

Key Findings:

- 7,260 residents are claiming unemployment related benefits; 4.1% of the working age population. This is a 39% increase on last month's figure and a 240% increase on the number recorded at the same point last year.
- Despite the considerable increase experienced last month, the overall claimant rate for South Gloucestershire remains lower than the national and regional averages.
- In the last month, the number of 'young' claimants increased by 52% and the number of 'older' claimants increased by 36%. Both these increases are higher than the comparative increases experienced nationally and regionally.

The Claimant Count

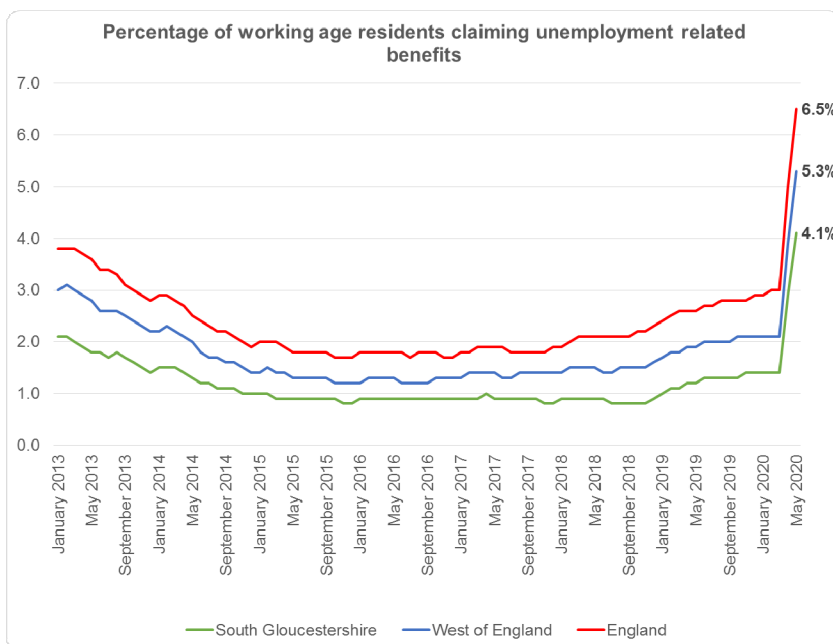
The monthly claimant count is not the official unemployment rate, but it provides the most regularly updated source of unemployment data at local level. The Claimant Count includes the stock of Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants.

Total Claimants: In May 2020, 7,260 (4.1%) of South Gloucestershire's resident working age population were claiming unemployment benefits.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the claimant rate has increased by 39% over the last month and 240% since the same time last year, meaning there are now 2,040 more claimants than there were in April 2020 and 5,125 more than there were in May 2019.

The claimant rate in South Gloucestershire now is considerably higher than it was at the peak of the economic recession in 2009 (2.9% in May 2009).

Despite the rapid increase experienced recently, at 4.1% the local claimant rate remains lower than the national and regional rates (6.5% and 5.3% respectively).

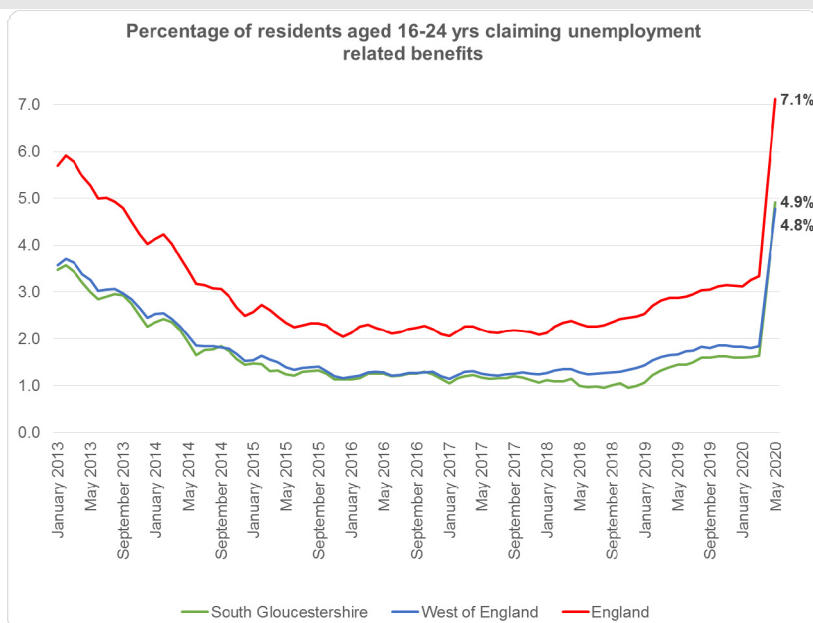


Claimants by age

Young claimants (aged 16-24 years): In May, there were 1,500 claimants aged 16-24 living in South Gloucestershire (4.9% of the resident population of that age group).

