SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DATA IN THE COVID-19 PERIOD

January 2021

A monthly digest of relevant data to assist in the Recovery Stage

Produced by: Performance, Consultation & Insight Unit,
Stratford-on-Avon District Council in March 2021

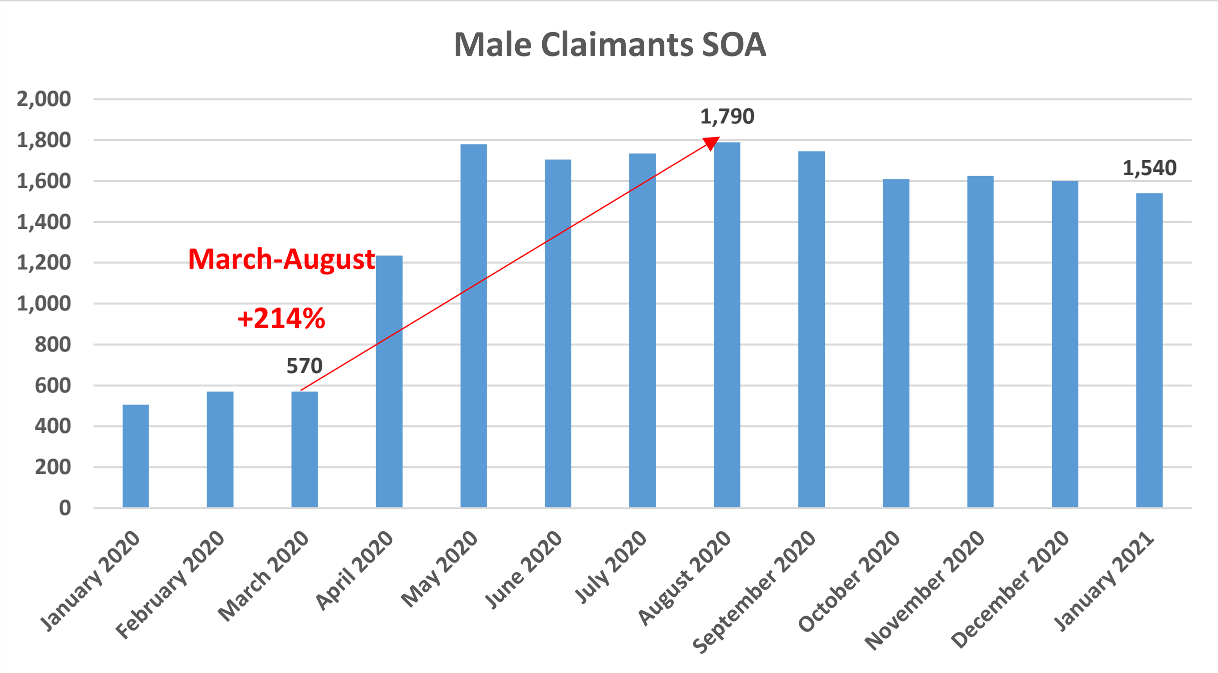
Contents

1. Claimant Count Data

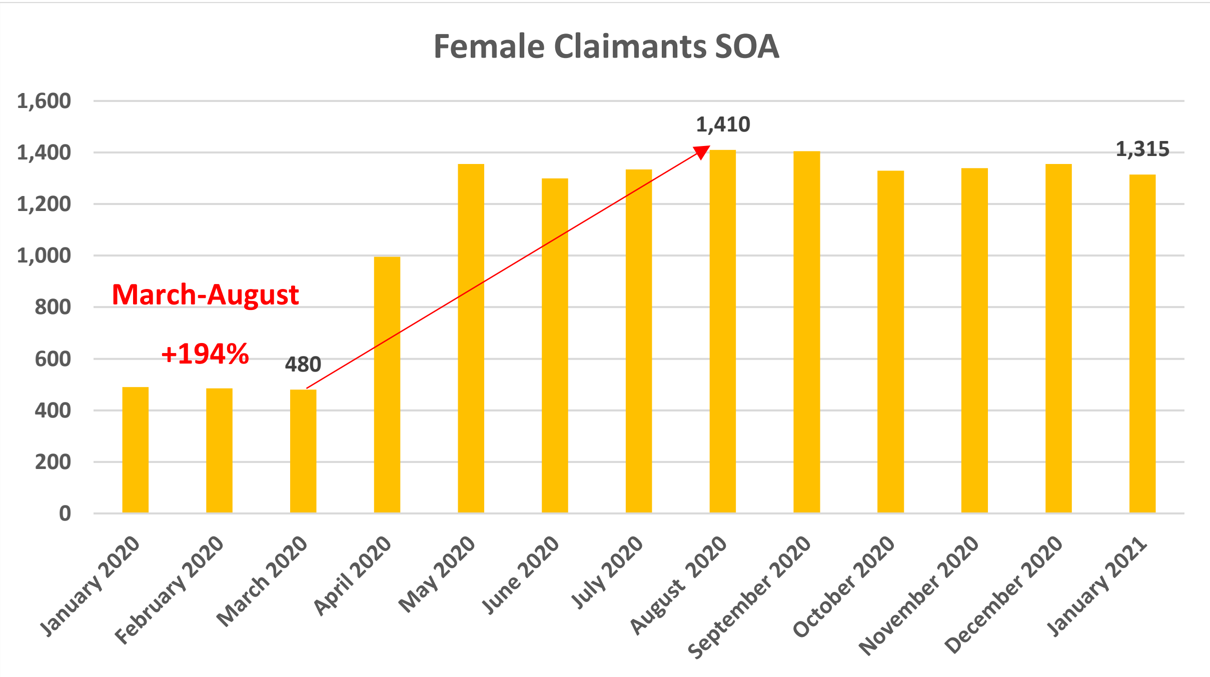
Source: NOMIS January 2021 for the following four charts.

