

# LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 20 – 26 May 2021

## Contents

1.	Economic Roundup .....	1
	Research Reports.....	1
2.	Claimant Count .....	3
3.	Universal Credit Claimants.....	7
4.	Furloughed Employees.....	8
5.	Job Postings .....	10
6.	Business Closures and Incorporations.....	13
7.	Useful Links.....	16

## 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.

### Research Reports

**[Learning and Work Institute](#)** - Labour Market Analysis May 2021 Headlines:

- The labour market has stabilised and is showing signs of recovery with vacancies rising and payroll employment increasing again.
- The number of hours worked is also recovering, but remains below pre-pandemic levels as the furlough scheme protects jobs
- Young people continue to be among those hardest hit

- Unemployment has risen most in places where it was already high, creating a challenge for the Government's ambition of levelling up

**UK Prosperity Index 2021** – Described as a tool for transformation to help 'level-up' the country, the Prosperity Index includes detailed data on levels of institutional, economic, and social wellbeing across the 379 boroughs, council areas, local government districts, unitary and local authority areas. The Index is designed to be a tool that allows the user to better understand areas and how they perform.

**Sectors and Supply Chains** – The Midlands Engine Observatory have delivered sector reports that explore the following issues in the Midlands supply chains:

- A review of the opportunities and challenges for industrial supply chains in the Midlands region
- Anti-COVID-19 Capabilities Underpinning Resilient Supply Chains' framework: evidence from manufacturing firms in food supply chains in the Midlands
- The resilience of advanced manufacturing supply chains across the Midlands
- Advanced manufacturing (including MedTech) sector supply chains
- Exploring the current state of low carbon supply chains in the Midlands

**Reviving Regions: Empowering places to revive and thrive.** The CBI, supported by Lloyds Banking Group, has analysed the comparative economic health of each of the country's regions, assessing their strength in key criteria around business activity, education, employment, connectivity and social outcomes. Priorities for the East Midlands included:

- **Strengthen school and business links** by raising the educational aspirations and opportunities of 12–16-year-olds by embedding the Gatsby benchmarks into strategic planning with stakeholders including the Department for Education, local authorities, Midlands Engine and education providers.
- **Transform reliability and capacity within local and national infrastructure** by improving connectivity, particularly east-west links, major A roads such as A46 and A52, and public transport to and from East Midlands Airport. This requires raising the profile of strategic routes with stakeholders such as the Department for Transport, Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and local authorities to influence and support infrastructure improvements.
- **Inspire world-class innovative businesses to invest and locate in the region** by championing the region on the national stage. Working with stakeholders both locally and nationally to raise the profile of the region by showcasing emerging sectors such as space technology and aerospace manufacturing.

**Building Back Greener: the case for connecting Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham by rail.** Midlands connect launched a business case to reintroduce direct rail links between the three cities of Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham. Just 3% of journeys on parts of this corridor are made by rail.

## 2. Claimant Count

In April 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 5.2%. This translates to 35,120 claimants. At a national level the claimant rate was 6.5%. 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 7.7% and Leicestershire 3.9%. This is a difference of 3.8 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.2 percentage points higher than the English average (6.5%).

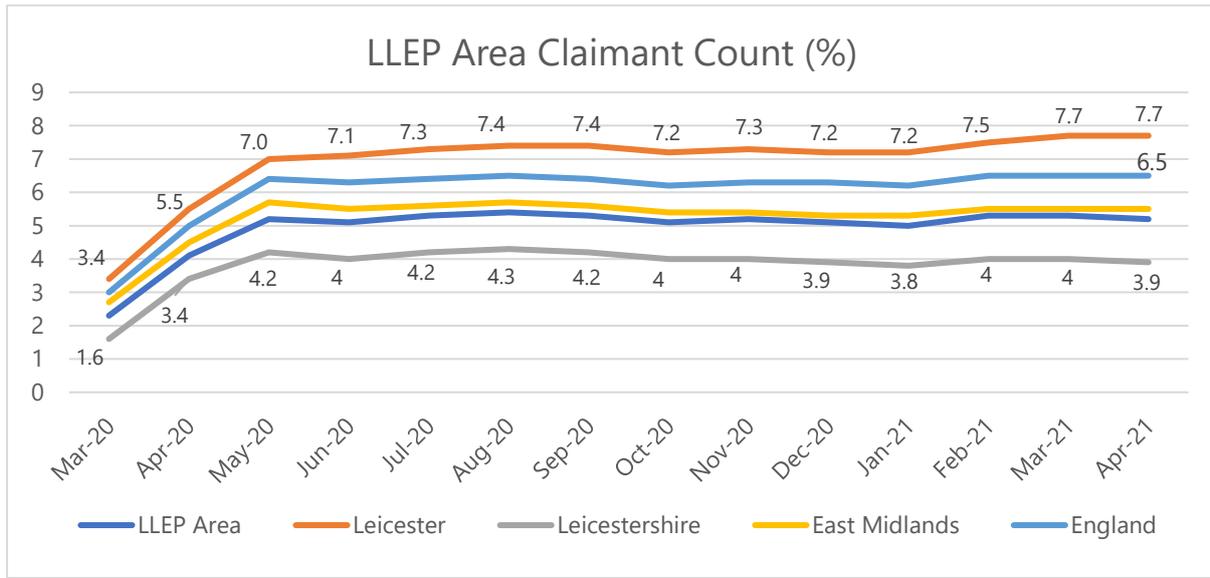


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) March 20 – April 2021

Source: ONS

Of the 35,120 claimants over half (51.8% or 18,150) were in Leicester despite only 35.1% of the working age population of the Leicester and Leicestershire living in the area.

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of April 2021 the claimant rate increased by 2.9 percentage points to 5.2% (35,120). This translates to an additional 19,975 claimants or a percentage increase of 132%.

