

LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 11 – 18 August 2020

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1. Claimant Count

April 2020 saw the largest monthly rise in claimants on record. From March to April the number of claimants in Leicester and Leicestershire rose from 15,145 (2.3%) to 27,700 (4.1%).

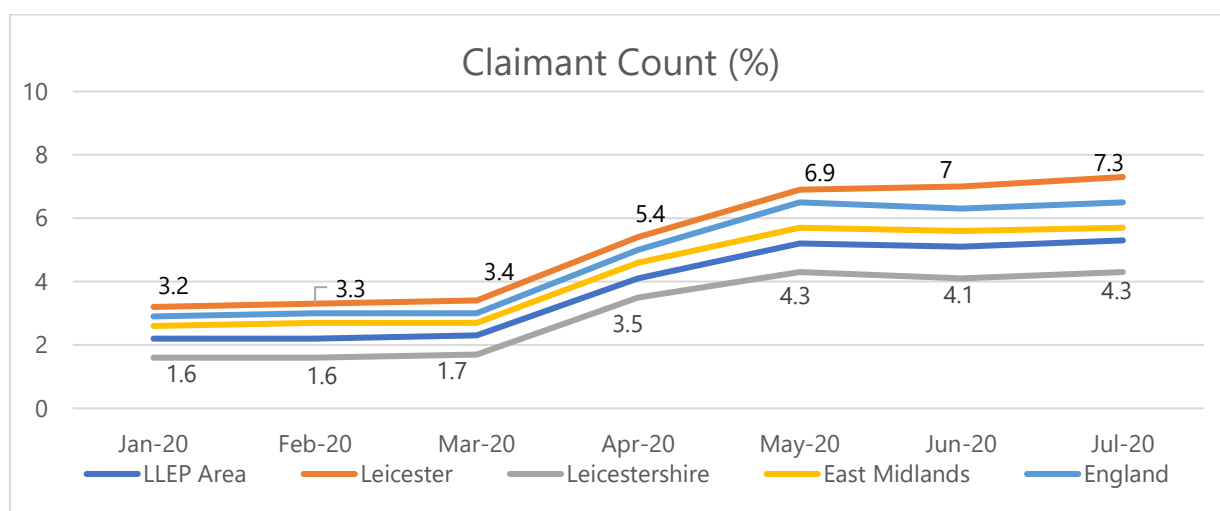


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) January 2020 - July 2020
Source: ONS

This was followed in May by another significant rise when the number of claimants rose to 34,830 (5.3%). It was uncertain how rises in April and May would be followed in June.

Claimant count figures for June were very different, in fact the number of claimants fell from 34,830 to 34,030 (5.1%), a fall of 800 claimants. Figures going from May to June were static.