It is the number of claimants of universal credit and job seekers allowance of the resident population of the area aged 16 and over.

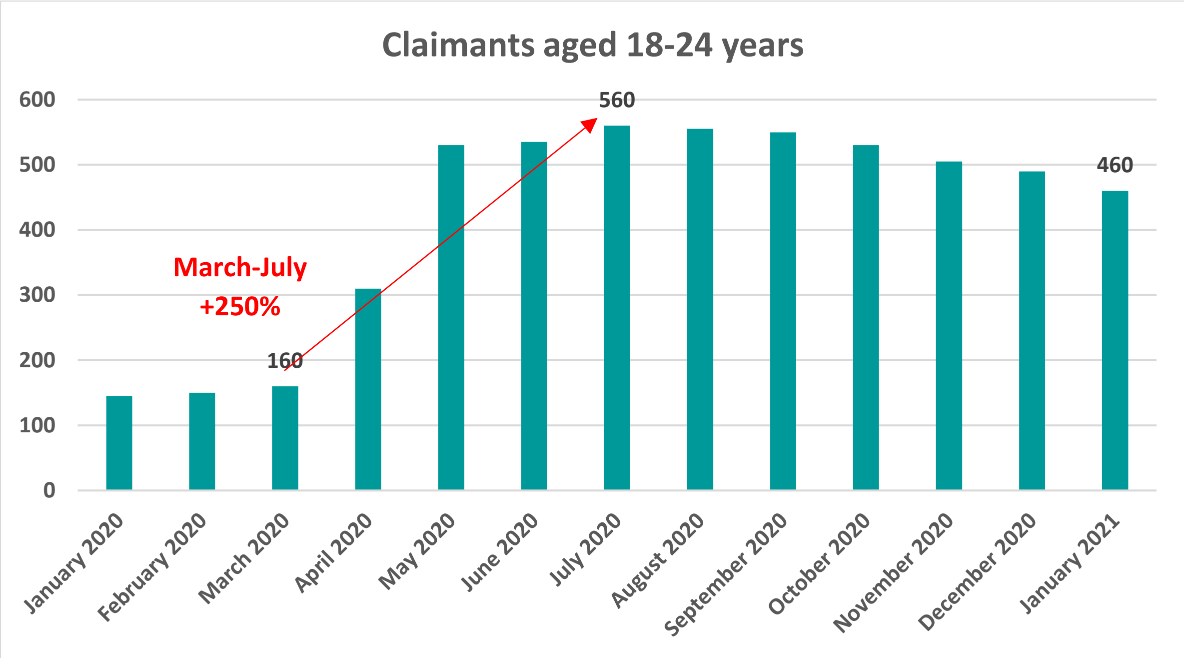
The number of male claimants in January fell slightly this month by 60 to 1,540. However, this is still approximately three times the number of male claimants in March 2020.



