

Cost of Living Crisis

Leeds Dashboard

Leeds - June 2023

Key Statistics:

The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. Inflation reached 11.1% in October 2022, a 41-year high, before slowing to 8.7% in May 2023. Interest rates are at their highest for 15 years at 5%.

This dashboard brings together key national and local data to help provide an overview of how rising prices, particularly food, energy and fuel prices are having an impact in Leeds.

The data in this report is the latest available as of **26th June 2023**.



8.7%

Was the UK Inflation rate in May 2023, with food prices and household bills being key contributors to keeping inflation high.



5%

At its meeting ending on 22 June 2023, the MPC voted to increase interest rates to 5%. This is the highest rate since 2008.



£225,000

The average house price in Leeds increased 3% between Dec 2021 to Dec 2022.



£825

Monthly Rental cost in Leeds up 19% to £825 in the 12 months to March 2023.



£330

Is the average weekly spend for low-income households, of which 25% is spent on fuel bills and rent and 14% on food and drink.



67,616

food parcels were given out informally without the need for referral in 2022/23, this is up 3% on last year.



£443

is the 2023 fuel poverty gap - the average additional income fuel poor households need be out of fuel poverty in 2023.



7.1

Full-time employees in Leeds earning £30,858 could expect to spend 7.1 times their annual earnings buying a home. The ratio has increased over time as wages have not risen in line with house prices.



£1.46

Petrol and Diesel prices have been continually falling from their peak in July 2022. Diesel was £1.99 in July 2022 and is £1.46 per litre in June 2023.



75,034

people were claiming Universal Credit in Leeds in April 2023, this figure has increased steadily since January 2022.



224

Requests for benefit checks to maximise incomes to LCC's Welfare Rights Unit in May 2023, up 27% from 176 checks made in May 2022.



77.3%

Employment in Leeds has been increasing steadily on a quarterly basis since Jan-Dec 2021, higher than its pre pandemic rate in Jan-Dec 2019.



124%

Increase in enquires to local Citizens Advice in relation to utility bills and other household costs in the 12 months to Mar 2023.



170%

LWSS is seeing unprecedented demand. There were 13,519 applications to the scheme in the 6 months to April 2023, up 170% the previous period.



29%

Although employment levels are at their highest rate, 29% of adults are estimated to be in in-work poverty.



18.3%

Food and drink prices were 18.3% higher than in May last year and remains the largest component to high inflation.

Inflation and Impacts on Spending

Leeds - June 2023

Inflation:

Consumer Prices Index inflation has slowed since its peak in October 2022 of 11.1% and in the 12 months to May 2023 it stands at 8.7%, still above its 2% target. High inflation affects the affordability of goods and services for households.

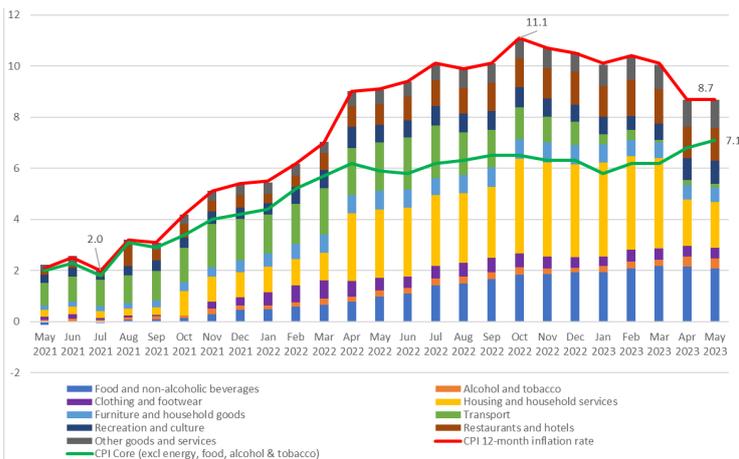
The chart below shows the monthly CPI rate along side the Core Inflation rate and also includes the component categories that make up the largest contributions to CPI.

CPI was last at its target rate in July 2021 as Lockdown rules were easing and spaces were starting to reopen. From that point supply and demand issues started to push up prices and the cost-of-living crisis began to take effect. In the 12 months to May 2023, food, housing and household services and restaurants and hotels have been the largest contribution to inflation increases.

Core inflation, which strips out the more volatile components such as energy, food prices and alcohol and tobacco prices, rose to 7.1% with the ONS reporting it rising at its fastest rate for 31 years. Higher core inflation is seen as a sign that price growth is more likely to remain persistently high.

SOURCE: ONS, CPI Inflation and Contributions, Monthly Data, June 2023

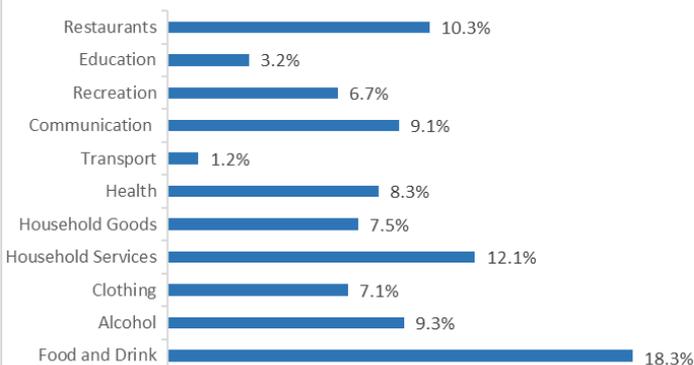
Contributions to the annual CPI inflation rate over time



Components of Inflation May 2023

At 18.3%, food and drink prices were still the largest component to high inflation even though the rate had slowed from 19% in April. The ONS have identified the main reasons behind the price rises being the Russian invasion of Ukraine impacting grain and fertiliser supplies, bad weather in Europe and North Africa leading to high import costs and labour shortages in the UK which have left some crops unharvested.

