

Unemployment Bulletin

Volume 6 January 2009

Contents

Part 1: Summary

A summary of unemployment data at district, County, regional and national level 1

Part 2: County

Unemployment figures for the County compared to the South West and the rest of the UK 3

Part 3: Districts

A comparative break down of unemployment figures by district 4

Part 4: Wards

Further breakdown of unemployment figures by ward:

Cheltenham	6
Cotswolds	8
Forest of Dean	10
Gloucester	12
Stroud	14
Tewkesbury	16

Part 5: Young People

Data about Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) 18

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.

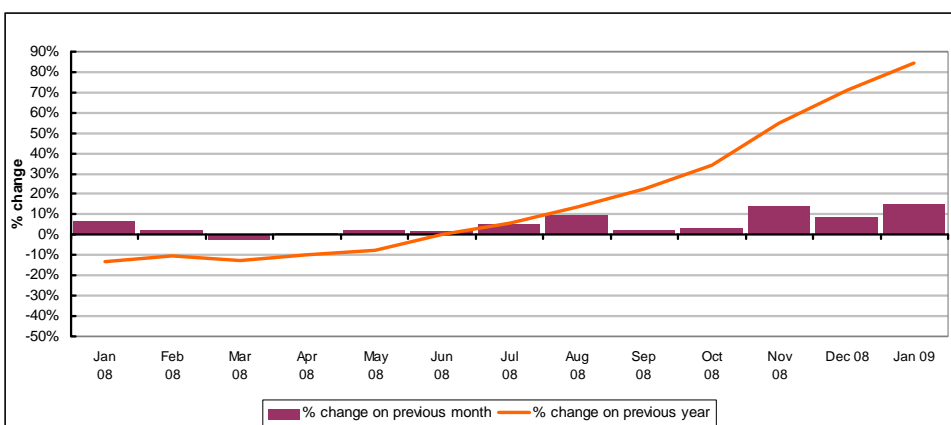
PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 2.7% in January 2009. This was an increase of 0.4% on the December 2008 figure. The rate has been continually increasing since July 2008. Both the UK and the South West rates also increased by 0.4% between December 2008 and January 2009. Gloucestershire's rate remains slightly above the South West average of 2.5%, but 0.7% lower than the UK average of 3.4%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in January 2009 rose by 1,259 people. The amount of people claiming in January 2009 was 15% higher than the number in December 2008 equalling a 15% increase in the South West and 11% for the UK.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire has been increasing since July 2008, it was 84% higher in January 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



Produced by:

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

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DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

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

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

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

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

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Claim count:	2,225
Compared to last month:	+12.5%
Claimant rate:	3.2%
Highest claiming ward	Hesters Way (6.3%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claim count:	2,579
Compared to last month:	+16.1%
Claimant rate:	3.6%
Highest claiming ward	Westgate (6.9%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claim count:	783
Compared to last month:	+22.3%
Claimant rate:	1.6%
Highest claiming ward	Cirencester Watermoor (4%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,369
Compared to last month:	+16.5%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward	Central (4.3%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claim count:	1,473
Compared to last month:	+12.8%
Claimant rate:	3%
Highest claiming ward	Cinderford West (5.6%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claim count:	1,069
Compared to last month:	+16.3%
Claimant rate:	2.3%
Highest claiming ward	Tewkesbury Priors Park (5.2%)

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

At the end of January 2009 there were 636 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 3.7%. This has remained in line with the strong performance of 3.9% at the end of November and December 2008 and, given the current economic climate, is very positive and results from continual tracking and enhanced support for young people from staff within Connexions.

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

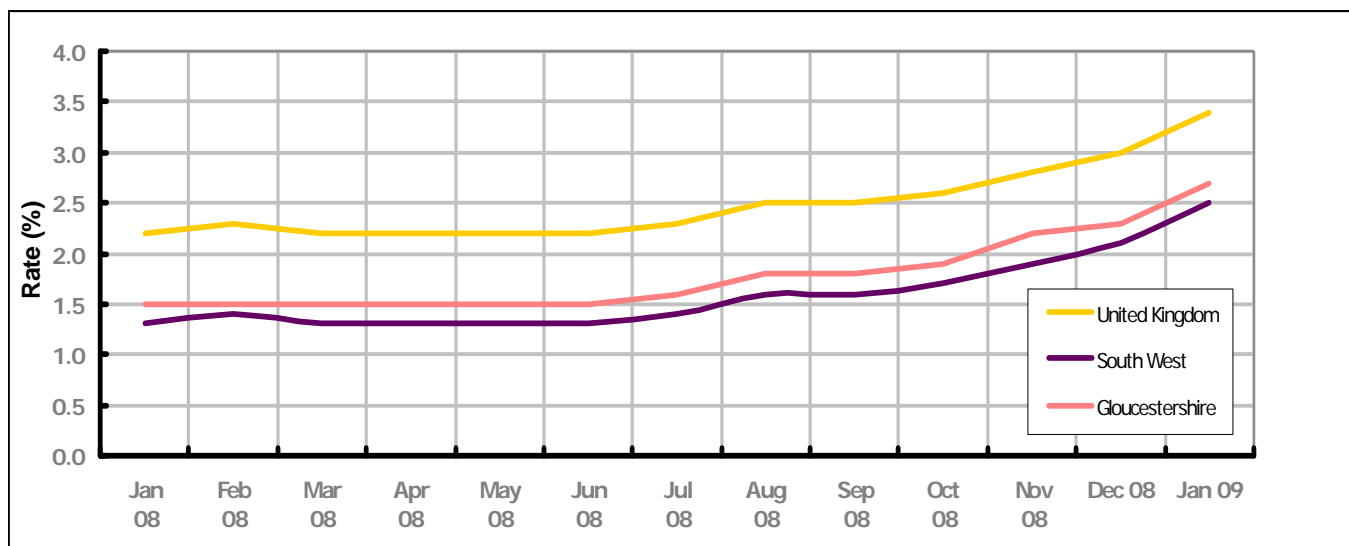


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.7% in January 2009. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.7% against the UK average during the same period. January 2009 represented a 0.4% increase on December 2008.

Claimant Count

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

Area	Claimant Count in January 2009	% change on December 2008	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,282,645	11.2	5.6	9
South West	76,814	15.1	8.1	9
Gloucestershire	9,498	15.3	7.2	10

Table 1 shows that in January 2009, the numbers of claimants in Gloucestershire was 15.3% higher than the numbers in December 2008. This is 4.1% higher than the UK figure and 0.2% higher than the South West.

The average growth in claimants in Gloucestershire for the six months to January 2009 was 7.2%. This is 1.6% higher than the UK average and 0.9% lower than the South West region.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

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

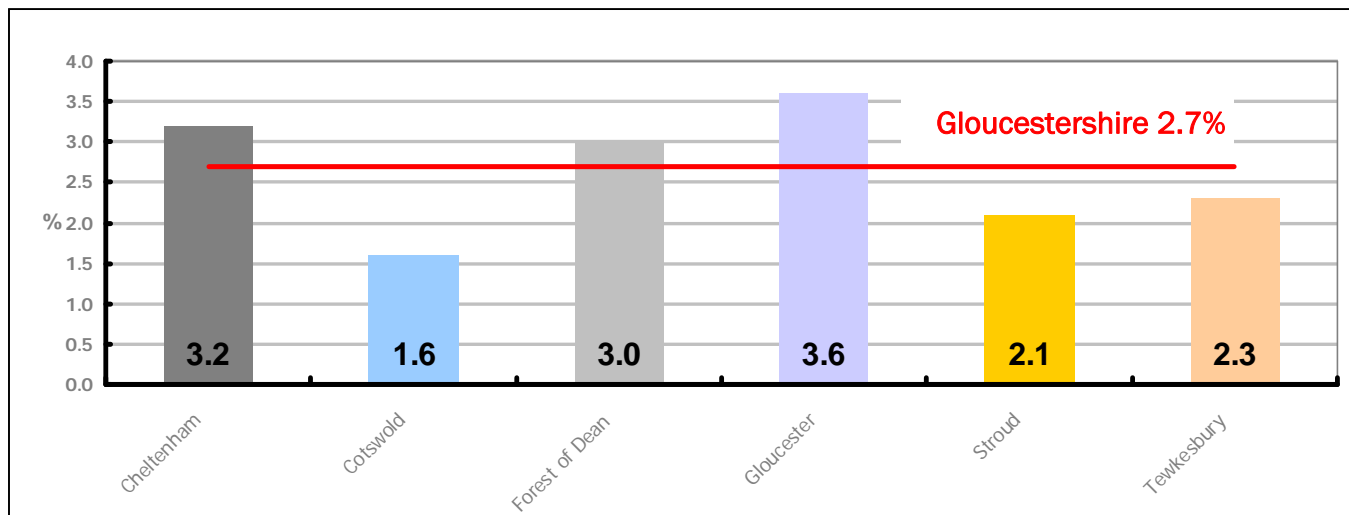


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for January 2009 in Gloucestershire. Every district in Gloucestershire experienced an increase in the claimant rate between December 2008 and January 2009.