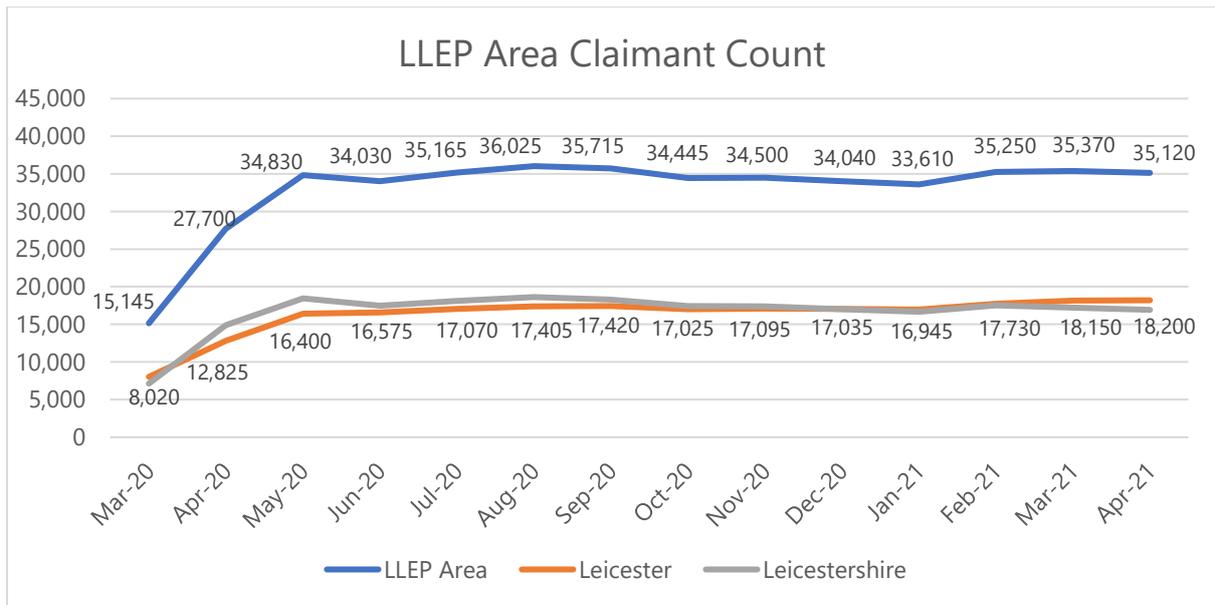


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count March 2020 - April 2021  
Source: ONS

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area 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. From August there was a slow but continuous fall in the number of claimants. From January 2021 there was growth in claimants, but April has marked the first fall in the claimant rate of 2021.

Since the initial rises in claimants last year the claimant rate has been static. The initial shock caused by the Corona Virus continues and the uncertainty that it has brought remains a feature of the local and national economies.

The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for April demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 18-24 years olds (6.2%) who were claimants than 25-49 years olds (5.8%) and claimants that were 50 and over (4.3%).

From March 2020 the number of claimants who were 18-24 grew by 3.6 percentage points, those who were 25-49 by 3.2 percentage points and those who were 50 and over by 2.5 percentage points.

In England the claimant rate was significantly higher for 18-24 years olds (9%), 25-49 years olds (7.1%) and those who are 50 and over (5.1%).

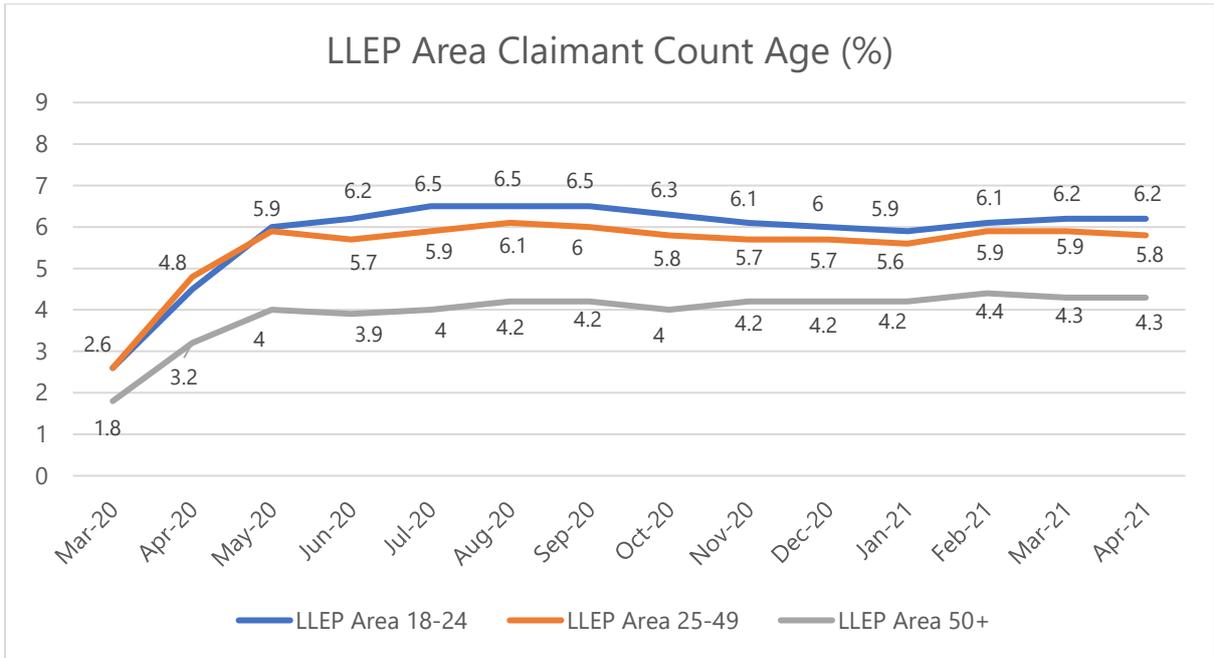


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) March 2020 – April 2021  
Source: ONS

Figure 4 demonstrates the claimant rate for 18-24 years olds for the Leicester and Leicestershire area and its component parts. Figures are compared with the England average.