SOURCE: ONS, CPI Inflation, Monthly Data, June 2023

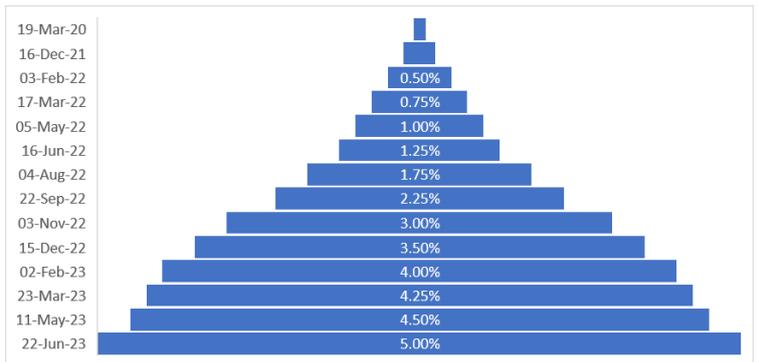


Interest Rates:

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) sets monetary policy to meet a 2% inflation target. At its meeting ending on 22 June 2023, the MPC voted to increase Bank Rate to 5%. This is the highest rate since 2008 and the decision is largely driven to bring CPI inflation further down this year.

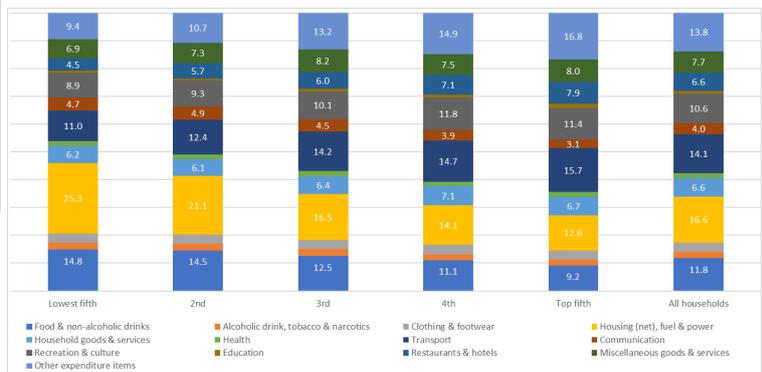
Higher interest rates will lead to higher repayments for people with loans and mortgages, but should also benefit savers if the rise is passed on. The economic intention behind the hike is to reduce spending, to reduce demand on goods and therefore bring down prices and bring inflation back down.

SOURCE: BoE, Bank Rate, Monthly data, June 2023



Household Expenditure

National average weekly household expenditure was £528.80 in the financial year ending (FYE) 2022. After adjusting for inflation, this was a real terms increase in average weekly household spend of £28.80 (6%) in FYE 2022.



Please note: spending is categorised using classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP) categories. As such, mortgage interest payments, Council Tax and Northern Ireland rates are categorised as other expenditure items rather than housing (net) fuel and power. Housing (net) refers to housing costs minus council tax and mortgage payments. Household goods and services include household appliances and goods and services for household maintenance.

On average, the top fifth of households with high incomes spent a total of £811.20 per week, while at the lower side of the income scale the lowest fifth of households spent £329.80 per week. The chart above displays how spending patterns vary across income distribution.

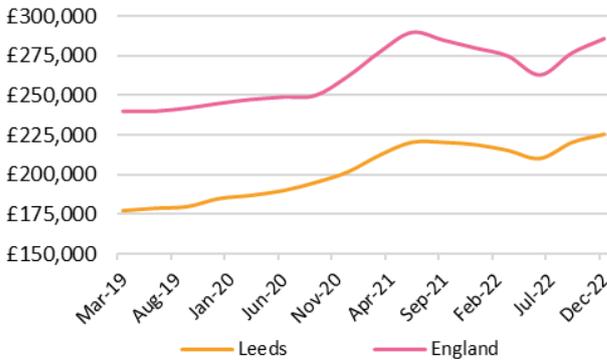
Out of the £329.80 per week, the ONS estimate that the lowest-income households spent around 25.3% on rent and fuel costs and 14.8% on food costs. When compared to the highest income group spending of the £811.20 per week, it's estimated 12.6% was spent on housing and fuel costs, 9.2% on food costs, but the highest proportion of spending for this income group was on Other expenditure items which mortgage and council tax at 16.8%.

SOURCE: ONS, Family Spending in the UK April 2021 to March 2022, May 2023

House Prices:

The ONS estimates that average house prices in Leeds rose above its previous peak of £220,000 in Jun 2021 to £225,000 in Dec 22, and up 3% on Dec 21. Average house prices across England rose 2% to £286,00.

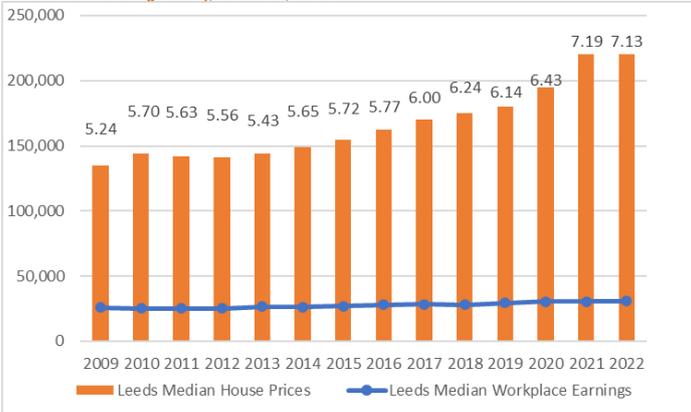
SOURCE: ONS, House Prices, Quarterly Data, June 2023



Housing Affordability Ratio:

With data available to Sept 2022, the ONS produce a Housing Affordability Ratio. Full-time employees in Leeds earning £30,858/year could expect to spend around 7.1 times their annual earnings buying a home at £220,000. This is below the England and Wales rate where full-time employees spend up to 8.1 times their annual earnings buying a home. The chart below displays Leeds wages against median house prices over time and how wages have not risen in line with house prices.