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

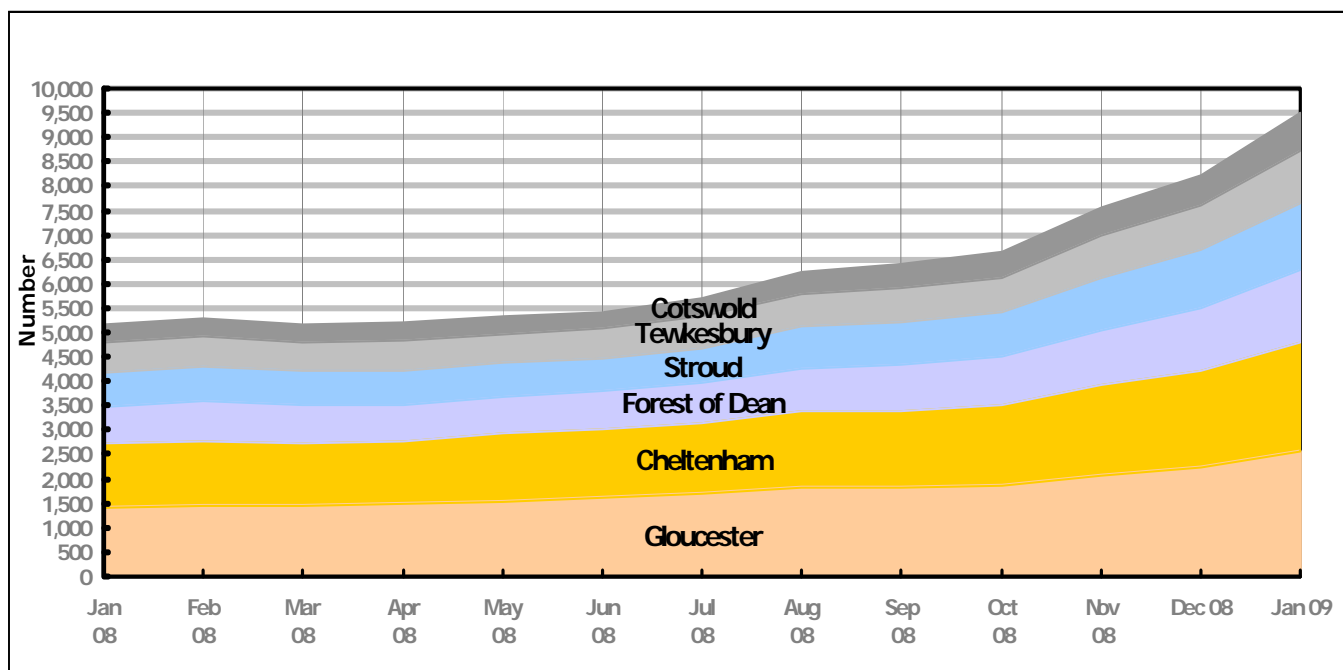


Figure 3 shows the overall claimant count for Gloucestershire over the past year. It demonstrates the gap that is widening across all the districts as the UK economy continues in recession. The widest gaps unsurprisingly reflect the urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in January 2009	% Change on December 2008	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
Cheltenham	2,225	12.5	6.1	10
Cotswold	783	22.3	9.1	7
Forest of Dean	1,473	12.8	8.8	8
Gloucester	2,579	16.1	6.1	4
Stroud	1,369	16.5	7.9	4
Tewkesbury	1,069	16.3	8.0	3
Gloucestershire	9,498	15.3	7.2	10

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in January 2009 compared to December 2008. The January 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Cotswold District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month and the highest average percentage increase over the last six months.

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

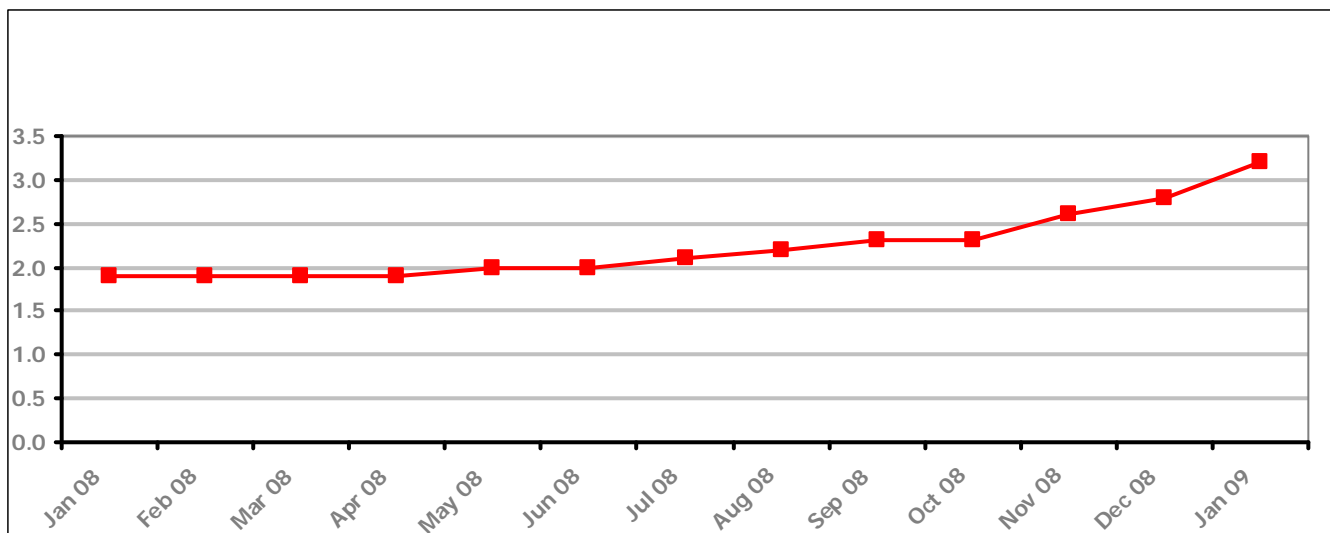


Figure 4 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham was at its highest for over a year at 3.2%. The rate has been climbing for nine consecutive months.

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

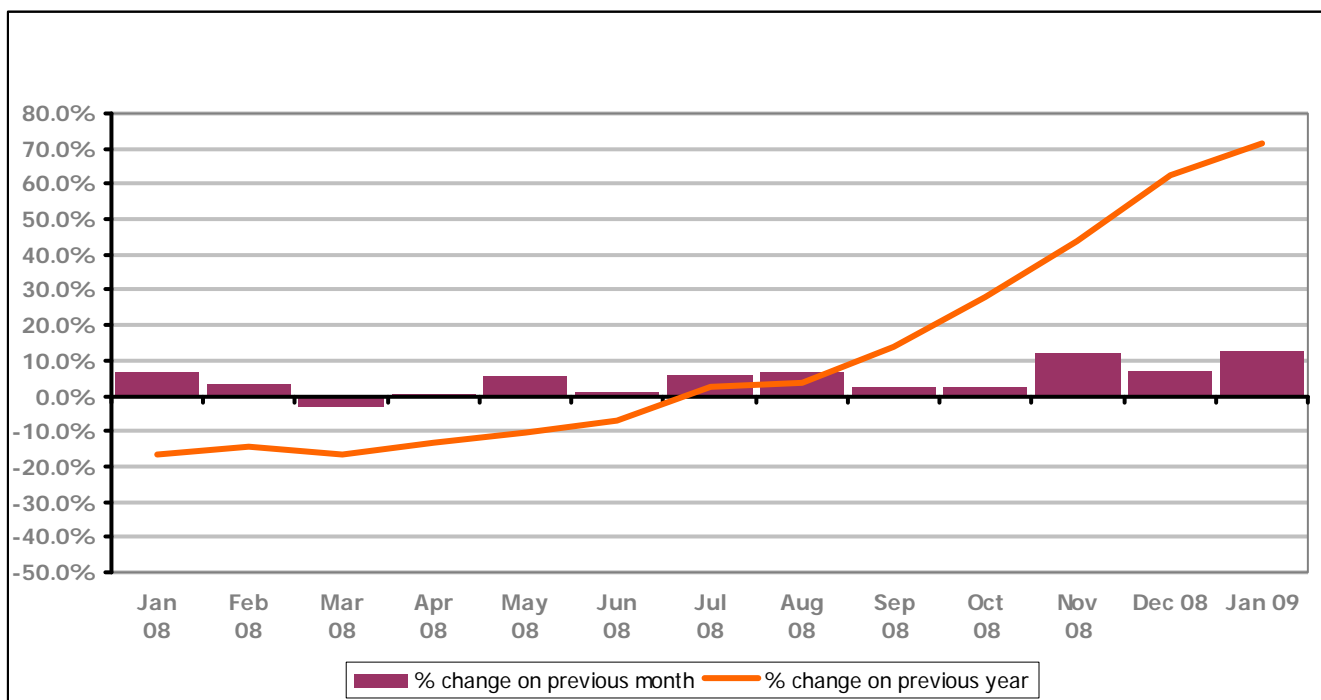


Figure 5 shows the claimant count continually increasing each month since April 2008. In addition, claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month in the previous year since July 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

