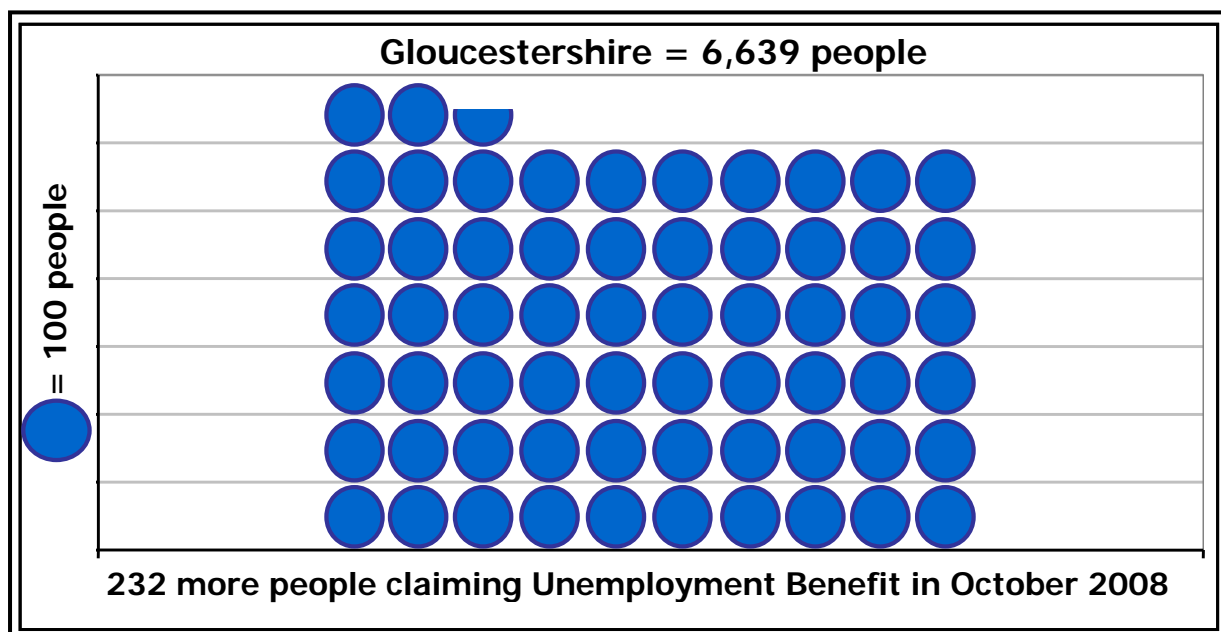


Gloucestershire Unemployment Bulletin

Volume 3: October 2008

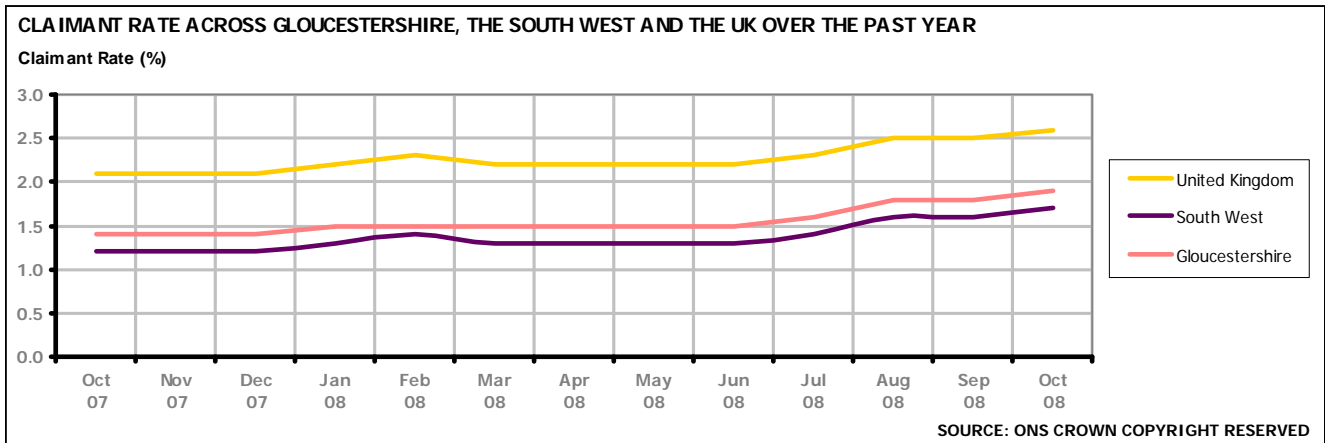


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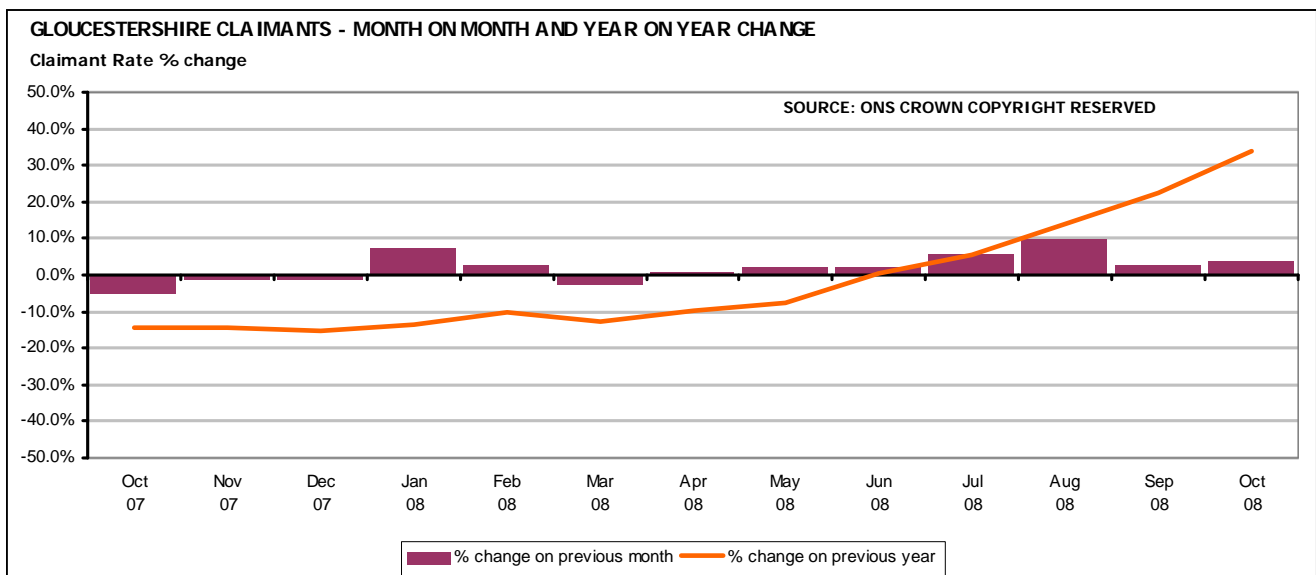
The Research Team (Economics)
Chief Executive's Support Unit
Gloucestershire County Council
November 2008

SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 1.9% in October 2008. This was an increase of 0.1% on the September 2008 figure. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Both the UK and the South West rates also increased by 0.1% between October 2008 and September 2008. Gloucestershire's rate remains slightly above the South West average of 1.7%, but over half a per cent lower than the UK average of 2.6%.



The claimant count in Gloucestershire in October 2008 rose by 232 people. The amount of people claiming in October 2008 was 3.6% higher than the number in September 2008. The increase was 6% across the South West, and 2.7% for the UK.



Continuing the trend of the early 1990's recession, the number of claimants during the month of October has not exceeded those claiming during the month of September, since 1990.

Gloucestershire Unemployment Bulletin Volume 3: October 2008

Gloucestershire, South West and UK claimants: October 2008

Area	Claimant Count in October 2008	% Change on September 2008	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
Cheltenham	1,647	2.8	3.1	7
Cotswolds	509	4.5	5.7	4
Forest	997	4.7	4.8	6
Gloucester	1,879	4.4	3.3	1
Stroud	908	4.8	4.6	1
Tewkesbury	699	-0.1	2.8	-
Gloucestershire	6,639	3.6	3.8	7
South West	52,180	6.0	4.2	6
UK	970,279	2.7	2.6	6

The claimant count in Gloucestershire has been increasing for seven consecutive months, and stood 35% higher in October 2008 than at the same point the previous year. The change in the claimant count varied across Gloucestershire. Tewkesbury was the only district with a claimant count that was lower in October 2008, than in September 2008.

- In **Cheltenham Borough** the claimant count has increased each month since April 2008. This is the highest number of consecutive monthly increases in Gloucestershire. For the first time in two years, the Lansdown ward had a monthly claimant rate below the average for the district.
- In **Cotswold District** the claimant count in October 2008 was the highest for two years and has been increasing since July 2008. In addition, the claimant count in October 2008 was over 40% higher than it was in October 2007. The Beacon Stow ward was above the district average for claimants for the first time in five months.
- In the **Forest of Dean District** the claimant count in October 2008 was the highest since April 2007 and has been increasing since May 2008. The claimant count in the Awre ward increased by 0.4% between September 2008 and October 2008 and was above the district average for the first time in four months. In addition, the Pillowell ward had a claimant rate increase of 0.6% between September 2008 and October 2008, and was above the district average for claimants for the first time in over a year and a half.
- In **Gloucester City** the claimant count increased by 79 people between September 2008 and October 2008. This is in contrast to the decrease in claimants that occurred between August 2008 and September 2008.
- In **Stroud District** the claimant count increased by 42 people between September 2008 and October 2008. This is in contrast to the decrease in claimants that occurred between August 2008 and September 2008.
- **Tewkesbury Borough** was the only district where claimants decreased between September 2008 and October 2008, albeit very slight. The total; decrease was one claimant.

Service Implications

Although there is not a marked increase in the number of people unemployed since last month, the possibility of a worsening situation looms. This will inevitably impact across county wide services. Preparation both in terms of contingency arrangements as well as forward planning will be vital in addressing emerging client issues. Labour force planning may need to take account of a larger proportion of unemployed people. Contingency arrangements may need to address an increasing demand for example for free schools meals, health related issues and other social support.