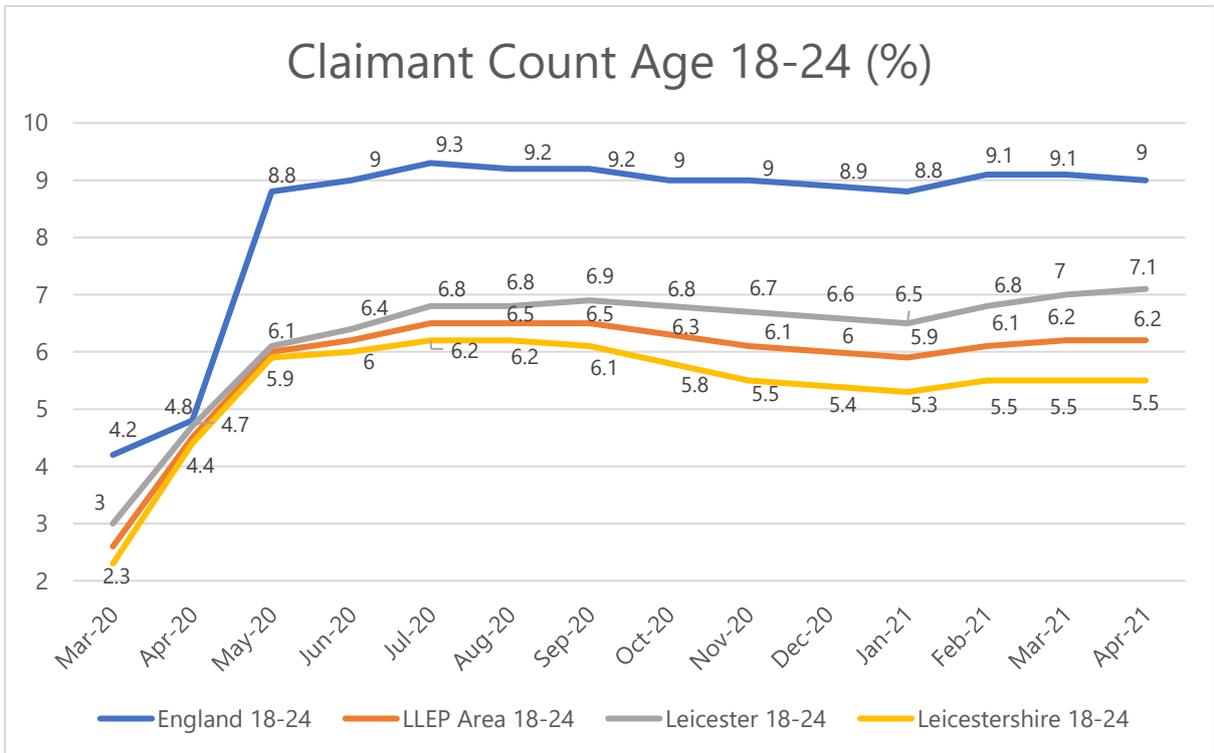


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Claimants Aged 18-24 (%) March 2020 – April 2021  
Source: ONS

Male claimants numbered 20,310 (6%) and 14,810 (4.4%) were female.

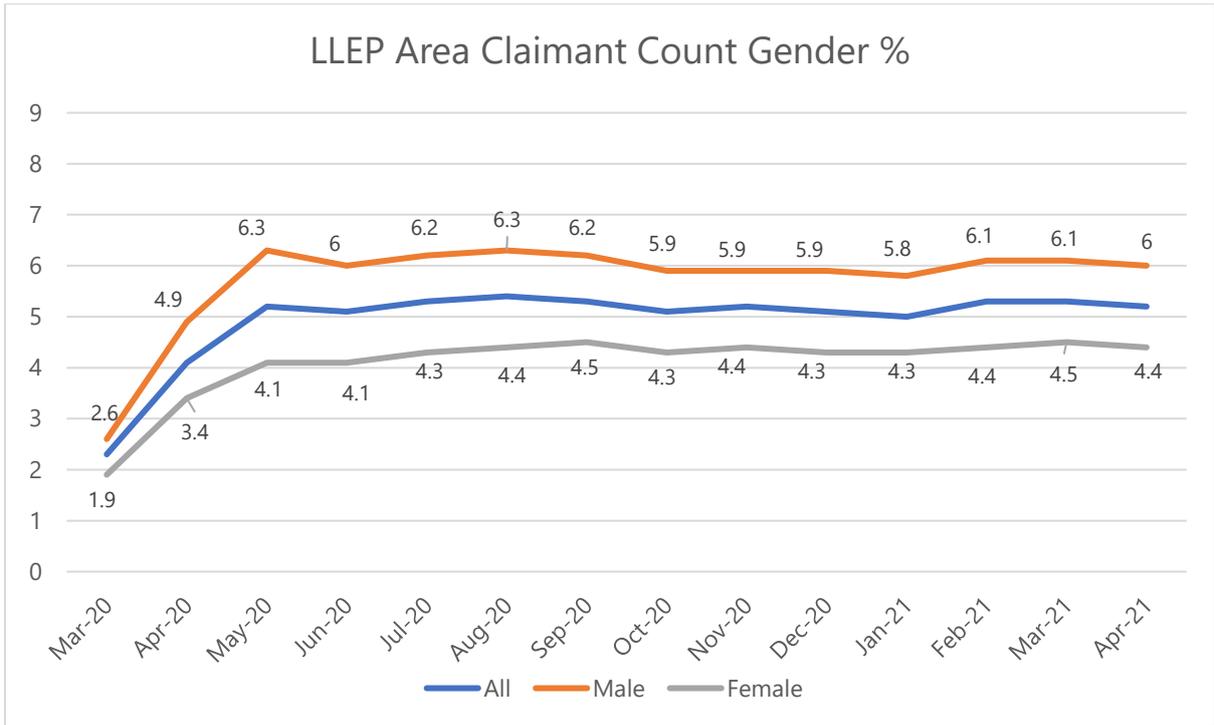


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) March 2020 - April 2021  
Source: ONS

Figure 6 demonstrates the number of claimants in the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period April 2013 to April 2021.

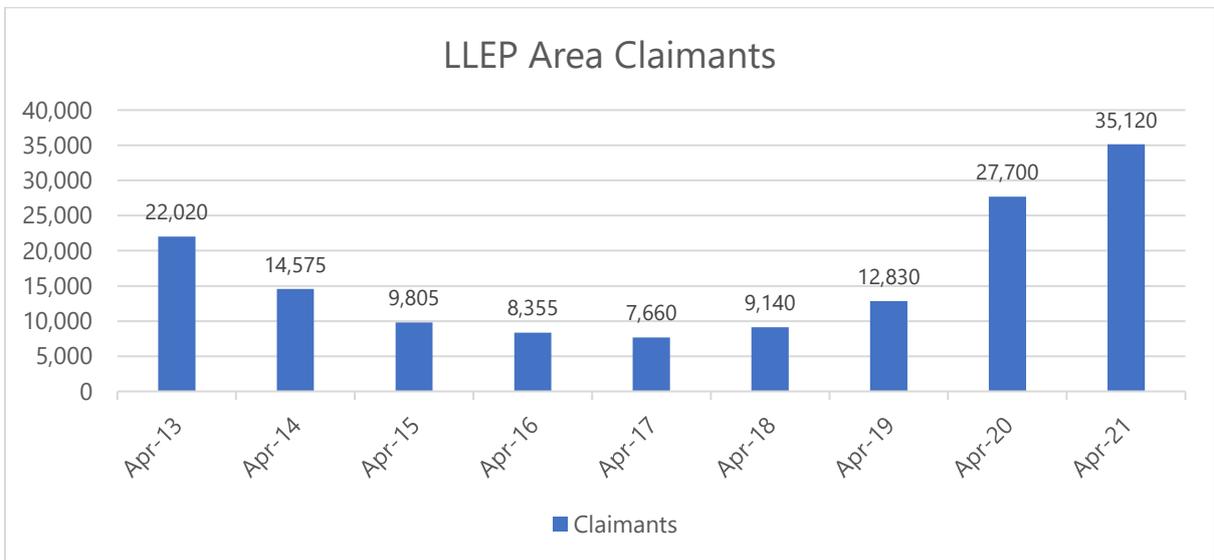


Figure 6 LLEP Area Claimant Count April 2013 – April 2021  
Source: ONS

Figure 7 below demonstrates the number of claimants at a district level.