SOURCE: ONS HOUSING Affordability, Annual Data, March 2023



Housing Rentals:

The median rent in Leeds was £825/month in March 2023; up 19% on the same time last year, when rents were £795/month. The median rent in England was also £825/month, up 13% on the same period in 2022, when average rents were £730/month.

SOURCE: ONS, House Prices, Bi-annual Data, June 2023



Housing Leeds Rent Arrears:

	Jan-22	Apr-22	Jul-22	Oct-22	Jan-23	Apr-23
Arrears	4.03%	3.78	4.00%	4.26%	4.45%	4.40%

As of April 2023, 4.4% of Housing Leeds Tenants were in arrears with their rent, increasing 0.62 percentage points on April 2022.

There are around 53,322 council tenancies in Leeds, 32% of which are on Universal Credit and 33% on Housing Benefit. In April 2023, 16,934 Housing Leeds tenants were claiming Universal Credit, of which 47% (7,911) were on a managed payment to landlord. A managed payment to landlord is where the housing cost element of UC is paid direct to Housing Leeds as landlord, due to accruing rent arrears equal to, or more than two months or in defined circumstances to prevent arrears occurring. The proportion of tenants on a managed payment has increased 28% since April 2022. The figures are an indication of households in arrears or concerned they may fall into arrears and can partly be attributed to households struggling with the cost of living.

SOURCE: LCC Housing Leeds, Quarterly Data, May 2023

Housing Evictions:



In Leeds rental evictions by all landlords have risen by 117% on the quarterly period of Jan-March last year - up from 35 repossessions in Quarter 1 2022 to 76 in Quarter 1 2023. Nationally, rental evictions have risen by 63% in the year.

Mortgage repossessions are generally lower in comparison to the rental picture. In Leeds there were 11 during Q1 2023, up from 6 in Q1 2022. Nationally, mortgage repossessions have risen by 24% in a year.

The chart displays the trend in Mortgage and Landlord repossessions from Q1 2022 to Q4 2022 for Leeds. The Landlord data is broken down into Landlords repossessing homes under Section 21, Private Landlords and Social Landlords.

Section 21 evictions, also known as 'no fault' evictions currently allow landlords to evict tenants without providing any reason. Between January to March 2023; there were 22 Section 21 evictions, up from 7 in the same period in 2022. Across England and Wales these type of evictions have risen by 126% (up from 1,084 to 2,449).

Parliament is currently reviewing the Renters Reform Bill which proposes to transform the private renting sector, including plans to scrap section 21 evictions.

SOURCE: MoJ, Quarterly Data, May 2023

Energy Bills:

Average UK energy bills based on fixed energy consumption in 2022 were estimated to be £2,294. This was an increase of 72% or £961 on 2021. The average Standard Electricity bill increased by 51% up £391 to £1,160 in 2022. The average Gas bill increased by 101% up £570 to £1,134 in 2022.



The 2022 combined electricity and gas bills are the highest on record. Households will have received around £200 (three payments of £66 / £67 in October, November and December) towards their bill from the Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS) in 2022. (These payments have not been included in or deducted from these bills estimates. Other cost of living support measures and payments are also not reflected in the bill estimates.)

SOURCE: DESNZ Quarterly Energy Prices Data Mar 2023

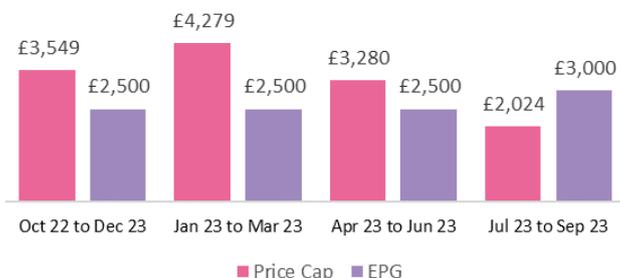
Energy Price Cap and EPG:

The Ofgem energy price cap is announced quarterly and sets a maximum price that energy suppliers can charge consumers for each kilowatt hour (kWh) of energy they use. The cap is a government protection, calculated by Ofgem.

The Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) was a Government policy introduced on 1 October 2022 to protect households from rising prices and was due to increase from £2,500 to £3,000 in April 2023. However, it's since been confirmed the Ofgem price cap will fall below the EPG from July, meaning for most households, the EPG will not be needed as customers will pay the lower of the two.

From 1 July 2023, the Ofgem energy price cap will be set at an annual level of £2,074 for a dual fuel household paying by direct debit based on typical consumption, which reflects recent falls in wholesale energy prices. The price cap for July sees a reduction in last quarter's cap, and a reduction in how much customers will pay on their bills.

SOURCE: Ofgem, Quarterly Energy Price Cap Data, May 2023



Fuel Poverty:

An estimated 55,274 (15.8%) Leeds households were in fuel poverty in 2021 according to the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) measure.

The LILEE definition of fuel poverty states that a household is fuel poor if:

- They are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G
- Their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) is below the poverty line.

There is a two-year time lag for local fuel poverty data and the latest available data does not yet capture the impact of the energy crisis. The national fuel poverty rate for England just has a one year time lag and was at 13.4% during 2022.