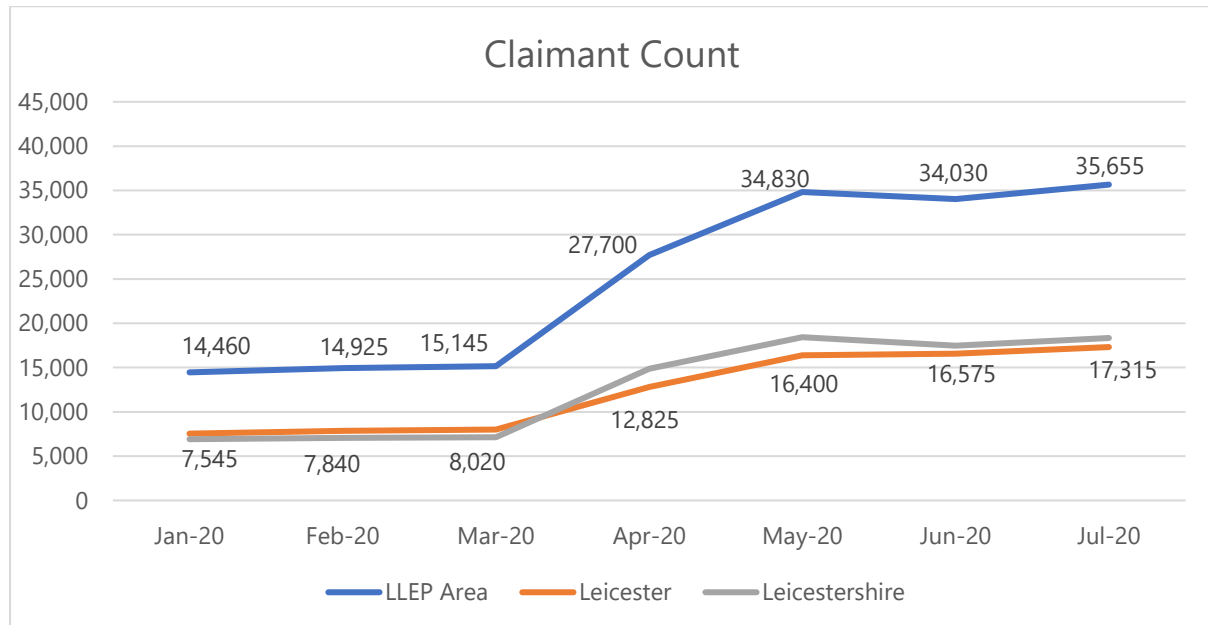


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count January 2020 - July 2020

Source: ONS

Although not as dramatic a dip as seen in April and May the latest figures (July) demonstrate another downturn. The number of claimants in July rose to 35,655 (5.3%). This is a rise of 1,615 or 4.8%.

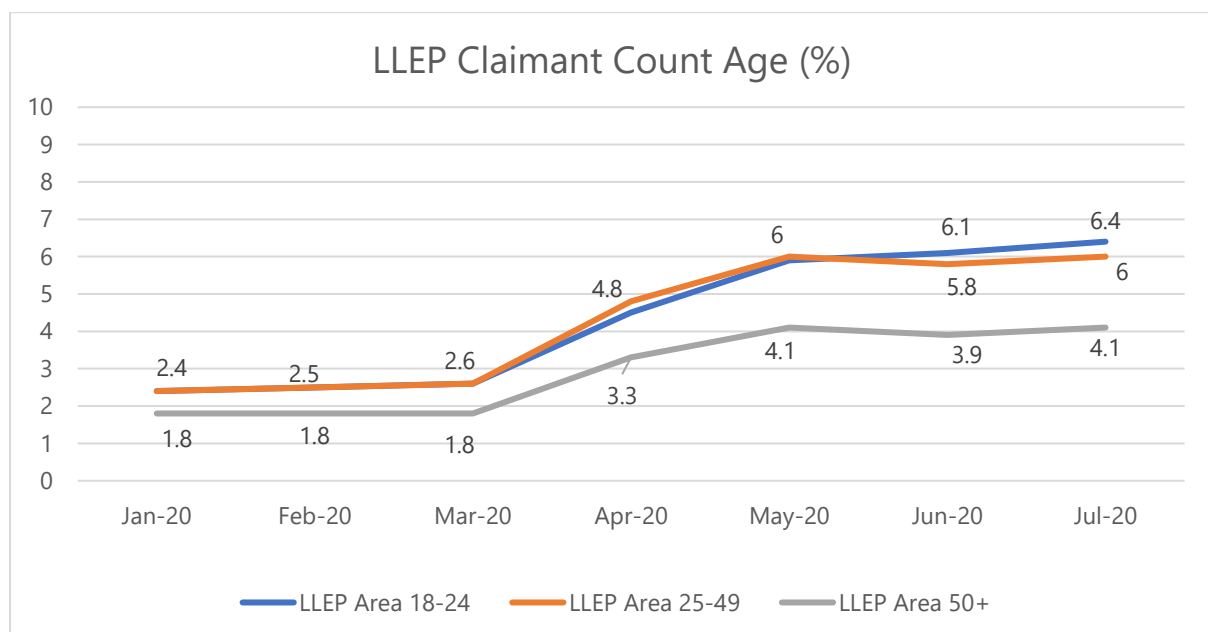


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) January 2020 - July 2020

Source: ONS

Moving beyond July it is uncertain how the economy will react as it continues to reopen. It was thought that the claimant rate had the potential to fall in the short term and then rise with the phasing out and ending of programmes brought in by the Government. It now seems likely that other than the fall in claimants in June the claimant rate will continue to grow up to and past October.

