

LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 18 – 30 March 2021

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1. Economic Roundup

A summary of some of the key government announcements since the last update together with a round-up of recently published research reports and insights from a range of organisations.

Government Announcements

UK's space sector to benefit from new government support. Economic measures have been outlined to support the UK's innovative space sector. Measures include:

- New Space Sector Export Academy to upskill space-sector businesses.
- Continued support for Leicester Space Park to become a High Potential Opportunity (HPO) for foreign investors.

- Latest in a series of economic-support measures to help sectors across the UK build back better.
- UK space exports reached £5.5 billion in 2019, with the sector generating over a third of its income from exports.

Research Reports

Disconnected, a new report from the Learning and Work Institute in partnership with WorldSkills and Enginuity points to a mismatch between digital skills supply and demand.

2. Claimant Count

In February 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 5.3%. This translates to 35,520 claimants. In January the figure was 5% (33,610). At a national level (England) the claimant rate was 6.6%. This is 1.3 percentage points higher than the local figure.

The picture was very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 7.6% and Leicestershire 4.1%. Of the 35,520 claimants over half (50.4% or 17,885) were based in Leicester. The claimant rate in both Leicester and Leicestershire grew from January to February.

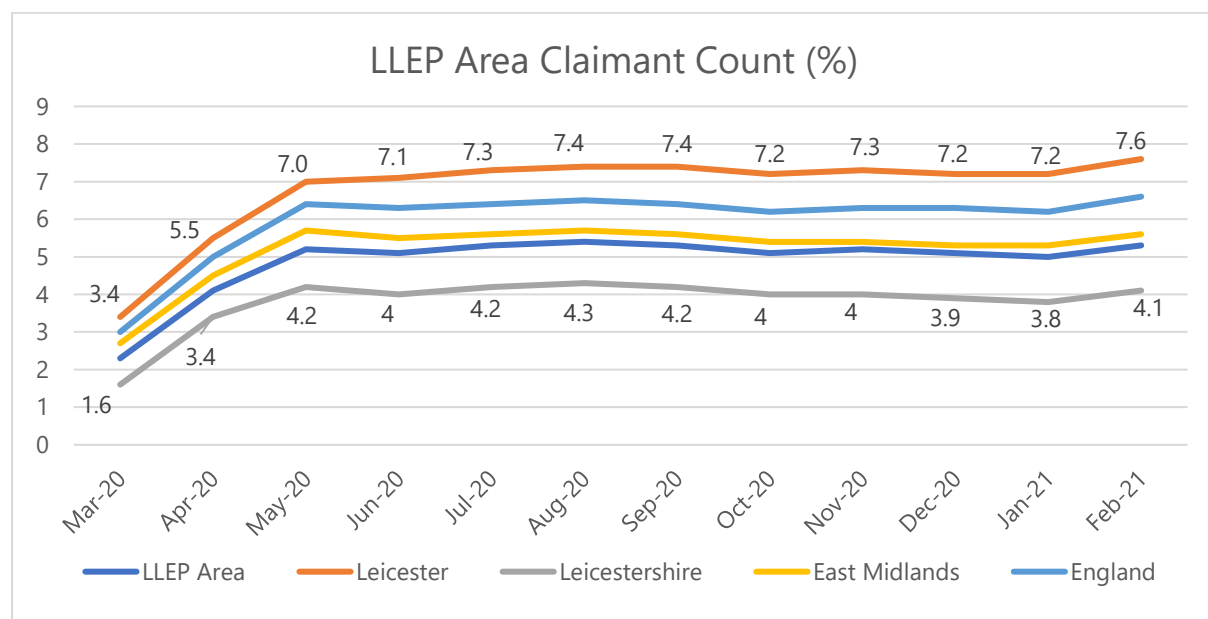


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) March 20 – February 2021

Source: ONS

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of February 2021 the claimant rate increased by 3 percentage points to 5.3% (35,520). This translates to an additional 20,375 claimants or a percentage increase of 134.5%.

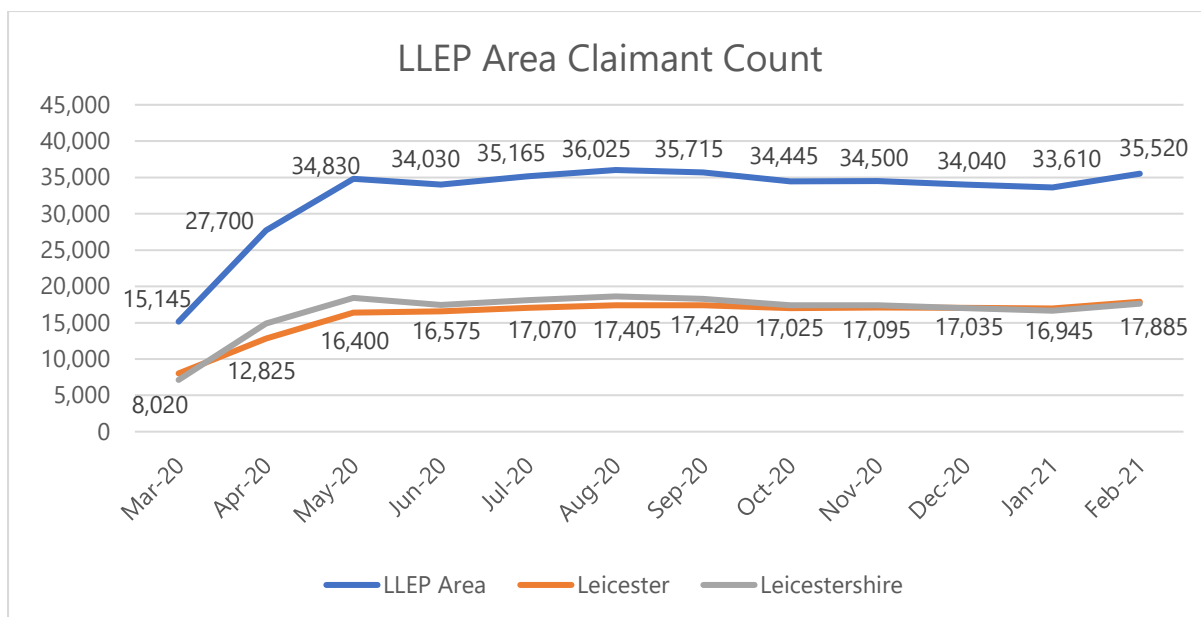


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count March 2020 - February 2021

Source: ONS

Over the period March to August 2020 the number of claimants rose from 15,145 to 36,025. This is a rise of 20,880 claimants. The majority of this was experienced over the period March to May 2020. Since August 2020 there has been a continuous fall in the number of claimants locally. The rise and falls in claimants reflect the initial shock of the pandemic and the uncertainty that followed. The figure for February 2021 represents a growth in claimants.

