



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Solihull

Unemployment Briefing



Community & Economic
Regeneration Division

October 2009

Unemployment Briefing: October 2009

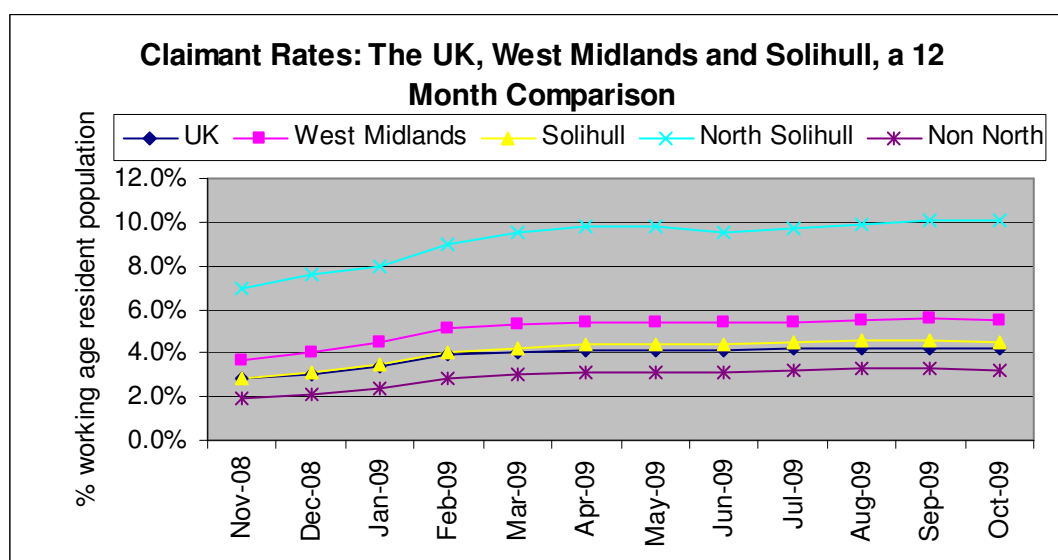
The standard measure of unemployment in the Borough of Solihull is the 'claimant count'; this count measures only those people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). This analysis of the claimant count is derived from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus.

The Claimant Count – Solihull in a National, Regional and Local Context.

National Context

▲ Increase ▼ Decrease ◀ No change (compared to the previous month's figure)

	Male No's	Male Rate %	Female No's	Female Rate %	Total No's	Total Rate %
U.K	1,145,989	5.7	436,566	2.4	1,582,555	4.2 ◀
West Midlands	132,069	7.6	47,838	3.1	179,907	5.5 ▼
Solihull	3,960	6.2	1,543	2.6	5,503	4.5 ▼
Non North Wards	2,216	4.3	946	2.0	3,162	3.2 ▼
North Solihull	1,750	15.1	599	5.2	2,349	10.1 ◀



UK Regional Context

Government Office Region	Number	Rate
East	118,442	3.4 ▼
East Midlands	111,598	4.1 ◀
London	228,185	4.5 ◀
North East	85,231	5.3 ◀
North West	197,344	4.7 ◀
Northern Ireland	52,734	4.8 ▼
Scotland	129,510	4.0 ◀
South East	154,857	3.0 ◀
South West	91,613	2.9 ▼
Wales	78,234	4.3 ▼
West Midlands	179,907	5.5 ▼
Yorkshire and The Humber	154,900	4.8 ◀
United Kingdom	1,582,555	4.2 ◀