Contents

Part 1: UK, South West and Gloucestershire Indicators.....	1
Claimant Rate	1
Claimant Count	1
Claimant age breakdown	2
Inflation	3
Part 2: Gloucestershire and Local Authority District analysis	4
Claimant Rate and Claimant Count	4
Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis	6
Cheltenham Borough	6
Cheltenham Borough – Wards.....	7
Cotswold District	8
Cotswold District – Wards.....	9
Forest of Dean District	10
Forest of Dean District – Wards.....	11
Gloucester City	12
Gloucester City – Wards	13
Stroud District	14
Stroud District – Wards	15
Tewkesbury Borough	16
Tewkesbury Borough - Wards	17
Part 4: Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET)	18

Part 1: UK, South West and Gloucestershire Indicators

Claimant Rate¹

Figure 1

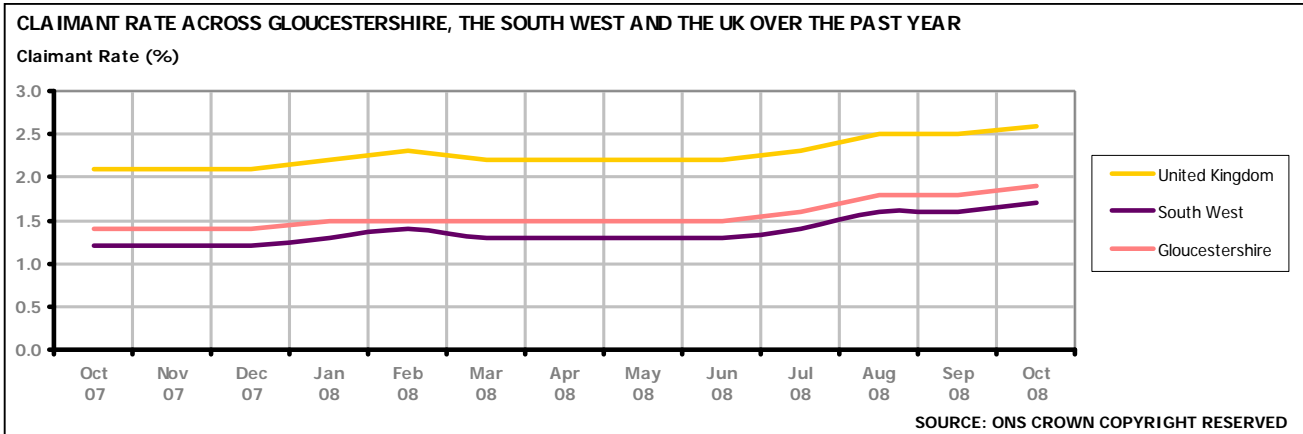


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 1.9% in October 2008. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.5% against the UK average during the same period. October 2008 represented a 0.1% increase on the previous month.

Claimant Count²

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

Area	Claimant Count in October 2008	% change on September ³ 2008	Average % increase over the last six months ⁴	Consecutive months increasing
UK	970,279	2.7	2.6	6
South West	52,180	6.0	4.2	6
Gloucestershire	6,639	3.6	3.8	7

Table 1 shows that in October 2008, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 3.6% higher than the number in September 2008. This is comparable with UK and South West increases. The October 2008 increase was 1.2% higher than the increase between August 2008 and September 2008.

Figure 2 shows that the average growth in claimants in Gloucestershire for the six months to October 2008 was 3.8%. Although 1.2% higher than that of the UK average, Gloucestershire has been overtaken by the average for the South West region, where growth in claimants was 0.4% higher.

¹ The Claimant Rate is the amount of claimants as a percentage of the working age population for the claimant group.

² JSA Claimant Count records the number of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Job Centre Plus Offices. This is not an official measure of unemployment, but is the only indicative statistical measure available for areas smaller than Local Authorities.

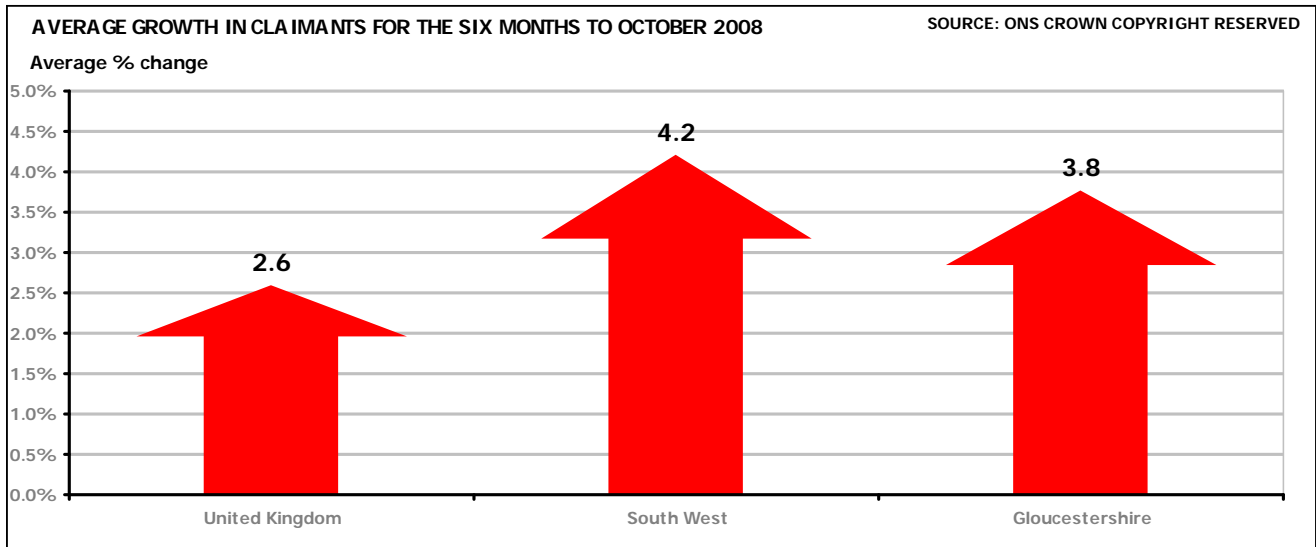
³ The difference between total claimants in October 2008 and September 2008 expressed as a percentage increase or decrease.

⁴ The average monthly rate at which the Claimant Count has been growing for the six months to October 2008

Gloucestershire Unemployment Bulletin Volume 3: October 2008

The figures for the rate of growth in Gloucestershire compare unfavourably with figures for the six months to October 2007, where unemployment declined by minus 2.5%.

Figure 2



Claimant age breakdown

Figure 3

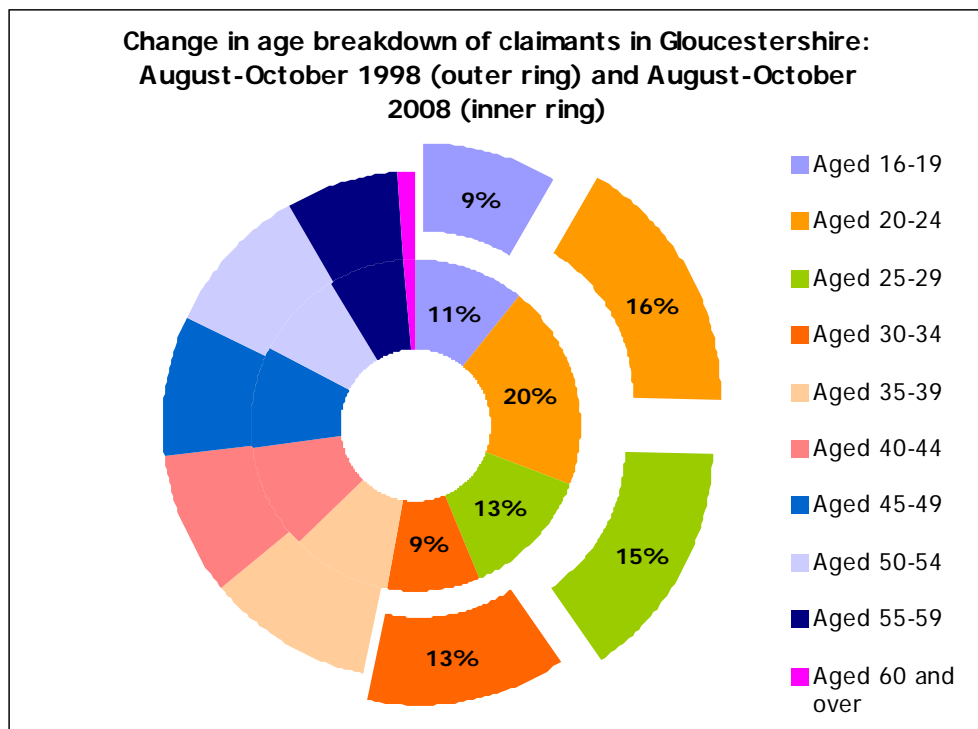


Figure 3 shows the changing age structure of claimants in Gloucestershire between the periods August and October 1998, and August and October 2008. The rings represent the percentage each age group contributes to the total group of claimants. So for example, in the period August to - October 1998, 16% of claimants were aged 20-24

The doughnut pie helps to illustrate that the age structure is subtly changing compared with ten years ago. The exploded sections of the doughnut pie chart show these changes. For example, it appears that during August to October 2008, claimants aged 16-19 and 20-24 have increased as a proportion of all claimants compared to ten years ago. On the other hand, claimants in the 25-29 and 30-34 sections are decreasing compared to ten years ago.

These changes are mirrored in the South West region, and the UK.