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

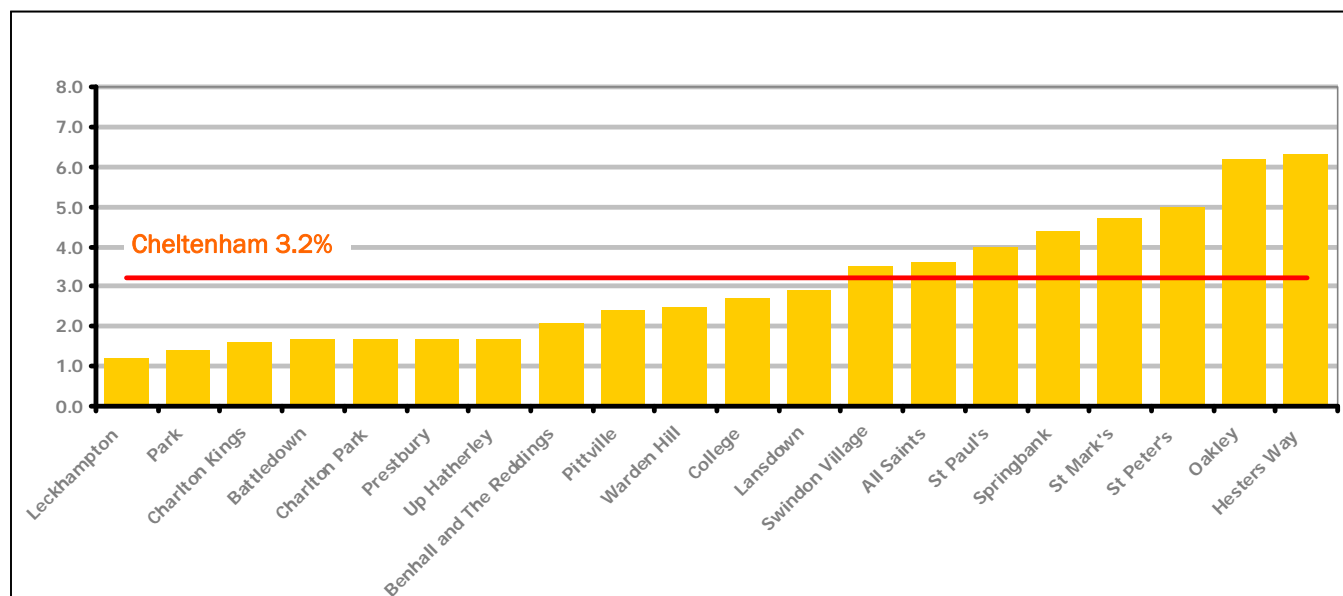
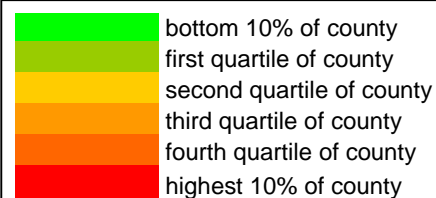


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with eight wards above the average of 3.2%.

Table 3: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - January 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.2	15
Cheltenham	Park	1.4	24
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.6	42
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.7	51
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.7	51
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.7	51
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.7	51
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	2.1	75
Cheltenham	Pittville	2.4	89
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.5	91
Cheltenham	College	2.7	94
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.9	102
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.5	114
Cheltenham	All Saints	3.6	116
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.0	122
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.4	127
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.7	130
Cheltenham	St Peter's	5.0	132
Cheltenham	Oakley	6.2	139
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	6.3	140



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

Table 3 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

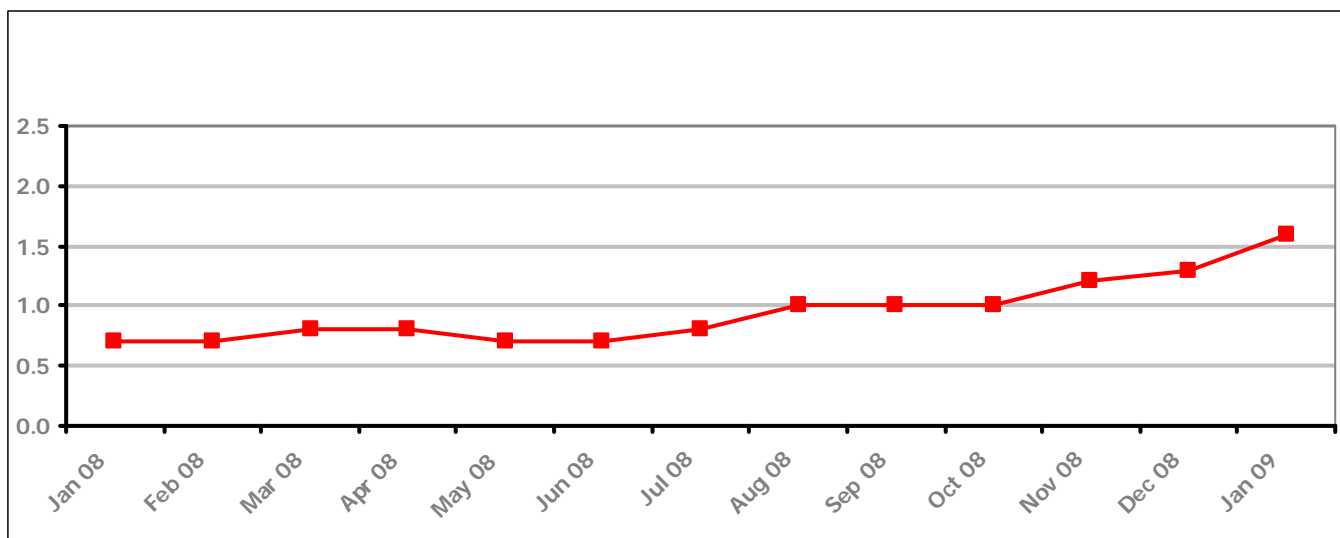


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District was at its highest for over a year at 1.6%. The rate has been increasing since June 2008.