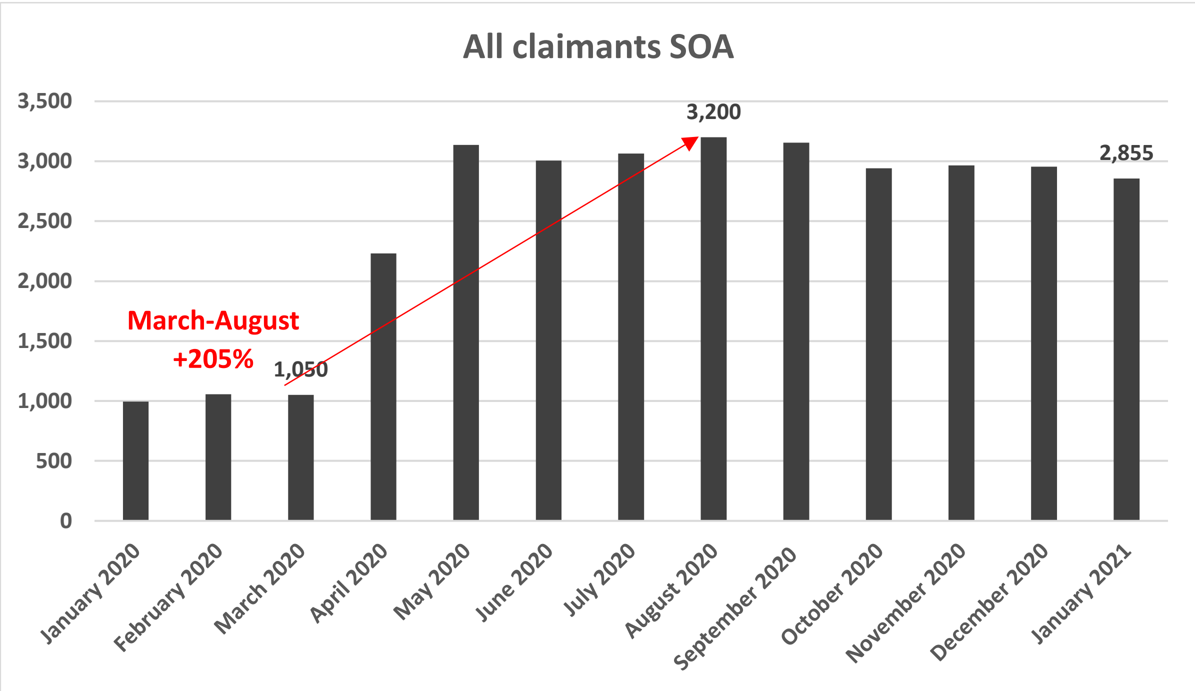
The number of female claimants in January fell by 40 to 1,315. Again, this is still almost three times the number seen in March 2020.



The number of claimants aged 18 to 24 years in January saw another slight drop down 30 from 490 to 460.



Overall, the number claimants in Stratford District in January dropped by 100 to 2,855.



% Claimant count (unadjusted) by West Midlands Local Authorities January 2021 (16 and over)

The following table compares the claimant count across all West Midlands local authorities in January 2021.

At local authority level, the number of claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16 to 64 years old varies from 11.1% in Birmingham and 10.3% in Wolverhampton, to 3.6% in Staffordshire Moorlands and 3.8% in **Stratford-on-Avon** and Warwick.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	%
Birmingham	**11.1**
Wolverhampton	**10.3**
Sandwell	**9.4**
Walsall	**8.5**
Stoke-on-Trent	**7.8**
Dudley	**7.3**
Coventry	**6.5**
Nuneaton and Bedworth	**6.2**
Redditch	**5.9**
Tamworth	**5.9**
Telford and Wrekin	**5.9**
Wyre Forest	**5.9**
Solihull	**5.8**
Worcester	**5.4**
Cannock Chase	**5.3**
East Staffordshire	**5.0**
North Warwickshire	**4.8**
Malvern Hills	**4.5**
Bromsgrove	**4.5**
Newcastle-under-Lyme	**4.5**
Rugby	**4.5**
Shropshire	**4.4**
Lichfield	**4.3**
South Staffordshire	**4.3**
Wychavon	**4.3**
Herefordshire	**4.0**
Stafford	**4.0**
Stratford-on-Avon	**3.8**
Warwick	**3.8**
Staffordshire Moorlands	**3.6**

Source: ONS claimant count [January 2021] via NOMIS

Note: % is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64.

Local Authority Claimant Count Levels (unadjusted) by West Midlands Local Authorities Comparing March 2020 against January 2021 (16 and over)

The geographical variations at local authority level across the West Midlands is large, where increases since March range from 61% in Wolverhampton, to a rise of 172% in **Stratford-on-Avon district.**

Local Authority: district / unitary	March 2020	January 2021	change	% change
Stratford-on-Avon	1,050	2,855	1,805	172.3
Wychavon	1,320	3,190	1,870	142.0
Bromsgrove	1,165	2,640	1,475	126.9
North Warwickshire	845	1,910	1,065	126.4
Warwick	1,570	3,515	1,945	124.0
Wyre Forest	1,580	3,435	1,855	117.3
Malvern Hills	925	2,005	1,075	116.3
Herefordshire, County of	2,110	4,470	2,360	111.7
Shropshire	4,010	8,305	4,295	107.2
Solihull	3,650	7,460	3,810	104.3
Coventry	8,000	16,270	8,270	103.4
Redditch	1,535	3,080	1,545	100.7
Worcester	1,780	3,505	1,725	96.7
Rugby	1,535	3,000	1,465	95.3
Telford and Wrekin	3,430	6,565	3,135	91.4
Sandwell	10,780	19,325	8,545	79.3
Nuneaton and Bedworth	2,830	4,930	2,100	74.3
Walsall	8,605	14,705	6,105	71.0
Dudley	8,515	14,110	5,595	65.7
Birmingham	49,370	81,210	31,840	64.5
Wolverhampton	10,380	16,750	6,370	61.4

Source: ONS via Nomis (January 2021)

Stratford District Council JSA + partial Universal Credit Claimant Count Levels (unadjusted) by Ward Comparing Last Two Months (16 and over)

The highest claimant count levels whilst comparing Stratford District Council wards are in Avenue (8.2%) and Hathaway (6.9%). The lowest levels are in Ettington (1.6%) and Wellesbourne West (1.9%). Data for Clopton ward is not available.