Despite a road map out of the pandemic there is still uncertainty what impact the pandemic will have on business and jobs.

The pandemic has affected all age groups. February figures demonstrate that there were on average a larger claimant share of 18-24 years olds (6.2%) than 25-49 years olds (5.9%) and 50+ year olds (4.4%). From January to February of this year all three age groups saw a rise in claimant numbers.

From March 2020 the number of claimants who were 18-24 grew by 3.6 percentage points, those who were 24-49 by 3.3 percentage points and those who were 50+ by 2.6 percentage points. Nationally the claimant rates were significantly higher for 18-24 years olds (9.1%) and 25-49 years olds (7.1%).

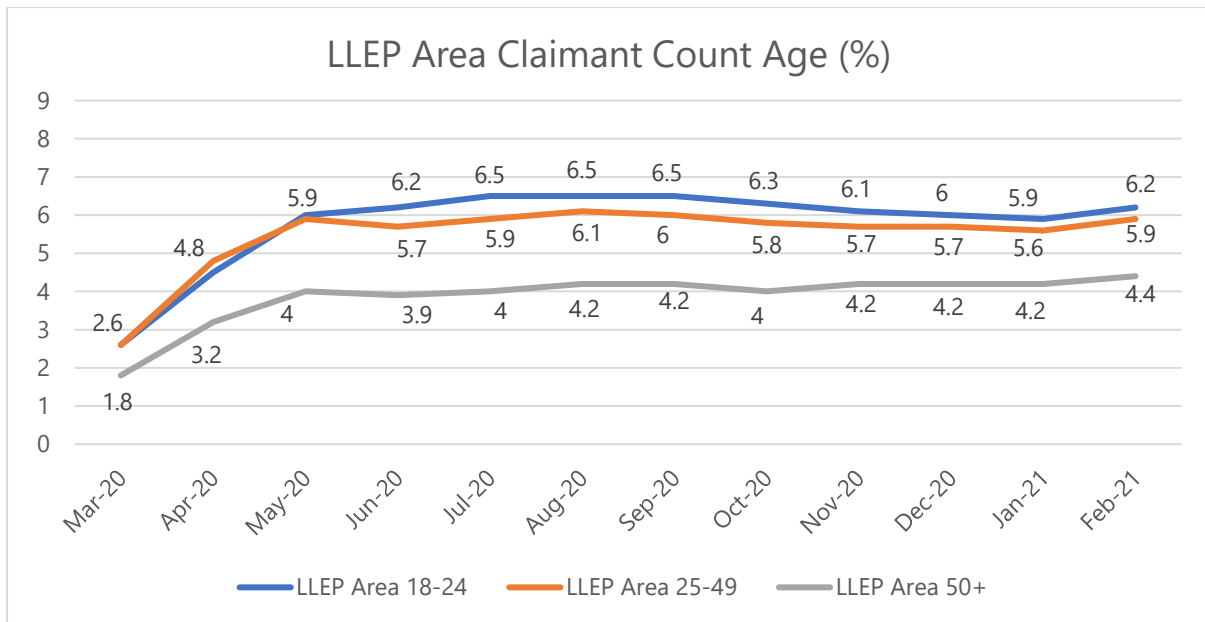


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) March 2020 – February 2021

Source: ONS

Male claimants numbered 20,630 (6.1%) and 14,895 (4.3%) were female. Both male and female claimant rates rose from January to February 2021.

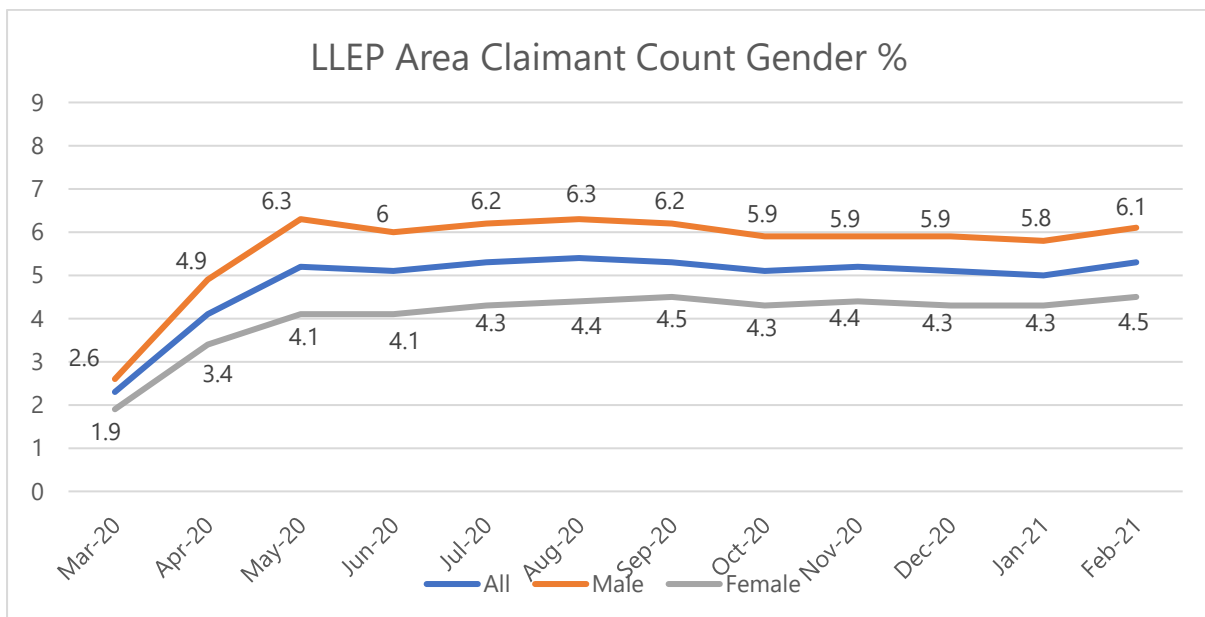


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) March 2020 - February 2021

Source: ONS

Between February 2020 and February 2021, the number of claimants increased by 20,595 from 14,925 to 35,520.