Inflation

Figure 4

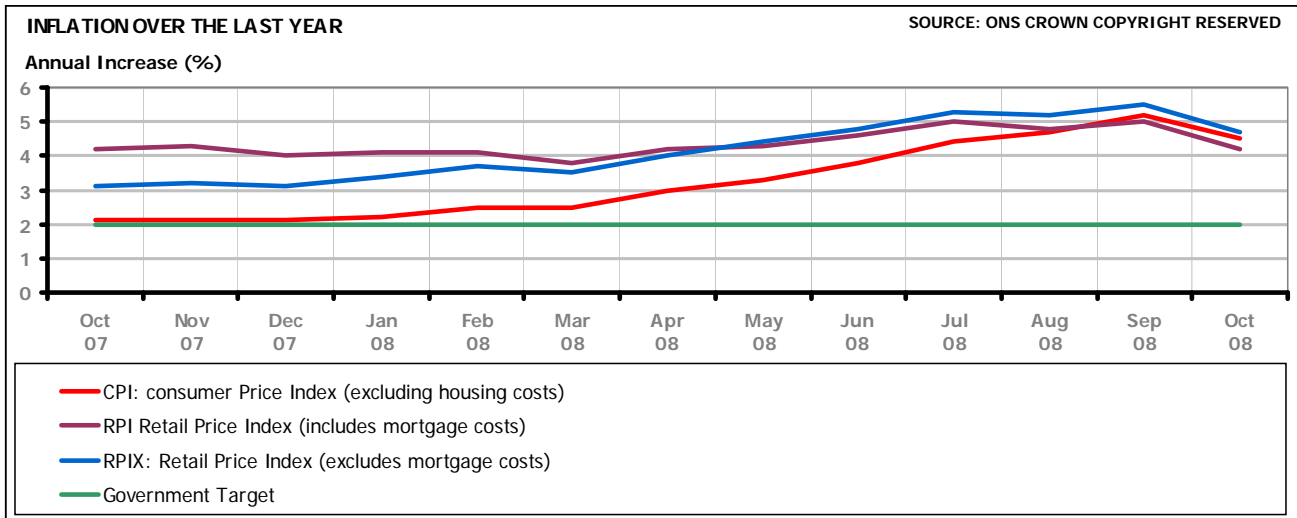


Figure 4 shows the national level of inflation since October 2007. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI), which the Government use for their target measure, was 4.5 per cent in October 2008, down from 5.2 per cent in September 2008. The Retail Prices Index (RPI) was 4.2 per cent in October 2008, down from 5 per cent in September 2008. The Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) was 4.7 per cent in October 2008, down from 5.5 per cent in September 2008.

Downward pressures on inflation

- Transport costs - where the price of fuels and lubricants fell this year but rose last year. This was triggered by a sharp fall in the price of crude oil, and a drop in the average price of petrol and diesel. There was also a fall in the price of both air transport and sea transport.
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages. The effect came largely from the price of meat, which fell this year compared with a rise last year. There was a small downward effect from biscuits and a partially offsetting upward effect from the price of milk.
- Recreation and culture, where the effect came mainly from pre-recorded DVDs and computer games
- Miscellaneous goods and services where, overall, bank charges decreased and home delivery charges rose by less than last year
- Education services where the upward effect from increased tuition fees is less than the previous year

The main factors affecting the CPI also affected the RPI. Additionally, there was a large downward contribution from housing with the main effect coming from house depreciation, which is excluded from the CPI.

As an internationally comparable measure of inflation, the CPI shows that the UK inflation rate in October 2008, at 4.5 per cent, was above the provisional figure for the European Union as a whole of 3.7 per cent.

Part 2: Gloucestershire and Local Authority District analysis

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 5

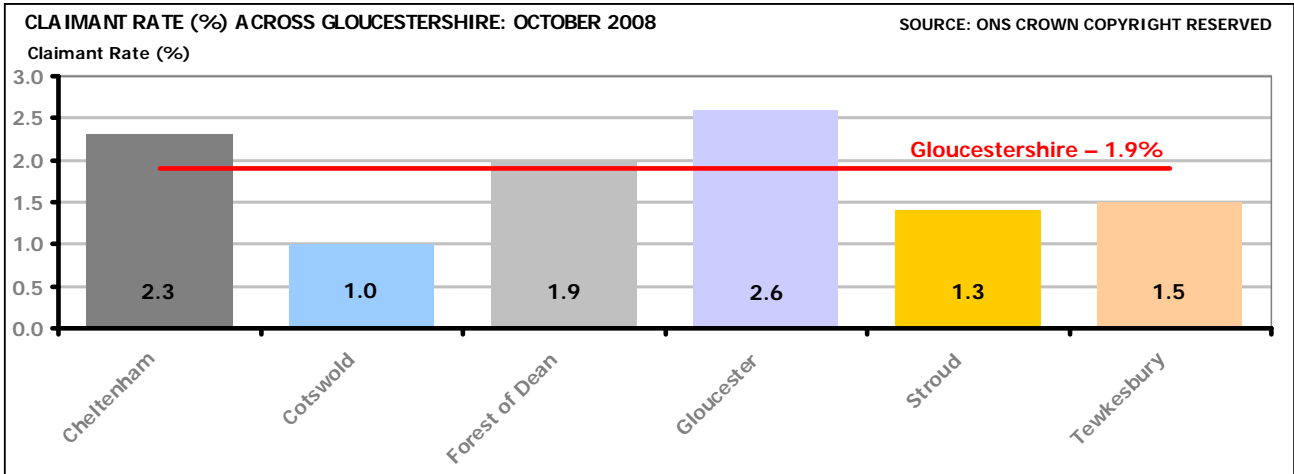


Figure 5 shows the claimant rate for October 2008 in Gloucestershire. The Forest of Dean and Stroud increased by 0.1% in October 2008 versus the September 2008 figure, the remaining districts stayed at the same level as the previous month. This is partially due to the effects of rounding the figures, so the small increase in the number of claimants is not reflected in the overall claimant rate.

Figure 6

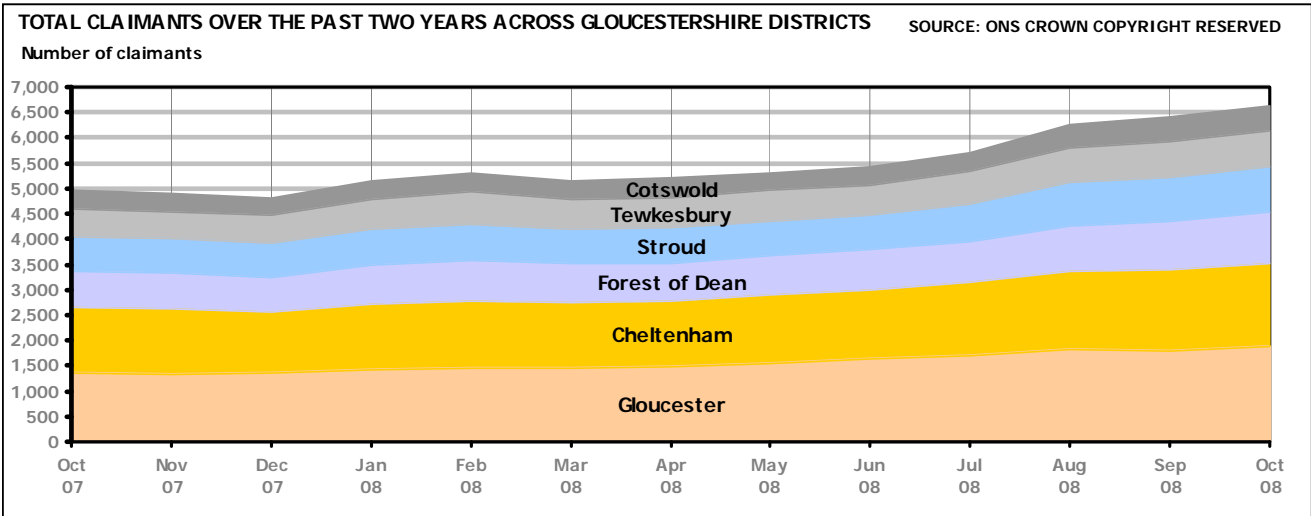


Figure 6 shows the overall claimant count for Gloucestershire over the past year. It demonstrates the gap that is widening across all the districts as the economy has moved towards recession. It can be seen that so far, the gap has been wider in the urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Gloucestershire Unemployment Bulletin Volume 3: October 2008

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in October 2008	% Change on September 2008	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
Cheltenham	1,647	2.8	3.1	7
Cotswolds	509	4.5	5.7	4
Forest	997	4.7	4.8	6
Gloucester	1,879	4.4	3.3	1
Stroud	908	4.8	4.6	1
Tewkesbury	699	-0.1	2.8	-
Gloucestershire	6,639	3.6	3.8	7

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in October 2008 compared with September 2008. It is apparent that the October 2008 increase in Gloucestershire's claimant count was fairly typical across the six districts, with only Tewkesbury Borough experiencing a small drop in claimants.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Cheltenham Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 7

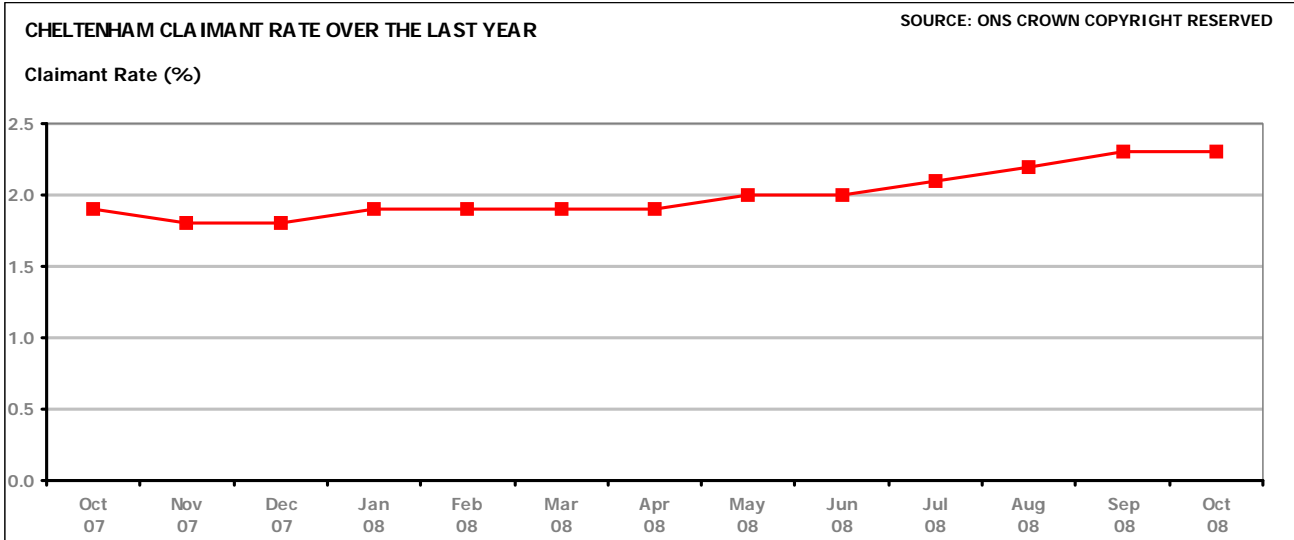
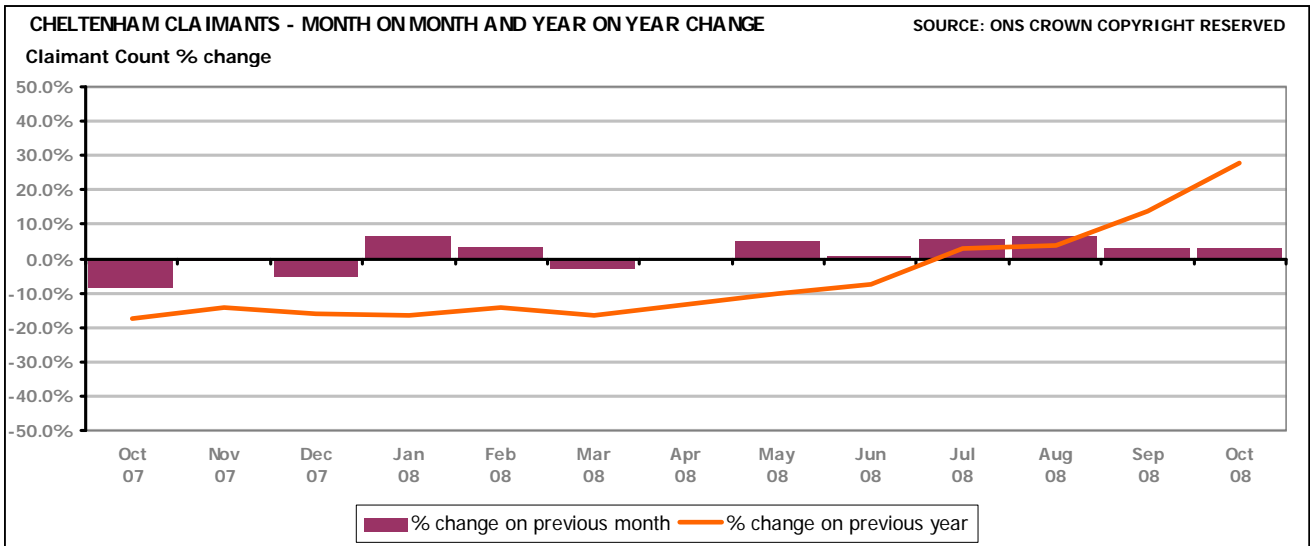