Ward Name	Claimant Count Dec 20	Claimant % Dec 20	Claimant Count Jan 21	Claimant % Jan 21
Alcester & Rural	40	2.0%	45	2.2%
Alcester Town	130	5.8%	105	4.7%
Avenue	195	7.8%	205	8.2%
Bidford East	125	5.2%	125	5.2%
Bidford West & Salford	95	4.1%	95	4.1%
Bishop's Itchington	70	2.7%	70	2.7%
Bishopton	75	3.6%	80	3.9%
Brailes & Compton	80	4.4%	80	4.4%
Bridgetown	110	3.7%	110	3.7%
Ettington	40	1.9%	35	1.6%
Guildhall	45	2.3%	40	2.0%
Harbury	90	4.4%	90	4.4%
Hathaway	125	7.2%	120	6.9%
Henley-in-Arden	85	4.0%	90	4.2%
Kineton	65	3.4%	65	3.4%
Kinwarton	45	2.9%	40	2.6%
Long Itchington & Stockton	105	4.2%	85	3.4%
Napton & Fenny Compton	80	3.8%	80	3.8%
Quinton	110	5.4%	110	5.4%
Red Horse	35	1.9%	40	2.1%
Shipston North	85	3.9%	85	3.9%
Shipston South	65	3.3%	70	3.6%
Shottery	75	3.9%	75	3.9%
Snitterfield	85	4.2%	80	4.0%
Southam North	65	3.0%	65	3.0%
Southam South	85	4.1%	80	3.8%
Studley with Mappleborough Green	90	4.1%	75	3.4%
Studley with Sambourne	120	5.5%	100	4.6%
Tanworth-in-Arden	65	3.7%	60	3.4%
Tiddington	70	4.1%	70	4.1%
Welcombe	100	4.6%	100	4.6%
Welford-on-Avon	75	3.4%	80	3.7%
Wellesbourne East	125	5.7%	110	5.0%
Wellesbourne West	45	2.1%	40	1.9%
Wotton Wawen	50	2.8%	50	2.8%

Source: DWP via LG Inform Plus (January 2021)

Youth Claimant Count Levels

Number of Youth Claimants and Change by Selected Months across the WMCA (16-24)

4.4% of those aged 16-24 years are claiming in Stratford-on-Avon District. The rise over the twelve months from December 2019 to December 2020 was the highest of any council area, with a 233.0% increase. All but two authorities have seen a drop in the number of youth claimants this month.