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

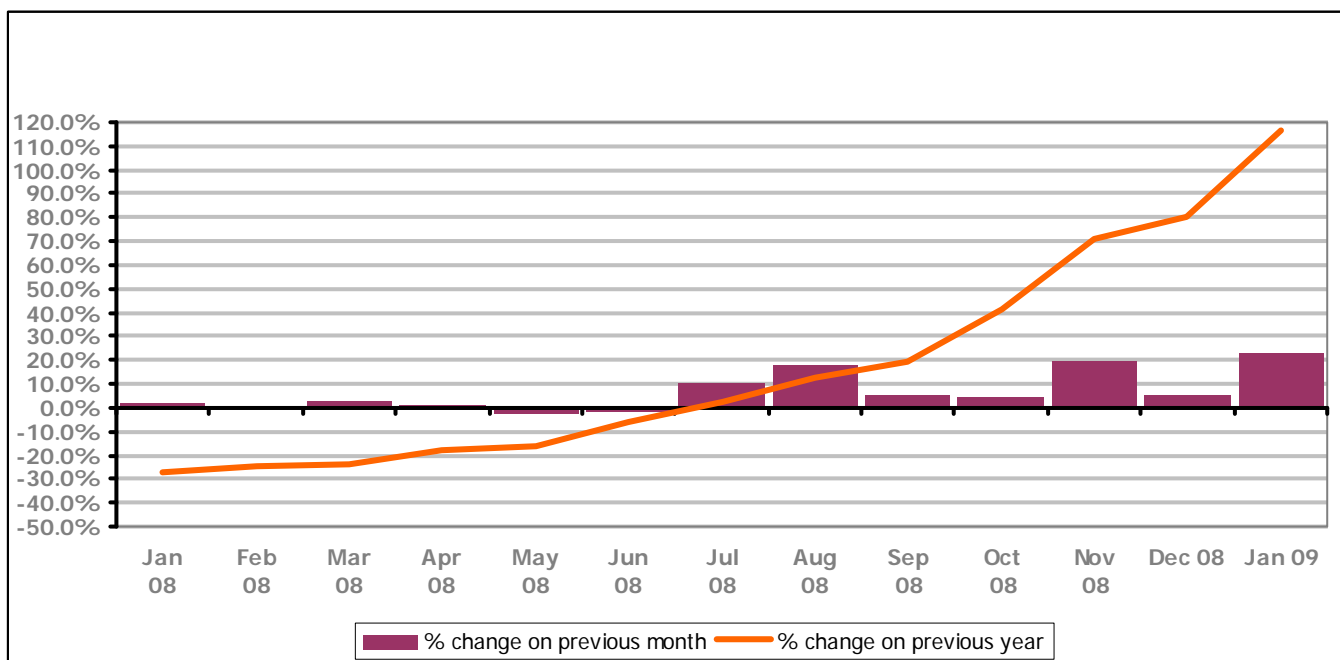


Figure 8 shows the claimant count increasing since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts are higher compared to the same month the previous year since July 2008. For example, in January 2009, the claimant count was over 117% higher than it was in January 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

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

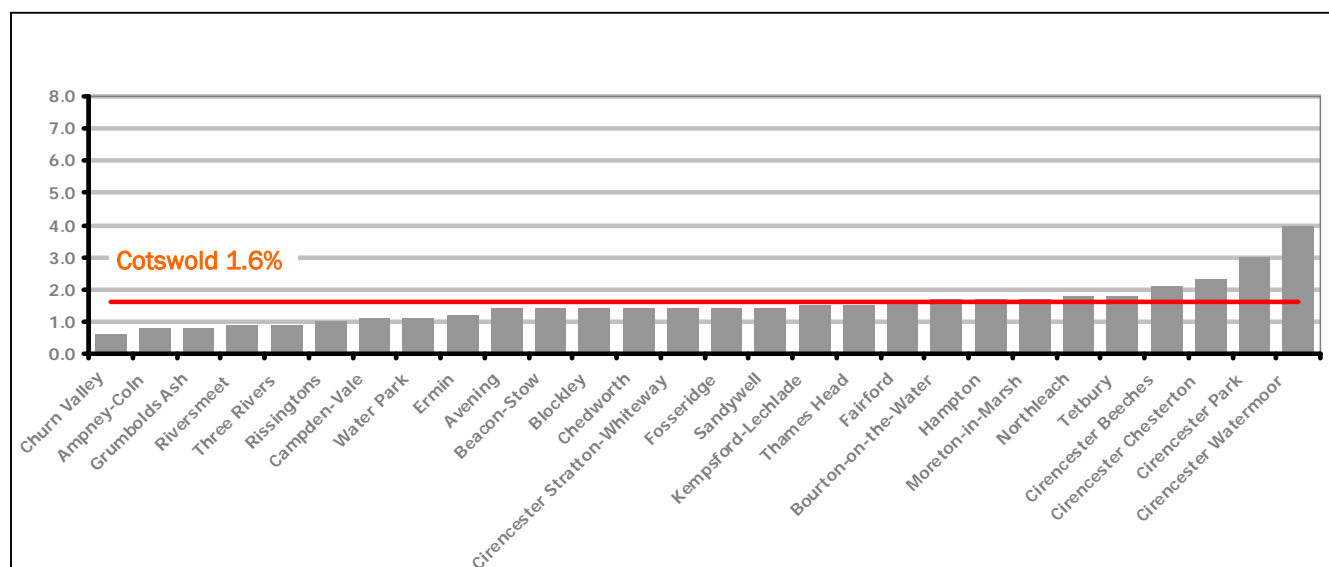


Figure 9 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Nine wards lie above the District average of 1.6%

Table 4: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - January 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	0.6	1
Cotswolds	Ampney-Coln	0.8	3
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	0.8	3
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	0.9	6
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	0.9	6
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	1.0	8
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	1.1	10
Cotswolds	Water Park	1.1	10
Cotswolds	Ermin	1.2	15
Cotswolds	Avening	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Blockley	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Chedworth	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Sandywell	1.4	24
Cotswolds	Kempsford-Lechlade	1.5	33
Cotswolds	Thames Head	1.5	33
Cotswolds	Fairford	1.6	42
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	1.7	51
Cotswolds	Hampton	1.7	51
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	1.7	51
Cotswolds	Northleach	1.8	63
Cotswolds	Tetbury	1.8	63
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	2.1	75
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	2.3	83
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	3.0	103
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	4.0	122

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 4 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

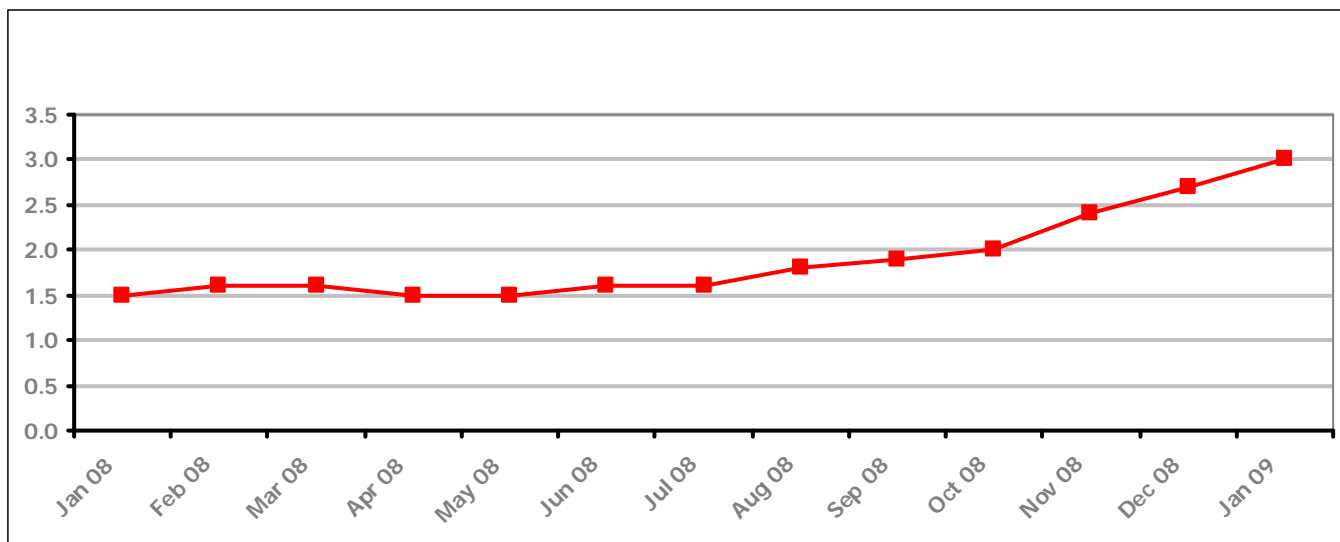


Figure 10 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean was at its highest for over a year at 3%. The rate has been increasing since July 2008.