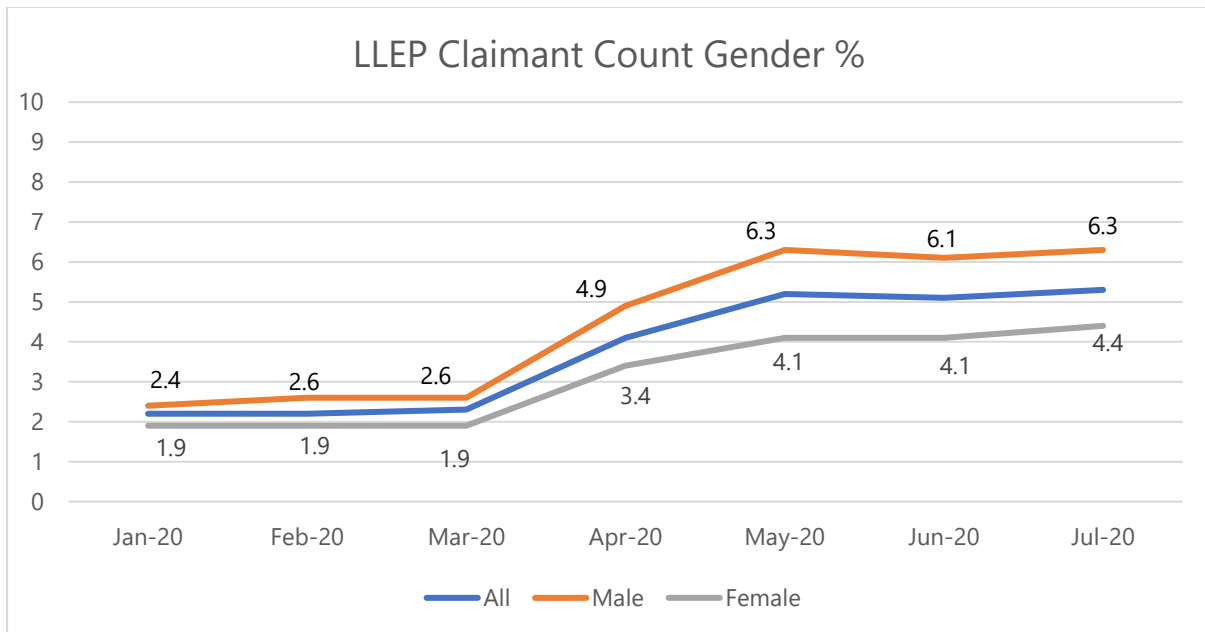


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) January 2020 - July 2020
Source: ONS

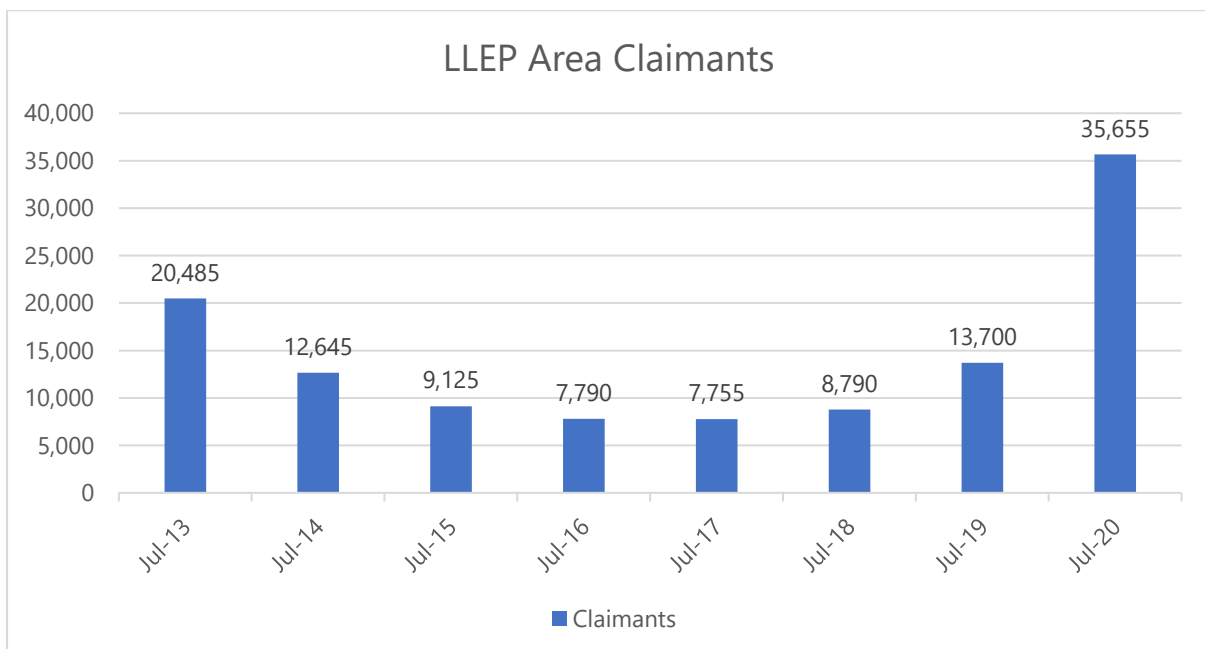


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count July 2013-2020
Source: ONS