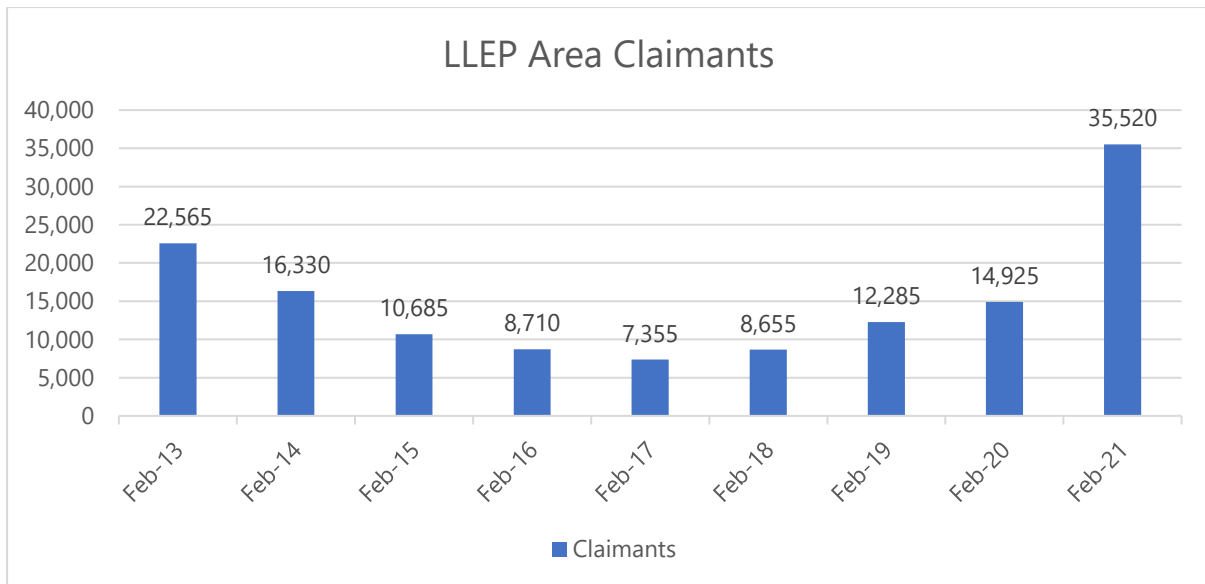


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count February 2013 -2021
Source: ONS

All district areas over the period January to February 2021 saw a rise in claimants.

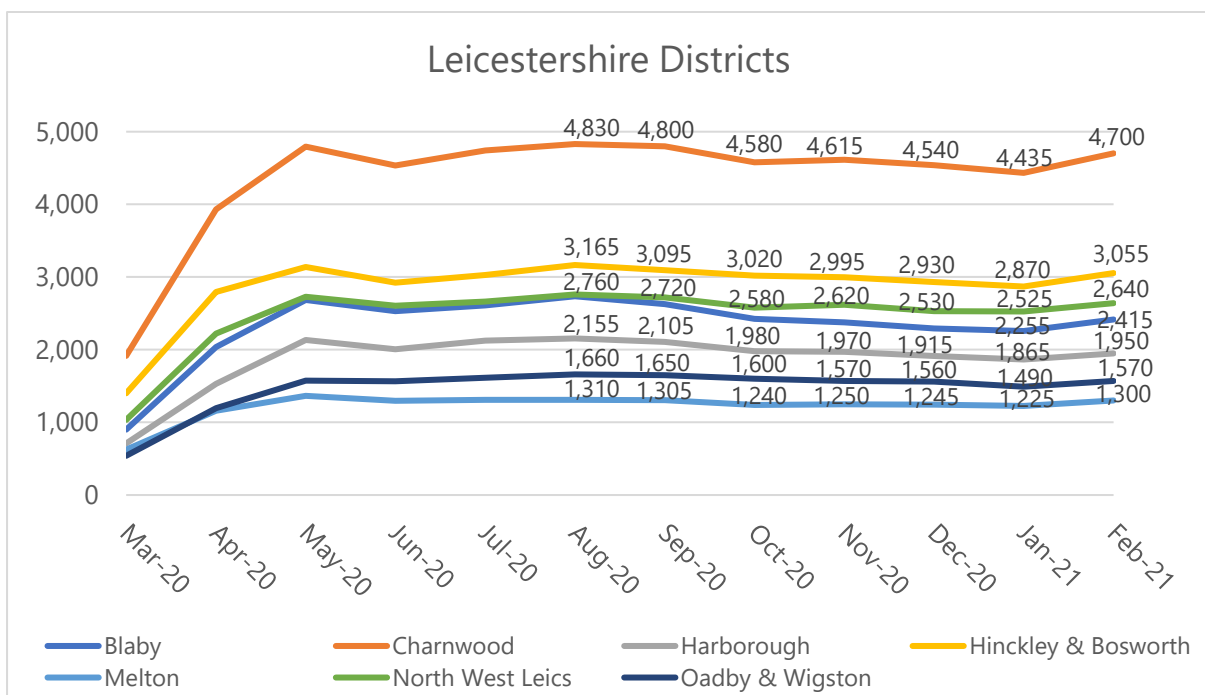


Figure 6 LLEP Area District Claimant Count February 2020 – February 2021
Source: ONS

For more detailed data on Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit claimant count data by district, visit the [Unemployment Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

3. Universal Credit Claimants

Universal Credit claimants are placed in a conditionality group based on their circumstances and work capability and this determines what is expected of them during their claim.