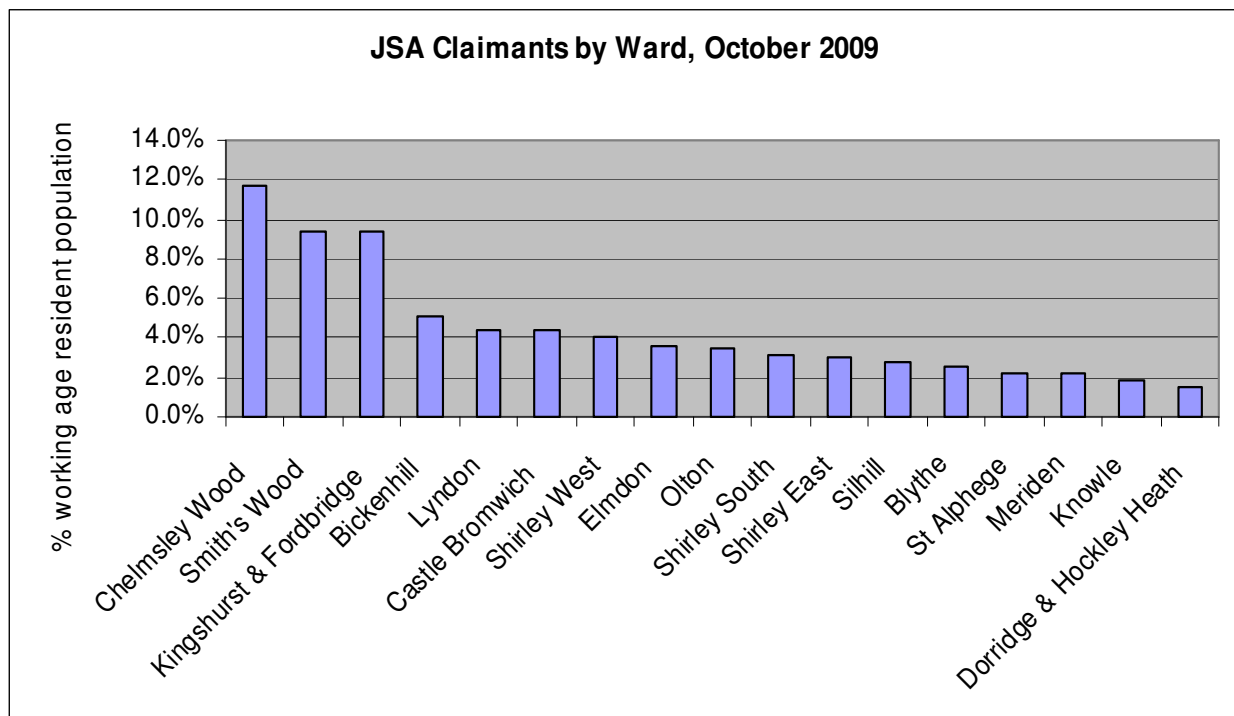
Within the UK Government Office regions, there were no recorded increases in claimant rates during October. Seven regions claimant rates stayed the same as in September's figures and five regions had claimant rates which decreased by 0.1%. The West Midlands remains the region with the highest claimant count rate of 5.5%, a decrease of 0.1%.