Fuel Poverty Gap

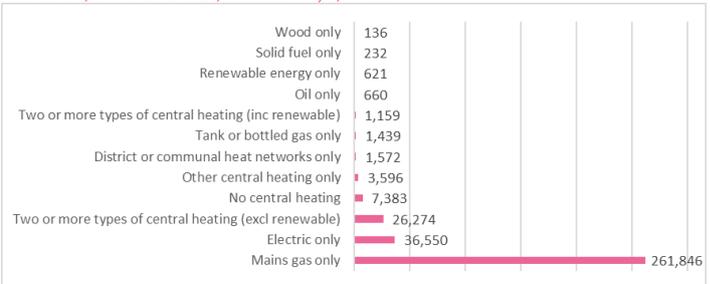
The LILEE definition also allows analysis of the depth of fuel poverty; known as the fuel poverty gap which measures the reduction in fuel costs a households would need to no longer be in fuel poverty. In 2022 the mean average fuel poverty gap was £338 per fuel poor household and is projected to increase to a record high of £443 in 2023 (previous record of £354 in 2010). This means in 2022, households in fuel poverty needed £338 more income to pay their fuel bills and forecasts expect this figure to be around £443 during 2023.

SOURCE: DBEIS and DESNZ Fuel Poverty data, Annual data, April 2023

How homes are heated in Leeds

In Leeds, Census 2021 data reveals 77% of households used mains gas central heating, this compares to 74% of households nationally. 36,550 Leeds households had electric-only heating (10.7% of all Leeds households). 7,383 households in Leeds reported having no central heating at all (2.2% of Leeds households).

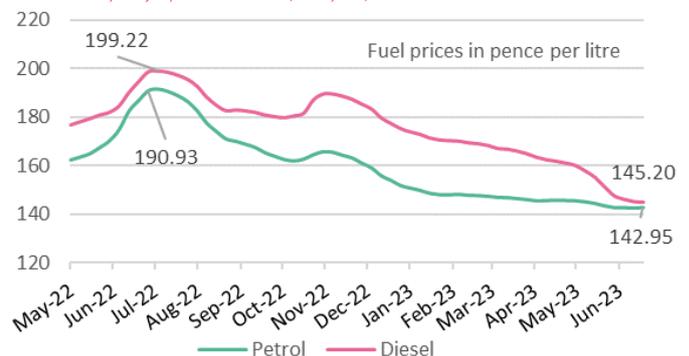
SOURCE: ONS, How homes are heated, Census 2021 analysis, Jan 2023



Road Fuel Prices

As of 19 June 2023, Petrol was 142.95 pence per litre and diesel was 145.20 pence per litre. Road fuel prices have continued to fall nationally, from their peak reached in the week commencing 4 July 2022 (£1.91 for petrol and £1.99 for diesel), to around £1.43 for petrol and £1.46 for diesel per litre.

SOURCE: DESNZ Weekly road fuel prices to 20 June 2023, Weekly data, June 2023



People in Poverty

The Leeds Poverty Fact Book contains all the latest official data and insights relating to Poverty and its impact in Leeds. Key headlines from the latest Relative Poverty estimates published by the DWP in March 2023 reveal, after housing costs are deducted from income:

- 22% of people in the UK were in poverty in 2021/22 and is estimated to affect 178,630 people in Leeds.
- A couple with 2 children are in poverty if they earn £486/week or less
- A single adult with no children is in poverty on earnings of £174/week or less
- 71% of children in poverty are from working families
- 29% of working age adults in the UK live in households where at least one adult is in work but are still in poverty

Latest local estimates from HMRC & DWP estimate that 32,933 children under 16 in Leeds were in poverty in 2021/22 before housing costs are deducted from income.

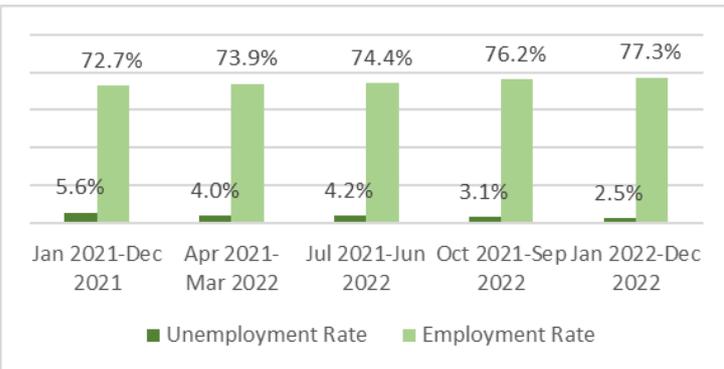
SOURCE: DWP HBAI, Annual data, March 2023

Employment/Unemployment:

In the year to Dec 2022, 398,100 people were estimated to be employed in Leeds, at a rate of 77.3% of the working age population. This was just above the national rate of 75.6%. Employment in Leeds has been increasing steadily on a quarterly basis since Jan-Dec 2021, and is higher than its pre pandemic rate in Jan-Dec 2019 of 74.6%.

Unemployment to Dec 2022 was also at it's lowest rate both nationally and locally. And is lower than its pre pandemic rate of 4.2% Dec 2019. In the year to Dec 2022, 10,300 people were estimated to be unemployed in Leeds, at a rate of 2.5%. This was below the national rate of 3.9%.

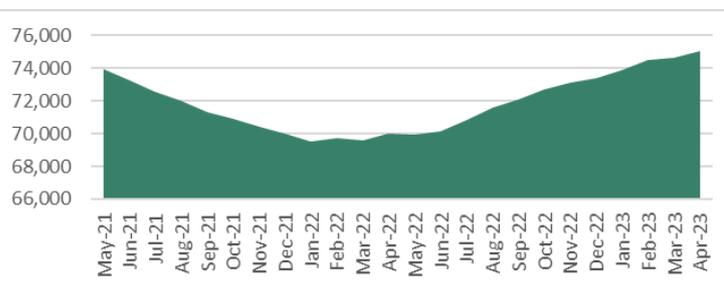
SOURCE: Nomis, Annual Population Survey, Quarterly data, June 2023



Universal Credit

Latest data for April confirm there were 75,034 claimants in Leeds, up 7% on April 2022. 62% of claimants to UC in April 2023 were not in work, and 38% - over 28,000 Leeds claimants are in-work.