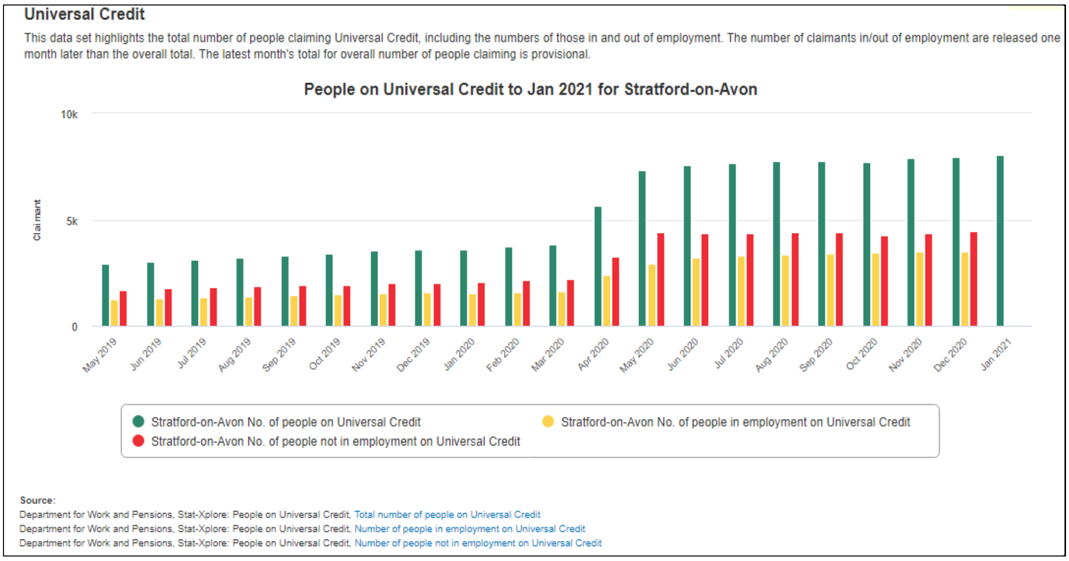
Source: ONS/DWP via Nomis, January 2021

Local Authority	December 2019	March 2020	December 2020	January 2021	%	Change in claimant no's Nov-Dec 2020
Birmingham	8,740	9,220	16,110	15,835	9.3%	-275
Bromsgrove	210	220	525	515	6.3%	-10
Cannock Chase	325	370	770	740	7.9%	-30
Coventry	1,445	1,550	3,255	3,160	5.2%	-95
Dudley	1,720	1,755	3,090	3,020	9.7%	-70
East Staffordshire	275	320	690	675	6.0%	-15
Herefordshire, County of	390	415	845	825	5.1%	-20
Lichfield	245	275	550	505	5.4%	-45
Malvern Hills	180	185	420	410	6.5%	-10
Newcastle-under-Lyme	405	430	795	760	4.6%	-35
North Warwickshire	165	165	395	380	6.6%	-15
Nuneaton and Bedworth	540	570	995	960	7.8%	-35
Redditch	310	310	580	565	7.3%	-25
Rugby	250	245	525	535	5.5%	10
Sandwell	1,995	2,130	4,050	3,925	11.4%	-125
Shropshire	795	830	1,700	1,660	5.9%	-40
Solihull	820	830	1,730	1,680	8.3%	-50
South Staffordshire	230	250	600	595	5.8%	-5
Stafford	280	320	610	615	5.2%	5
Staffordshire Moorlands	180	180	400	395	4.6%	-5
Stoke-on-Trent	1,275	1,415	2,435	2,395	8.5%	-40
Stratford-on-Avon	150	160	500	470	4.4%	-30
Tamworth	275	305	640	625	8.4%	-15
Telford and Wrekin	740	780	1,560	1,485	7.8%	-75
Walsall	1,790	1,940	3,195	3,140	10.5%	-55
Warwick	235	230	660	650	3.4%	-10
Wolverhampton	1,840	1,925	3,265	3,200	11.8%	-65
Worcester	315	325	755	700	5.5%	-55
Wyre Forest	310	315	690	650	7.6%	-40

2. Universal Credit Claimants in Stratford District

Source: Dept for Work and Pensions

8,062 people were claiming Universal Credit in Stratford-on-Avon in January 2021. For the latest month available with a breakdown (December 2020), 4,453 of these claimants were not in employment, whilst 3,516 were in employment. The total number of claims has changed by 124% compared to January 2020.



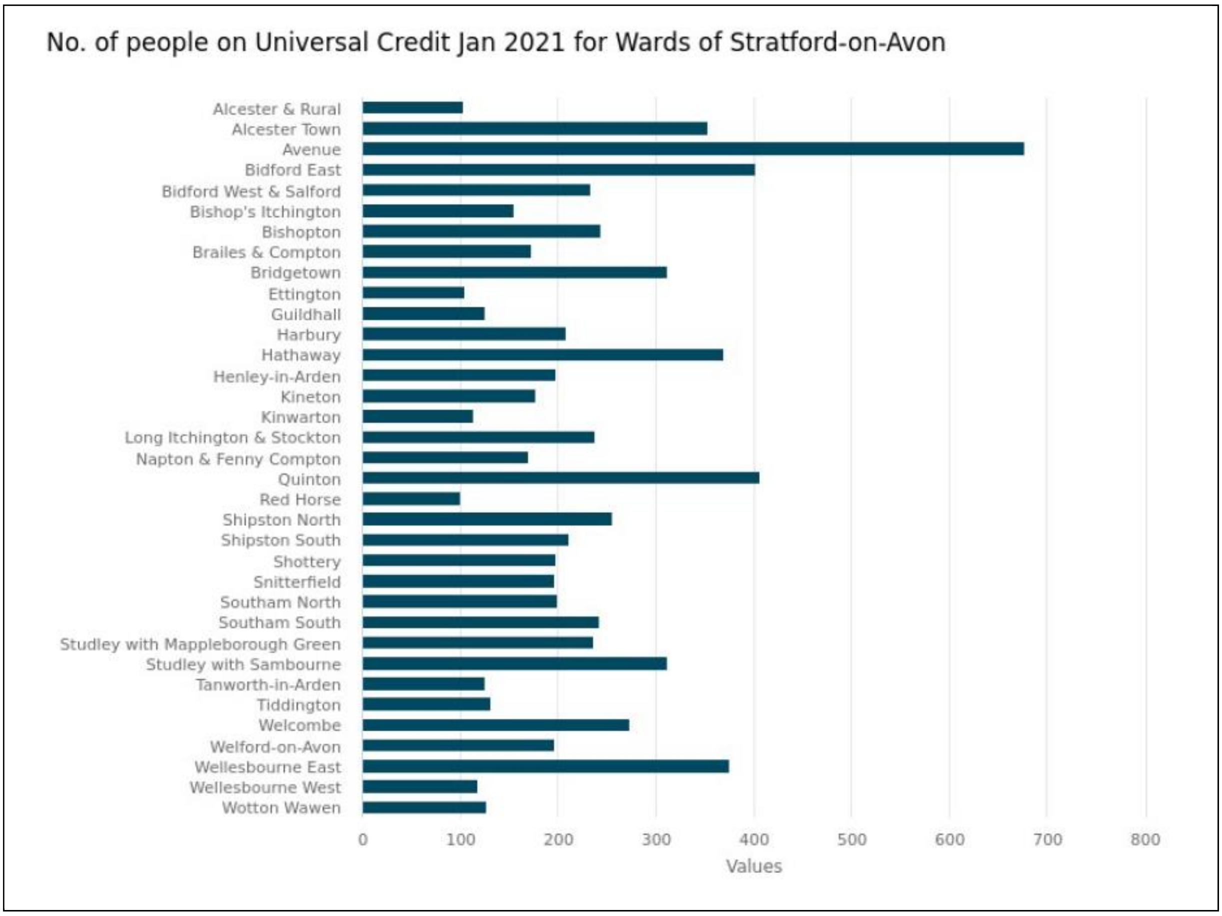
10.7% of people are on universal credit compared with the working age population in Stratford district.

