswick	1.6	13
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	1.8	21
Stroud	Severn	1.9	30
Stroud	Over Stroud	2.1	44
Stroud	Thrupp	2.1	44
Stroud	Chalford	2.2	49
Stroud	Rodborough	2.2	49
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	2.2	49
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	2.4	57
Stroud	Cam East	2.4	57
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.4	57
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	2.5	65
Stroud	Minchinhampton	2.5	65
Stroud	The Stanleys	2.5	65
Stroud	Vale	2.6	70
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.8	76
Stroud	Uplands	2.8	76
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	2.9	80
Stroud	Cam West	3.2	90
Stroud	Berkeley	3.3	93
Stroud	Trinity	3.6	97
Stroud	Valley	3.8	101
Stroud	Cainscross	3.9	104
Stroud	Stonehouse	4.1	107
Stroud	Dursley	4.2	110
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	4.2	110
Stroud	Slade	5.1	127
Stroud	Central	6.4	134



* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

Table 9 shows overall claimant rates for Stroud District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 19: Tewkesbury District claimant rate over the last year

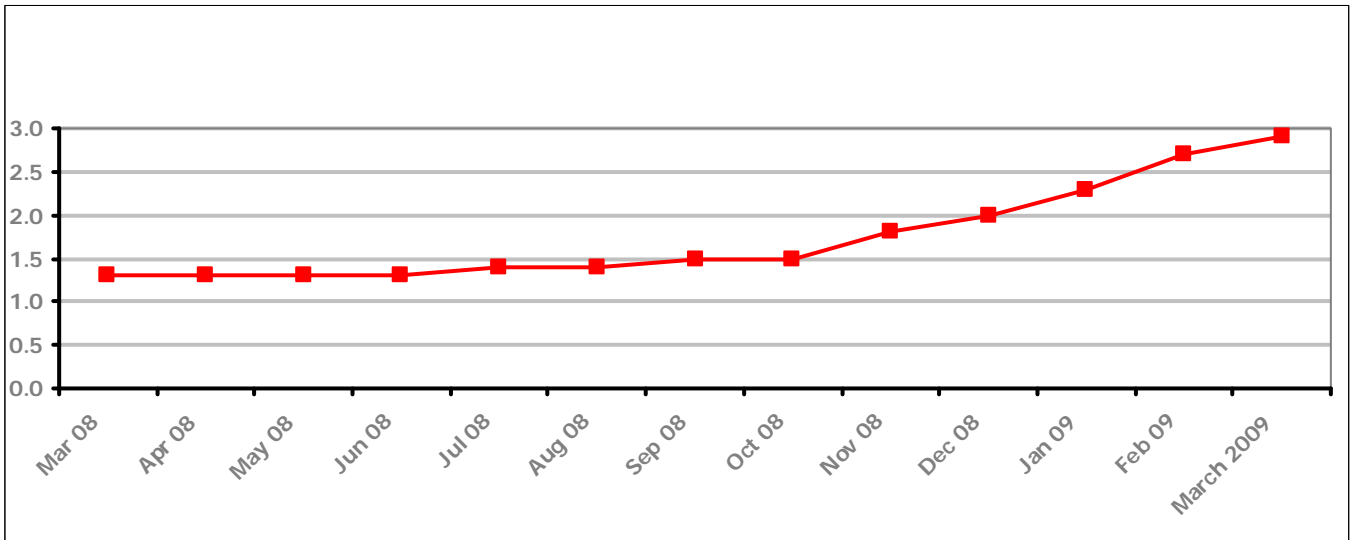


Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury District was at 2.9%, the highest it has been for over a year.