SOURCE: DWP People on Universal Credit, Monthly data, June 2023



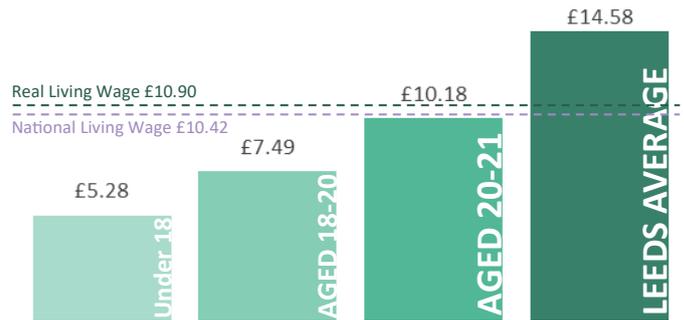
Minimum/Living Wages:

The Living Wage Foundation recommend employers outside of London pay £10.90/hour from April 2023, currently the Government's National Living Wage is set at £10.42/hour for all employees aged 23 and over.

Although the median average wage for Leeds residents is £14.58/hour, an estimated 40,258 FTE Leeds residents earned less than the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage in 2022 of £9.90/hour.

SOURCE: Living Wage Foundation, Annual data, Oct 2022, and Low Pay commission, Annual data Nov 2022

Government National minimum wages



Wages and impact of inflation

After the recent uplift to the National Living Wage to £10.42/hr; UK wages have risen at their fastest rate in 20 years, but are still lagging behind the rate of inflation. Pay failing to keep up with price rises has led to many households to come under financial pressure in recent months.

The table below provides the inflationary impact on median weekly earnings for Leeds residents from official data published in November 2022 (before the increase in National Living Wage). Real term estimates have also been provided for Leeds' lowest 10% earners and top 10% earners.

	Lower 10%	Median	Top 10%
2021 Weekly Earnings	£184.00	£500.40	£984.80
2022 Weekly Earnings	£189.00	£536.60	£1,060.90
Nominal Change	£5.00	£36.20	£76.10
Nominal % Change	2.7%	7.2%	7.7%
Real Change	£-11.93	£-9.84	£-14.50
Real % Change	-5.9%	-1.8%	-1.3%

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) report that for full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in the UK, median weekly earnings in April 2022 increased to £532.50 by 5.6% (£28.10) from a year earlier on a nominal basis, and when adjusted for inflation, it fell by 2.1% (down £11.24 per week).

In Leeds; resident FTE employees, median weekly earnings increased to £536.60 up by 7.2% (up £36.20) from a year earlier on a nominal basis, and when adjusted for inflation, it fell by 1.8% (down £9.84 per week). The real term impact on the lower 10% of earners, estimates that Leeds residents saw a weekly loss of 5.9% (£11.93) and the top 10% of earners are losing 1.3% of their income in real terms, (down £14.50 a week). This analysis highlights how it is those on lowest income being hit the hardest by the inflationary impacts and the cost of living. Analysis of data due to be published in November 2023 should reveal the impact on the increase the National Living Wage on the more recent inflation data.

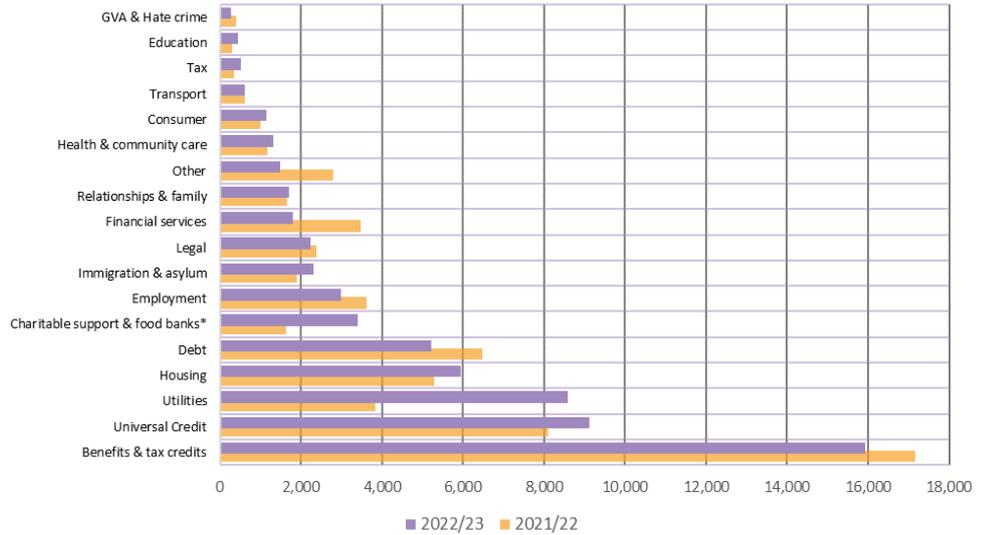
SOURCE: ONS, ASHE and the Leeds Poverty Fact Book, Annual data, Nov 2022

Citizens Advice:

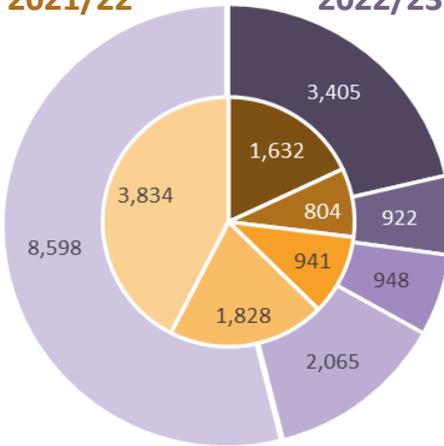
Client data from Citizens Advice Leeds and Chapelton provides an indication on the demand for advice services and the type of enquiries being seen. In the year ending March 2023; total enquiries increased by 5%; from 62,222 in 2021/22 to 65,123 in 2022/23. Enquiries on Benefits and tax credits, Universal Credit, Utilities, Housing, Debt, and Charitable support/foodbanks were the most sought areas of advice.