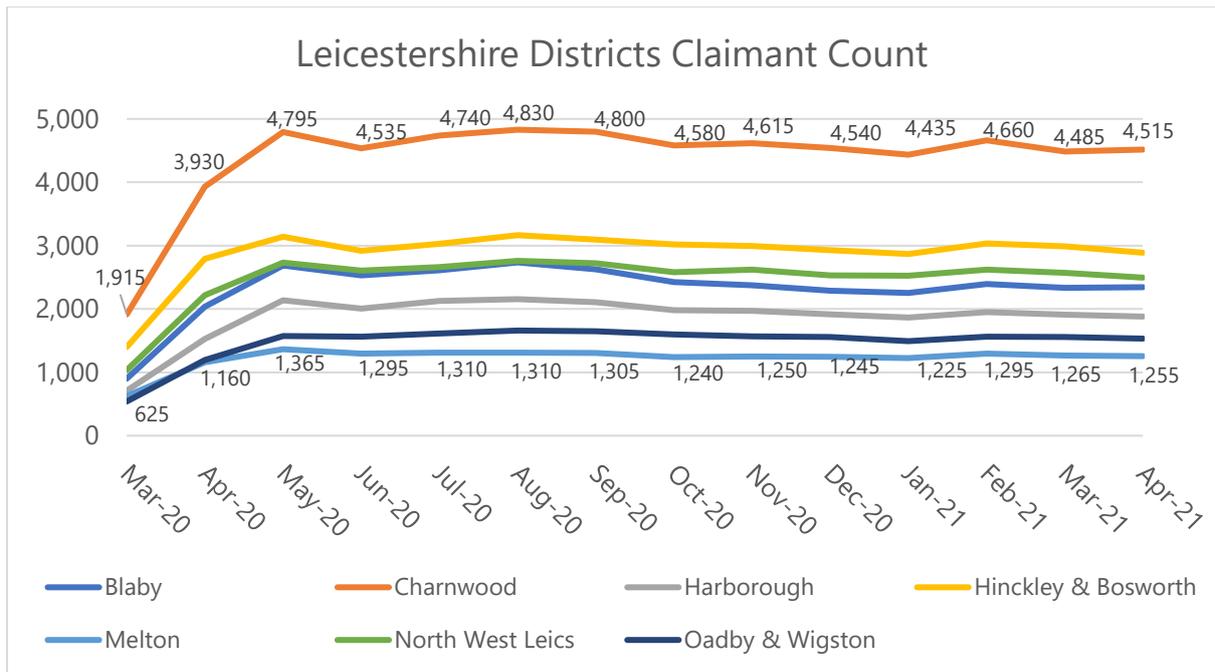


Figure 7 LLEP Area District Claimant Count March 2020 – April 2021  
Source: ONS

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 March figures for 2020, all three groups have seen growth in numbers. At 38,031 those searching, planning, or preparing for work in April 2021 is currently at its highest point.

Since March 2020 there has been a steady rise in the number of people who are not seeking work with numbers more than doubling during the period.

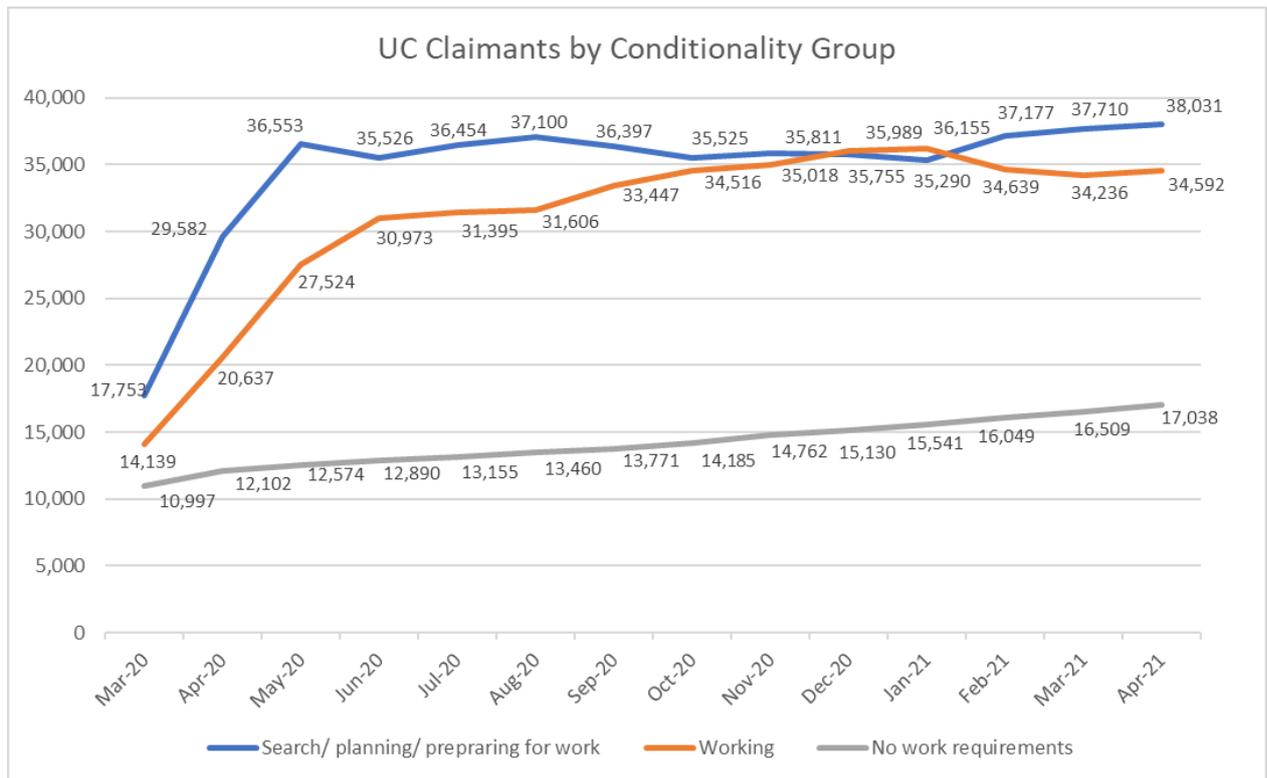


Figure 8 LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – April 2021  
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

	Mar-20	Apr-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	April- 21
Search/ planning/ preparing for work	17,753	29,582	35,290	37,177	37,710	38,031
Working	14,139	20,637	36,155	34,639	34,236	34,592
No work requirements	10,997	12,102	15,541	16,049	16,509	17,038

Table 1: LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – April 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 March 2021. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire area and can be compared with an England average.