Figure 20: Tewkesbury District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

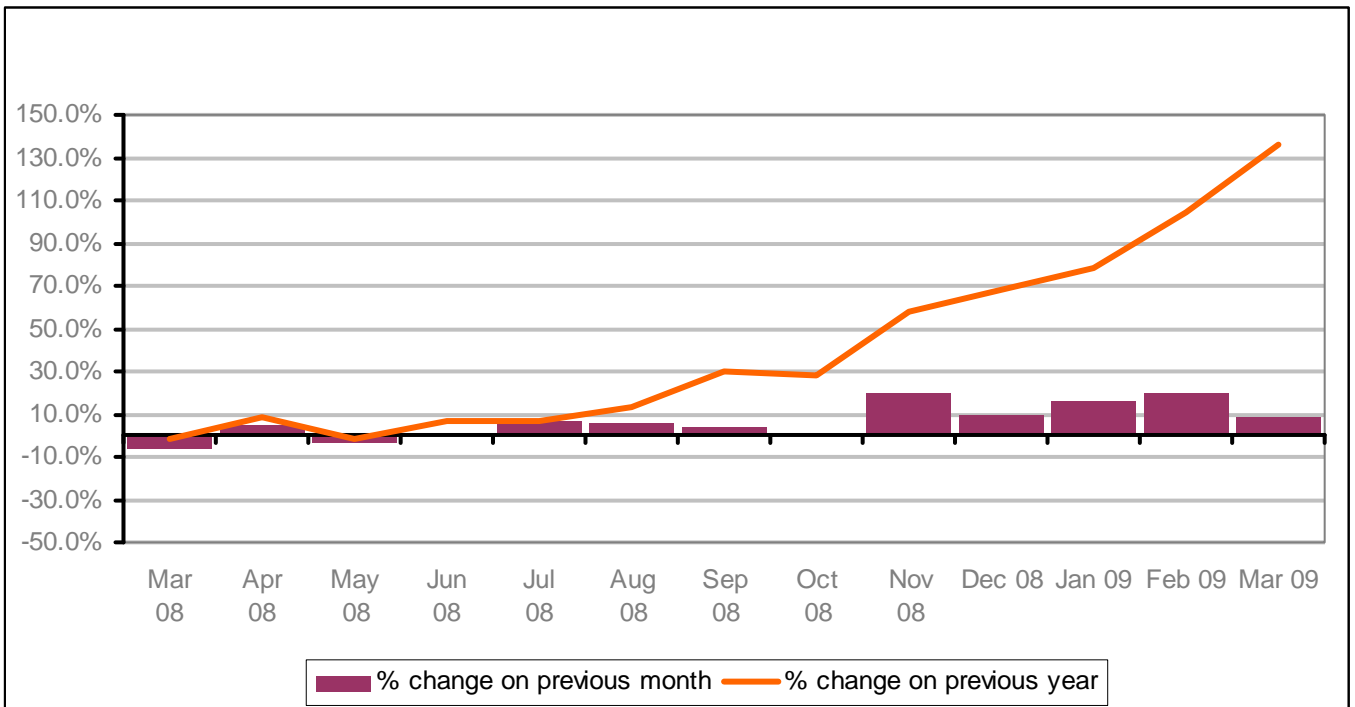


Figure 20 shows that claimant count has on the whole been increasing since June 2008. The rate in March 2009 figure was 136% higher than it was in March 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury District continued...

Figure 21: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury District wards - March 2009