Although Debt enquiries fell between 2021/22 and 2022/23, it should be noted this is not reflecting a fall in demand but a reduction in the number of debt advisers as a result of national funding changes. Enquiries in Benefit and tax enquiries also fell on last year, due to the continued transitioning of new claims to Universal Credit.

Number of Clients and Advice Categories



2021/22 2022/23



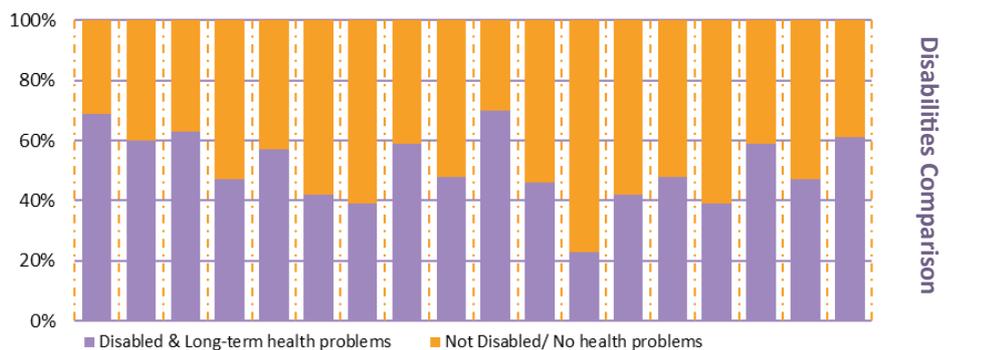
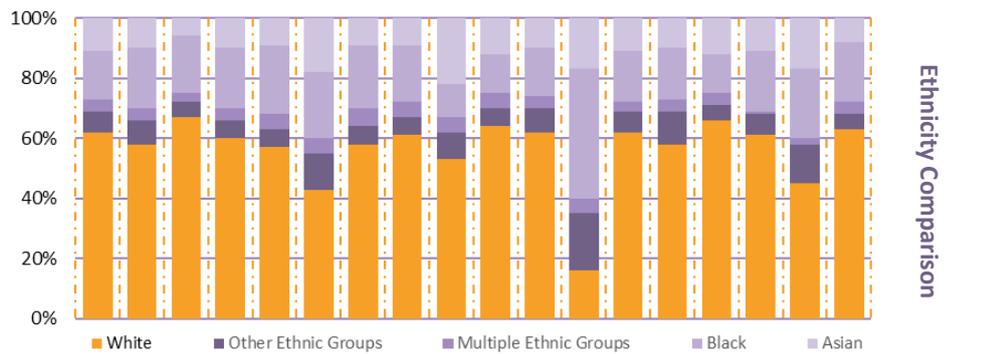
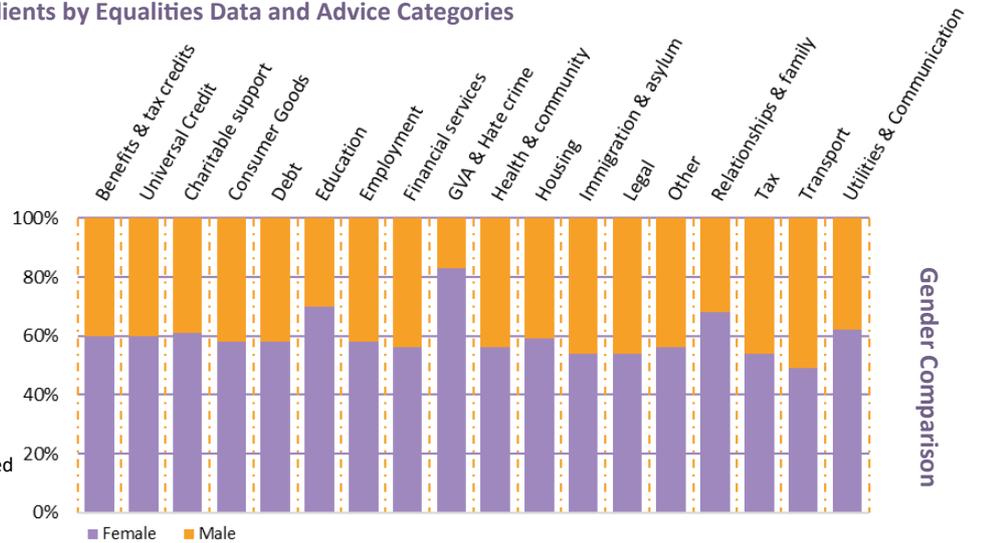
- Charitable support & food banks
- Homelessness
- Social Housing
- Private rented
- Utilities

Cost of Living Comparisons

The pie chart above demonstrates how key advice areas have increased considerably between 2021/22 to 2022/23 in relation to the cost of living. Enquiries relating to Utilities such as energy bills have increased by 124% and Charitable and foodbank support has increased by 109%.