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

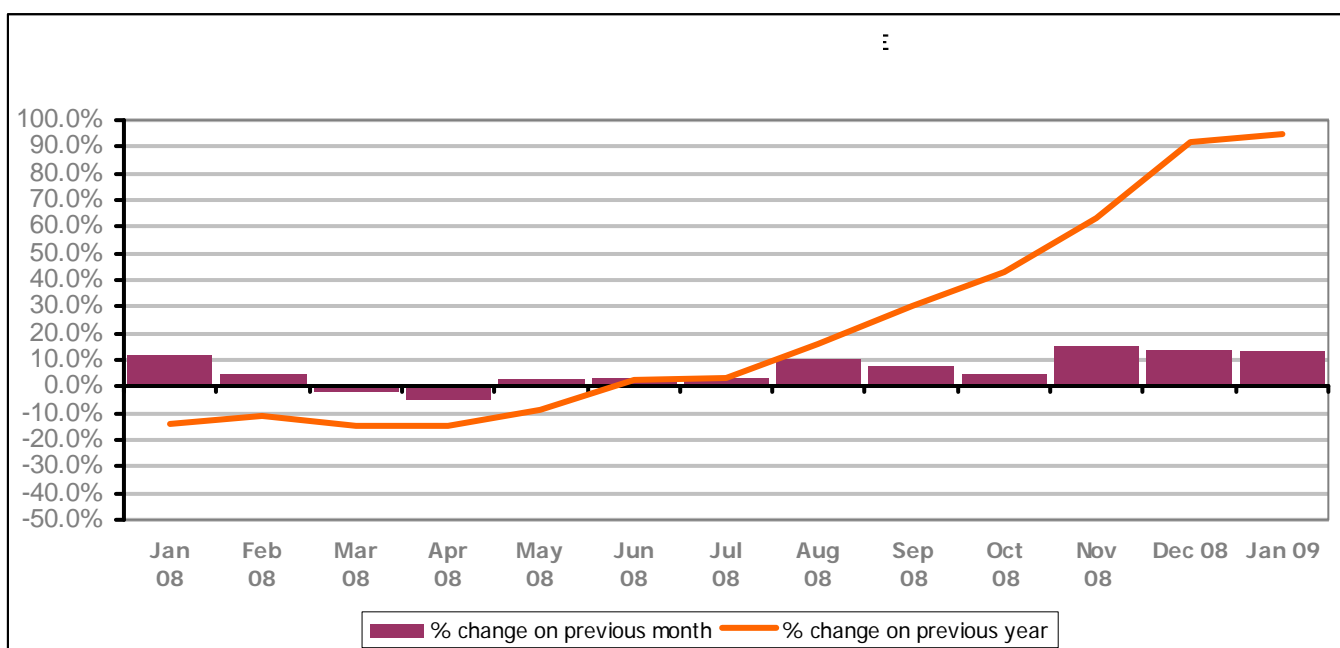


Figure 11 shows the claimant count has increased since May 2008, and that claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008. The number of claimants in January 2009 exceeded that of January 2008 by around 95%.

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 - January 2009

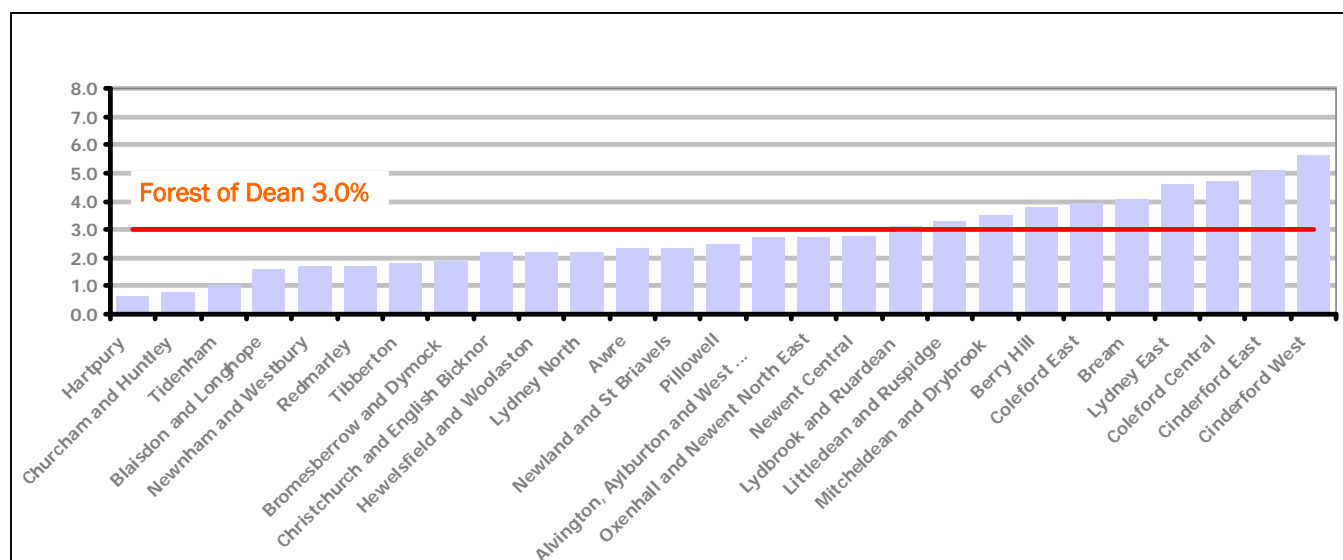
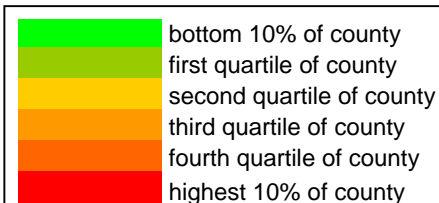


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Ten wards are above the District average of 3.0%

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - January 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury	0.6	1
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	0.8	3
Forest	Tidenham	1.0	8
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	1.6	42
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	1.7	51
Forest	Redmarley	1.7	51
Forest	Tibberton	1.8	63
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	1.9	69
Forest	Christchurch and English Bicknor	2.2	80
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	2.2	80
Forest	Lydney North	2.2	80
Forest	Awre	2.3	83
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	2.3	83
Forest	Pillowell	2.5	91
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney	2.7	94
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent North East	2.7	94
Forest	Newent Central	2.8	98
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	3.1	106
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	3.3	110
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	3.5	114
Forest	Berry Hill	3.8	120
Forest	Coleford East	3.9	121
Forest	Bream	4.1	124
Forest	Lydney East	4.6	129
Forest	Coleford Central	4.7	130
Forest	Cinderford East	5.1	133
Forest	Cinderford West	5.6	137



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

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

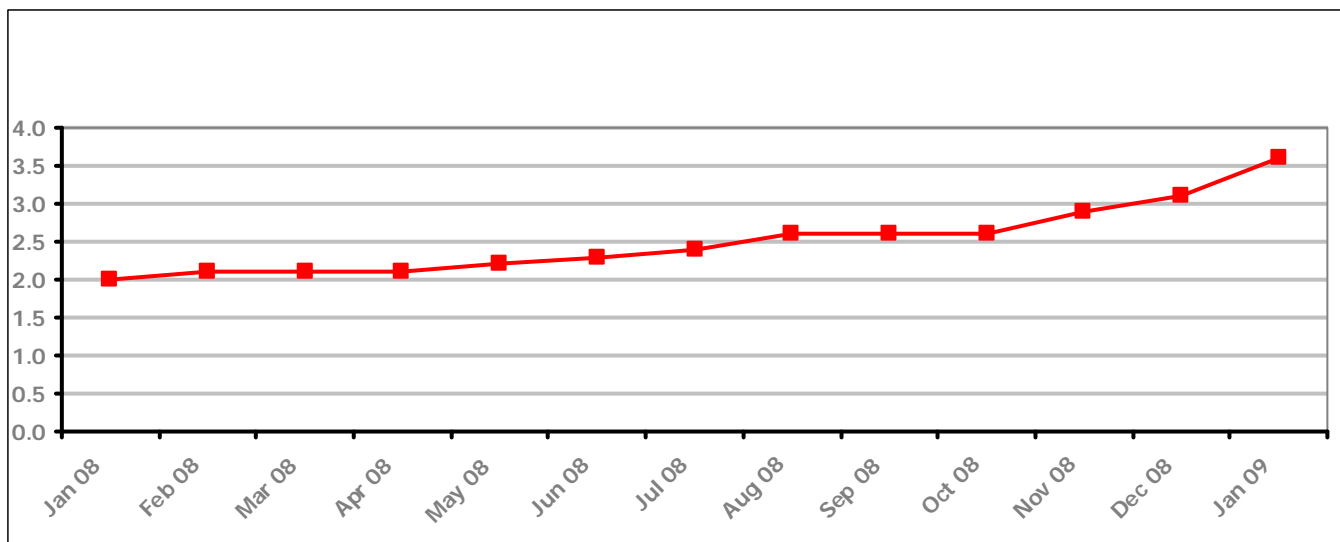
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City was at the highest point for over a year at 3.6%. The rate has been increasing since May 2008.