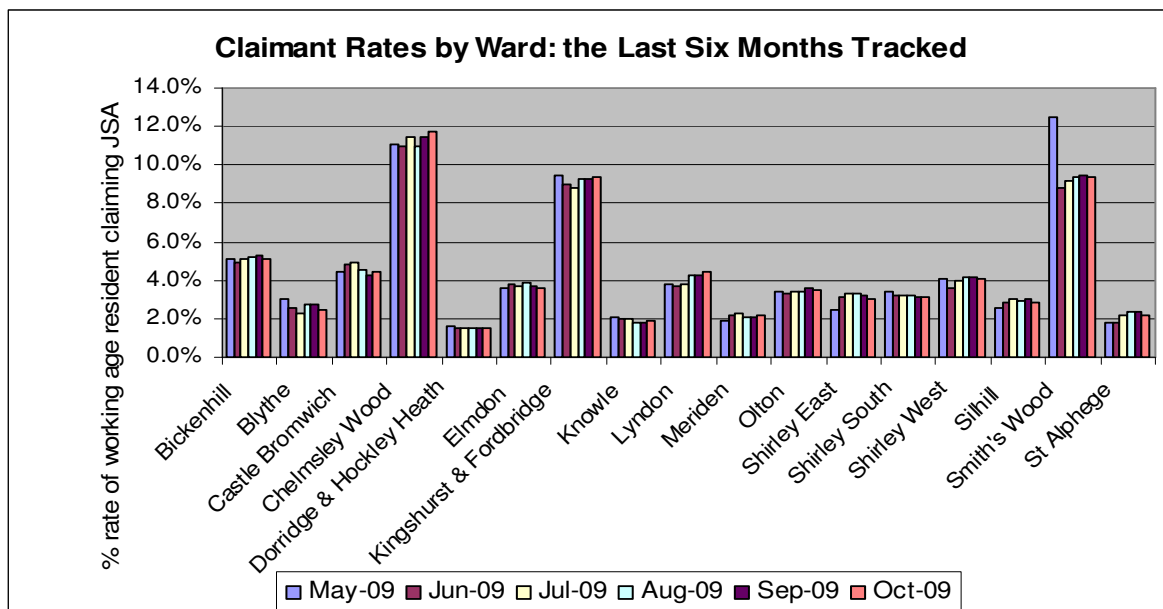
Local Context

The numbers of people unemployed for each ward are based upon the number of Job Seeker's Allowance claims derived from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus. Claimant count rates have been calculated using Office for National Statistics Mid-2007 Population Estimates.

The claimant count in Solihull's wards (numbers and rates)

	Male Numbers	Male Rates %	Female Numbers	Female Rates %	Total Numbers	Total Rates %
Bickenhill	287	7.2	100	2.8	387	5.1 ▼
Blythe	130	3.0	75	1.9	205	2.5 ▼
Castle Bromwich	226	5.9	94	2.7	320	4.4 ▲
Chelmsley Wood	671	17.7	204	5.5	875	11.7 ▲
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	71	2.2	26	0.8	97	1.5 ◀
Elmdon	178	4.8	78	2.3	256	3.6 ▼
Kingshurst and Fordbridge	550	13.9	190	4.8	740	9.4 ▲
Knowle	71	2.3	39	1.5	110	1.9 ▲
Lyndon	239	6.0	99	2.6	338	4.4 ▲
Meriden	99	2.8	51	1.6	150	2.2 ▲
Olton	178	4.9	62	1.9	240	3.5 ▼
Shirley East	130	3.9	67	2.1	197	3.0 ▼
Shirley South	163	4.4	58	1.7	221	3.1 ◀
Shirley West	202	5.4	92	2.6	294	4.1 ▼
Silhill	127	3.9	50	1.7	177	2.8 ▼
Smith's Wood	529	13.7	205	5.2	734	9.4 ▼
St Alphege	115	2.9	55	1.5	170	2.2 ▼





Unemployment figures released for October 2009 show that since the September 2009 claimant figure release, the unemployment rate in Solihull increased in six wards, decreased in nine wards and remained the same in two wards. Chelmsley Wood recorded the highest claimant rate increases (0.3%) A claimant rate decrease of 0.2% was recorded in five wards. The total number of JSA claimants in Solihull fell by 46 to 5,503.

Solihull Job Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus

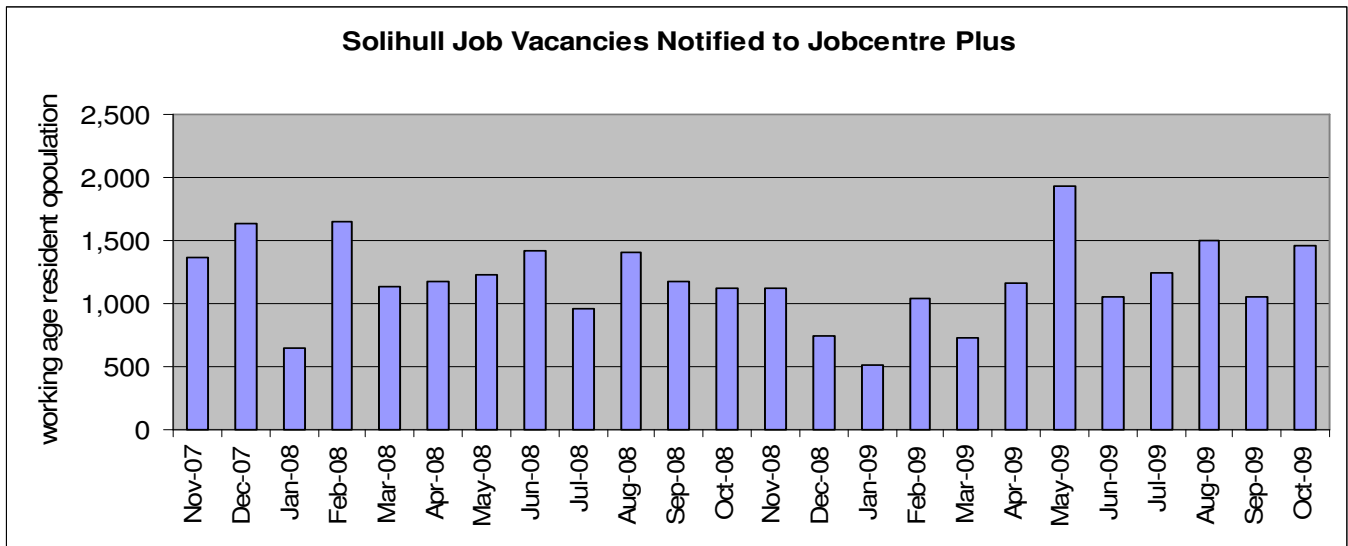
Data on the number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus is released on a monthly basis. The number of recorded job seekers divided by the number of notified vacancies per month indicates the person per job vacancy ratio. The person per job ratio in October 2009 decreased to 3.78 :1 from the September 2009 figure of 5.25 : 1.

