

Monthly report to Worklessness Strategic Outcomes Group: October 2009**Executive Summary**

This monthly report provides a detailed analysis of the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant count data relating to those individuals claiming during October 2009. The report also provides wider contextual information regarding the monthly released data on national JSA claimants figures, young people not in education, employment and training (NEETS) and the Jobcentre Plus monthly economic report (including information on individuals joining and leaving the JSA register and type of vacancies being sought).

The JSA claimant count data has been analysed at a city wide level (including comparisons with the other core cities) and for each of the NI153 localities. This report details the following key findings regarding the status of the monthly released worklessness data:

- There are now 24,000 JSA claimants in Leeds which accounts for 4.7% of the working age population.
- The JSA claimant count shows the second consecutive monthly decrease in 18 months, however overall it has increased by 60% from the previous October.
- Over the last two months the number of JSA claimants dropped from 24,282 to 24,000.
- During October 5,030 claimants joined the JSA register and 5,265 individuals stopped claiming the allowance.
- In October 09 Leeds had the second lowest JSA claimant rate of all the core cities, with only Bristol having a lower rate.
- There are 46 LSOAs across the city with a claimant rate of 10% or more, compared to the city average of 4.7%.
- The total claimant count and rate for the combined NI 153 Areas peaked at 6071 (Rate: 11.2%) in July 2009 and has decreased each subsequent month to 5875 (Rate: 10.9%) in October.
- The claimant count in the combined N1 153 areas this October is 1560 claimants higher compared to the same month last year.
- All NI153 localities have experienced an increase in the number of claimants over the last 12 month period. Overall, eight of the 22 localities have seen increases in the number of claimants of 50% or more when comparing this month's count with the same month in the previous years.
- 17 of the 22 NI 153 localities have a claimant rate that is double that of the city average.
- The Job Centre Plus monthly economic report details that in September 09 the weekly intake of new JSA claims was 30% higher than in the same month a year ago. The report also states that just over 50% of those leaving the JSA register in September 09 had been unemployed for less than 3 months.
- In Leeds during October there were 2,355 young people who were classed as NEET, this was a decrease of 107 individuals from the September figure of 2,462.
- Nationally the JSA allowance claimant count continued to rise in October by 12,900 to 1.64 million; this is the highest claimant count since April 1997.

1. Introduction

The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant count data is published monthly by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and provides up-to-date information on the numbers of people who are unemployed and actively seeking work. This month's report comes at a time when nationally the past quarter has shown the lowest rise in unemployment since spring 2008¹. This report concludes with a wider context section which includes a brief summary of the recent Jobcentre Plus Economic Report, a review of the national claimant rates and a summary of the headline NEET (not in education, employment or training) figures.

2. City-Wide

The most current JSA claimant count data released mid November is for October 2009 and the summary in Table 1 and Figure 1 shows that:

- there are now 24,000 JSA claimants in Leeds which accounts for 4.7% of the working age population
- the JSA claimant count shows the second consecutive monthly decrease in 18 months, however overall it has increased by 60% from the previous October.

Table 1: JSA monthly claimant count and rates for Leeds (Jan 08 to Oct 09).

JSA Monthly Claimant Count	Leeds MD	
	Number	Rate ²
2008		
January	12424	2.5%
February	12628	2.5%
March	12545	2.5%
April	12475	2.5%
May	12583	2.5%
June	12689	2.5%
July	13384	2.7%
August	14165	2.8%
September	14600	2.9%
October	14989	3.0%
November	16153	3.2%
December	17631	3.5%
2009		
January	19077	3.8%
February	21558	4.3%
March	22460	4.5%
April	23281	4.7%
May	23952	4.8%
June	23988	4.8%
July	24456	4.9%
August	24461	4.9%
September	24282	4.9%
October	24000	4.7%