Figures for March demonstrate that other than Leicester (which is in line with the average), local take-up is below average.

The latest figures show a fall in the take up of the scheme in all areas identified except Leicester.

The government is set to continue to keep paying 80 percent of furloughed workers' wages until September 2021.

Area	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Blaby	17%	13%	9%	8%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%
Charnwood	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%
England	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	13%	15%	15%	15%
Harborough	17%	13%	10%	8%	13%	13%	15%	15%	14%
Hinckley & Bosworth	16%	12%	9%	7%	11%	12%	14%	14%	13%
Leicester	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	14%	15%	15%	15%
Leicestershire	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%
Melton	16%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%
NW Leicestershire	16%	11%	8%	7%	11%	10%	13%	13%	12%
Oadby & Wigston	18%	13%	10%	8%	12%	13%	15%	15%	14%

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

Figure 9 and Table 3 demonstrate the total employments furloughed as of the 31/03/2021.

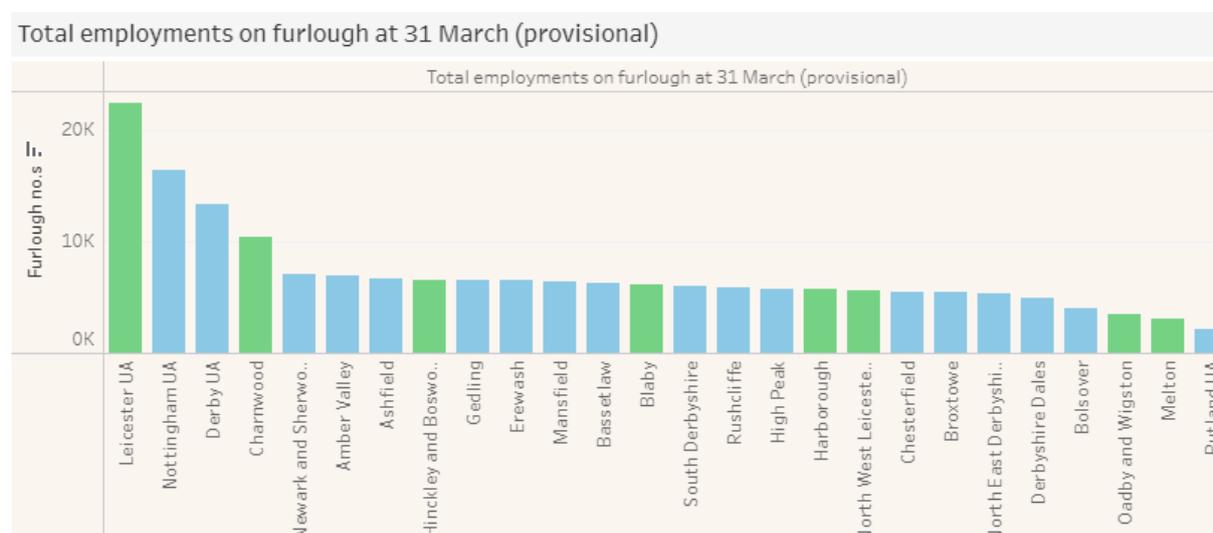


Figure 9 Total Employments Furloughed at 31 March 2021  
Source: HMRC

Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Leicester	Melton	NW Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston
6,200	10,400	5,800	6,600	22,400	3,100	5,600	3,500

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. 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 4 demonstrates the unique job postings by occupation for April 2021. These are compared with March 2020, April 2020 and March 2021. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

The unique Job posting figure for April 2021 is higher than April 2020 by 10,181 (35,514 compared to 25,333).

Over the last month the number of job postings grew from 34,363 to 35,514. This is a rise of 1,151 postings or 3.3%.

In terms of numbers, over the last year there have been rises in job postings in all but 1 of the occupation areas (Teaching and Educational Professionals).

In the last month of the 25 occupation areas 8 saw falls in postings. Three of the 8 related to health and social care (Health Professionals, Health and Social care associate Professionals and Caring Personal Service Occupations).

Over the last year the occupation areas that saw the largest growth in the number of unique job postings were:

- Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals
- Business and Public Service Associate Professionals
- Administrative Occupations
- Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades
- Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives
- Elementary Administration and Service Occupations

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Apr 2020 Unique Postings	Mar 2021 Unique Postings	Apr 2021 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Mar to Apr 2021	Monthly % Growth Mar to Apr 2021	Cumulative Growth from Mar 2020	Cumulative Growth % from Mar 2020
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,561	1,253	1,948	2,043	790	63.0	95	4.9	482	30.9
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	527	462	587	582	120	26.0	(5)	-0.9	55	10.4
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,693	2,260	2,863	3,294	1,034	45.8	431	15.1	601	22.3
22	Health Professionals	1,787	1,658	2,062	1,982	324	19.5	(80)	-3.9	195	10.9
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,334	1,342	1,177	1,241	(101)	-7.5	64	5.4	(93)	(7.0)
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,732	1,393	2,100	2,149	756	54.3	49	2.3	417	24.1
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,385	1,113	1,582	1,667	554	49.8	85	5.4	282	20.4
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	372	311	411	367	56	18.0	(44)	-10.7	(5)	(1.3)
33	Protective Service Occupations	29	12	37	52	40	333.3	15	40.5	23	79.3
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	412	331	350	344	13	3.9	(6)	-1.7	(68)	(16.5)
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,600	3,656	4,894	4,959	1,303	35.6	65	1.3	359	7.8
41	Administrative Occupations	2,933	2,217	3,147	3,127	910	41.0	(20)	-0.6	194	6.6
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	429	293	361	311	18	6.1	(50)	-13.9	(118)	(27.5)
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	34	32	41	45	13	40.6	4	9.8	11	32.4
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,959	1,666	2,350	2,659	993	59.6	309	13.1	700	35.7
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	501	385	819	832	447	116.1	13	1.6	331	66.1
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	638	452	407	485	33	7.3	78	19.2	(153)	(24.0)
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,052	1,985	2,322	2,185	200	10.1	(137)	-5.9	133	6.5
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	187	140	168	172	32	22.9	4	2.4	(15)	(8.0)
71	Sales Occupations	665	457	565	590	133	29.1	25	4.4	(75)	(11.3)
72	Customer Service Occupations	667	547	612	638	91	16.6	26	4.2	(29)	(4.3)
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	449	359	693	683	324	90.3	(10)	-1.4	234	52.1
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,587	1,188	1,997	2,034	846	71.2	37	1.9	447	28.2
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	279	208	441	500	292	140.4	59	13.4	221	79.2
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,929	1,613	2,429	2,573	960	59.5	144	5.9	644	33.4
Total		30,741	25,333	34,363	35,514	10,181	40.2	1,151	3.3	4,773	15.5

Table 4 LLEP area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes

Source: EMSI

Table 5 demonstrates job posting numbers by district area. Figures for all the district areas are higher this year than last year.