Figure 7 shows the claimant count in Cheltenham at its highest rate for over a year. The rate has been climbing for seven consecutive months.

Figure 8



The claimant count in Cheltenham Borough was 1,647 people in October 2008. Figure 8 shows the claimant count increasing each month since April 2008. In addition, claimant counts have increased every month on the same month the previous year since July 2008.

Cheltenham Borough – Wards

Figure 9

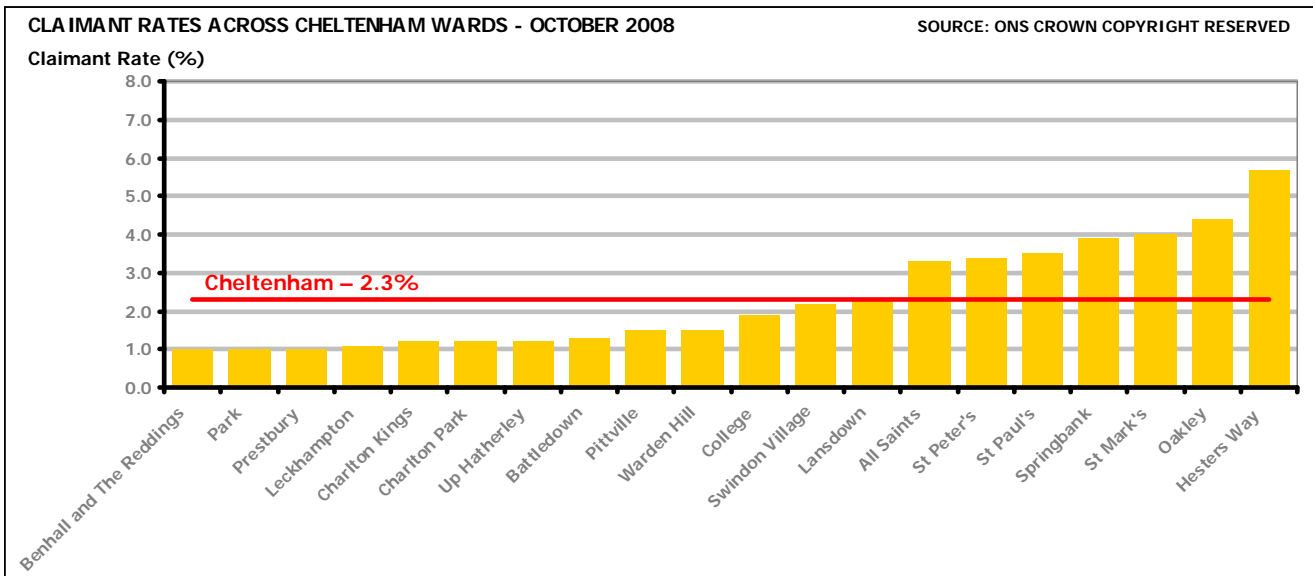


Figure 9 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with seven wards above the average.

Table 3: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Ward level – October 2008

District	Ward	Rate	Rank ⁵	County Position
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.0	37	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Park	1.0	37	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.0	37	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.1	49	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.2	53	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.2	53	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.2	53	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.3	63	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.5	73	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	1.5	73	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	College	1.9	91	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	2.2	99	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.3	104	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	All Saints	3.3	116	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.4	118	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	St Paul's	3.5	119	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Springbank	3.9	125	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.0	126	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Oakley	4.4	129	bottom 10% of county
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.7	133	bottom 10% of county

Table 3 shows overall claimant counts for Cheltenham Borough wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire. The Lansdown ward had a monthly claimant rate below the average for the district for the first time in two years during October 2008.

⁵ This is the relative position of the ward against all other wards in Gloucestershire. 1 = "best" and 134 = "worst"

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Cotswold District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 10

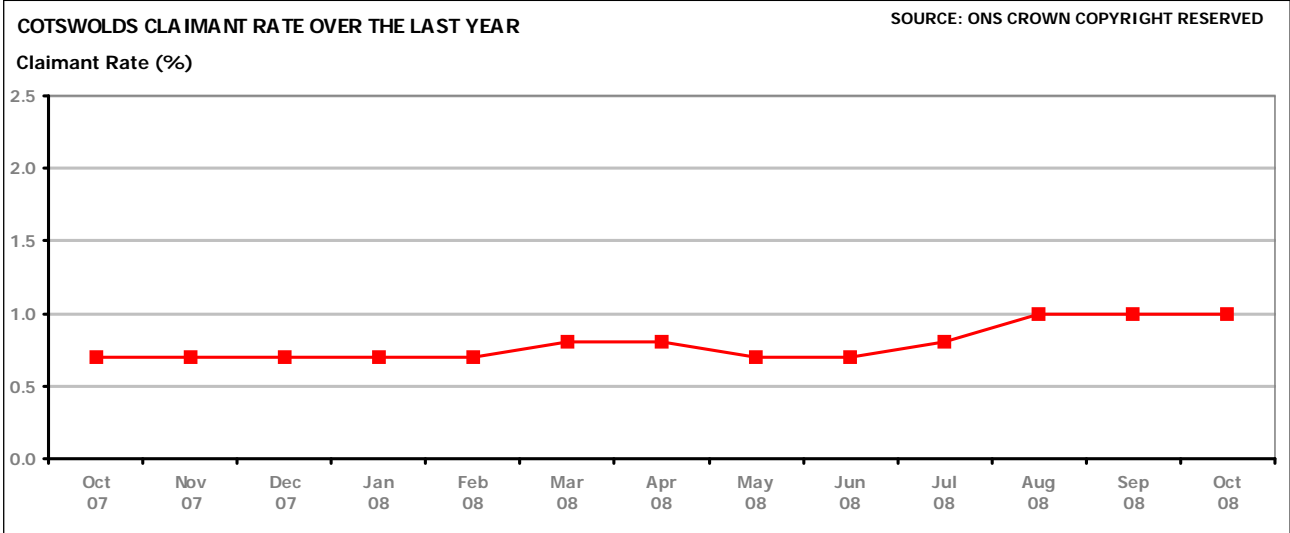
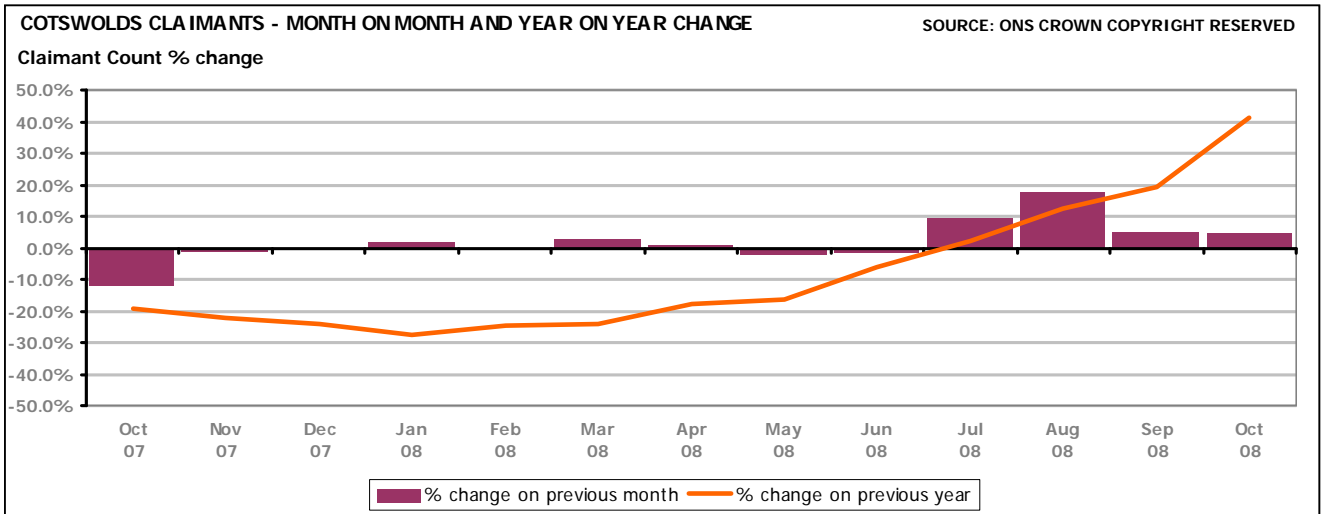


Figure 10 shows the claimant count in the Cotswolds at its highest rate for over a year. The rate has been increasing since June 2008.