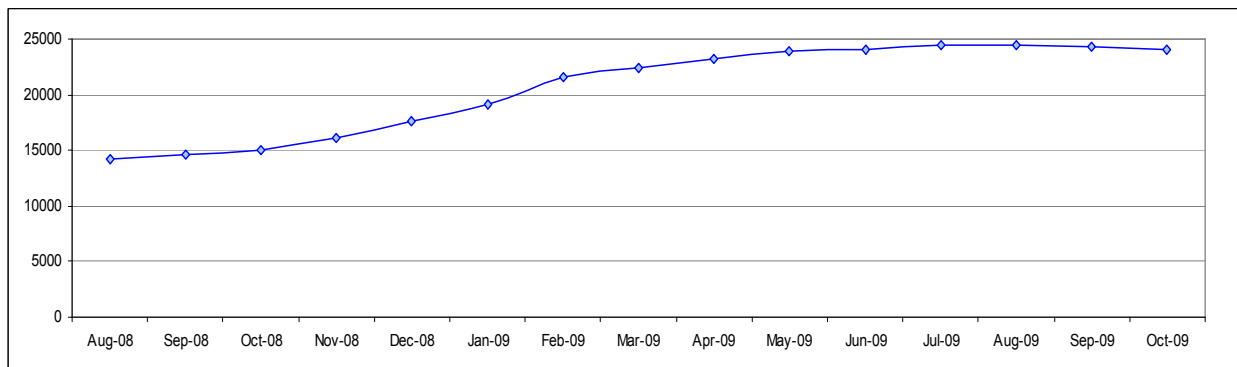
Additional analysis of the city wide data on JSA claimant counts reveals that:

- 74% of October claimants are male and 26% are female
- during October 5030 claimants joined the JSA register and 5265 stopped claiming the allowance.

¹ Hayman, A. Regeneration and Renewal, Nov. 2009. For complete article follow [link](#)

² The term 'Rate' always refers to per cent of working age population

Figure 1: A graph detailing the monthly JSA counts from Oct 08 to Oct 09 for Leeds.



3. Comparison with Core Cities

The JSA claimant data has been analysed to provide a comparison with the Core Cities. Table 2 below shows that in October 2009 Leeds had the second lowest Job Seekers Allowance claimant rate of all the Core Cities, with only Bristol having a lower rate. Table 2 also compares the claimant rates and numbers from October 2008 and October 2009 for each of the eight Core Cities and shows that Leeds has seen the third biggest percentage increase over the period behind Bristol and Sheffield.

Table 2: JSA number and rates for the core cities (Oct 08 and Oct 09).

	October 2008		October 2009		% change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Birmingham	35,980	5.7%	51,182	8.1%	42.25%
Bristol, City of	6,252	2.2%	11,012	3.8%	76.14%
Leeds	14,989	3%	24,000	4.7%	60.12%
Liverpool	16,196	5.7%	21,401	7.5%	32.14%
Manchester	12,332	3.9%	18,267	5.7%	48.13%
Newcastle upon Tyne	6,440	3.6%	9,015	5.0%	39.98%
Nottingham	8,231	4.1%	12,556	6.2%	52.55%
Sheffield	9,968	2.9%	16,461	4.8%	65.14%
Great Britain	939,900	2.5%	1,529,821	4.1%	62.76%

Figure 2, on page 4, details the trend in JSA claimant rates over the last 12 month period. The trend data for the last 12 months demonstrate that over this period Leeds has consistently been one of the three core cities with the lowest JSA claimant rates. Figure 2 also details that commonly across the core cities the claimant rates reached a peak in either August or September this year and although since this period the rates have started to decrease that are still higher than the rates report for the corresponding month last year.

Figure 2: A graph detailing the monthly JSA rates from Oct 08 to Oct 09 for each core city.