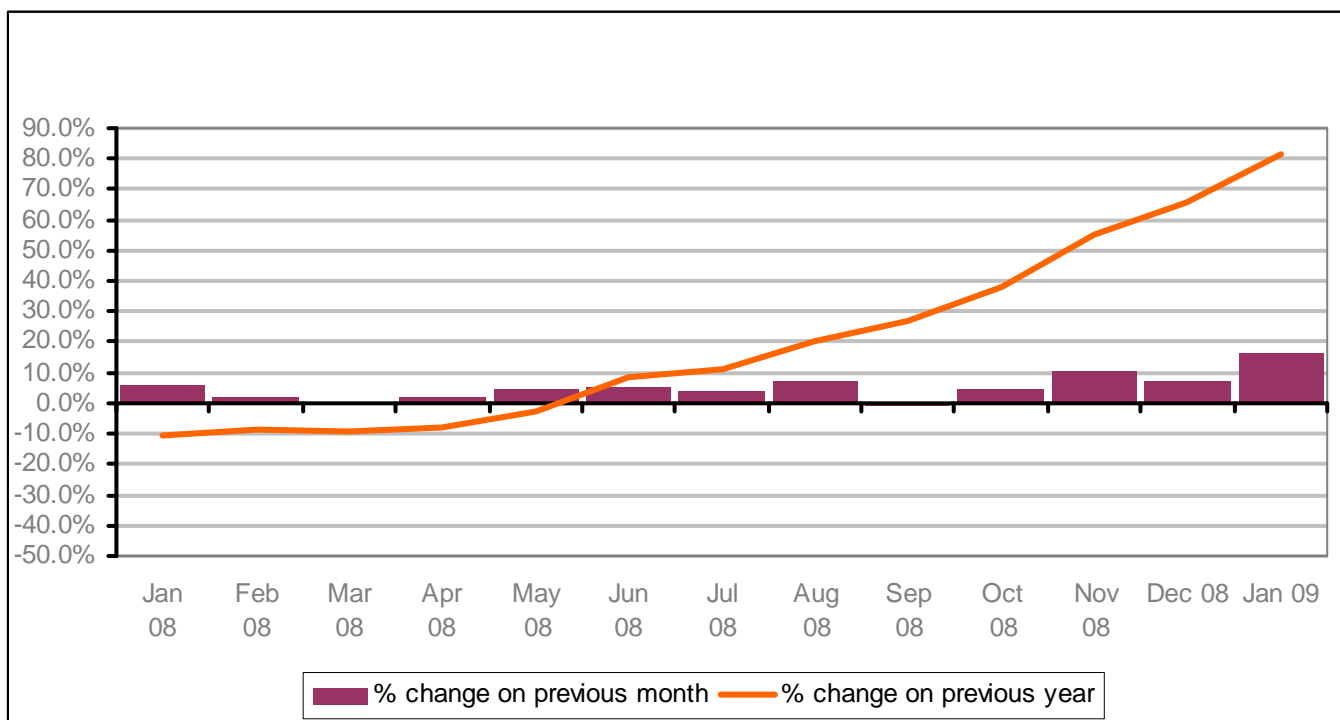
Figure 14: Gloucester City claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 14 shows the claimant count has always been increasing or remaining steady for over a year.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

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

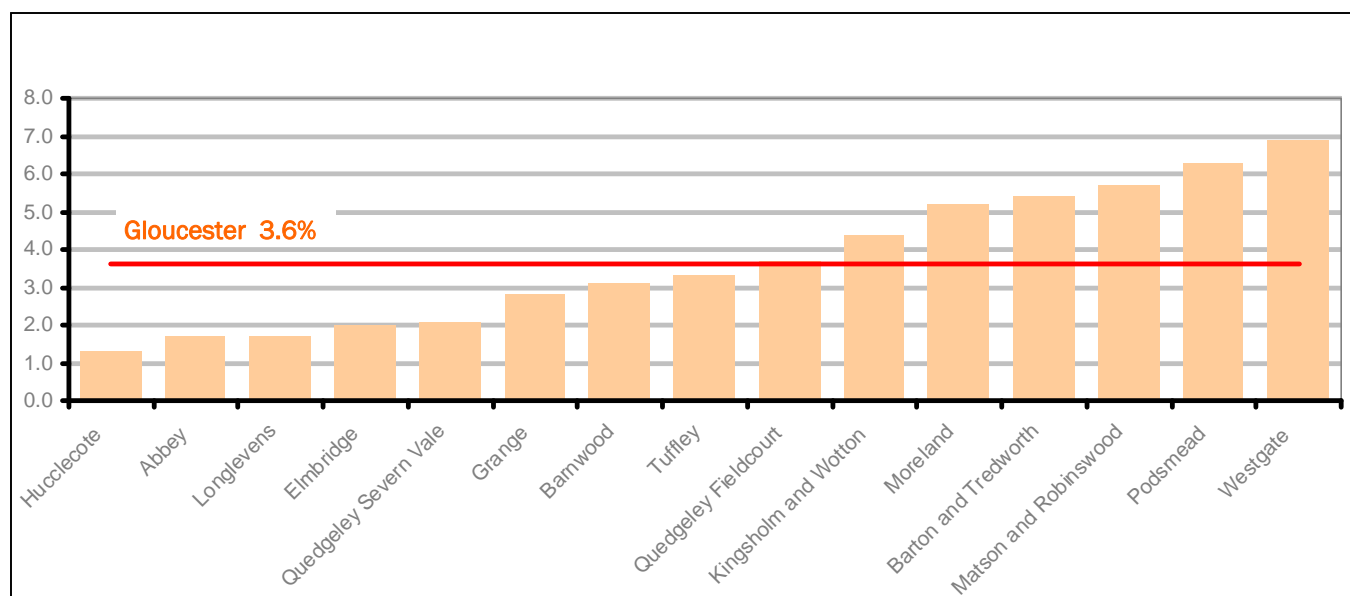
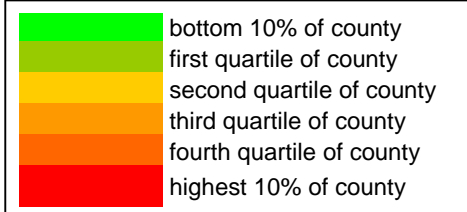


Figure 15 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City. Seven wards are above the City average of 3.6%

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - January 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.3	21
Gloucester	Abbey	1.7	51
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.7	51
Gloucester	Elmbridge	2.0	71
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	2.1	75
Gloucester	Grange	2.8	98
Gloucester	Barnwood	3.1	106
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.3	110
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	3.7	118
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.4	127
Gloucester	Moreland	5.2	134
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	5.4	136
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.7	138
Gloucester	Podsmead	6.3	140
Gloucester	Westgate	6.9	142



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

Table 6 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

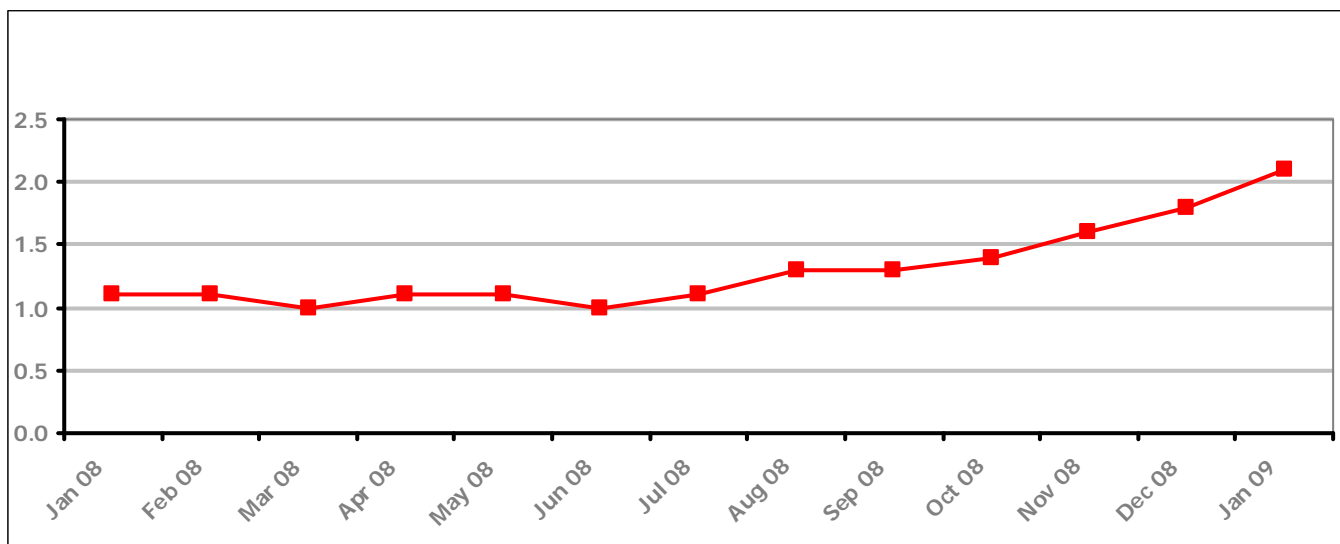


Figure 16 shows the claimant rate for Stroud District was at 2.1%, the highest it has been for over two years.