Figure 11



The claimant count in Cotswold District was 509 people in October 2008, the highest for over two years. This was an increase of 4.5% on the September 2008 total. Figure 11 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. In October 2008, the claimant count was over 40% higher than it was in October 2007.

Cotswold District – Wards

Figure 12

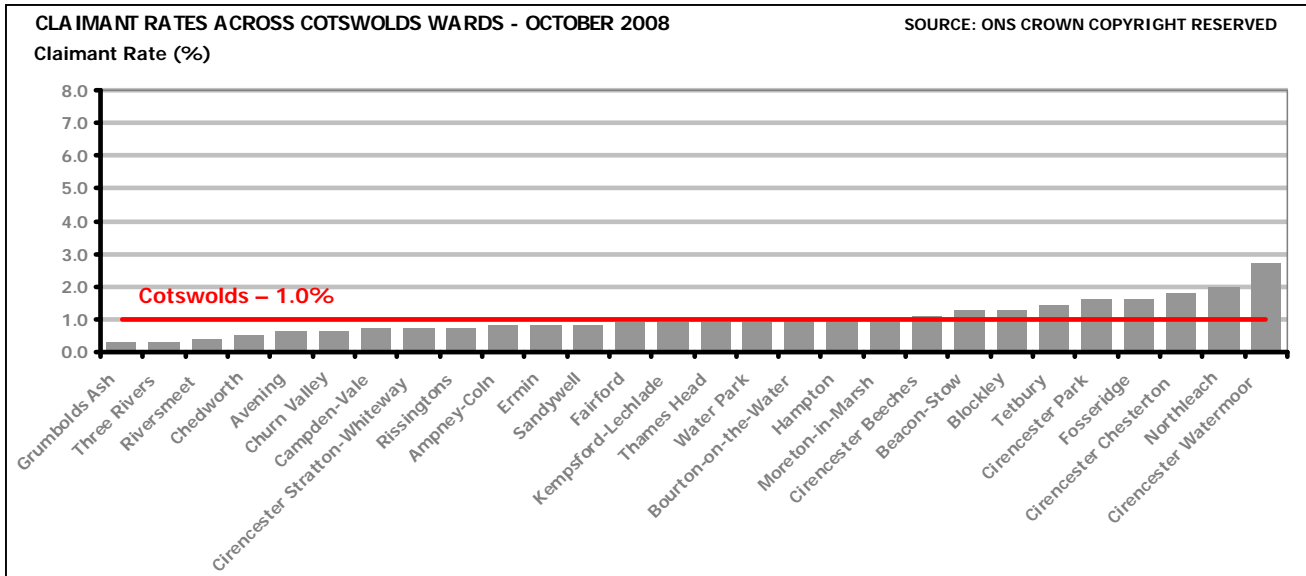


Figure 12 shows the claimant rate for the wards in Cotswold District. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Nine wards are above the Cotswold District average.

Table 4: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswolds Ward level – October 2008

District	Ward	Rate	Rank ⁶
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	0.3	1
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	0.3	1
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	0.4	3
Cotswolds	Chedworth	0.5	4
Cotswolds	Avening	0.6	7
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	0.6	7
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	0.7	12
Cotswolds	Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway	0.7	12
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	1	12
Cotswolds	Ampney-Coln	0.8	17
Cotswolds	Ermin	0.8	17
Cotswolds	Sandywell	0.8	17
Cotswolds	Fairford	0.9	30
Cotswolds	Kempsford-Lechlade	0.9	30
Cotswolds	Thames Head	0.9	30
Cotswolds	Water Park	0.9	30
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	1.0	37
Cotswolds	Hampton	1.0	37
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	1.0	37
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	1.1	49
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	1.3	63
Cotswolds	Blockley	1.3	63
Cotswolds	Tetbury	1.4	67
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	1.6	80
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.6	80
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	1.8	89
Cotswolds	Northleach	2.0	94
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	2.7	114

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

Table 4 shows overall claimant counts for Cotswold District wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

Within the District, five wards frequently have claimant rates above the district average. These are Watermoor, Fosseridge, Park, Chesterton, Northleach and Tetbury.

The Beacon Stow ward was above the district average for claimants for the first time in five months.

⁶ This is the relative position of the ward against all other wards in Gloucestershire. 1 = "best" and 134 = "worst"

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Forest of Dean District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 13

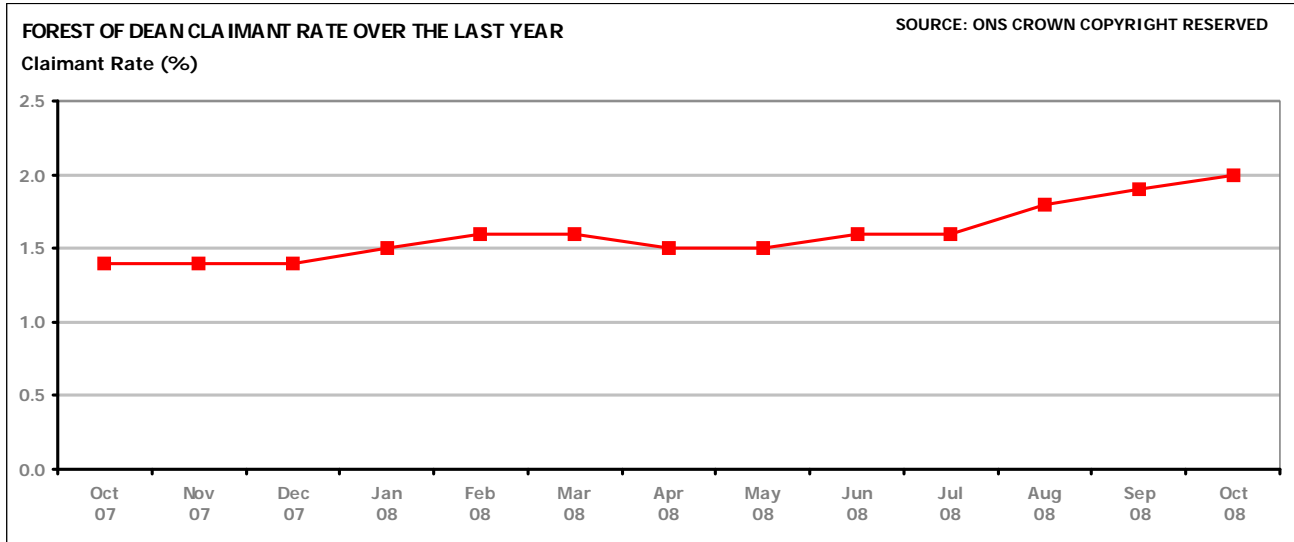
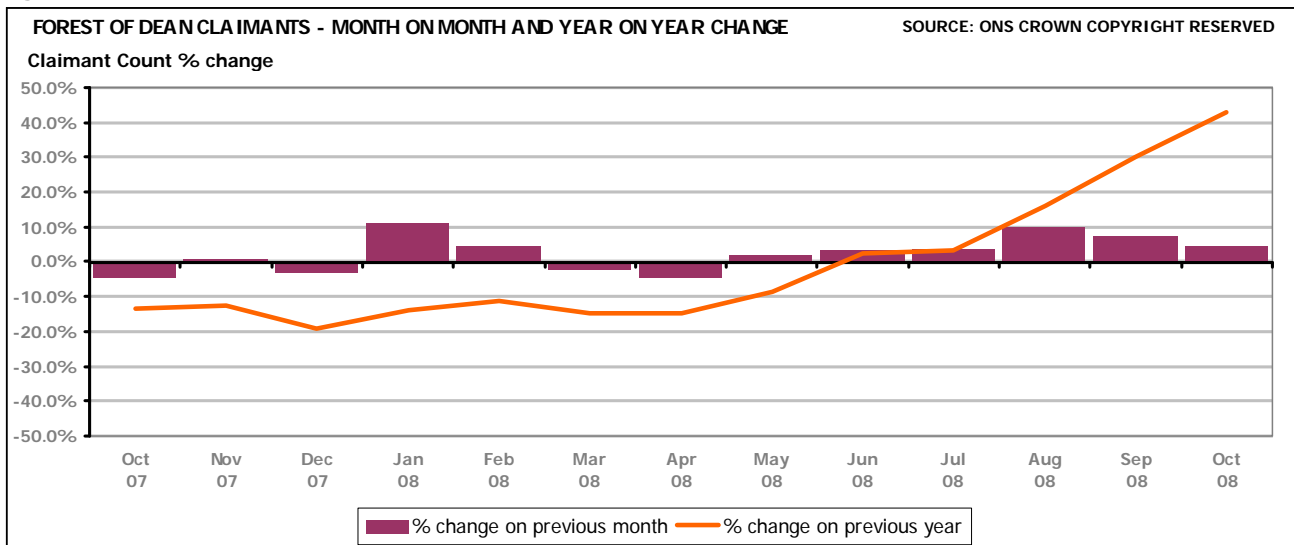


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean at the highest point for over a year.