JSA Claimant per job vacancy ratio, September 2009		
Job Seekers	Vacancies	Job Seekers Vacancy ratio
5,503	1,457	3.78: 1 ▼

There has been an increase of 400 notified job vacancies since September 2009, leaving a job vacancy total for October of 1,457. The graph below shows the number of vacancies over a two year period, with January 2009 showing the smallest number of vacancies and May 2009 showing the largest amount.

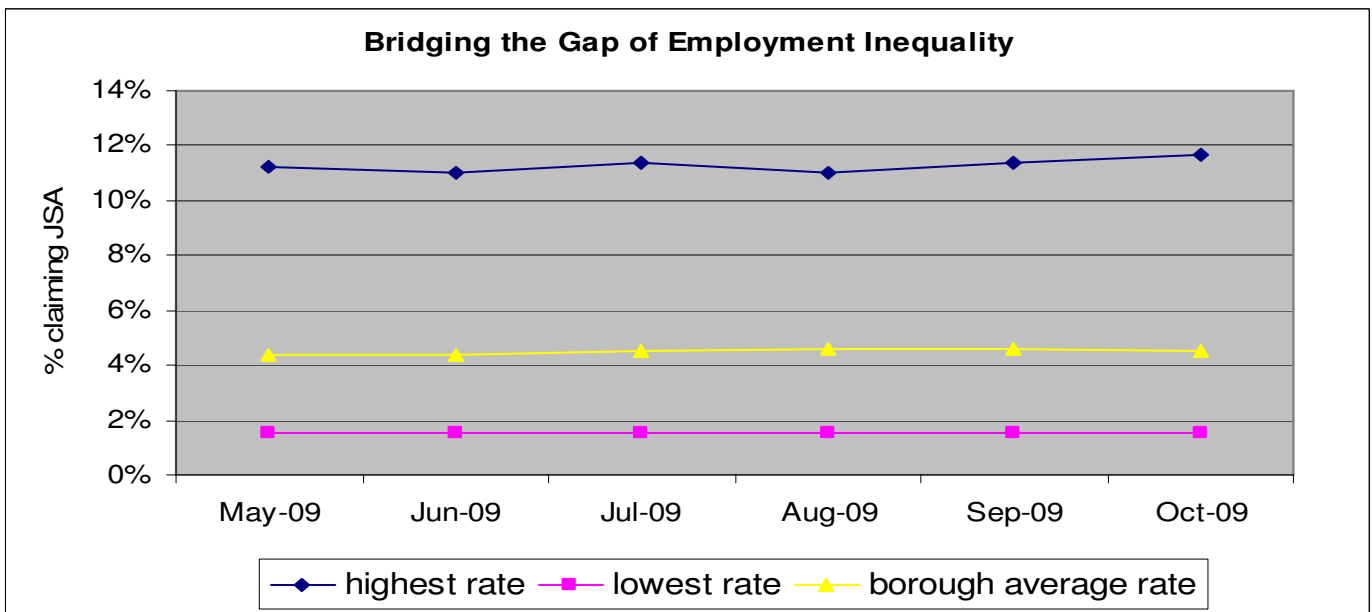
13,540 notified vacancies were recorded during the last twelve months (November 08 to October 09). If figures are broken down into six month periods, during the first six months (November 08 to April 09), 5,380 notified vacancies were recorded, averaging 884 per month. During the second period (May to October 09), 8,232 notified vacancies were recorded, averaging 1,372 per month. These increases indicate a growth in employment opportunities in the local labour market during the last six months.