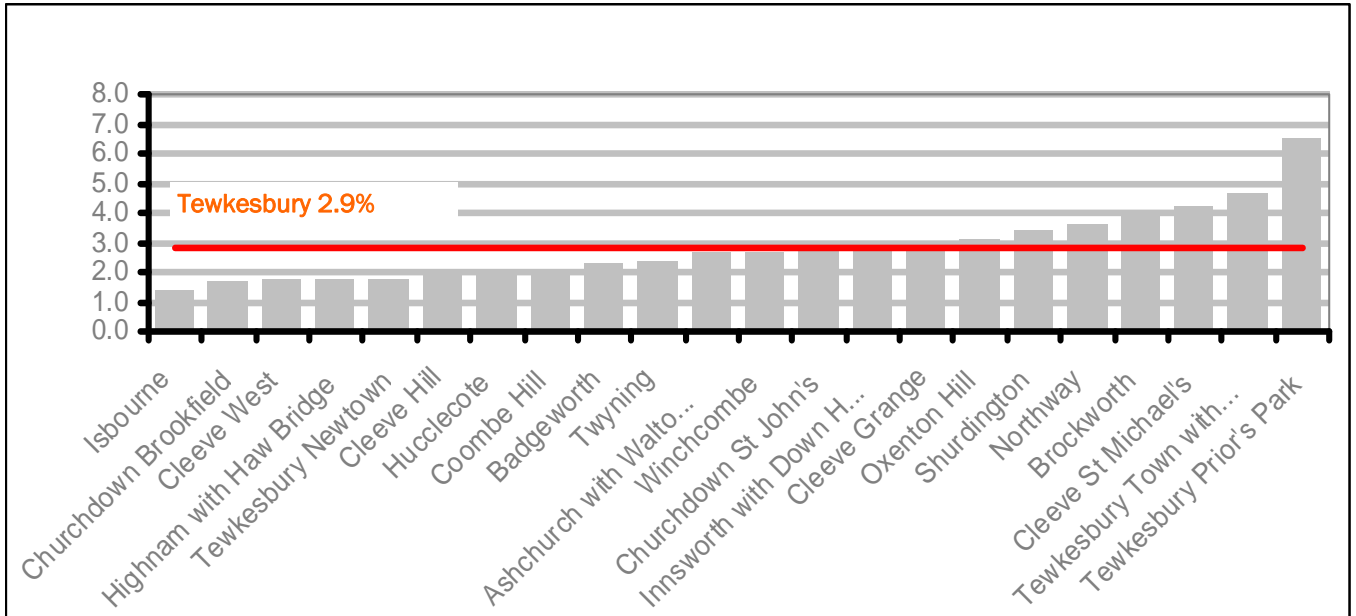
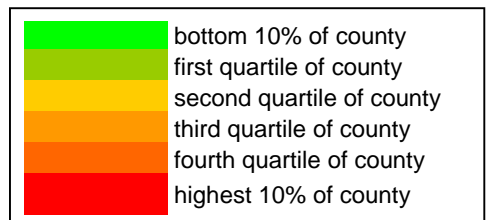


Figure 21 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and seven of the wards are above the District average of 2.9%.

Table 10: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury District level - March 2009