Figure 14



The claimant count in the Forest of Dean District was 997 people for October 2008, the highest amount since April 2007. Figure 14 shows that monthly claimant counts have been increasing since May 2008, and the claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008. The number of claimants in October 2008 exceeded that of October 2007 by almost 45%

Forest of Dean District – Wards

Figure 15

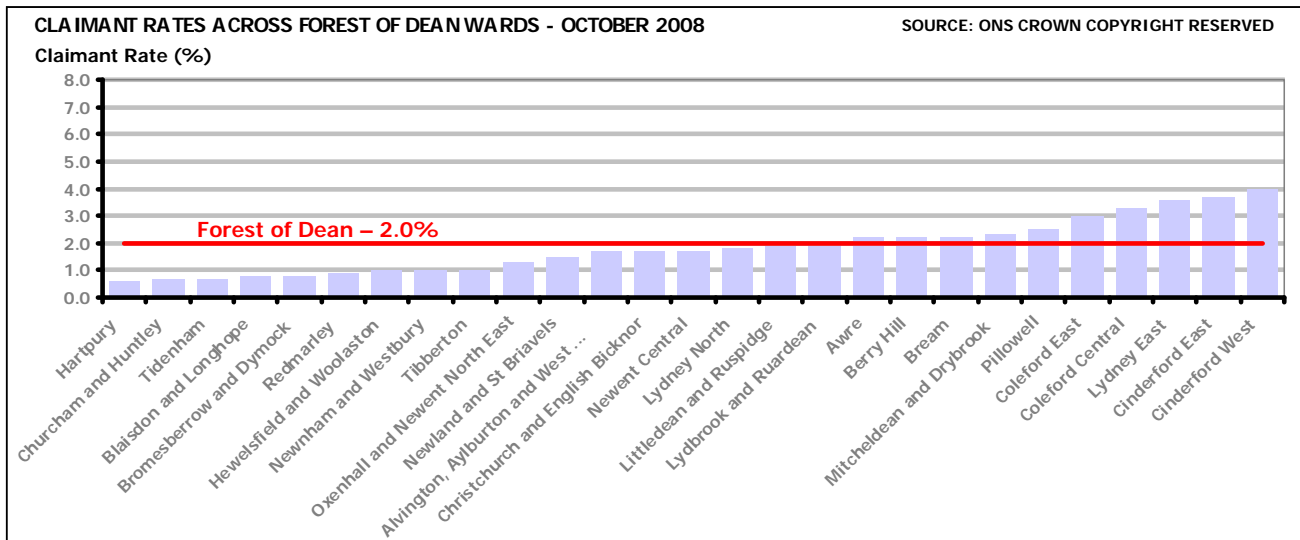


Figure 15 shows the claimant rate for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District, and ten wards are above this average

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean Ward level – October 2008

District	Ward	Rate	Rank ⁷
Forest	Hartpur	0.6	7
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	0.7	12
Forest	Tidenham	0.7	12
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	0.8	17
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	0.8	17
Forest	Redmarley	0.9	30
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	1.0	37
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	1.0	37
Forest	Tibberton	1.0	37
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent North East	1.3	63
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	1.5	73
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney	1.7	86
Forest	Christchurch and English Bicknor	1.7	86
Forest	Newent Central	1.7	86
Forest	Lydney North	1.8	89
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	1.9	91
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	1.9	91
Forest	Awre	2.2	99
Forest	Berry Hill	2.2	99
Forest	Bream	2.2	99
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	2.3	104
Forest	Pillowell	2.5	109
Forest	Coleford East	3.0	115
Forest	Coleford Central	3.3	116
Forest	Lydney East	3.6	120
Forest	Cinderford East	3.7	121
Forest	Cinderford West	4.0	126

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

Table 5 shows overall claimant counts for the Forest of Dean District wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

The claimant count in the Awre ward increased by 0.4% between September 2008 and October 2008 and was above the district average for the first time in four months.

In addition, the Pillowell ward had a claimant rate increase of 0.6% between September 2008 and October 2008, and was above the district average for claimants for the first time in over a year and a half.

⁷ This is the relative position of the ward against all other wards in Gloucestershire. 1 = "best" and 134 = "worst"

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Gloucester City

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 16

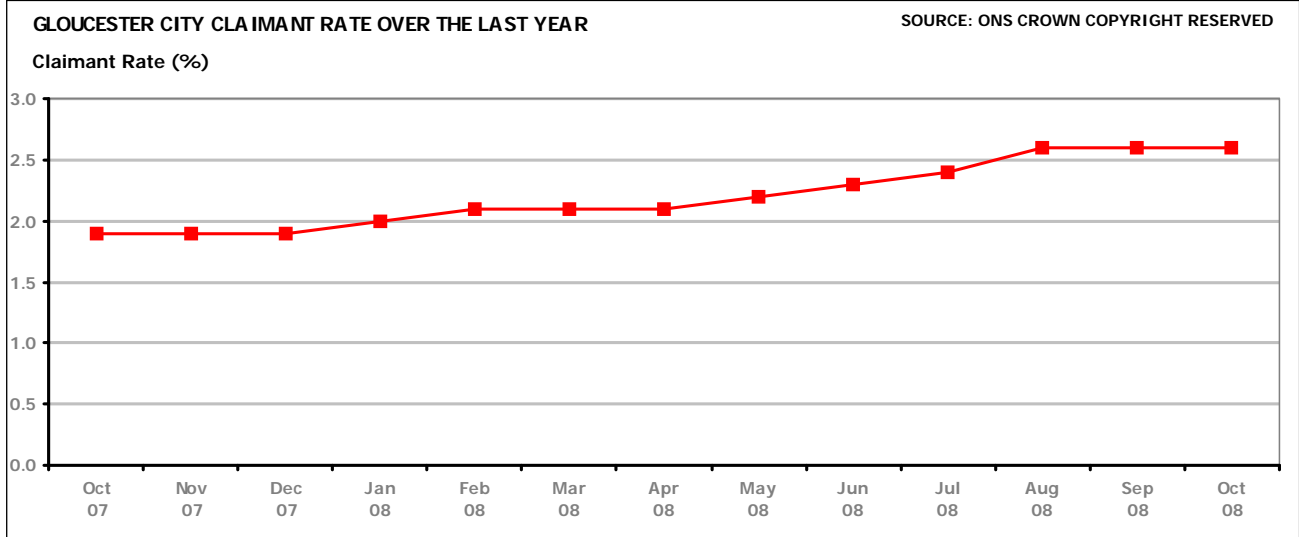
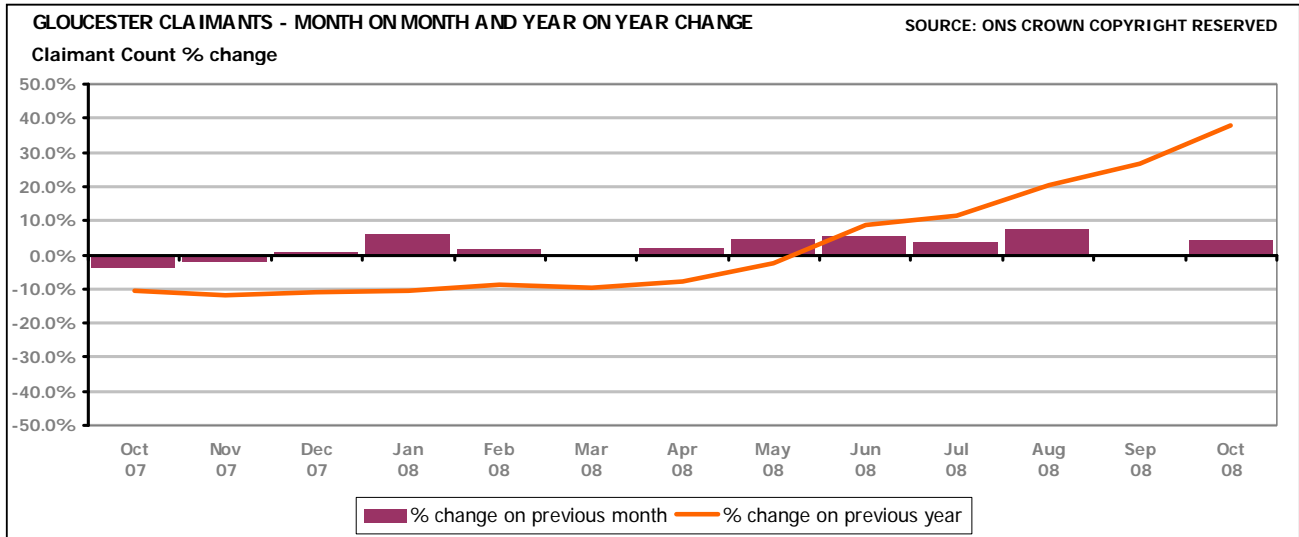


Figure 16 shows the claimant rate at 2.6% for October 2008. Although there was an increase in claimants, this does not show up as an increase in the claimant rate due to the effect of rounding.

Figure 17



Gloucester City's claimant count was 1,879 people in October 2008, a small increase of 73 claimants on the September 2008 count. Figure 17 shows the claimant count increasing since April 2008, before falling during September 2008, and then rising again in October 2008. Claimant counts have been up every month on the same month the previous year since May 2008, and the claimant count in October 2008 was 38% higher than it had been in October 2007.

Gloucester City – Wards

Figure 18

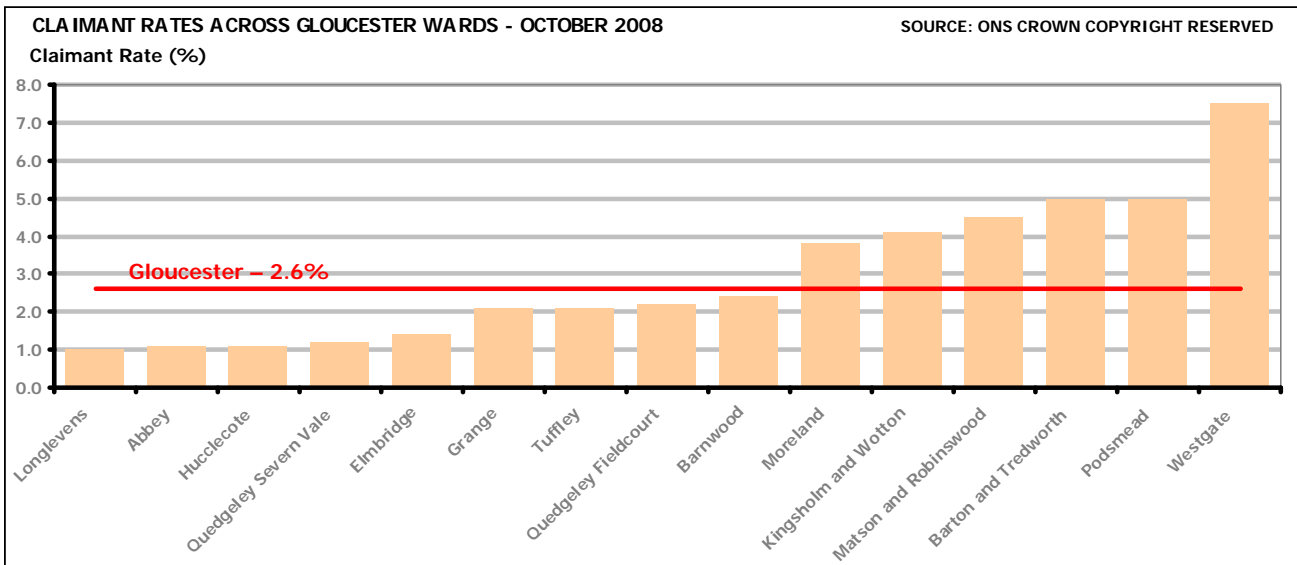


Figure 18 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City and six of the wards are above the City average.