There are now 515 more young claimants than there were in April (representing a 52% increase) and 1,060 more claimants than there were in May 2019 (a 241% increase).

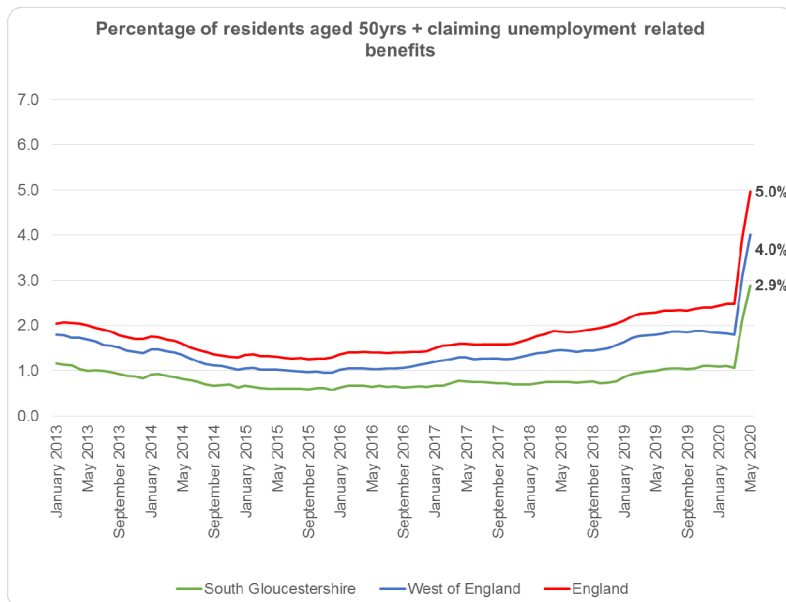
The young persons' claimant rate in South Gloucestershire remains below the England average (7.1%), but is marginally higher than the regional average (4.8%). However the rate of increase in South Gloucestershire has been faster.



Older claimants (aged 50+ years): In May, there were 1,565 claimants aged +50yrs living in South Gloucestershire (2.9% of the resident population of that age group).

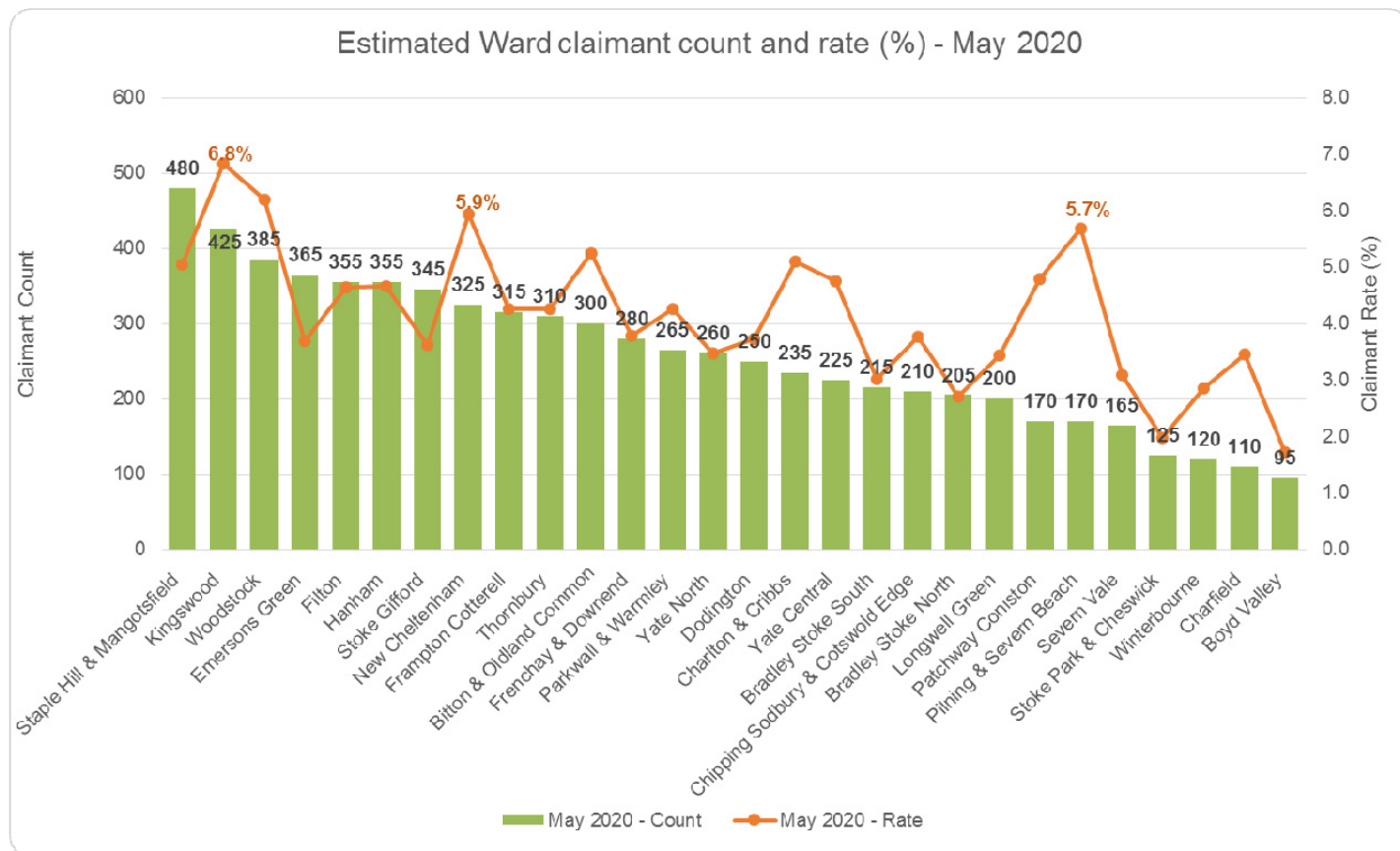
There are now 415 more 'older' claimants than there were in April (representing a 36% increase) and 1,025 more claimants than there were in May 2019 (a 190% increase).