From June to July there was a rise in the number of claimants in the City (740). There was also a rise in the County (880). Forty five percent of claimants were in Leicester and the rest

(55%) in Leicestershire. Twenty-point seven percent (7,360) of claimants were 18-24, 56.9% (20,225) 25-49 and 22.5% 50+ (7,990).

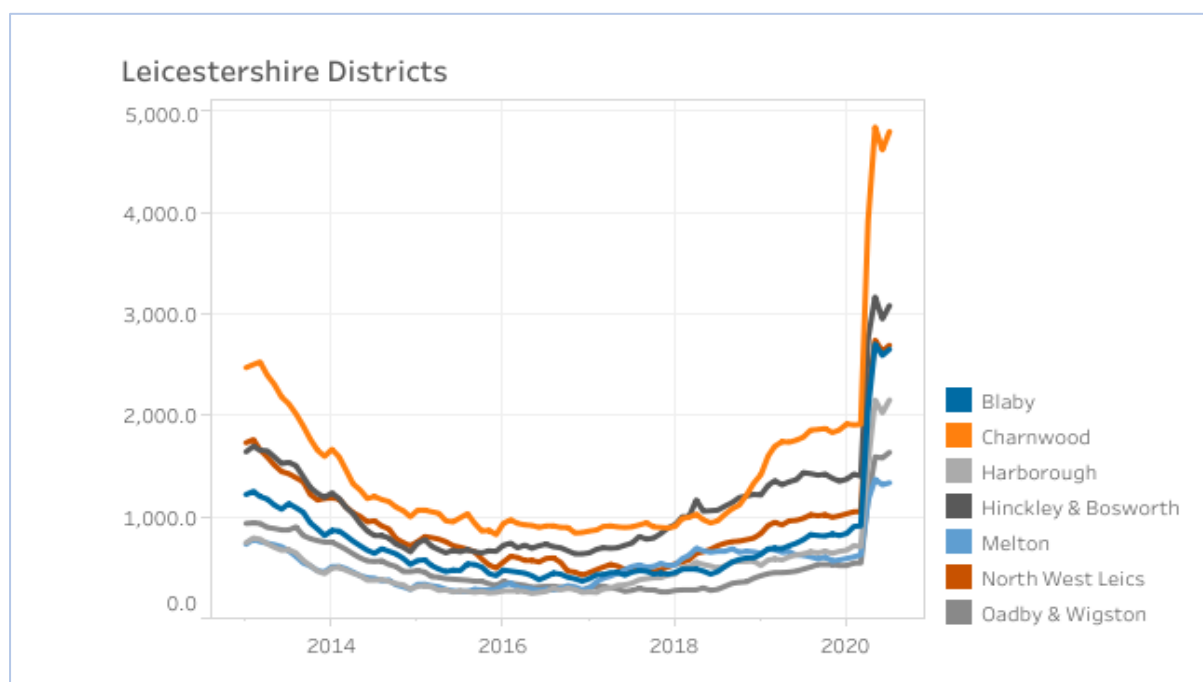


Figure 1 Leicestershire JSA & UC Claimant Count by District (January 2013 – July 2020)
Source: ONS

At a district level, Charnwood has seen the greatest increase in claimant numbers over this period. All Leicestershire districts had an increase in the number of claimants over the period June to July. From May to June all districts had seen a slight decrease.

For more detailed data on Jobs Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit claimant count data by district, visit the [Unemployment Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

2. Furloughed Employees

Updated local statistics for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme period ending 31 July will be released by HMRC on 21st August and included in the next edition of this update, however, the data will be uploaded to the LSR portal [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) week commencing 24th August.

3. Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

Updated SEISS data for the period ending 31st July will be released by HMRC on the 21/08/2020 and included in the next edition of this update, however, the data will be uploaded to the LSR portal [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) week commencing 24th August.