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City Ward level – October 2008

District	Ward	Rate	Rank ⁸	Performance Category
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.0	37	bottom 10% of county
Gloucester	Abbey	1.1	49	bottom 10% of county
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.1	49	bottom 10% of county
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.2	53	bottom 10% of county
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.4	67	bottom 10% of county
Gloucester	Grange	2.1	97	first quartile of county
Gloucester	Tuffley	2.1	97	first quartile of county
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.2	99	first quartile of county
Gloucester	Barnwood	2.4	108	second quartile of county
Gloucester	Moreland	3.8	124	third quartile of county
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.1	128	third quartile of county
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	4.5	130	third quartile of county
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	5.0	131	fourth quartile of county
Gloucester	Podsmead	5.0	131	fourth quartile of county
Gloucester	Westgate	7.5	134	highest 10% of county

Table 6 shows overall claimant counts for Gloucester City wards, and their position relative to all wards across Gloucestershire. There has been little change in the relative positions of these wards over the last two years, with high claimant rates observed in the same areas month by month. Of these areas; Westgate, Podsmead, Barton and Tredworth, Matson and Robinswood, Kingsholm and Wotton and Moreland have had claimant rates higher than the average for Gloucester City every month for at least the last two years.

⁸ This is the relative position of the ward against all other wards in Gloucestershire. 1 = “best” and 134 = “worst”

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Stroud District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 19

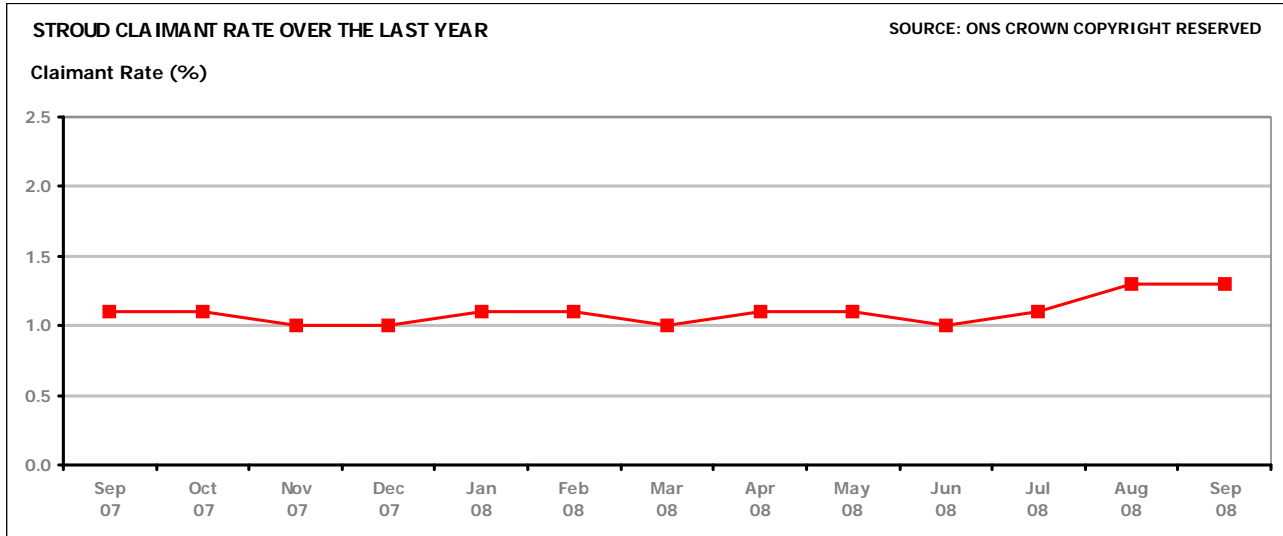
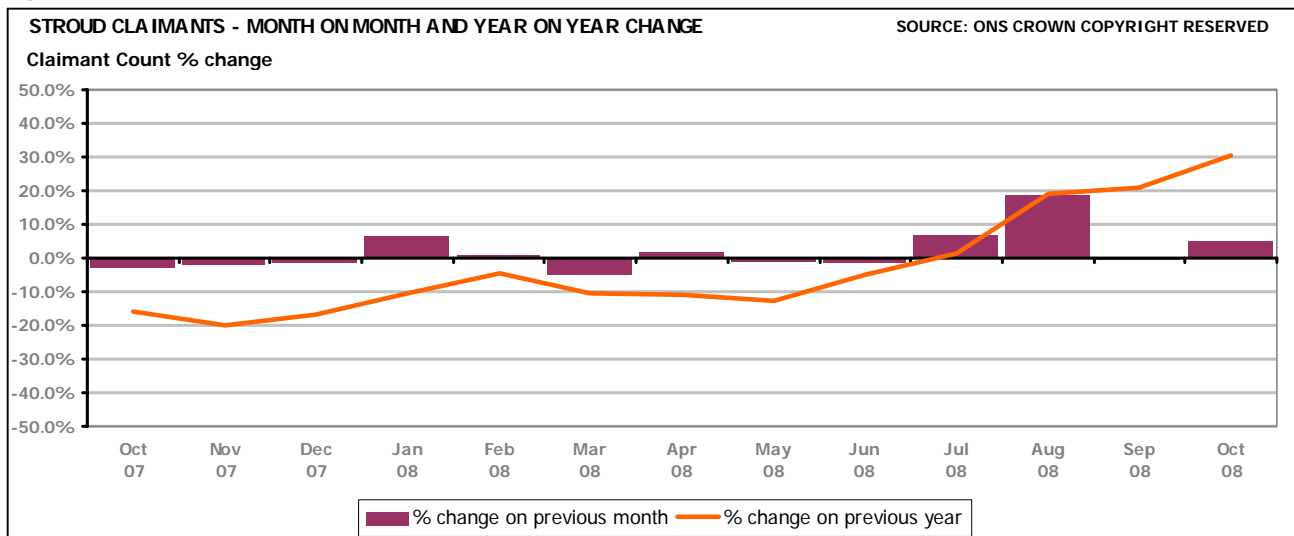


Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Stroud district. The claimant rate remains the highest it has been for over two years.

Figure 20



The claimant count in Stroud District was 908 people in October 2008. This was an increase of 42 claimants on the September 2008 count. Figure 20 shows claimant counts rising since June 2008, before falling slightly in September 2008 and then increasing again in October 2008. In addition, figure 19 also shows that when compared to the same month one year previous, claimant counts have been up since July 2008, and the October 2008 claimant counts was 30% higher than it was during October 2007.

Stroud District – Wards

Figure 21

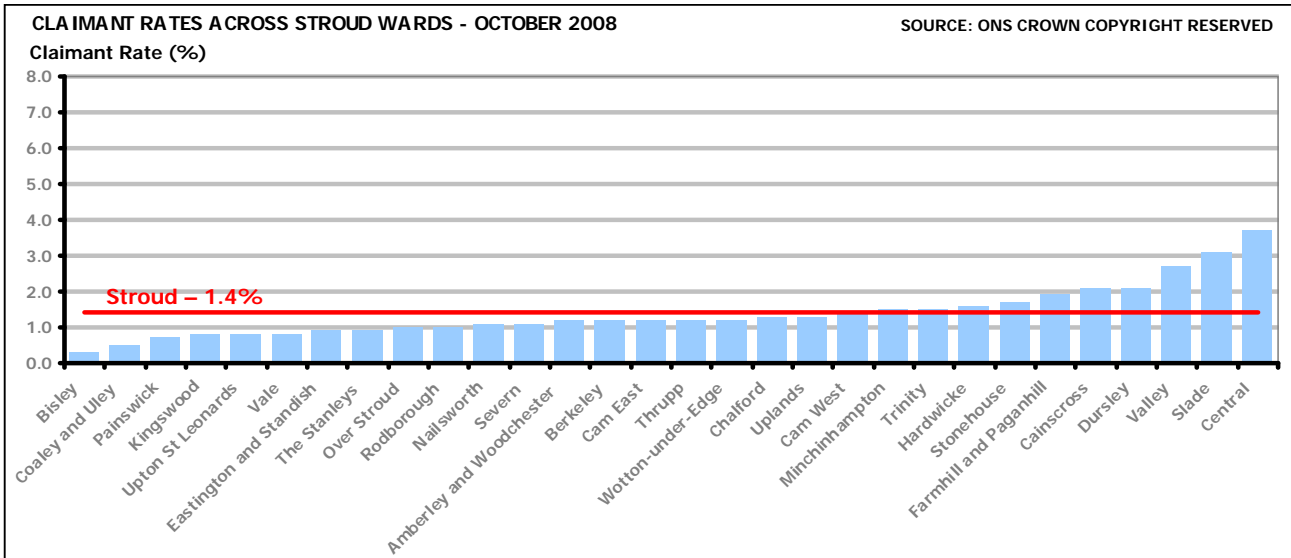


Figure 21 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and eight of the wards are above the District average.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District Ward level – October 2008

District	Ward	Rate	Rank ⁹
Stroud	Bisley	0.3	1
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	0.5	5
Stroud	Painswick	0.7	12
Stroud	Kingswood	0.8	18
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	0.8	18
Stroud	Vale	0.8	18
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	0.9	30
Stroud	The Stanleys	0.9	30
Stroud	Over Stroud	1.0	38
Stroud	Rodborough	1.0	38
Stroud	Nailsworth	1.1	51
Stroud	Severn	1.1	51
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.2	57
Stroud	Berkeley	1.2	57
Stroud	Cam East	1.2	57
Stroud	Thrupp	1.2	57
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.2	57
Stroud	Chalford	1.3	69
Stroud	Uplands	1.3	69
Stroud	Cam West	1.4	75
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.5	80
Stroud	Trinity	1.5	80
Stroud	Hardwicke	1.6	87
Stroud	Stonehouse	1.7	92
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	1.9	98
Stroud	Cainscross	2.1	104
Stroud	Dursley	2.1	104
Stroud	Valley	2.7	120
Stroud	Slade	3.1	123
Stroud	Central	3.7	129

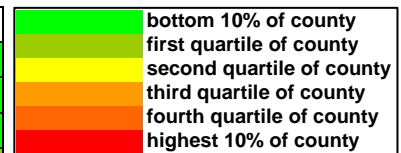


Table 7 shows overall claimant counts for Stroud District wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

Cainscross, Dursley, Valley, Slade and Central wards have all been above the district average for at least the last two years.