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area most of the claimants are in either the working conditionality group or the searching/planning/preparing for work group. When compared to February figures for 2020 all three groups identified in the table below have seen growth in numbers. At 37,457 those that are searching, planning, or preparing for work is currently at the highest point over the period of the last year.

It is also noticeable that the number of claimants claiming whilst in work continued to rise until January of this year, but in February it fell. Since March 2020 there has been a steady rise in the number of people who are not seeking work.

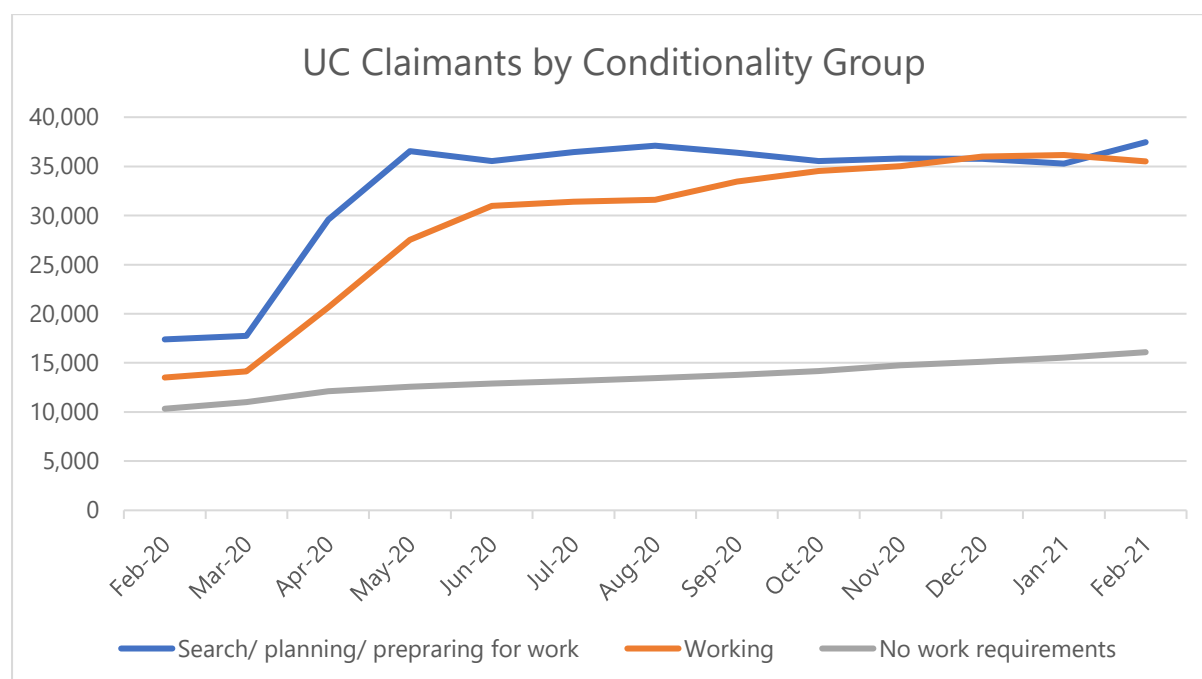


Figure 7 LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group February 2020 – January 2021
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Search/ planning/ preparing for work	17,753	29,582	36,553	35,526	36,454	37,100	36,397	35,525	35,811	35,755	35,290	37,457
Working	14,139	20,637	27,524	30,973	31,395	31,606	33,447	34,516	35,018	35,989	36,155	35,491
No work requirements	10,997	12,102	12,574	12,890	13,155	13,460	13,771	14,185	14,762	15,130	15,541	16,087

Table 1: LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group February 2020 – January 2021
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

4. Furloughed Employees

The information below is provided by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and are statistics that relate to the Governments Job Retention Scheme.

Table 2 provides an understanding of the take up of the scheme by showing the percentage of eligible employments furloughed for the months July 2020 to February 2021. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire area and can be compared with an England average.

Figures for February demonstrate that local take-up is in line with or below the England average. Data also demonstrates that since July the number of furloughed employees fell but rose again in November when the Furlough scheme was extended.

Area	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	De	Jan	Feb
Blaby	17%	13%	9%	8%	12%	12%	15%	14%
Charnwood	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%
England	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	13%	15%	15%
Harborough	17%	13%	10%	8%	13%	13%	15%	15%
Hinckley & Bosworth	16%	12%	9%	7%	11%	12%	14%	14%
Leicester	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	14%	15%	15%
Leicestershire	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	14%
Melton	16%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	14%
NW Leicestershire	16%	11%	8%	7%	11%	10%	13%	13%
Oadby & Wigston	18%	13%	10%	8%	12%	13%	15%	15%

Table 2. Uptake of Job Retention Scheme, % of Employments in the LLEP Area
Source: HMRC

Figure 8 and Table 3 demonstrates the total employments furloughed as of the 28/02/2021.