The demography of local Citizens Advice data reveals that women, racially minoritised groups and disabled people/people with a long term health issue are all representing for advice at higher proportions than they are in the wider Leeds population. This indicates that these groups are being more severely affected by the cost of living crisis than the overall population. 35% of all clients in 2022/23 were from priority wards which include the 1% most deprived neighbourhoods according to the IMD 2019.

Clients by Equalities Data and Advice Categories

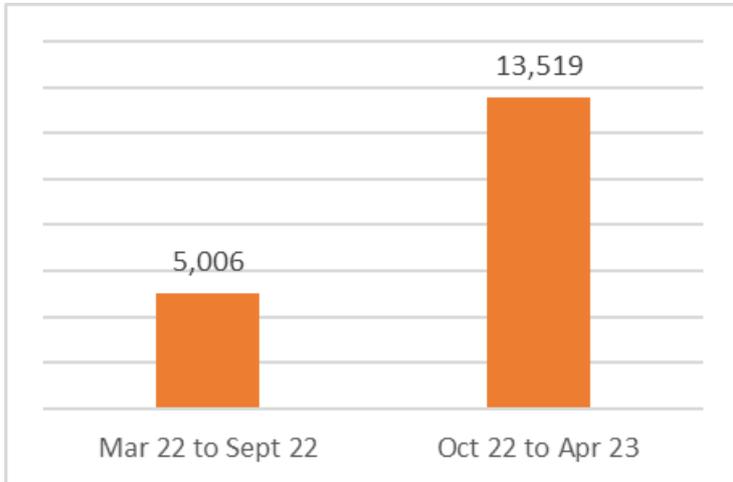


SOURCE: Citizens Advice Leeds and Chapelton, Quarterly data, May 2023

Local Welfare Support Scheme:

The Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) is designed to support people who are experiencing an emergency or crisis position. The service offers food parcels, fuel support, supermarket vouchers, white goods, furniture and has recently trialled a cash grant scheme.

Applications to LWSS



LWSS is seeing unprecedented demand for emergency support for food, energy and household goods. There were 5,006 applications in the 6 months to September 2022, this increased by 170% over the following 6 months to April 2023 when 13,519 applications to the scheme were made.

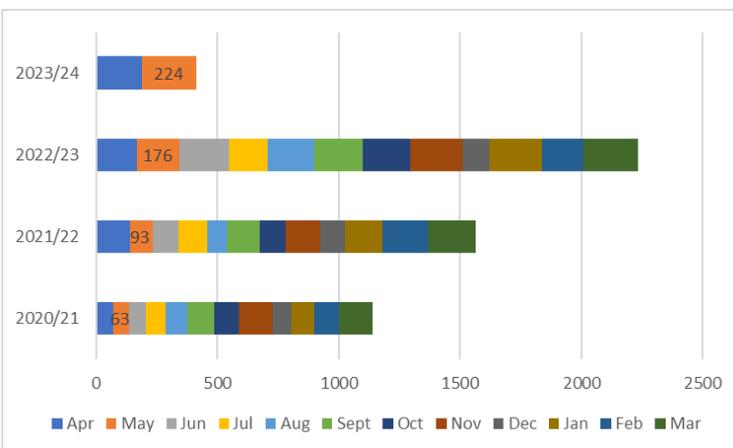
SOURCE: LCC LWSS Team, Monthly data, June 2023

Welfare Rights Unit:

The Council's Welfare Rights Unit provide advice and support on benefit entitlements to check eligibility and help clients access and claim benefits to maximise income. The number of benefit checks carried out by this team has significantly increased year on year from 2020/21—reflecting the cost of living crisis everyone is facing. In May 2023, 224 benefit checks were made by the service, up 27% from 176 checks made in May 2022.

SOURCE: LCC Welfare Rights Unit, Monthly data request, June 2023

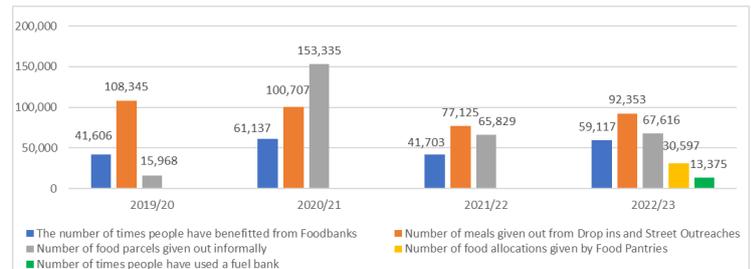
Number of benefit checks carried out.



Leeds Food Aid Network:

Leeds FAN helps bring different people, initiatives and institutions together who are involved in tackling food poverty in Leeds. This includes foodbanks, drop ins / soup kitchens, Street Outreaches, specialised services providing food for Asylum seekers / Refugees, informal parish pantries and certain forms of Social Enterprise run on a community café/pay as you feel models.

Latest figures reveal:



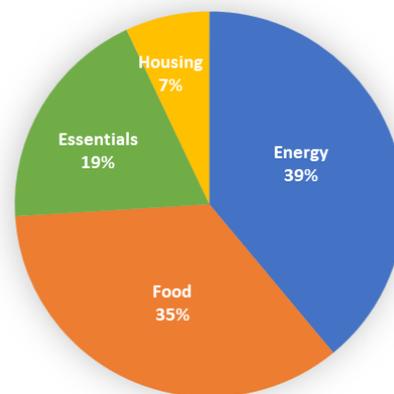
- 59,117 people have accessed a foodbank by referral in 2022/23. This is a 42% increase on the support level required during 2021/22.
- 92,353 meals were given out through a drop in or through Street Outreach, up 20% on last year.
- 67,616 food parcels were given out informally without the need for referral, this is up 3% on last year.
- New insights in 2022/23 also revealed that 30,597 allocations were accessed from Food Pantries, and Fuel Banks were used 13,375 times.