Hardwicke has started to experience higher rates of claimants, and has been above the District average for the sixth month running, having spent the previous 18 months below the district average.

⁹ This is the relative position of the ward against all other wards in Gloucestershire. 1 = "best" and 134 = "worst"

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Tewkesbury Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 22

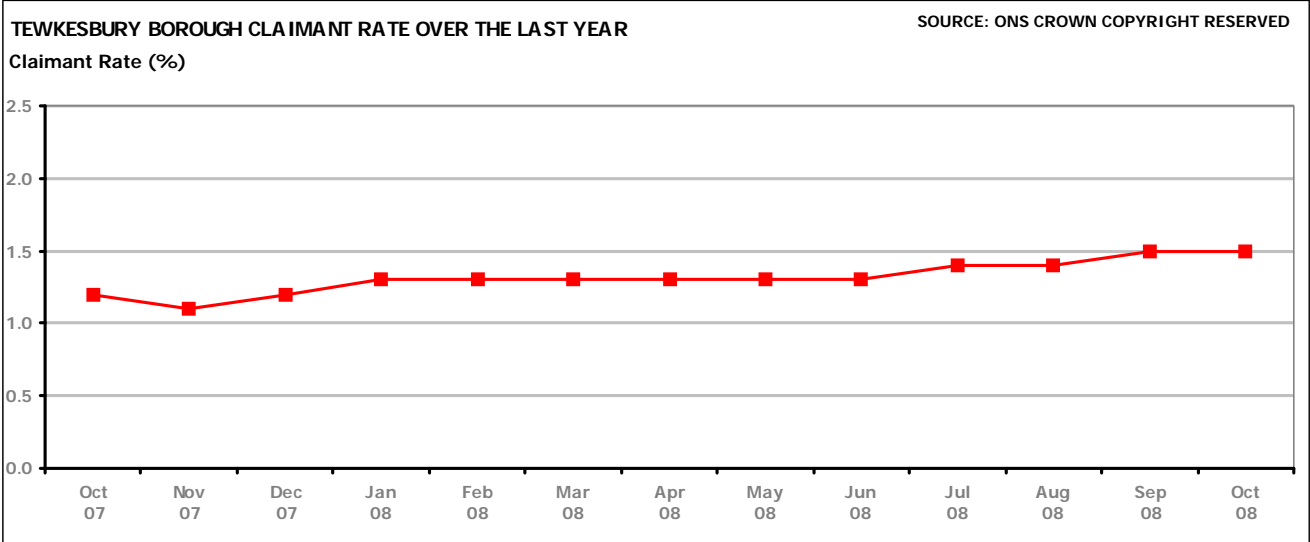
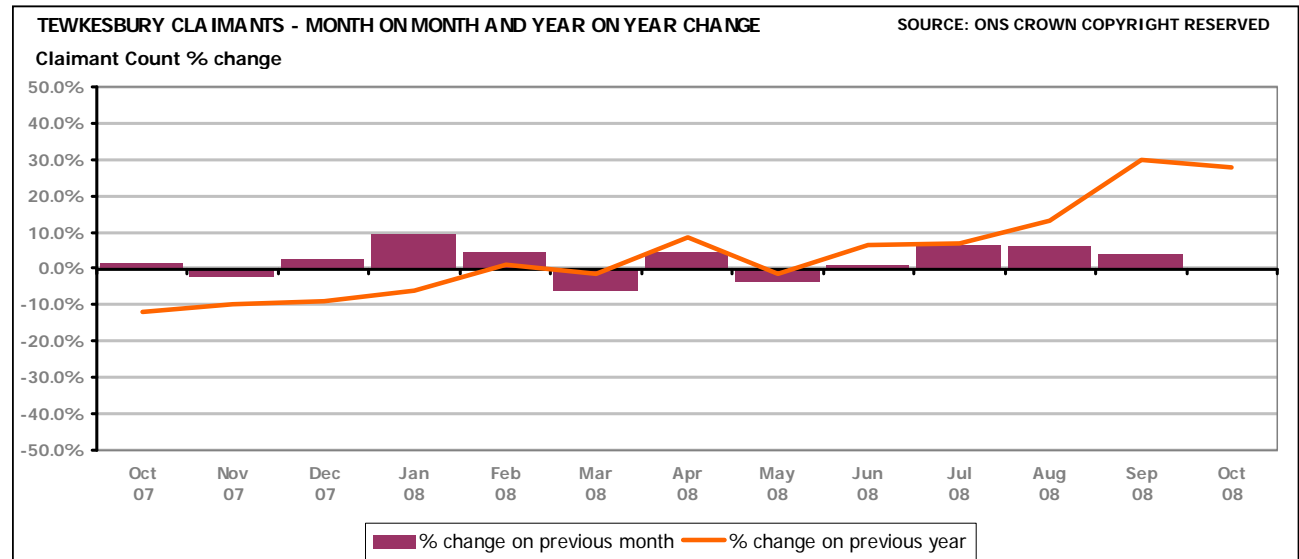


Figure 22 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough over the past year.

Figure 22



The claimant count in Tewkesbury Borough was 699 people in October 2008. This was a drop of one claimant on the September 2008 figure. Claimant counts have been up every month compared to the same month the previous year since June 2008. The count in October 2008 was 28% higher than it was in October 2007. Although a considerable increase, the figure of 28% was the lowest yearly increase amongst Gloucestershire's six districts.

Tewkesbury Borough - Wards

Figure 23

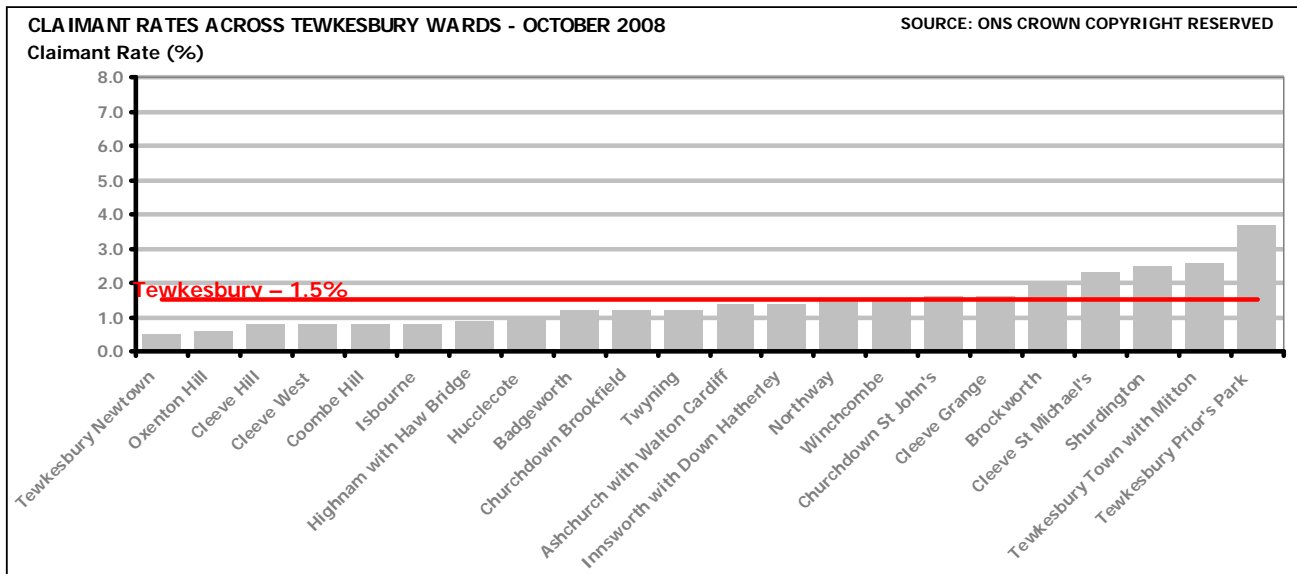


Figure 23 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough and seven of the wards are above the Borough average.

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough Ward level – October 2008

District	Ward	Rate	Rank ¹⁰	County Position
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	0.5	5	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	0.6	8	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.8	18	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	0.8	18	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	0.8	18	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	0.8	18	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	0.9	30	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	1.0	38	first quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	1.2	57	second quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	1.2	57	second quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Twyning	1.2	57	second quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff	1.4	75	second quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	1.4	75	second quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Northway	1.5	80	third quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	1.5	80	third quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	1.6	87	third quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	1.6	87	third quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	2.0	102	third quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.3	113	fourth quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.5	117	fourth quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	2.6	119	fourth quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	3.7	129	highest 10% of county

Table 8 shows overall claimant counts for Tewkesbury Borough wards, and their position relative to all wards in the County.

There are a number of wards, which have higher levels of claimants within Tewkesbury Borough month on month. In particular, Prior's Park, Tewkesbury town with Mitton, Shurdington and Brockworth wards have all been above the Borough average for at least the last two years.

In addition Cleeve Grange and Ashchurch with Down Hatherley have both been above the Borough average for the last year

¹⁰ This is the relative position of the ward against all other wards in Gloucestershire. 1 = "best" and 134 = "worst"

Part 4: Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Connexions Gloucestershire is required to report performance with the 16-18 age range against nationally defined criteria for counting the NEET group which 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 October 2008 there were 838 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.6%. This has increased from 3.8% at the end of September 2008 and analysis of our NEET group as at the end of October 2008 shows that the economic recession is already having a negative impact within the county. When comparing data from October 2007 and October 2008 we can reveal a 32% rate increase in the numbers of young people joining the NEET group which equates to an additional 100 young people.

Total NEET Group by District Area 31st October 2008

	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	Total
NEET Group	187	70	112	223	161	85	838(*)
% NEET of total 16-18 cohort	6.7%	2.5%	3.7%	3.8%	4.8%	3.7%	4.6%(*)

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

Targeted action

Prospects Services Ltd who holds the contracts for both the Connexions service in Gloucestershire and the leadership and management of Gloucestershire's Integrated Young Peoples Services is working closely with a range of key stakeholders to develop and implement action to support young people through this challenging and uncertain time.

Targeted action is being developed in key areas including;

- Ensuring cohesion of support for both adults and young people
- Ensuring we have a flexible and responsive offer for NEET young people
- Ensuring that young people who progress into learning are able to sustain it

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