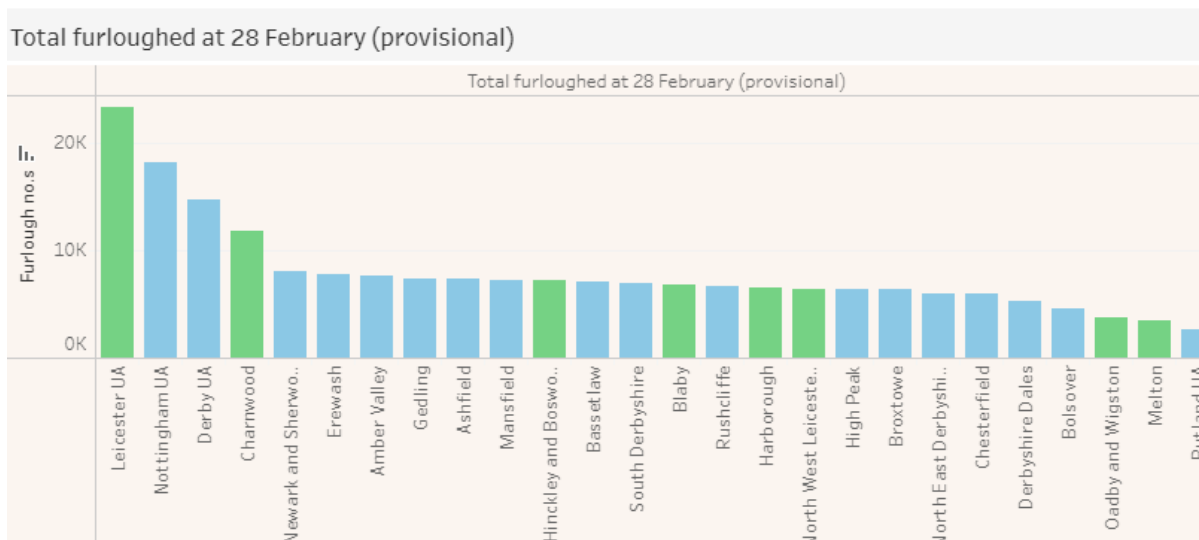


Figure 8 Total Employments Furloughed at 28 February 2021

Source: HMRC

Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Leicester	Melton	NW Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston
6,800	11,800	6,500	7,200	23,200	3,400	6,400	3,800

Table 3. Total Employments Furloughed at 28 February 2021

Source: HMRC

For more detail including East Midlands comparators see the [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

5. Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

HMRC have published data on the numbers claiming support through the Self Employment Income Support Scheme up to 31 January 2021.

Table 4 provides an understanding of the total number of claims made to 31/01/2021, the take up rate, the total value of claims and the total eligible population.

	Leicester	Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Melton	NW Leics.	Oadby & Wigston
Total no. of claims made to 31/01/21	8,000	3,300	4,700	3,000	3,400	1,500	2,800	1,500
Total potentially eligible population	11,500	5,000	7,400	5,000	5,400	2,700	4,500	2,300
Total take-up rate	0.7	0.66	0.63	0.59	0.63	0.55	0.62	0.68
Total value of claims made to 31/01/21 (£)	19,600,000	10,200,000	13,800,000	8,800,000	10,100,000	4,500,000	8,200,000	4,400,000

Table 4. SEISS Uptake in LLEP Area

Source: HMRC

For more detail in relation to the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) see the [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

6. Job Postings

EMSI job posting data is drawn from a range of sources and provides timely data on how the trend in the number of live job adverts is changing in the Leicester and Leicestershire area by occupation and geography.

However, the number of job adverts being posted is not a direct measure of labour force demand. Job adverts may not be removed from online job vacancy boards immediately once a position is filled, so the data may not fully reflect companies who have halted active recruitment.

The data is compiled from multiple job vacancy boards and adverts may still be considered “live” if the posting is still live on any board, even when it has already been removed from an alternative source.

The scope of online job adverts does not fully capture the region’s economic activity because of differing advertising methods, for example, casual work may be advertised by word-of-mouth.

Table 5 demonstrate unique job postings by occupation for February 2021. These are compared with February and March 2020 and January 2021. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

Job posting figures for February 2021 are below those for February 2020 by 4,286 (27,565 compared to 31,851).

Over the last month the number of job postings fell from 32,607 to 27,565. This is a fall of 5,042 postings or 15.5%.

In terms of numbers, over the last year there have been falls in job postings in all but 5 of the occupation areas. Occupation areas that saw the largest falls were Business and Public Service Associate Professionals and Administrative Occupations. In the last month (January to February) all occupations areas saw falls in the number of job postings.

Over the last year the occupation area that saw the largest growth in number of job postings was Skilled Construction and Building Trades.

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Feb 2020 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Jan 2021 Unique Postings	Feb 2021 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Jan to Feb	Monthly Growth % Jan to Feb	Cumulative Growth from Mar	Cumulative Growth % from Mar
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,647	1,561	1,747	1,558	(89)	-5.4	(189)	-10.8	(3)	(0)
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	555	527	555	499	(56)	-10.1	(56)	-10.1	(28)	(5)
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,703	2,693	2,861	2,414	(289)	-10.7	(447)	-15.6	(279)	(10)
22	Health Professionals	1,809	1,787	1,983	1,848	39	2.2	(135)	-6.8	61	3
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,199	1,334	1,387	1,092	(107)	-8.9	(295)	-21.3	(242)	(18)
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,740	1,732	1,906	1,664	(76)	-4.4	(242)	-12.7	(68)	(4)
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,531	1,385	1,566	1,320	(211)	-13.8	(246)	-15.7	(65)	(5)
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	388	372	470	341	(47)	-12.1	(129)	-27.4	(31)	(8)
33	Protective Service Occupations	28	29	44	32	4	14.3	(12)	-27.3	3	10
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	435	412	332	231	(204)	-46.9	(101)	-30.4	(181)	(44)
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,713	4,600	4,455	3,825	(888)	-18.8	(630)	-14.1	(775)	(17)
41	Administrative Occupations	3,219	2,933	2,949	2,450	(769)	-23.9	(499)	-16.9	(483)	(16)
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	487	429	345	285	(202)	-41.5	(60)	-17.4	(144)	(34)
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	38	34	48	41	3	7.9	(7)	-14.6	7	21
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	2,121	1,959	2,281	1,938	(183)	-8.6	(343)	-15.0	(21)	(1)
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	509	502	680	655	146	28.7	(25)	-3.7	153	30
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	635	638	361	309	(326)	-51.3	(52)	-14.4	(329)	(52)
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,071	2,053	2,390	1,886	(185)	-8.9	(504)	-21.1	(167)	(8)
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	195	187	177	129	(66)	-33.8	(48)	-27.1	(58)	(31)
71	Sales Occupations	697	665	526	419	(278)	-39.9	(107)	-20.3	(246)	(37)
72	Customer Service Occupations	741	668	617	462	(279)	-37.7	(155)	-25.1	(206)	(31)
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	492	449	546	486	(6)	-1.2	(60)	-11.0	37	8
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,586	1,587	1,739	1,527	(59)	-3.7	(212)	-12.2	(60)	(4)
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	319	279	401	379	60	18.8	(22)	-5.5	100	36
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,993	1,929	2,241	1,775	(218)	-10.9	(466)	-20.8	(154)	(8)
Total		31,851	30,744	32,607	27,565	(4,286)	-13.5	(5,042)	-15.5	(3,179)	(10)