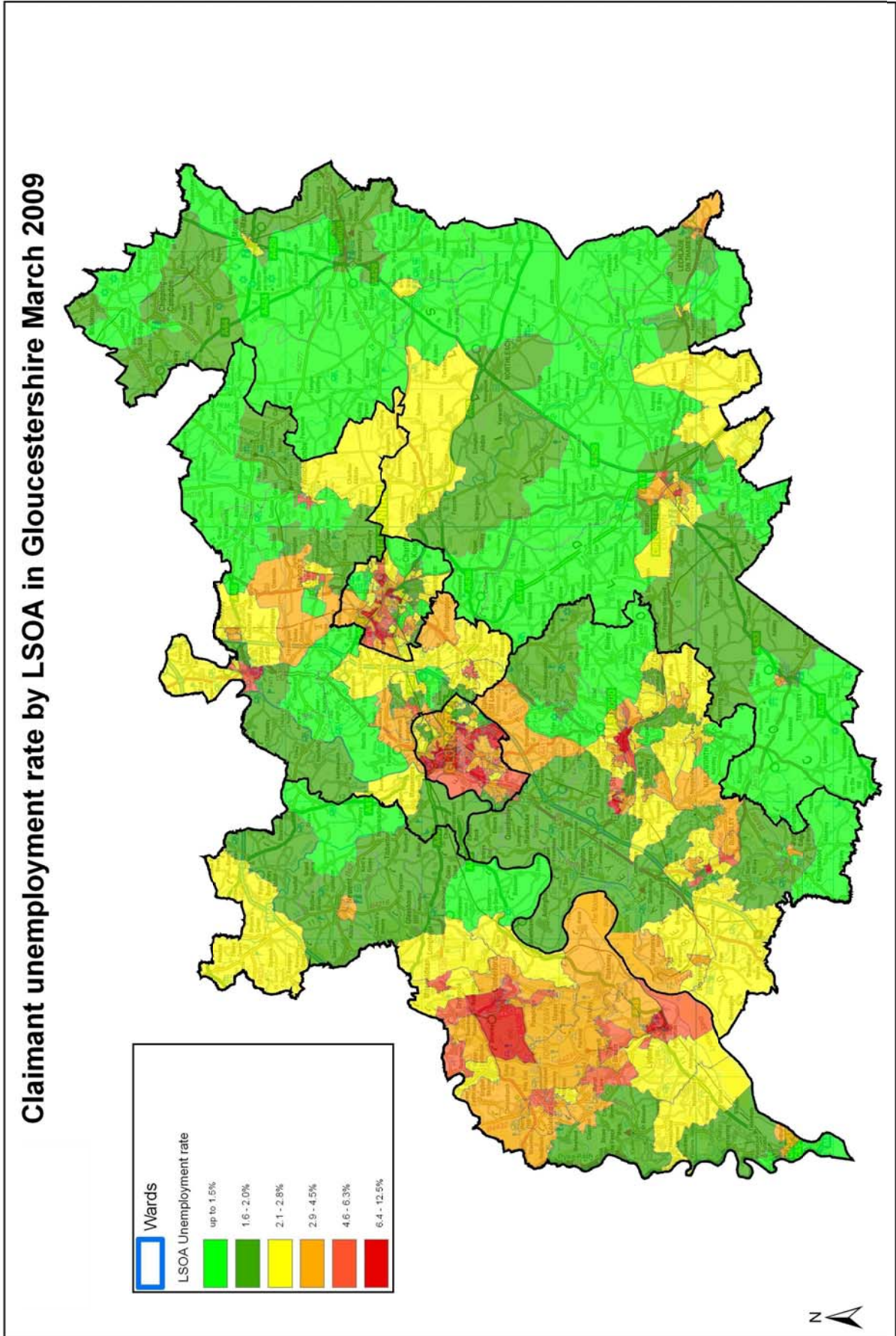
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	1.4	9
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	1.7	17
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.8	21
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	1.8	21
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	1.8	21
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	2.0	36
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	2.0	36
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	2.1	44
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.3	52
Tewkesbury	Twyning	2.4	57
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff	2.7	73
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.7	73
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.8	76
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	2.8	76
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.9	80
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	3.1	84
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.4	94
Tewkesbury	Northway	3.6	97
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	3.9	104
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	4.2	110
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	4.7	120
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	6.5	135



* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

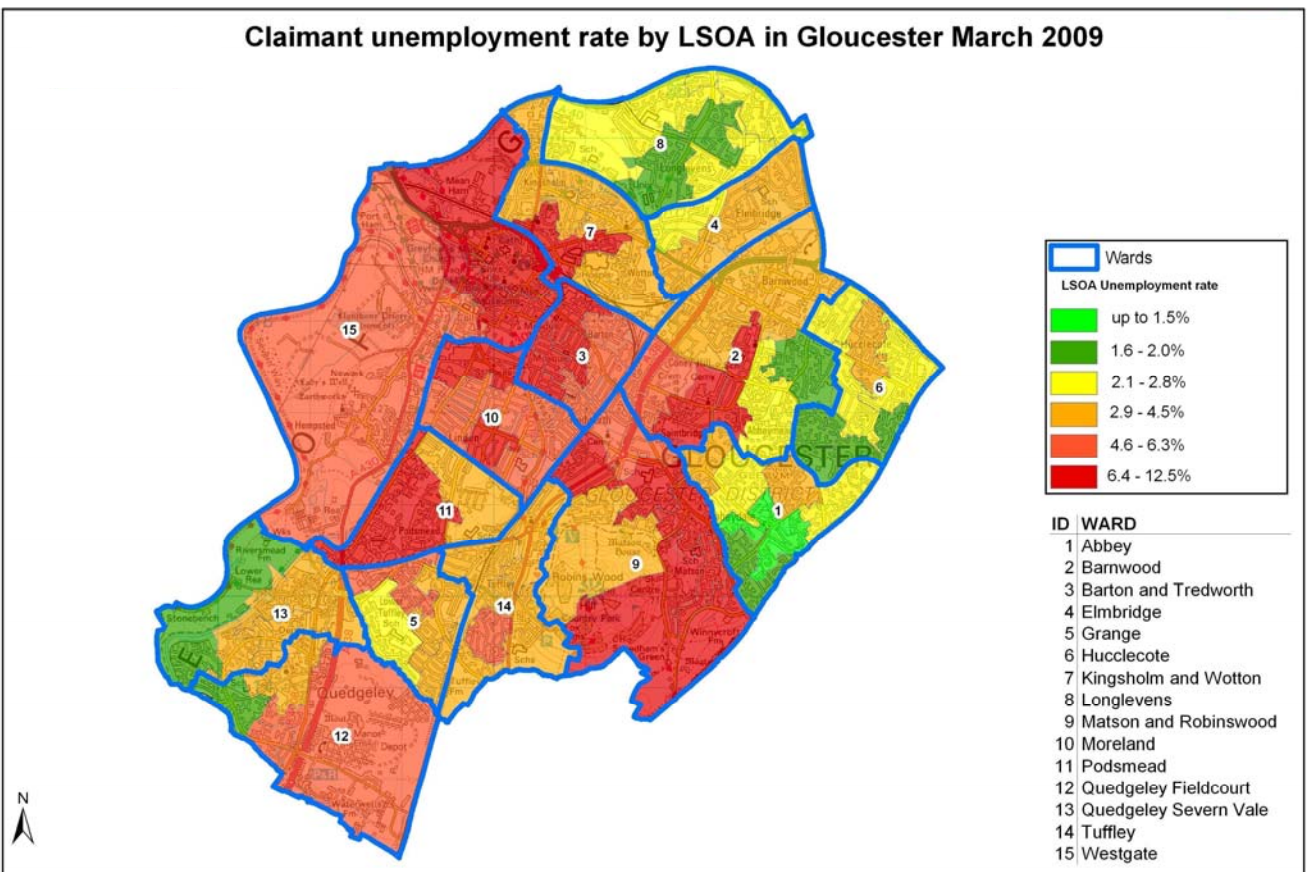
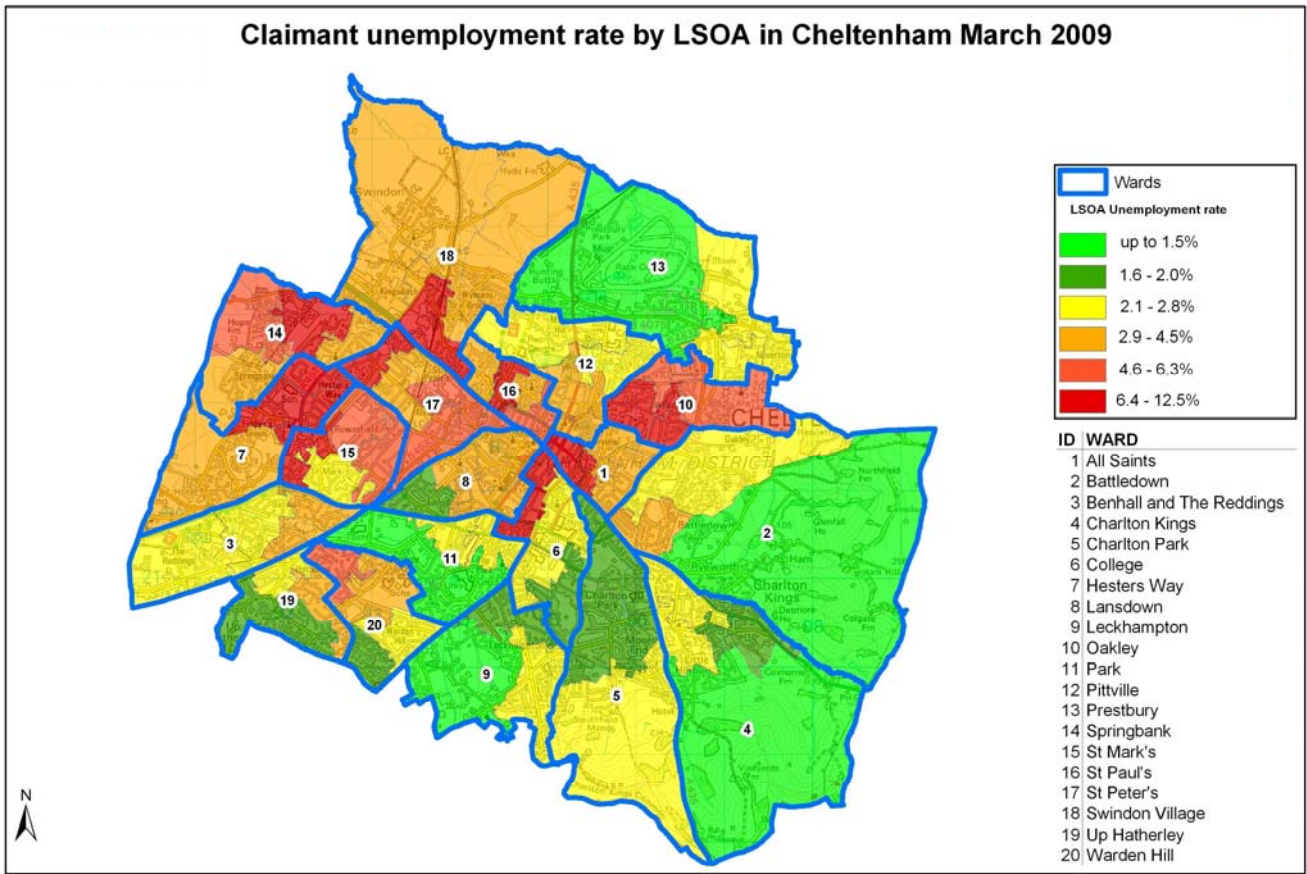
Table 10 shows overall claimant rates for Tewkesbury District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