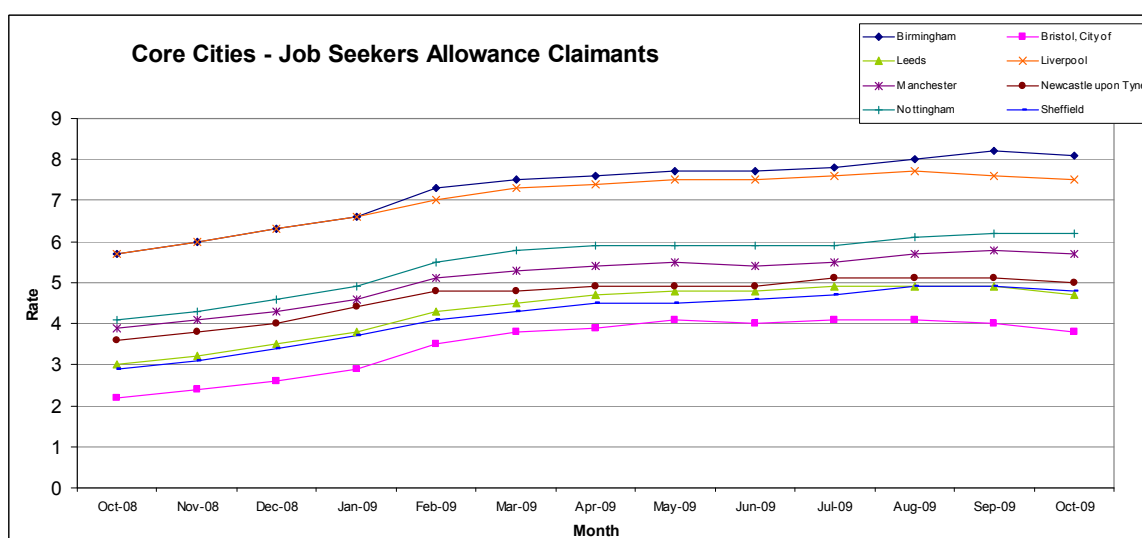


Table 3 below compares this month's JSA Claimant rates and numbers to those from last month for each core city. Only two (Manchester and Nottingham) of the eight core cities have experienced a rise in the number of claimants between September and October this year. Out of the eight core cities Leeds has experienced the third greatest actual decrease in the number of JSA claimants between September and October this year. Over the last two months the number of claimants in Leeds dropped by 282 from 24,282 to 24,000.

Table 3: A comparison of Sept 08 and Oct 09 JSA numbers and rates for the core cities.