The older persons' claimant rate remains lower than the national and regional rate (5.0% and 4.0% respectively). However the rate of increase in South Gloucestershire has been faster.



Sub-district analysis (estimated claimant count and rate by ward):

In May, the wards with the highest number of claimants were: Staple Hill & Mangotsfield (480), Kingswood (425), Woodstock (385) and Emersons Green (360). However, only one ward, Kingswood has a claimant rate (6.8%) above the national average (6.5%).



Between March and May 2020 the wards which saw the biggest increases in claimants were Kingswood (+300 claimants), Staple Hill & Mangotsfield (+295), Emersons Green (+285) and Hanham (+280).

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by South Gloucestershire Council's Corporate Research and Consultation Team, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Please be aware of the notes and caveats outlined overleaf.

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Notes and caveats

All data in this report is sourced from NOMIS : (www.nomisweb.co.uk) © Crown Copyright 2020

The claimant count figures are an experimental data series which counts the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work. It replaces the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as the headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed:

- from April 2015, the Claimant Count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all JSA claimants
- between May 2013 and March 2015, the Claimant Count includes all out of work Universal Credit claimants as well as all JSA claimants
- between October 1996 and April 2013, the Claimant Count is a count of the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- between January 1971 (when comparable estimates start) and September 1996, it is an estimate of the number of people who would have claimed unemployment-related benefit if Jobseeker's Allowance had existed at that time

The Claimant Count does not meet the internationally agreed definition of unemployment specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Estimates of unemployment are sourced from the Labour Force Survey, Annual Population Survey and modelled estimates which make use of the Annual Population Survey.

The Claimant Count includes people who claim unemployment-related benefits but who do not receive payment. For example, some claimants will have had their benefits stopped for a limited period of time by Jobcentre Plus. Some people claim JSA in order to receive National Insurance Credits.

Under Universal Credit it is expected that a broader span of claimants will claim benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed and therefore be included within the Claimant Count. This means that, with the roll-out of Universal Credit, the level of the Claimant Count series is likely to be higher than it would have been otherwise, even if labour market conditions remain unchanged.

Claimant Count figures are not seasonally adjusted. Care is needed in interpreting monthly changes in local level counts, which will be affected by seasonal fluctuations. Source: JSA Claimant Count (www.nomisweb.co.uk) © Crown Copyright 2020.

Rates for young and older claimants are not official data, but are calculated in house using relevant denominators from the (latest) 2018 mid-year population estimates

All ward level data are calculated in house from LSOA level data. Rates are based on estimates from the ONS 2018 mid-year population estimates.