Table 5 LLEP area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes

Source: EMSI

Table 6 demonstrates job posting numbers by district area in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Area	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Blaby	833	695	640	799	1,027	1,286	1,469	1,703	1,742	1,757	1,727	1,354
Charnwood	4,276	3,608	3,361	3,811	3,951	4,317	4,850	5,558	5,773	5,639	5,446	4,690
Harborough	2,206	1,865	1,598	1,592	1,890	2,114	2,487	2,756	2,561	2,308	2,209	1,828
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,858	1,700	1,615	1,889	2,138	2,465	2,728	3,115	3,211	2,997	2,880	2,574
Leicester	16,860	13,474	11,699	11,538	12,079	12,395	13,553	14,792	14,917	14,760	14,360	12,056
Leicestershire	13,884	11,862	10,745	12,061	13,422	15,307	17,271	19,348	19,756	18,766	18,247	15,509
Melton	1,281	999	888	916	976	1,050	1,199	1,309	1,288	1,115	1,112	949
North West Leicestershire	2,934	2,572	2,243	2,661	3,017	3,523	3,984	4,286	4,504	4,319	4,216	3,594
Oadby & Wigston	496	423	400	393	423	552	554	621	677	631	657	520
Total	30,744	25,336	22,444	23,599	25,501	27,702	30,824	34,140	34,673	33,526	32,607	27,565

Table 6 Unique Job Postings by Local & District Authority

Source: EMSI

Figure 9 provides a graphical representation of job postings for the whole of the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

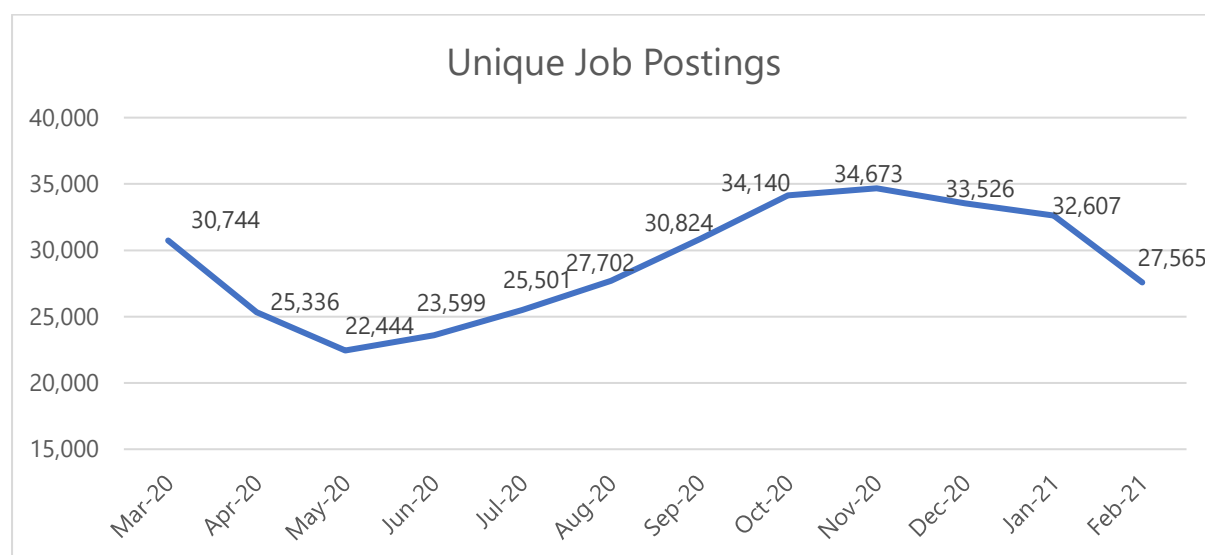


Figure 9 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings

Source: EMSI

More detailed breakdowns of job postings by district are available from

brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk.

7. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 6,784 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019/20 the number was higher (7,350). A difference of 566 business closures.

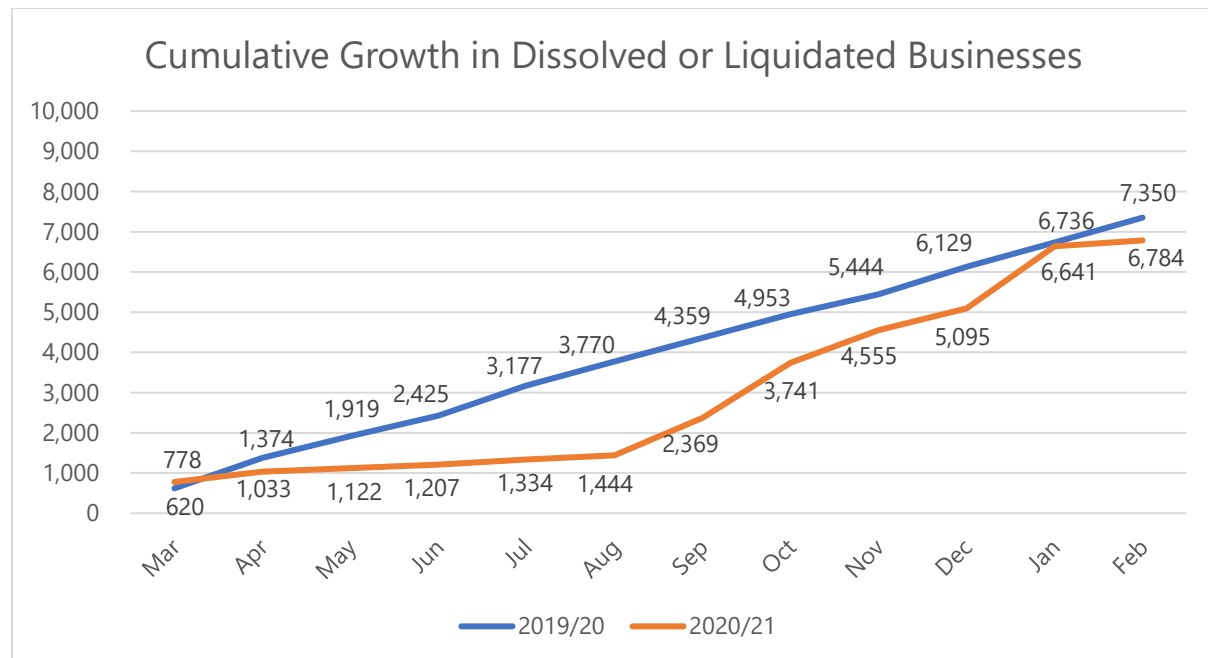


Figure 10 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2020 there were 778 closures. In August of the same year the number had fallen to just 110. The fall in business closures can be attributed to those measures brought in by Government during lockdown.