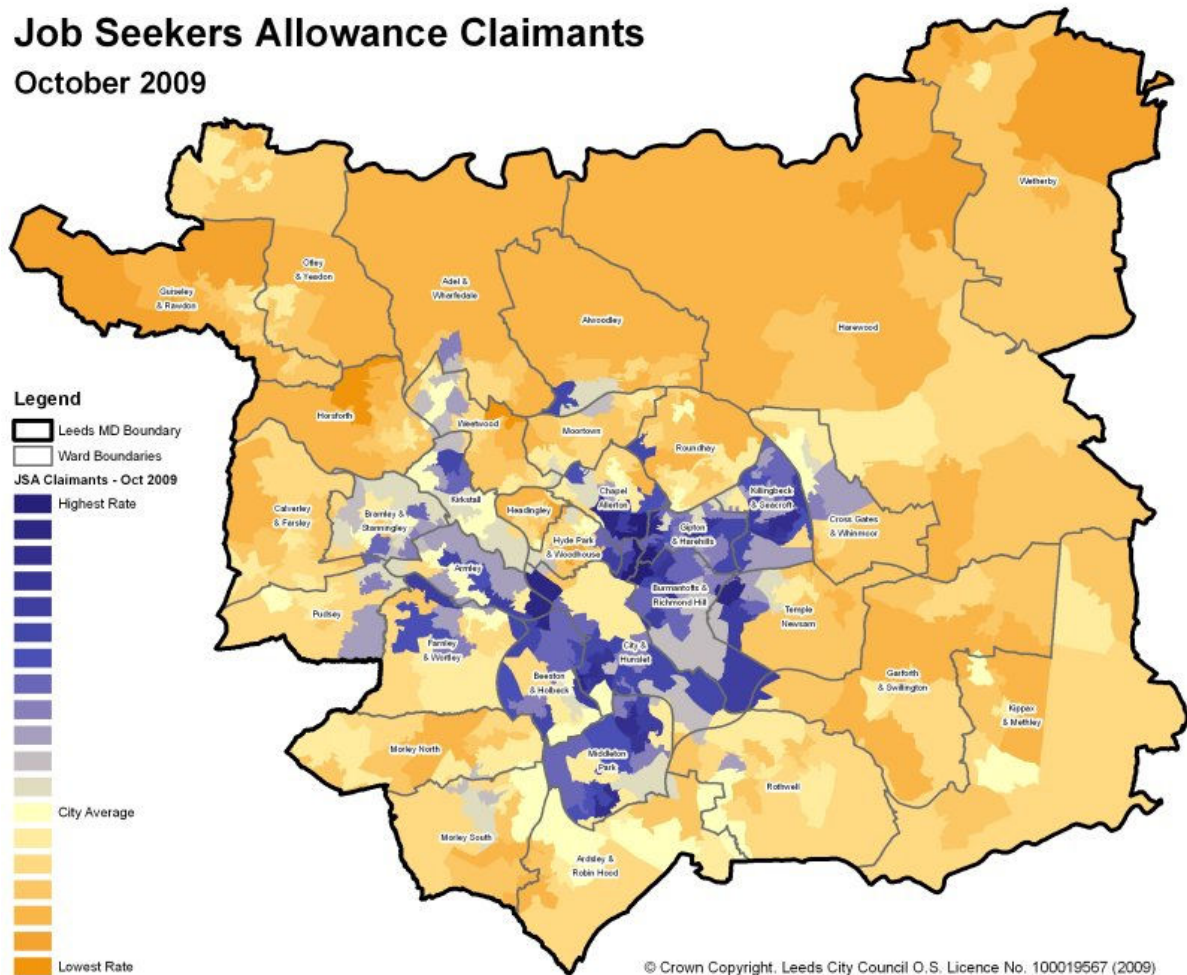
	Sept 2009		October 2009		Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Birmingham	51,611	8.2%	51,182	8.1%	-429
Bristol, City of	11,306	4.0%	11,012	3.8%	-294
Leeds	24,282	4.9%	24,000	4.7%	-282
Liverpool	21,514	7.6%	21,401	7.5%	-113
Manchester	18,241	5.8%	18,267	5.7%	+26
Newcastle upon Tyne	9,065	5.1%	9,015	5.0%	-50
Nottingham	12,392	6.2%	12,556	6.2%	+164
Sheffield	16,625	4.9%	16,461	4.8%	-164
Great Britain	1,537,620	4.2%	1,529,821	4.1%	-7,799

4. Leeds Lower Super Output Area overview

Analysis of the data at the small area (Lower Super Output Area) level shows that:

- there are 46 LSOAs across the city with a claimant rate of 10% or more, compared to the city average of 4.7%
- Little London/Lovell Park currently has the highest number of claimants (235) followed by Lincoln Green (234) and the Granges/Hamiltons/Francis Street (in Chapeltown) (230)
- the Granges/Hamiltons/Francis Street currently has the highest claimant rate with 22.8% of the working age population currently unemployed claiming JSA.

Figure 3: A map detailing the JSA claimant rates across the Leeds City Council area.



5. Leeds NI 153 Localities

The JSA monthly claimant count has also been analysed for each of the 22 NI 153 localities in Leeds. Table 4 below summarises the data for the combined NI 153 areas. As detailed in Table 4, the total claimant count and rate for the combined NI 153 Areas peaked at 6071 (Rate: 11.2%) in July 2009 and has decreased each subsequent month to 5875 (Rate: 10.9%) in October. The claimant count in the combined NI 153 areas this October is 1560 claimants higher compared to the same month last year.