Area	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21
Blaby	695	640	799	1,027	1,286	1,469	1,703	1,742	1,757	1,727	1,355	1,751	1,717
Charnwood	3,608	3,361	3,811	3,951	4,317	4,850	5,558	5,773	5,639	5,446	4,695	5,628	5,566
Harborough	1,865	1,598	1,592	1,890	2,114	2,487	2,756	2,561	2,308	2,209	1,828	2,409	2,435
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,700	1,615	1,889	2,138	2,465	2,728	3,115	3,211	2,997	2,880	2,574	3,450	3,861
Leicester	13,471	11,696	11,535	12,076	12,392	13,550	14,789	14,913	14,757	14,357	12,061	14,393	14,945
Leicestershire	11,862	10,745	12,061	13,422	15,307	17,271	19,348	19,756	18,766	18,247	15,522	19,970	20,569
Melton	999	888	916	976	1,050	1,199	1,309	1,288	1,115	1,112	950	1,173	1,286
North West Leicestershire	2,572	2,243	2,661	3,017	3,523	3,984	4,286	4,504	4,319	4,216	3,599	4,884	5,103
Oadby & Wigston	423	400	393	423	552	554	621	677	631	657	520	674	601
Total	25,333	22,441	23,596	25,498	27,699	30,821	34,137	34,669	33,523	32,604	27,583	34,363	35,514

Table 5 Unique Job Postings by Local & District Authority  
Source: EMSI

Figure 10 provides an understanding of job postings for the Leicester and Leicestershire area from March 2020. The overall number of job postings across Leicester and Leicestershire in March and April this year has now eclipsed numbers being advertised in March 2020.

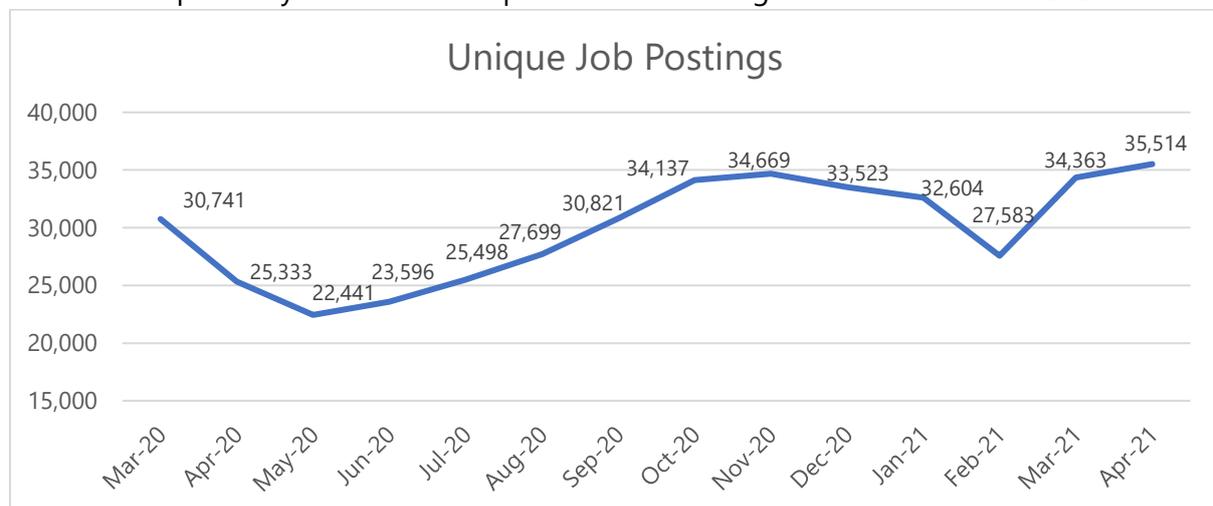


Figure 10 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings  
Source: EMSI

Figure 11 shows that job posting data in the Leicester and Leicestershire area presents two different pictures. In Leicestershire from August of 2020 there have been continually more unique job postings than the last figure supplied prior to the pandemic (March 2020). In Leicester this is not the case and figures have continually failed to exceed the figure delivered for March 2020. This demonstrates that Leicester has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

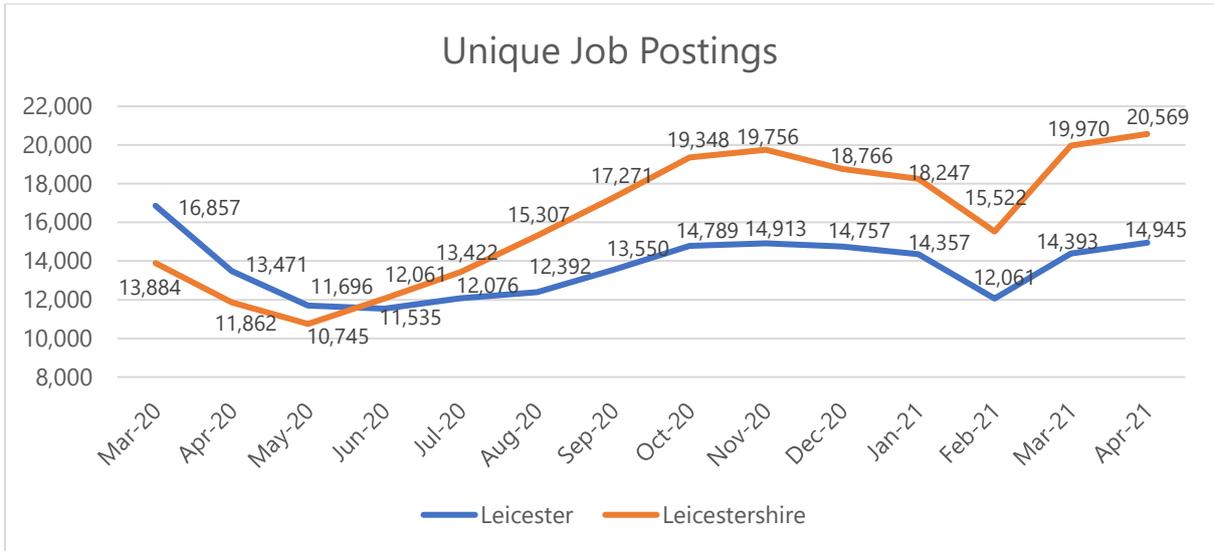


Figure 11 Leicester and Leicestershire Unique Job Postings  
Source: EMSI

More detailed breakdowns of job postings by district are available from [brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk](mailto:brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk).