Percentage of Working Age Population Compared with Universal Credit Claimants for Selected Authorites – December 2020

Local Authority	Number of people on Universal Credit	Working Age Population (16-64)	The % of People on Universal Credit compared with Working Age Population
Stratford	8,062	75,200	10.7
North Warwickshire	4,997	39,600	12.6
Nuneaton	12,785	79,200	16.1
Rugby	9,133	66,200	13.8
Warwick	8,188	91,900	8.9
Coventry	36,154	249,000	14.5

Total number of people on Universal Credit - Number of people claiming Universal Credit. This total includes both claimants who are not in employment and those eligible who are in employment.

The chart below shows the total number of people claiming Universal Credit across the wards of Stratford District. Clopton is the only ward not listed due to the population level not being high enough. Stratford Avenue ward has by far the most number of people claiming Universal Credit. Data is available to LSOA level if required.



Source: Stat-Explore: People on Universal Credit

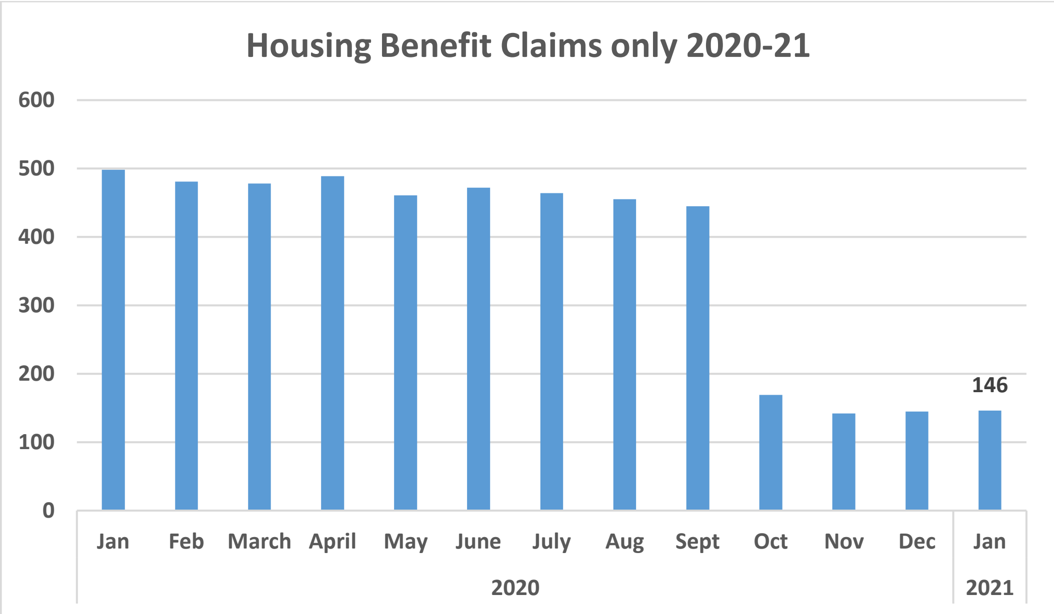
3. Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction Claims