Table 4: JSA number and rates for the Combined NI 153 Areas (Jan 08 to Oct 09).

JSA Monthly Claimant Count	Combined NI 153 Areas	
2008	Number	Rate
January	3930	7.3%
February	3986	7.4%
March	3981	7.4%
April	3956	7.3%
May	3961	7.3%
June	3930	7.3%
July	4040	7.5%
August	4141	7.7%
September	4168	7.7%
October	4315	8.0%
November	4426	8.2%
December	4857	9.0%
2009		
January	5046	9.3%
February	5467	10.1%
March	5641	10.4%
April	5824	10.8%
May	5932	11.0%
June	6006	11.1%
July	6071	11.2%
August	5988	11.1%
September	5959	11.0%
October	5875	10.9%

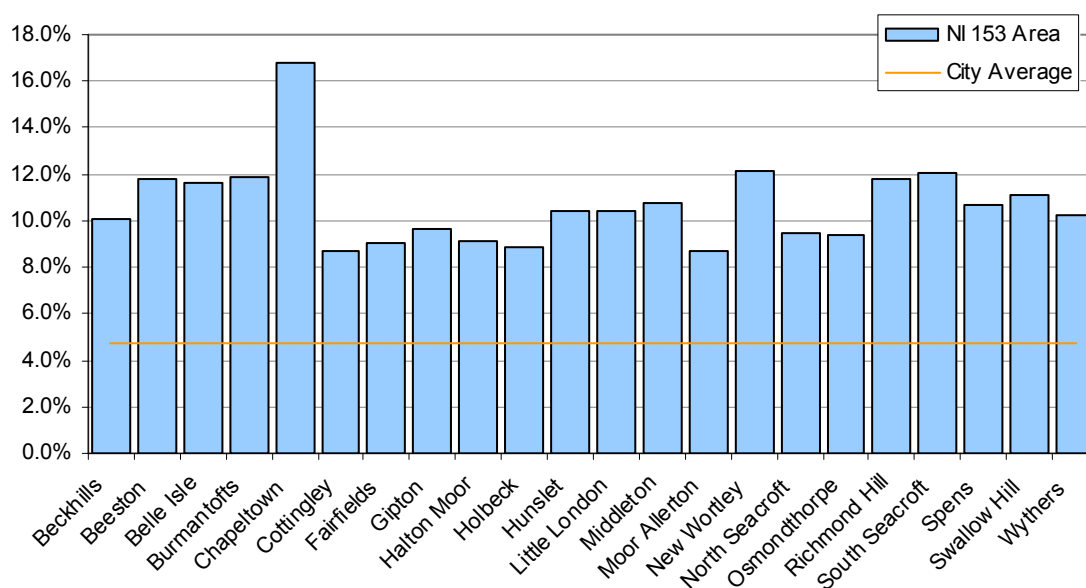
Table 5 (on page 7) compares the JSA rate and count from October 2008 and October 2009 for each of the individual 22 NI 153 localities. All NI153 localities have experienced an increase in the number of claimants over the last 12 month period. The Spens and Middleton localities have shown the greatest increase in number of claimants over between October 09 and October 08, with increases of 76% and 65% respectively. Overall, eight of the 22 localities have seen increases in the number of claimants of 50% or more when comparing this month's count with the previous years. The three localities with the highest claimant rate was the same in October 09 and 08, these localities in descending order of claimant rate were: Chapeltown, New Wortley, and South Seacroft.

Table 5: A comparison of JSA count and claimant rates for each NI 153 locality in October 08 and 09.