Figures for September and October 2020 demonstrated steep rises in businesses failures. The rise in business failures reflected the proposed closure of measures that were brought in by the Government, however these same measures were extended. Business failures went from a high of 1,372 in October to 814 in November. In December there was a further fall to 540. After a sharp rise in January (1,546) there was a steep fall to 143 in February. The latest figure is significantly lower than the figures delivered for the same period in 2019 and 2020.

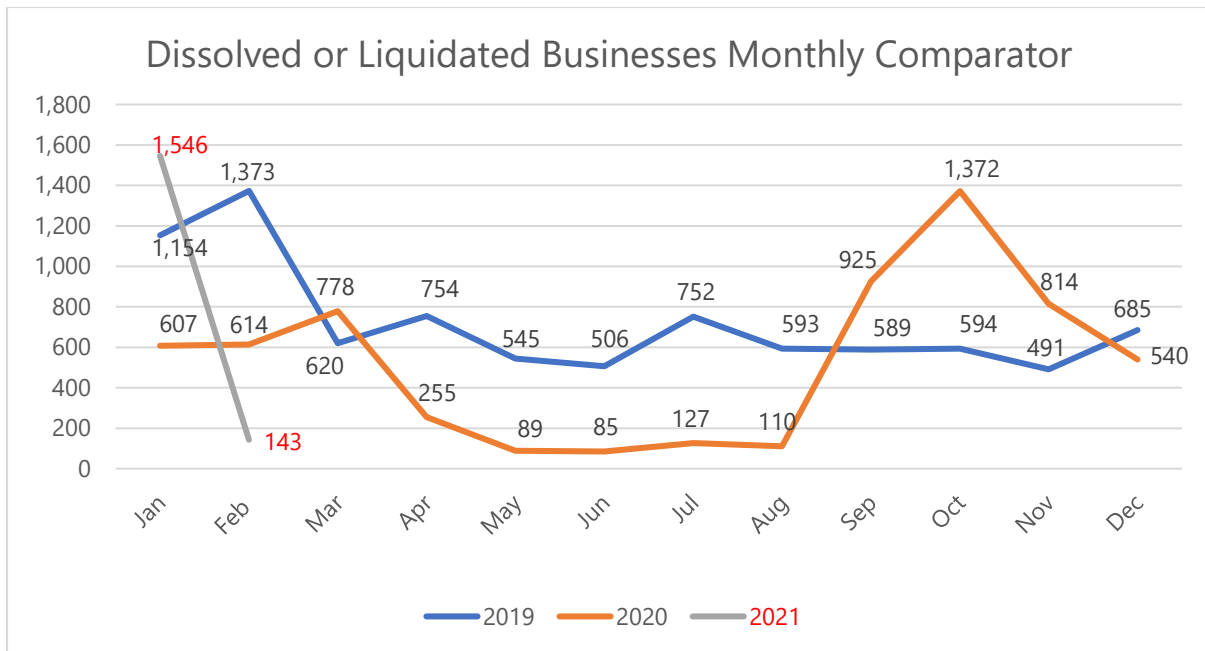


Figure 11 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 12,220 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019 11,039 businesses were incorporated. This is a difference of 1,181.

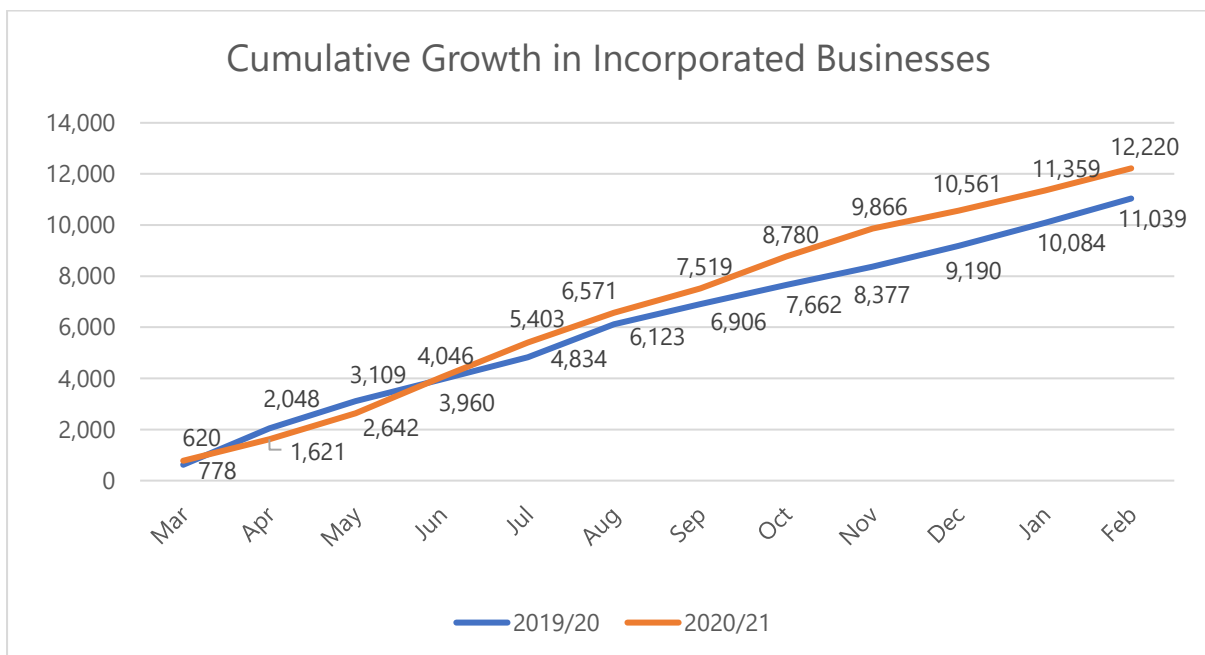


Figure 12 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

In October of 2020 1,261 businesses were incorporated, in November 1,086 were incorporated. The number of incorporations fell significantly in December to 695. Since then figures have risen slowly over the following two months. The latest figure (February 2021) is 861. This is in line with figures for the same period in 2019 and 2020.