## 6. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 9,681 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019/20 the number was 8,383. This is a difference of 1,298 business closures.

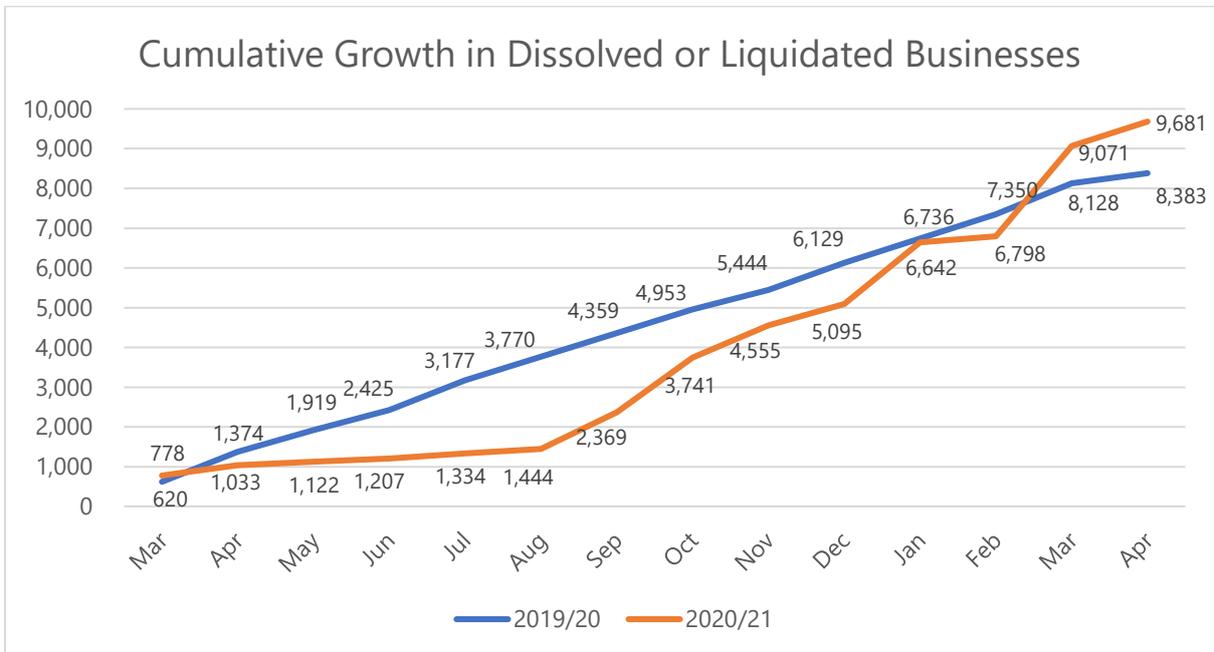


Figure 12 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

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

Figures for September and October demonstrated steep rises in business closures. The rise in business closures reflected the proposed ending of measures brought in by Government. However, these same measures were extended. Business closures 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 (1,547) there was a steep fall to 156 in February. In March there was a significant rise to 2,251. This was the largest figure posted in 2019, 20 and 21. The figure for the same month in 2020 was 778 and 2019 607. The latest figure (April 21) is 610.

In 2021 there have been nearly 4,600 solved businesses. For the same period in 2020 the figure was nearly 2,300 and 2019 about 3,900.

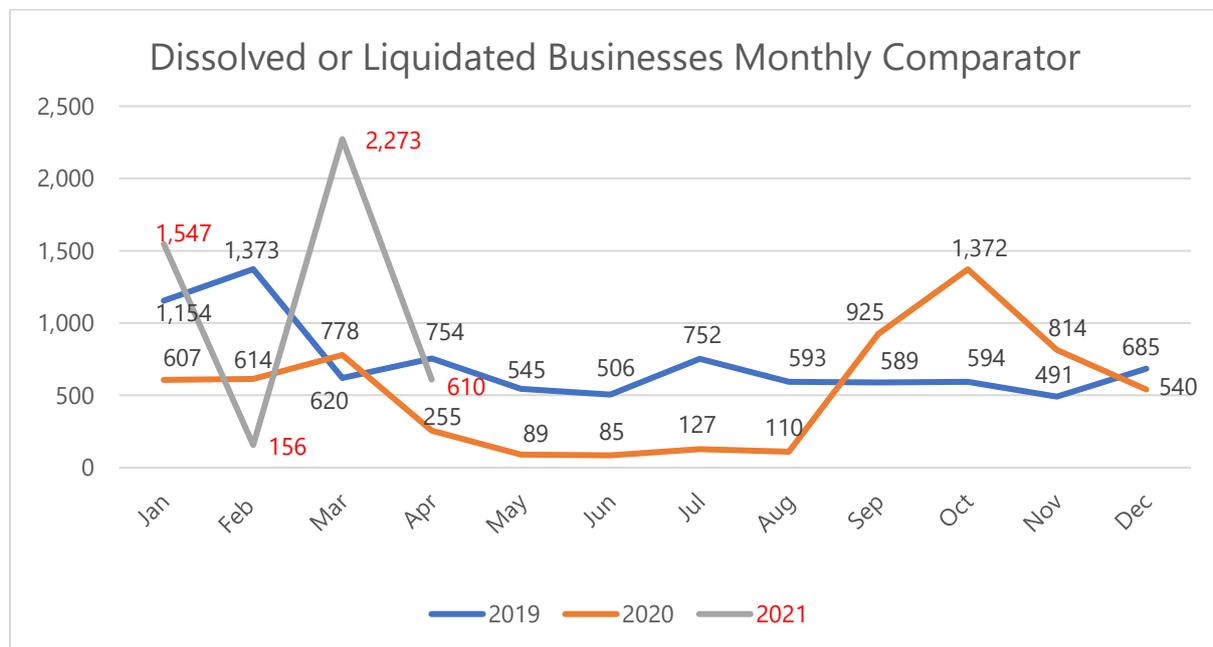


Figure 13 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 13,948 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019/20 12,660 businesses were incorporated. This is a difference of 1,288.