Source: Leeds FAN Annual Data, June 2023

Household Support Fund

Leeds was allocated Government funding of £7.1m to support vulnerable people with the costs of energy, food and essential items between 1st October 2023 and 31st March 2023. This resulted in 108,072 households supported.

Of these 45% were households with children, 5% were pensioner households, 17% had a disabled person within the household, and 32% were households with working age adults without children.



39% was spent on energy, 35% on food, 19% on essential items and 7% on housing.

4% of people received vouchers, 68% cash, 20% received support through the third sector organisations, 8% received other/tangible items.

In the autumn statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the programme would be extended for 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

SOURCE: LCC Financial Inclusion Team, June 2023

Cost of Living Crisis Dashboard

Data Sources

Leeds - June 2023

Data Source	Release Frequency	Latest Release	Next Release	Web link/access
ONS CPI Inflation and components	Monthly	21/06/2023	19/07/2023	Consumer price inflation tables - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
Bank of England Base Rate	Monthly	22/06/2023	August 2023	https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/the-interest-rate-bank-rate
ONS Family Spending in the UK	Ad-hoc	31/05/2023	TBC	Family spending in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
ONS House Prices	Quarterly	21/06/2023	September 2023	Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
ONS Private Rental Market Summary Statistics	6 monthly	21/06/2022	December 2023	Private rental market summary statistics in England - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
Leeds City Council, Housing Leeds	Quarterly	May 2023	August 2023	LCC data request
Housing Affordability	Annually	22/03/2023	March 2024	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningsforformerlocalauthorities
MoJ Repossessions Data	Quarterly	18/05/2023	August 2023	Mortgage and landlord possession statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
DESNZ Quarterly statistical publication on energy	Quarterly	30/03/2023	June/July 2023	Energy and climate change: evidence and analysis - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Ofgem Price Cap	Quarterly	25/05/2023	25/08/2023	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/check-if-energy-price-cap-affects-you
BEIS Sub-regional fuel poverty 2022	Annually	27/04/2023	Feb-Apr 2024	Sub-regional fuel poverty 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
ONS Weekly Road Fuel Prices	Weekly	20/07/2023	27/06/2023	Weekly road fuel prices - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
DWP HBAI Poverty	Annual	March 2023	March 2024	Leeds Observatory – Leeds Poverty Fact Book – Section 1: Relative and Absolute Poverty
DWP and HMRC Child Poverty	Annual	March 2023	March 2024	Leeds Observatory – Leeds Poverty Fact Book – Section 2: Child Poverty
DWP Universal Credit	Monthly	13/06/23	11/07/23	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk
Annual Population Survey via Nomis - Employment	Quarterly	18/04/2023	11/07/2023	Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)
Annual Population Survey via Nomis - Unemployment	Quarterly	18/04/2023	11/07/2023	Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)
ASHE	Annual	November 2022	November 2023	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
ASHE and Leeds Poverty Fact Book	Annual	November 2022	November 2023	Leeds Observatory – Leeds Poverty Fact Book – Section 3: Wages, Household Income and Employment
LCC Welfare Rights Unit	Monthly	June 2023	July 2023	LCC data request
Citizens Advice data from Leeds and Chapeltown	Quarterly	May 2023	August 2023	Local data request
LWSS	Monthly	June 2023	July 2023	LCC data request
Leeds FAN	Annually	May 2023	May 2024	Local data request
Household Support Fund	Quarterly	June 2023	September 2023	LCC data request

Cost of Living Crisis Dashboard

Glossary and Notes

Leeds - June 2023

Abbreviations

AHC—After Housing Costs
APS—Annual Population Survey
ASHE—Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
BHC—Before Housing Costs
BoE—Bank of England
CPI—Consumer Price Inflation
DESNZ—Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero
DWP Department for Work and Pensions
FYE—Financial Year Ending
HSF—Household Support Fund
IMD—Index of Multiple Deprivation
LCC—Leeds City Council
Leeds FAN— Leeds Food Aid Network
LWSS—Local Welfare Support Scheme
MoJ—Ministry of Justice
MPC — Monetary Policy Committee
ONS—Office for National Statistics
UC—Universal Credit

Useful Definitions

Consumer price inflation — the rate at which the prices of goods and services bought by households rise or fall. It is estimated by using price indices and used in the government's target for inflation.

Relative poverty — individuals who have household incomes below 60% of the median average in the current year.

Absolute poverty - individuals who have household incomes 60% below the median average at a fixed point in time (currently 2010/11), adjusted for inflation.

Housing costs - Both relative and absolute measures are available before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC) are deducted from income. The after housing cost measure is useful in the current economic climate as rising rents and property prices are a growing contributor to poverty.

Employment Rate—The number of people in employment expressed as a percentage of all people aged 16-64

Unemployment Rate—Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population (i.e. people who are either in employment or unemployed and not the full working age population of 16 to 64 used for the Employment Rate)

Notes and Revisions

Since the February Cost of Living Dashboard two pieces of analysis due for updates have not been included in this June edition and have been removed until further notice, they are:

Centre for Cities Local Inflation Estimates

In February, a map of local inflation rates was included using data from the think tank Centre for Cities. Centre for Cities have temporarily stopped publishing their inflation estimates for local areas due to inflation being largely driven by food prices affecting their methodology. Once these figures become available again, we can look to include them in future editions of the Cost of Living Dashboard for Leeds.

Energy Performance Certificates

In February, analysis was provided on Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) data in Leeds, displaying the number of properties in Leeds by their Energy Ratings. This dataset does not remove old EPCs from its records and further technical work is required before a more accurate analysis can be provided. The Cost of Living Dashboard will look to start including this data again once more robust analysis can be carried out.

Further information

For any queries or for further information on this report please contact financial.inclusion@leeds.gov.uk