	October 2008		October 2009		%age change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Beckhills	92	8.0%	116	10.1%	26.09%
Beeston	415	7.9%	617	11.8%	48.67%
Belle Isle	228	7.6%	346	11.6%	51.75%
Burmantofts	457	9.5%	571	11.9%	24.95%
Chapelton	395	13.0%	508	16.8%	28.61%
Cottingley	117	5.8%	175	8.7%	49.57%
Fairfields	54	6.0%	82	9.1%	51.85%
Gipton	326	6.9%	456	9.7%	39.88%
Halton Moor	196	7.3%	247	9.2%	26.02%
Holbeck	216	8.3%	231	8.9%	6.94%
Hunslet	63	6.7%	98	10.4%	55.56%
Little London	270	8.6%	330	10.5%	22.22%
Middleton	178	6.5%	293	10.7%	64.61%
Moor Allerton	110	5.8%	166	8.7%	50.91%
New Wortley	233	10.0%	284	12.2%	21.89%
North Seacroft	163	6.0%	256	9.4%	57.06%
Osmondthorpe	193	6.7%	273	9.4%	41.45%
Richmond Hill	172	9.1%	222	11.8%	29.07%
South Seacroft	245	9.7%	303	12.0%	23.67%
Spens	55	6.1%	97	10.7%	76.36%
Swallow Hill	74	7.6%	108	11.1%	45.95%
Wythers	63	6.7%	96	10.2%	52.38%

As detailed in Fig. 4 below the JSA rates in each N1 153 locality are higher than the Leeds city average of 4.7%. 17 of the 22 NI 153 localities have a claimant rate that is double that of the city average, with one locality (Chapelton) having a rate that is over three times the city average.

Figure 4: October 09 JSA rates in each NI 153 locality compared to the city average



6. Wider context

The Leeds Job Centre Plus monthly economic report³ provides some additional data to further contextualise the claimant rates detailed throughout this report. The economic report details information relating to the Leeds JSA register September 2009 data. It details that in September 09 the weekly intake of new JSA claims was 30% higher than in the same month a year ago. The report also states that just over 50% of those leaving the JSA register in September 09 had been unemployed for less than 3 months. There were 4,845 notified vacancies in Leeds in September which was a decrease of 23% when compared to vacancies in August. Table 6 details that of the top ten occupations being sought by JSA claimants in Leeds five of the job types corresponded with the most commonly available vacancies in Leeds.

Table 6: A comparison of occupations being sought by JSA claimants in Leeds and notified vacancies in Leeds in September 09

Occupations being sought by JSA claimants	Notified vacancies
Goods handling and storage occupations	Sales representatives
Sales and retails assistants	Customer care occupations
General office assistants/clerks	Cleaner, domestics
Labourers in building and woodworking trades	Care assistants and home carers
Van Drivers	Heavy goods vehicle drivers
Customer care occupations	Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers
Cleaners, domestics	Fork-lift truck drivers
Bar staff	Nurses
Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers	General office assistants/clerks
Labourers in process and plant operations	Sales and Retail Assistants

A recent article in Regeneration and Renewal⁴ enables the Leeds JSA claimant figures to be seen in context of the national pattern. Nationally the JSA allowance claimant count continued to rise in October by 12,900 to 1.64 million; this is the highest claimant count since April 1997. As such, the JSA claimant figures in Leeds compare favourably to the national figure as previously detailed the claimant count in Leeds has shown the second monthly decrease in 18 months.

When considering reviewing those claiming JSA benefits it is also of interest to consider the population of young people (16 to 18 year olds) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). In Leeds during October there were 2355 young people who were classed as NEET, this was a decrease of 107 individuals from the September figure of 2462⁵.

Wider worklessness analysis is conducted in the **quarterly worklessness report**, the most recent report was produced in November and will be provided alongside this monthly report. This report reviews the Working Age Client Group (WACG) data provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This data enables an analysis of incapacity benefit/ESA claimants, JSA claimants and lone parent income support claimants. This data is made available quarterly and was released in mid November for the previous quarter May 09.

³ Jobcentre Plus Economic report, Oct. 2009.

⁴ Hayman, A. Regeneration and Renewal, Nov. 2009. For complete article follow [link](#)

⁵ The monthly NEET report is provided by Education Leeds and the Neighbourhood Services team are able to provide copies of this report