4. 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 LLEP area by occupations 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.

Figure 7 demonstrates job postings by occupation for July 2020. These are compared with July 2019, March 2020 and June 2020. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

From July 2019 to July 2020 the number of job postings fell by 7,699 from 28,352 to 20,683, a fall of 27%.

Over the last year there have been falls in the number of job postings in all but six of the occupation codes. Only Other Managers and Proprietors, Health Professionals, Health and Social Care Associate Professionals, Protective Service Occupations, Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades and Skilled Construction and Building Trades saw positive growth.

The largest falls by percentage were in Administrative Occupations (50.6%), Sales occupations (47.5%), Elementary Trades and Related Occupations (47.2%), Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades (45%) and Customer Service Occupations (40.5%).

In terms of numbers the largest falls were in Administrative Occupations (1,626), Business and Public Service Associate Professionals (1,410), Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professional (922), Skilled Metal, Electrical and electronic Trades (786) and Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives (767).

Between March and July 2020 job postings fell by 5,160 from 25,843 to 20,683. This is a fall of 20%. Only Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades has seen positive growth since March.

For the second month in a row there has been positive growth in the number of job postings. When figures for June and July 2020 are compared it is demonstrated that there has been growth in job postings of 1,864 (from 18,819 to 20,683). This is growth of 9.9%.

Over the last month all but three occupation areas saw positive growth. Those occupation areas that saw negative growth were Teaching and Educational Professionals, Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades and Caring Personal Service Occupations.

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Jul 2019 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Jun 2020 Unique Postings	Jul 2020 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Jun to Jul	Monthly Growth % Jun to Jul	Cumulative Growth from Mar	Cumulative Growth % from Mar
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,340	1,309	992	1,141	(199)	-14.9	149	15.0	(168)	-12.8
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	375	466	435	450	75	20.0	15	3.4	(16)	-3.4
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,502	2,167	1,507	1,580	(922)	-36.9	73	4.8	(587)	-27.1
22	Health Professionals	1,364	1,632	1,521	1,563	199	14.6	42	2.8	(69)	-4.2
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,041	1,164	1,091	1,002	(39)	-3.7	(89)	-8.2	(162)	-13.9
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,648	1,508	1,212	1,299	(349)	-21.2	87	7.2	(209)	-13.9
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,222	1,133	836	895	(327)	-26.8	59	7.1	(238)	-21.0
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	284	359	325	350	66	23.2	25	7.7	(9)	-2.5
33	Protective Service Occupations	12	27	11	17	5	41.7	6	54.5	(10)	-37.0
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	260	380	248	250	(10)	-3.8	2	0.8	(130)	-34.2
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,035	3,769	2,312	2,625	(1,410)	-34.9	313	13.5	(1,144)	-30.4
41	Administrative Occupations	3,216	2,427	1,448	1,590	(1,626)	-50.6	142	9.8	(837)	-34.5
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	345	352	224	231	(114)	-33.0	7	3.1	(121)	-34.4
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	16	33	43	36	20	125.0	(7)	-16.3	3	9.1
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,996	1,522	1,048	1,210	(786)	-39.4	162	15.5	(312)	-20.5
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	347	442	298	417	70	20.2	119	39.9	(25)	-5.7
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	522	530	256	287	(235)	-45.0	31	12.1	(243)	-45.8
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	1,845	1,829	1,740	1,659	(186)	-10.1	(81)	-4.7	(170)	-9.3
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	171	166	117	118	(53)	-31.0	1	0.9	(48)	-28.9
71	Sales Occupations	577	521	260	303	(274)	-47.5	43	16.5	(218)	-41.8
72	Customer Service Occupations	546	481	323	325	(221)	-40.5	2	0.6	(156)	-32.4
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	459	382	271	341	(118)	-25.7	70	25.8	(41)	-10.7
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,937	1,348	769	1,170	(767)	-39.6	401	52.1	(178)	-13.2
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	464	246	147	245	(219)	-47.2	98	66.7	(1)	-0.4
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,828	1,650	1,385	1,579	(249)	-13.6	194	14.0	(71)	-4.3
Total		28,352	25,843	18,819	20,683	(7,669)	-27.0	1,864	9.9	(5,160)	-20.0

Figure 7 LLEP Area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes
Source: EMSI