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

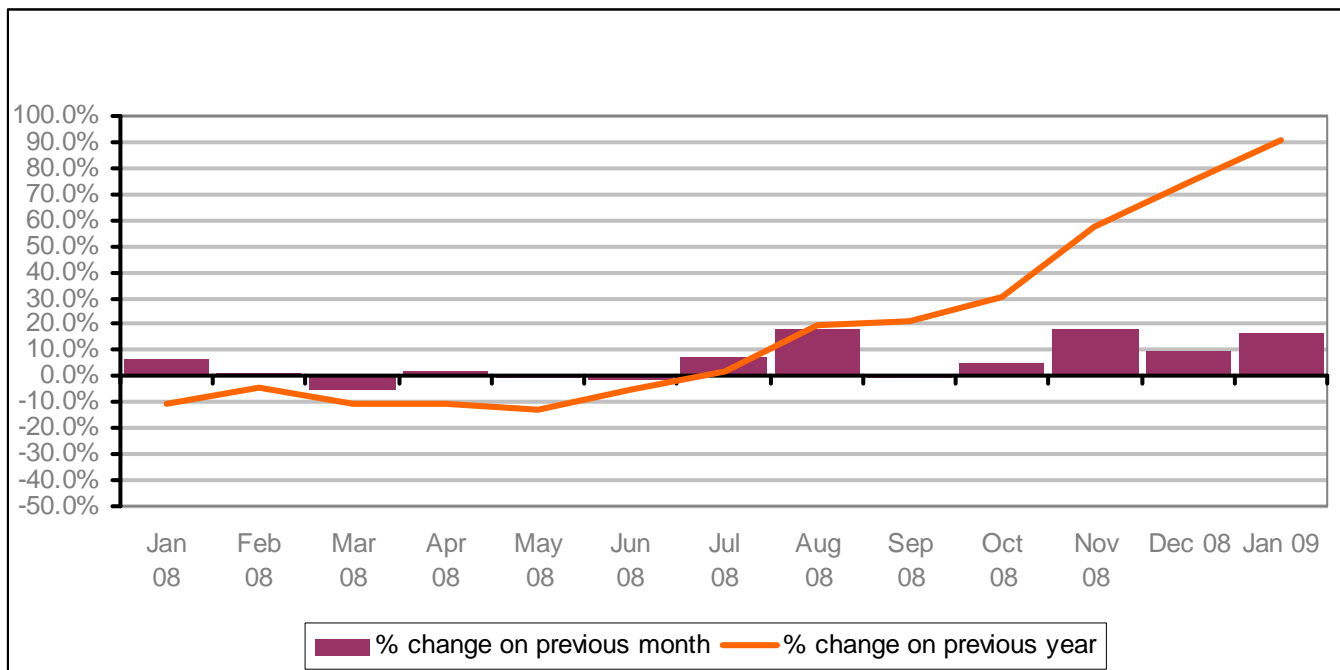


Figure 17 shows that when compared to the same month in the previous year, claimant counts have been increasing since July 2008. The January 2009 figure was 91% higher than it was during January 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

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

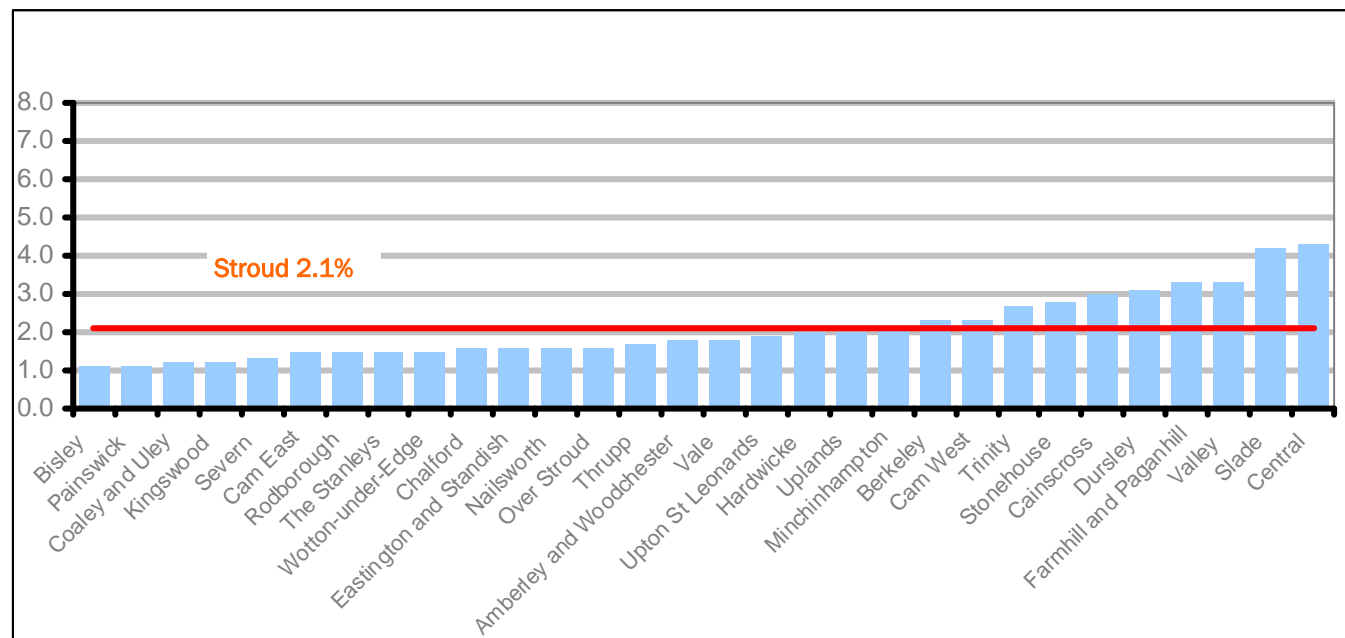
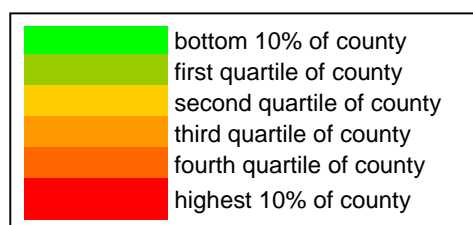


Figure 18 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and ten of the wards are above the District average of 2.1%.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - January 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Bisley	1.1	10
Stroud	Painswick	1.1	10
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.2	15
Stroud	Kingswood	1.2	15
Stroud	Severn	1.3	21
Stroud	Cam East	1.5	33
Stroud	Rodborough	1.5	33
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.5	33
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.5	33
Stroud	Chalford	1.6	42
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	1.6	42
Stroud	Nailsworth	1.6	42
Stroud	Over Stroud	1.6	42
Stroud	Thrupp	1.7	51
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.8	63
Stroud	Vale	1.8	63
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	1.9	69
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.0	71
Stroud	Uplands	2.0	71
Stroud	Minchinhampton	2.1	75
Stroud	Berkeley	2.3	83
Stroud	Cam West	2.3	83
Stroud	Trinity	2.7	94
Stroud	Stonehouse	2.8	98
Stroud	Cainscross	3.0	103
Stroud	Dursley	3.1	106
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	3.3	110
Stroud	Valley	3.3	110
Stroud	Slade	4.2	125
Stroud	Central	4.3	126



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

Table 7 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

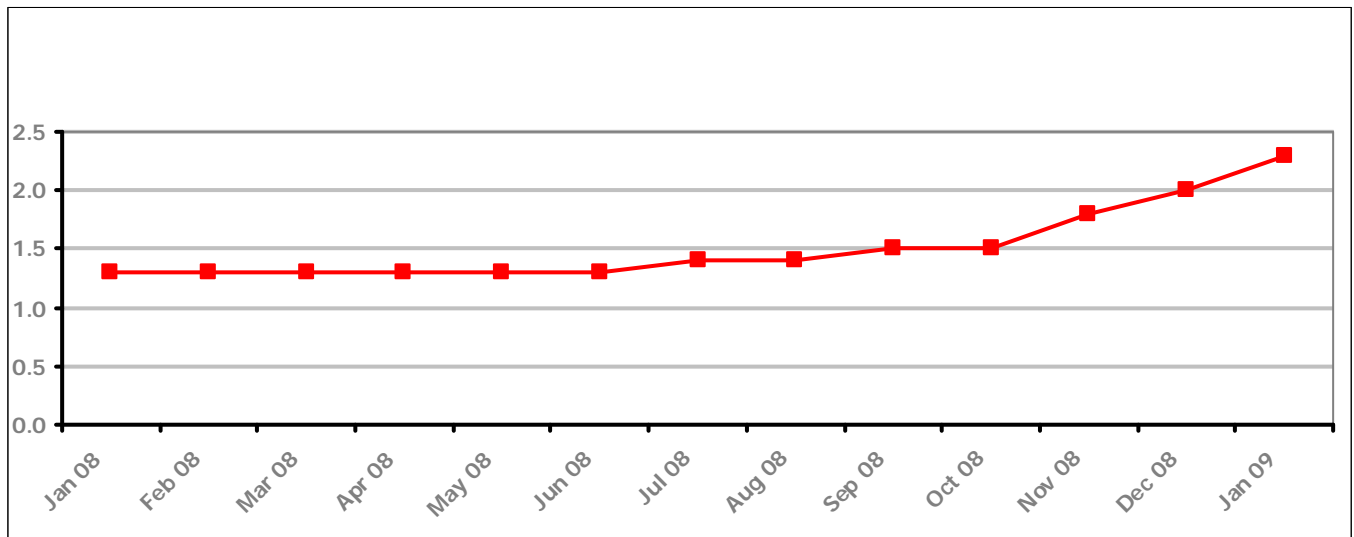


Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury District was at 2.3%, the highest it has been for over a year.