Job Vacancies notified to Job Centre Plus over the last 2 years



Solihull – Bridging the Gap of Employment Inequality

The chart and data below reflect the highest and lowest claimant unemployment rates across Solihull’s electoral wards on a rolling six monthly basis. The data is not ward specific, it is designed to use the highest and lowest rates to determine the monthly trend of the employment gap which exists in Solihull.

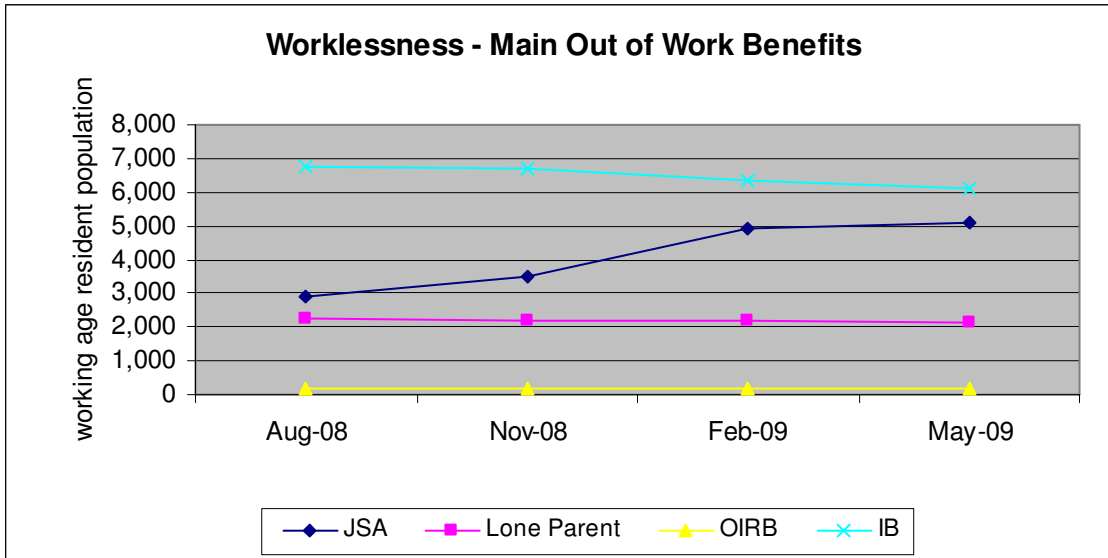


The employment inequality gap for October is 10.2 %, an increase from Septembers’ figure of 9.7%.

Employment Inequality Gap, October 2009	10.2 % ▲
--	-----------------

Worklessness Rates in Solihull

The worklessness figure for Solihull has been calculated using DWP figures accessed through NOMIS. In line with Government guidance we use the following data to determine the worklessness rate: Job Seekers Allowance(JSA); Lone Parents on Income Support (LPIS); Incapacity Benefit (IB); Others on Income Related benefits (OIRB). This data is updated quarterly with a six month time lag. The graph below shows the number of people in Solihull claiming out of work benefits.



The quarterly total of the above benefit claims divided by the borough working age resident population gives a borough wide worklessness rate for May 2009 of **9.4 %**.

Reporting Unemployment

There are various methods that are used to calculate and report the number of people not in employment. The robustness of this data varies and figures reported in the media can vary greatly depending on the source of the data. Worklessness data is calculated as detailed above and contains information derived from a number of benefit claimant groups. Unemployment data can be calculated using the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count or the Labour Force Survey (which uses the internationally agreed International Labour Organisation definition of unemployment) Claimant Count figures consist only of those who are in receipt of job seekers allowance. ILO/LFS figures include all persons of working age who are not in employment but would like to work. Below are the unemployment figures for the West Midlands (as the LFS is not available at Solihull level) using the two methods.