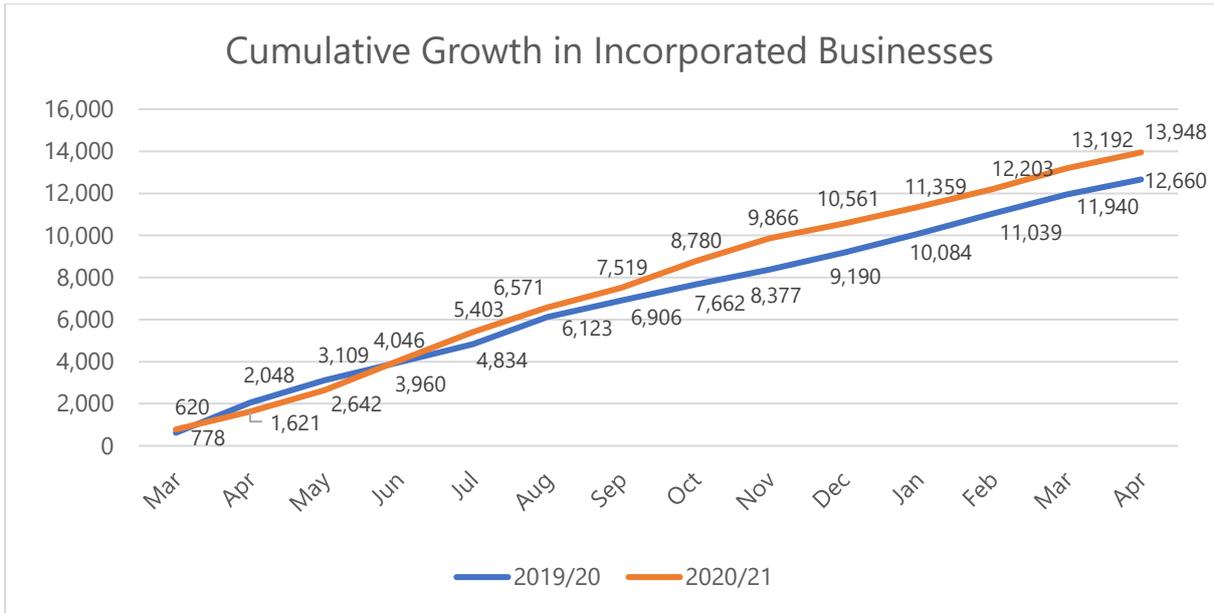


Figure 14 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

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. From December to March figures have risen slowly. The latest figure (April 2021) is 756. This is in line with the figure for the same period in 2019 and 20.

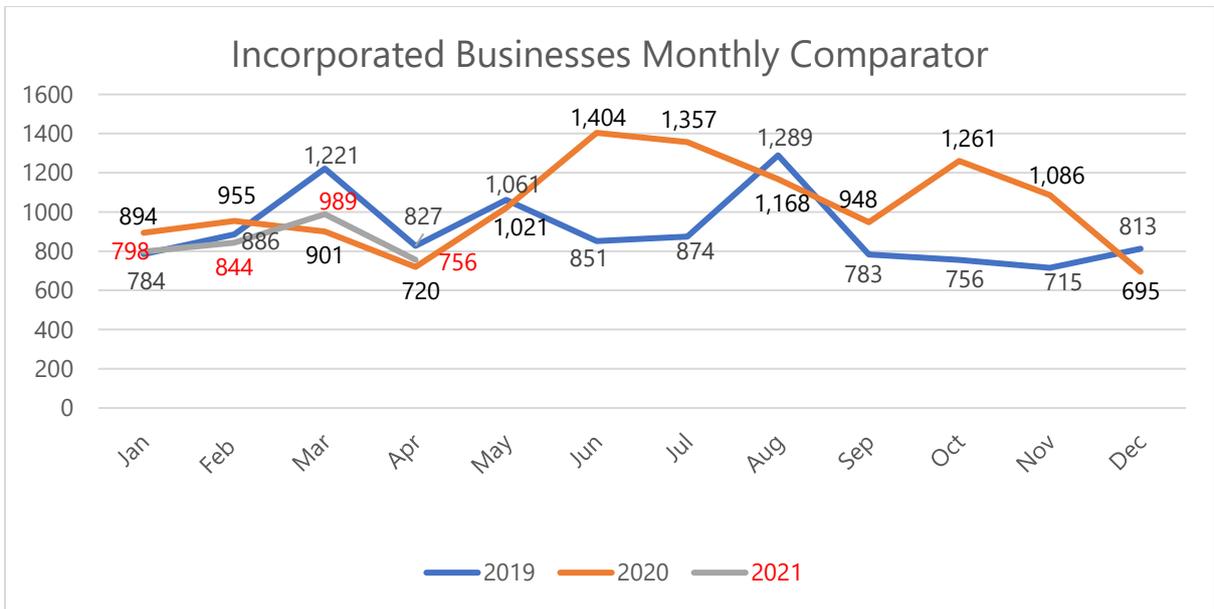


Figure 15 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Table 6 demonstrates those sectors where there have been more than 10 business failures. For these same sectors the table also demonstrates the number of incorporations. Data contained in Table 6 is for April 2021. Table 6 also helps provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are reacting to it.

	Dissolved	%	Incorporated	%	Dif Dissolved & Incorporated	%
62 : Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	73	12.0	21	2.8	-52	-71.2
70 : Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	47	7.7	16	2.1	-31	-66.0
82 : Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	44	7.2	19	2.5	-25	-56.8
47 : Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	41	6.7	109	14.4	68	165.9
49 : Land transport and transport via pipelines	33	5.4	26	3.4	-7	-21.2
43 : Specialised construction activities	24	3.9	38	5.0	14	58.3
46 : Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	24	3.9	38	5.0	14	58.3
56 : Food and beverage service activities	24	3.9	51	6.7	27	112.5
96 : Other personal service activities	24	3.9	26	3.4	2	8.3
86 : Human health activities	22	3.6	20	2.6	-2	-9.1
74 : Other professional, scientific and technical activities	21	3.4	17	2.2	-4	-19.0
68 : Real estate activities	20	3.3	93	12.3	73	365.0
85 : Education	17	2.8	14	1.9	-3	-17.6
41 : Construction of buildings	15	2.5	34	4.5	19	126.7
69 : Legal and accounting activities	15	2.5	4	0.5	-11	-73.3
78 : Employment activities	14	2.3	6	0.8	-8	-57.1
n.a.	24	3.9	21	2.8	-3	-12.5
All	610	100.0	756	100.0	146	23.9

Table 6 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector February 2021  
Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 14/05/2021 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

## 7. 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.*