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PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



PART 6: YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Data provided by Prospects, the Connexions service in Gloucestershire on the situation of young people (16-18) in Gloucestershire who are not in education, employment or formal training.

Connexions Gloucestershire is required to report performance with the 16-18 age range against nationally defined criteria for counting the NEET group. The NEET group includes young people actively seeking education, employment or training as well as those young people who are either not yet ready or who are unable to access these opportunities because of their personal circumstances. The figures quoted below include young people in both of these categories.

SUMMARY

As at the end of March 2009 there were 723 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.4% and this shows an increase from the 4.0% achieved at the end of February 2009. We are also reporting increases in the numbers of NEET young people in all Districts with the most significant increase during March being in Cheltenham. Analysis of the numbers of NEET joiners in recent months is also evidencing a 25-30% increase based against the same period in 2008.

Total NEET Group by District Area 31 March 2009

	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	Total
NEET Group	179	57	101	182	119	85	723(*)
% NEET of total 16-18 cohort	7.0%	2.4%	3.8%	3.7%	4.2%	4.3%	4.4%(*)

Review of Gloucestershire's NEET strategy

The Gloucestershire NEET partnership forum met during March to review our response to the recession thus far and to ensure that we continue to coordinate our efforts over the coming months. The key actions agreed are detailed below;

- **Job seekers workshops** – aimed at school leavers or young people who are currently in the NEET group, these will be rolled out over the next few months to offer enhanced support and practical tips around job seeking
- **Positive Activities for young people** – the Youth Support Service are currently developing a series of activity days/residentials aimed at young people in the NEET group. The aim of these sessions is to combine the best of outdoor activities with personal development sessions to help some long term NEETs re-engage with positive activities
- **Developing additional opportunities for young people** – we are continuing to work closely with LSC colleagues to increase the range and spread of opportunities for young people in the NEET group. This years Budget announcement in April may provide some additional funding to support this.

We also agreed to that we need to undertake a review of the County NEET action plan to ensure that it is still 'fit for purpose' in the current economic climate. Following on from the review, the revised version of the action plan will be published on the GCC website.

If you would like to receive any further information on Gloucestershire's NEET strategy then please contact Andrew.Webster@prospects.co.uk or telephone 01452 426900

(*) Adjustment includes a proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose outcomes are not-known to Connexions Gloucestershire