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

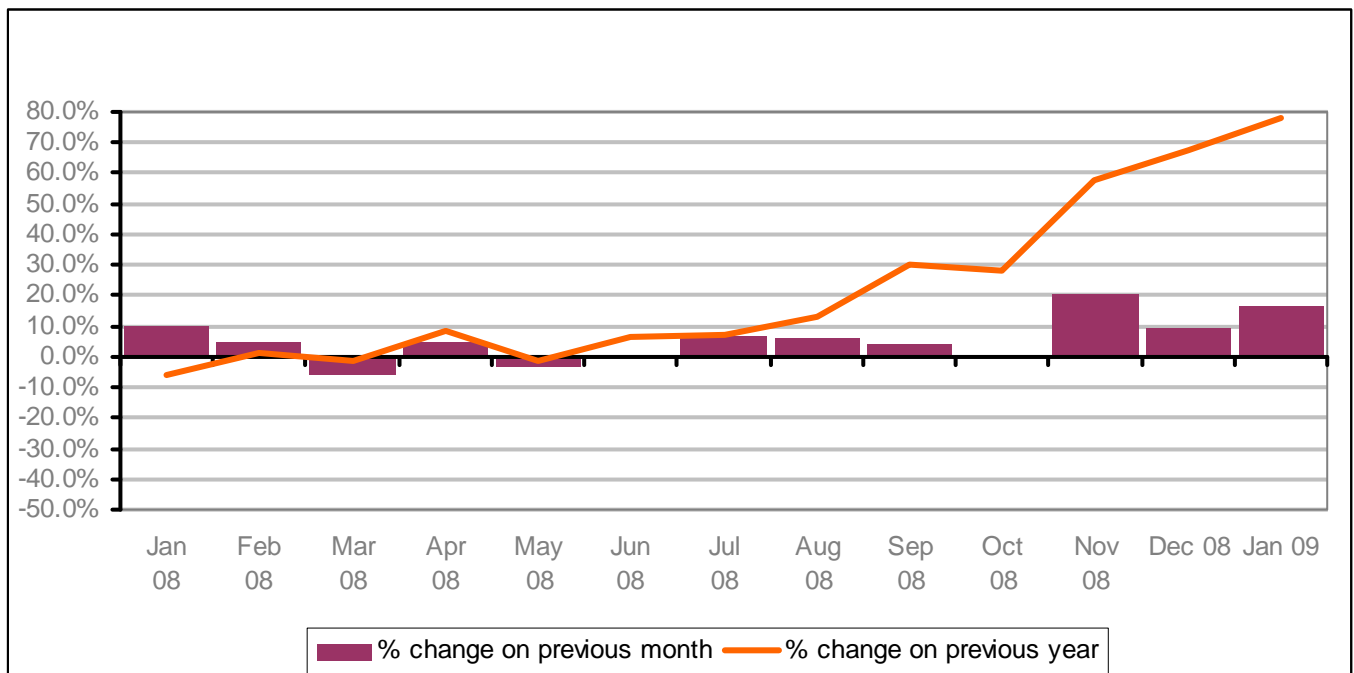


Figure 20 shows that claimant counts have been increasing since June 2008. The rate in January 2009 figure was 78% higher than it was in January 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury District continued...

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

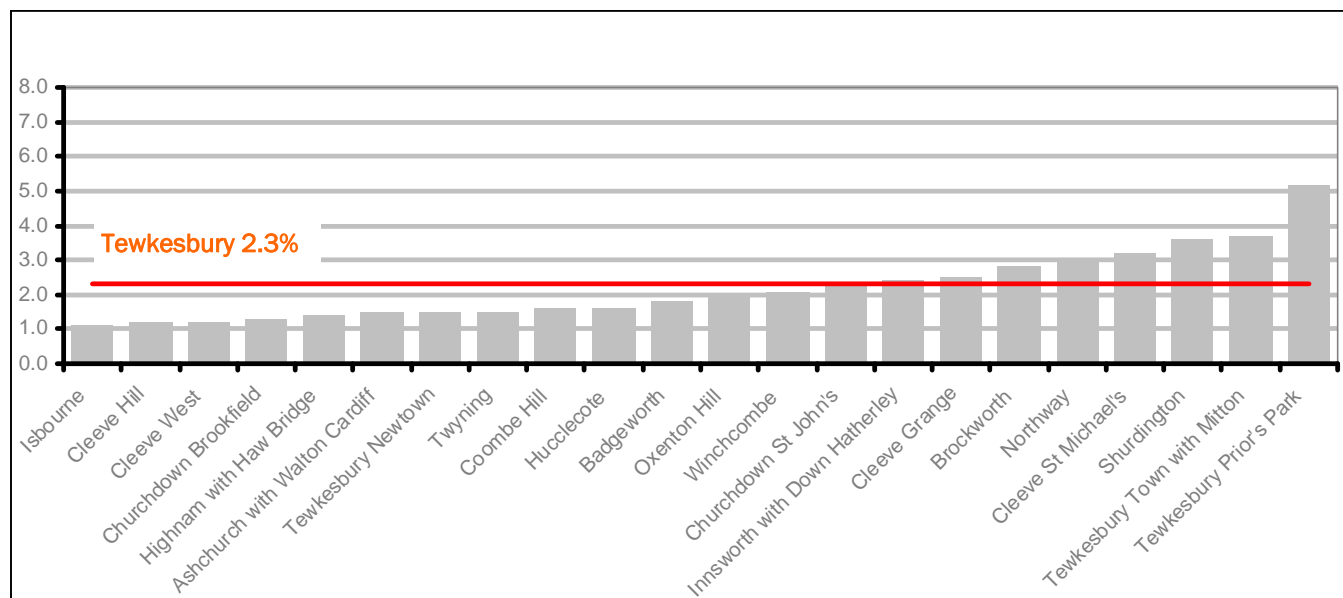


Figure 21 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and eight of the wards are above the District average of 2.3%.

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury District level - January 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	1.1	10
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	1.2	15
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.2	15
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	1.3	21
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	1.4	24
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff	1.5	33
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	1.5	33
Tewkesbury	Twynning	1.5	33
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	1.6	42
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	1.6	42
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	1.8	63
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	2.0	71
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.1	75
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.3	83
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	2.4	89
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.5	91
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	2.8	98
Tewkesbury	Northway	3.0	103
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	3.2	109
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.6	116
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	3.7	118
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	5.2	134

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 Tewkesbury District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 5: 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 January 2009 there were 636 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 3.7%. This has remained in line with the strong performance of 3.9% at the end of November and December 2008 and, given the current economic climate, is very positive and results from continual tracking and enhanced support for young people from staff within Connexions.

Total NEET Group by District Area 31 January 2009

	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	Total
NEET Group	148	50	92	181	103	62	636(*)
% NEET of total 16-18 cohort	5.7%	1.9%	3.3%	3.4%	3.3%	3.0%	3.7%(*)

Targeted action

We are working closely with key stakeholders and partners to ensure that we provide the best possible support during these challenging times. We have already published evidence of the impact of the recession on NEET young people and please find detailed below some of the initiatives we have developed to maximise opportunities for young people in Gloucestershire;

- **FE retention and progression workshop** - Connexions Gloucestershire and the local LSC co-hosted a very positive workshop with FE Colleges to discuss practical steps which can be taken to help retain more young people in Further Education. Further events are now being planned with Schools and Work Based Learning providers.
- **Service Level Agreement with Job Centre Plus** – We have just signed a new SLA with Job Centre Plus which will further cement our positive relationship with this key partner. We are also looking at further programmes to offer support to 18 yr old NEETs.
- **Provision for young people at level 2** – We have successfully negotiated access to additional provision for young people who are already at level 2. This group of young people (approx 100) became NEET as an early impact of the recession and prompt support for this group will hopefully see them quickly re-engage with learning.

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