Local Authority	Jul 2019 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Apr 2020 Unique Postings	May 2020 Unique Postings	Jun 2020 Unique Postings	Jul 2020 Unique Postings
Blaby	1,010	773	655	597	744	972
Charnwood	3,751	3,613	2,961	2,711	3,161	3,299
Harborough	1,709	1,757	1,429	1,159	1,152	1,449
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,901	1,419	1,261	1,180	1,454	1,700
Leicester	16,189	14,306	10,985	9,214	9,052	9,577
Melton	928	1087	809	703	728	786
North West Leics	2,798	2,434	2,094	1,762	2,176	2,519
Oadby & Wigston	389	454	387	359	352	381
TOTAL	28,675	25,843	20,581	17,685	18,819	20,683

Figure 8 Job Postings by Local & District Authority
Source: EMSI

Figure 8 demonstrates that job posting numbers in Leicestershire are starting to rise to similar levels in comparison to the same period last year in some areas. However, the number of job postings in Leicester fell from 16,189 to 9,577. More detailed breakdowns of job postings by district are available from brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk.

5. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the beginning of March over 1,300 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019 the number of businesses that ceased trading was significantly higher. Between March and July 2019, the figure was 3,217, this is a difference of 1,883 business closures.

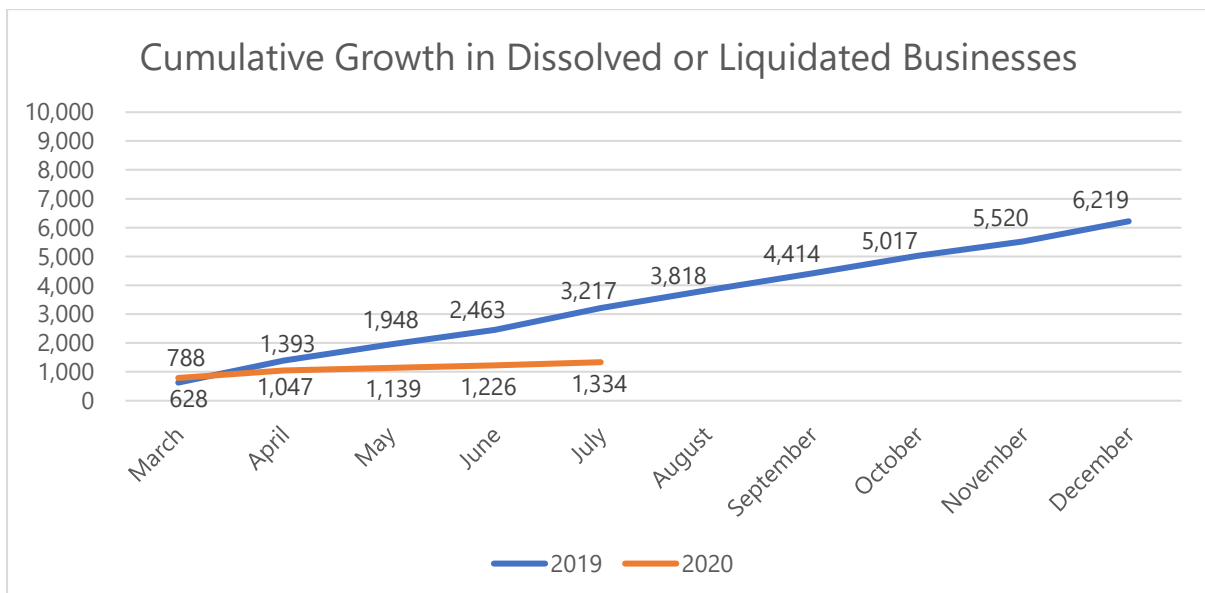


Figure 9 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2020 there were 788 closures. By June the number had fallen to just 87. In the previous year it was 515. Latest figures (July) show that there has been a slight rise (118).