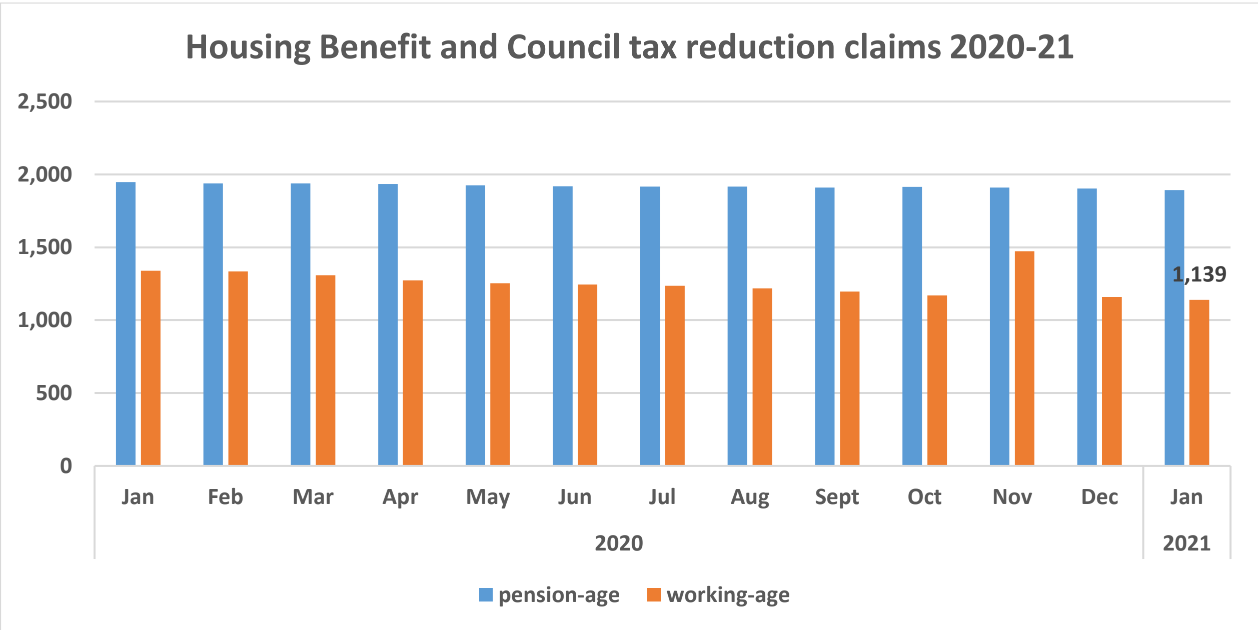
Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

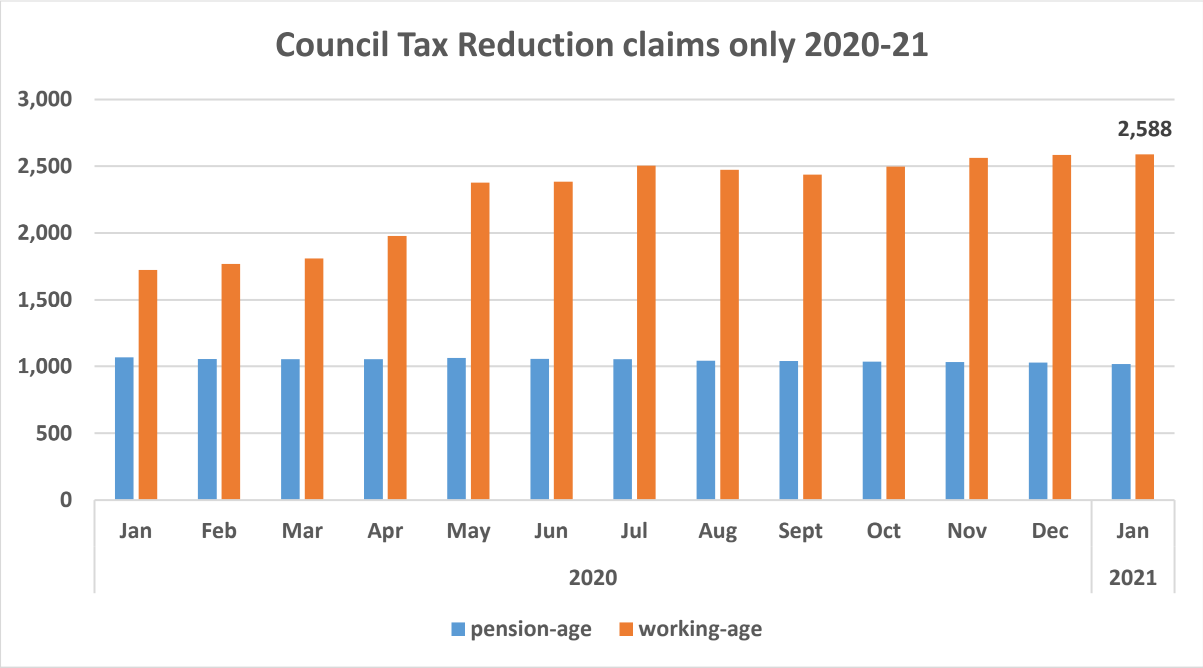
Housing benefit only claims rose slightly again in January from 145 to 146. The figures exclude cases where the claim fails to qualify for benefit.

The joint Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Reduction claims for pension-age residents have remained fairly static over the year. Those from working-age residents fell back again in January to 1,139.

Council Tax Reduction only claims have again remained fairly static for those of pension-age, but have risen consistently over the year for working-age residents, from 1,724 in January 2020 to 2,588 in January 2021.






Council Tax Reduction claims only 2020-21
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
2,588
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sept
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
2020
2021
pension-age
working-age

4. Furlough Data

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Statistics: February 2021

Claims received up to 15 February 2021

Date published: 25 February 2021

Source: HM Revenue & Customs

Figures for furloughing supported by the Job Retention Scheme as at 31 December 2020 and provisional figures for 31 January 2021.