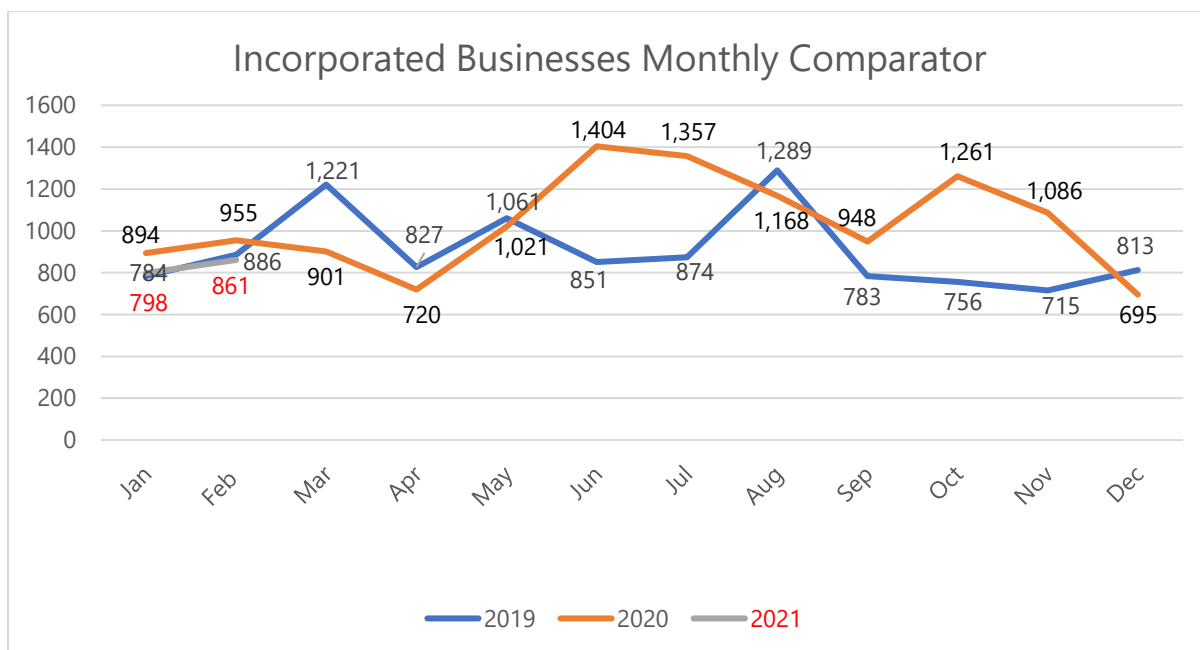


Figure 13 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

Table 7 demonstrates those sectors where there have been business failures. For these same sectors the table also demonstrates the number of incorporations. Data contained in Table 7 is for February 2021. Table 7 also helps provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are reacting to it.

Activity (prim. UK SIC 2007)	Dissolved	%	Incorporated	%
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	24	16.8	19	2.2
Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	19	13.3	31	3.6
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	13	9.1	120	13.9
Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	8	5.6	18	2.1
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7	4.9	48	5.6
Food and beverage service activities	7	4.9	56	6.5
Legal and accounting activities	7	4.9	12	1.4
Other personal service activities	7	4.9	20	2.3
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5	3.5	21	2.4
Construction of buildings	3	2.1	35	4.1
Specialised construction activities	3	2.1	45	5.2
Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	3	2.1	27	3.1
Real estate activities	3	2.1	107	12.4
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	3	2.1	19	2.2
Manufacture of furniture	2	1.4	1	0.1
Other manufacturing	2	1.4	4	0.5

Land transport and transport via pipelines	2	1.4	33	3.8
Telecommunications	2	1.4	2	0.2
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	2	1.4	17	2.0
Human health activities	2	1.4	29	3.4
Social work activities without accommodation	2	1.4	1	0.1
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	1	0.7	3	0.3
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	1	0.7	2	0.2
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	1	0.7	3	0.3
Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery	1	0.7	1	0.1
Civil engineering	1	0.7	1	0.1
Accommodation	1	0.7	6	0.7
Publishing activities	1	0.7	2	0.2
Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	1	0.7	4	0.5
Scientific research and development	1	0.7	3	0.3
Advertising and market research	1	0.7	4	0.5
Employment activities	1	0.7	9	1.0
Security and investigation activities	1	0.7	6	0.7
Services to buildings and landscape activities	1	0.7	17	2.0
Education	1	0.7	20	2.3
Repair of computers and personal and household goods	1	0.7	0	0
n.a.	2	1.4	11	1.3
All	143	100.0	861	100.0

Table 7 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector February 2021

Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 04/03/2021 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Low figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

8. Useful Links

LSR Online

Leicestershire County Council is working in partnership with the LLEP to provide a single online portal for local economic data across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The [LSR Portal](#) holds data across a wide range of economic indicators (in addition to other measures including health and wellbeing), the majority of which are available at district level.

Midlands Engine Economic Observatory

The [Midlands Engine Economic Observatory](#) is an analytical function of the Midlands Engine, providing comprehensive and contemporary data, analysis and intelligence on the whole Midlands economy including a fortnightly publication, *monitor*, reporting on the impact of Covid-19 on the region's economy.

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

The ONS produces comprehensive data and analysis on coronavirus [\(COVID-19\) in the UK](#) and its effect on the economy and society.

NOMIS

[Nomis](#) is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics, ONS, to give free access to the most detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics from official sources.

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this report, Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership cannot be held responsible for any errors or omission relating to the data contained within the report.