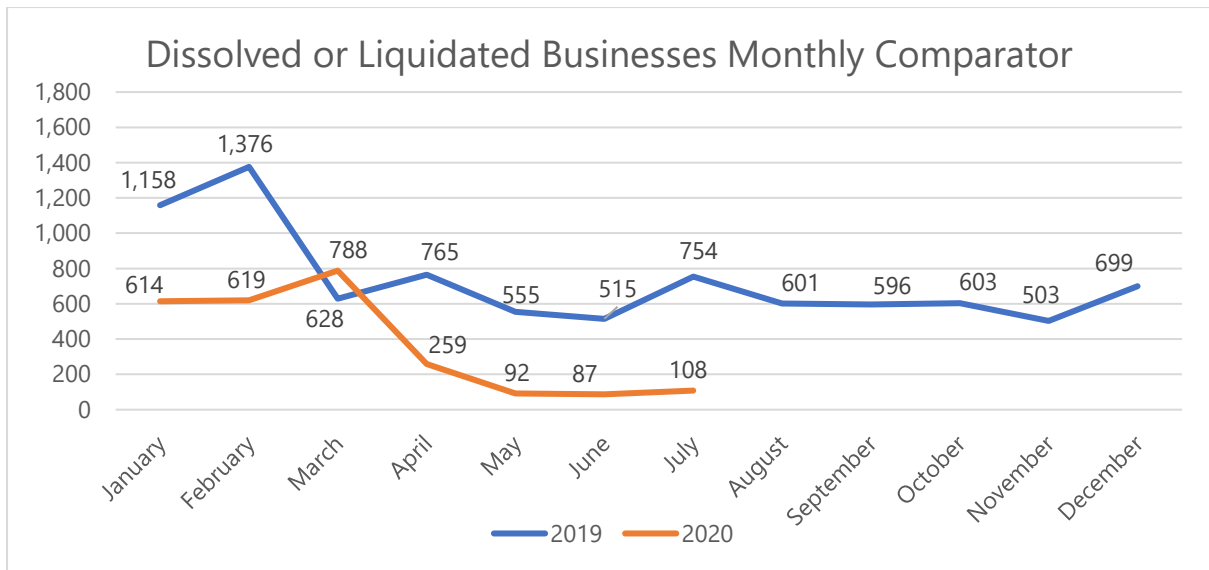


Figure 10 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

The fall in business closures may be attributed to those measures brought in by the Government during lockdown providing additional support in terms of funds and time which may not normally be accessible to businesses that are in difficulty. However, as measures such as the Furlough Scheme and Small Business Discretionary Funding are phased out it is likely the number of closures will rise. The slight rise in July may be a sign of this, the low figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

Since the beginning of March over 5,300 businesses were incorporated within Leicester and Leicestershire.

