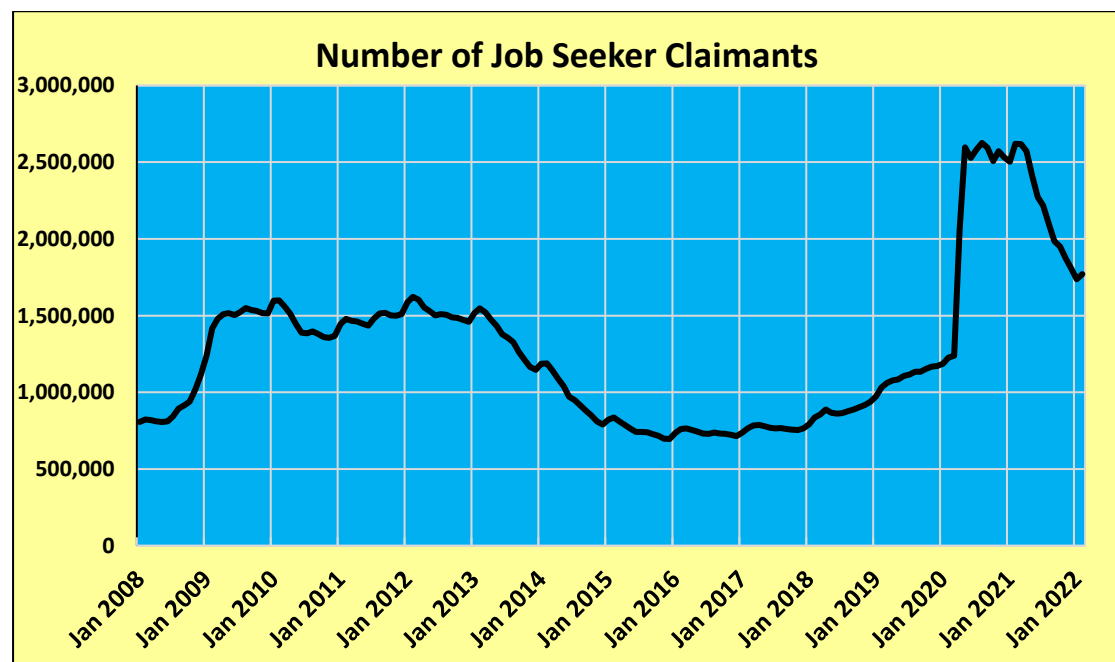


Unemployed Claimants Database I

1. Introduction

Unemployment is a key measure of deprivation and hardship, the pandemic has had a significant impact upon the number of claimants as the chart below shows. Claimant numbers rose substantially as the pandemic struck but numbers are now beginning to fall back as the economy reopens.



The unemployed claimant database holds detailed information on unemployment rates and is linked to postcodes so that the data can be easily overlaid onto any database record which holds a postcode. The rates can be used to identify detailed and small geographic areas where the claimant rate is either high or low. It can also be used to identify areas by gender and age claimant rates.

2. Information Held

The Claimant database provides data on 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 Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants. JSA claimants are gradually being moved onto the Universal Credit system but there are still around 130,000 people on the old system. 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 time period.

The Department of Work and Pensions publish monthly counts of the numbers of claimant broken out by gender, and age for Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOA's) in England and Wales and for DataZones in Scotland. In total there are 41,729 such areas in Great Britain which makes them a reasonably small geographic area averaging around 1,500 residents. Using the number of properties paying residential council tax in each area (as a proxy for the number of households) claimant rates per 000 council taxed properties by gender, and age were calculated for each LSOA or DataZone. These rates were then linked to postcodes so that all postcodes within the same LSOA or Datazone have the same set of rates and a postcode directory was compiled.

Information is held in a directory with job seekers claimant rates for February 2022 and holds the following information for 2,589,831 postcodes in Great Britain:-

1. Postcode 1 Space Between Inward & Outward Postcode
2. Region
3. All Properties Paying Council Tax 112021
4. Rate for All Claimants per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
5. Rate for All Claimants per 000 CT Properties Banded into Semi-Deciles – a simple way of identifying areas by claimant rates quickly and easily
6. Rate for Male Claimants per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
7. Rate for Female Claimants per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
8. Rate for Claimants 16-24 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
9. Rate for Claimants 25-29 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
10. Rate for Claimants 30-34 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
11. Rate for Claimants 35-39 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
12. Rate for Claimants 40-44 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
13. Rate for Claimants 45-49 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
14. Rate for Claimants 50-54 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
15. Rate for Claimants 55-59 per 000 CT Properties in December 2021
16. Rate for Claimants 60+ per 000 CT Properties in December 2021

3. Claimant Database Audit

The claimant rates in December 2021 are shown below. Although the directory is a database of postcodes, the figures below are weighted by the number of properties paying council tax in the postcode to reflect the fact that postcodes have different numbers of addresses.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Rate for All Claimants per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	833.33	60.5661	47.37090
Rate for Male Claimants per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	833.33	35.5736	29.29176
Rate for Female Claimants per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	287.13	24.9783	19.82366
Rate for Claimants 16-24 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	128.71	9.4793	9.14532
Rate for Claimants 25-29 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	138.89	7.7069	7.84082
Rate for Claimants 30-34 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	138.89	8.3752	8.26617
Rate for Claimants 35-39 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	98.74	7.4598	7.66671
Rate for Claimants 40-44 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	67.70	6.2416	6.68811
Rate for Claimants 45-49 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	67.70	5.1032	5.83410
Rate for Claimants 50-54 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	50.20	4.9363	5.50145
Rate for Claimants 55-59 per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	42.37	4.3740	5.00694
Rate for Claimants 60+ per 000 CT Properties	29213297	.00	47.95	3.9545	5.00325
Valid N (listwise)	29213297				

The average claimant rate across the country is 60.57 claimants per 000 council tax paying properties. The rate is higher amongst males and those in the 16-24 age group.

Regional Variations in Claimant Rates

Rate for All Claimants per 000 CT Properties

Region	Mean	N	Std. Dev.
North East	66.5300	1250704	46.11
North West	66.6213	3371792	46.11
Yorks & Humberside	64.5002	2483825	56.11
East Midlands	52.7293	2157082	46.11
West Midlands	77.6717	2565315	67.11
East of England	49.4759	2771134	36.11
Inner London	92.7568	1492743	52.11
Outer London	88.7447	2241021	48.11
South East	47.7568	4039833	36.11
South West	40.7861	2625586	27.11
Scotland	49.6647	2756392	37.11
Wales	52.7725	1457870	36.11
Total	60.5661	29213297	47.11

The table shows strong regional variations with Inner and Outer London having significantly higher claimant rates.

David Griffiths
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15th March 2022