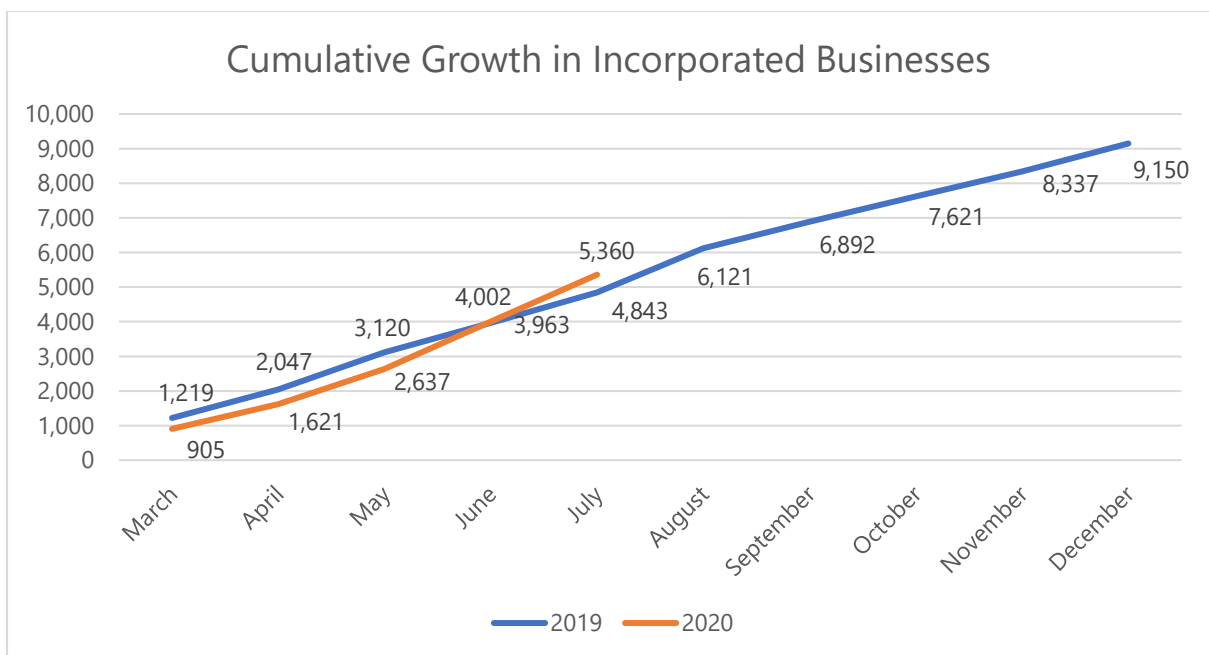


Figure 11 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Comparator

Source: BVD Fame

When comparing data for 2019 it is demonstrated that that the number of businesses that have been incorporated is higher but in line with the previous year's figures (4,843). In June 2020 the cumulative figure was 4,002 and in the previous year 3,963. When comparing the cumulative figures for 2019 and 20 there does not seem to be any significant difference between the two.

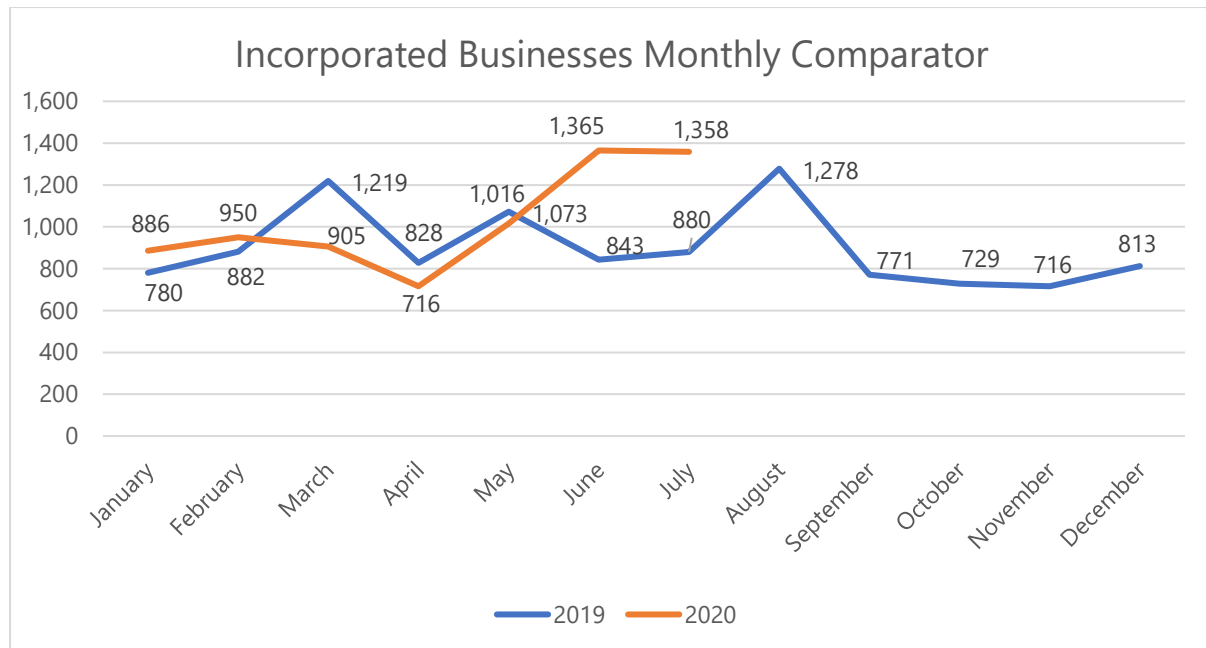


Figure 12 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

When comparing the monthly numbers of incorporated businesses, again there does not seem to be any significant differences. The only noticeable effect is the rise in incorporations between April and June. In April there were 716 incorporations and in June 1,365. This may reflect the economy reopening.

6. Economic Intelligence Update

As the COVID-19 crisis develops, research and insights are emerging from a range of organisations and links and summaries of relevant publications are listed below. It should be noted that we do not yet have a complete picture of the impact of COVID-19 and therefore much of what is emerging is predictive and should be interpreted with caution until such time as robust quantifiable data becomes available.

Mid Life Employment Crisis

A new report, [A Mid Life Employment Crisis](#) issued by the Learning and Work Institute highlights the effects of Covid-19 on older workers. The crisis follows a period when employment among older workers had reached historic highs. This report, in partnership with Centre for Ageing Better, shows that there is a real risk is that the pandemic could reverse this trend, leading to long-term unemployment for older workers.

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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