Based on claims made by the 15 February. The January figures are provisional and may be revised due to late and amended claims. A high percentage figure is more of a concern.

For Stratford District

Female employments eligible for furlough	Male employments eligible for furlough	Total employments eligible for furlough
30,400	29,700	60,100

As at 31 December 2020 (Actual)

Female employments furloughed	Female take up-rate	Male employments furloughed	Male take up-rate	Total employments furloughed	Total take up-rate
4,500	15%	4,000	13%	8,500	14%

- Compared with all UK authorities (including unitaries, London boroughs etc.) the 14% total take up rate is the 58th highest percentage. Compared with all English districts it is the 26th highest percentage.
- The female furloughed take up rate is 35th highest compared with all UK authorities and 16th highest compared with all English districts.
- The male furloughed take up rate is 85st highest compared with the UK and 30th when compared with all districts.

As at 31 January 2021 (Provisional)

Female employments furloughed	Female take up-rate	Male employments furloughed	Male take up-rate	Total employments furloughed	Total take up-rate
5,700	19%	4,600	16%	10,300	17%

- Compared with all UK authorities (including unitaries, London boroughs etc.) the 17% total take up rate is the 40th highest. Compared with all English districts it is the 17th highest percentage.
- The female furloughed take up rate is 23rd highest compared with all UK authorities and 13th highest compared with all English districts.
- The male furloughed take up rate is 53rd highest compared with the UK and 18th when compared with all districts.

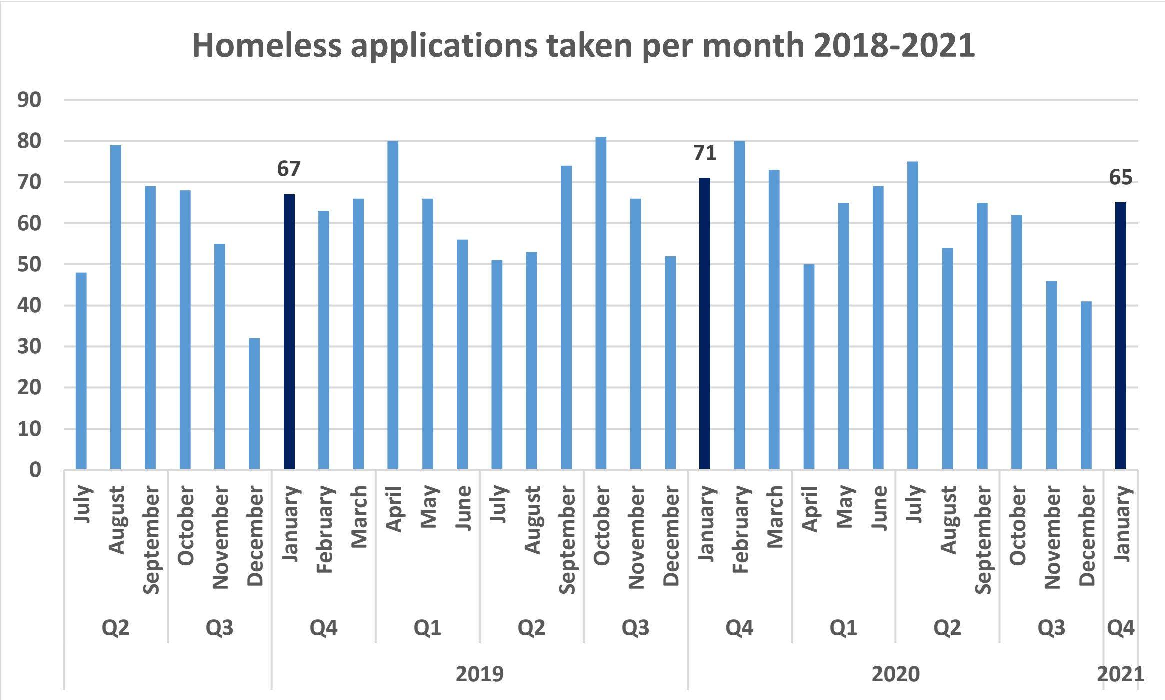
5. Homeless Applications

Homeless Applications Since July 2018

Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

January saw a rise in the number of applications from 41 to 65. A rise in January has typically been seen over the last few years, as shown in the chart below.

The mean average number of applications per month for the financial year 2020-21 stands at 63 so far, which is lower than that for 2019-20 (67), but higher than 2018-19 (56).



6. Covid-19 in Stratford District

Source: Coventry City Council
https://coventry-city-council.github.io/covid-19/dashboard/

The number of Covid-19 cases for the month has risen again from 974 in December to 1,356 in January 2021. The rate per 100,000 at the end of the month has dropped, however, to 150 down from 312 at the end of December 2020.

Covid-19 Cases and Rate per 100,000 by Month for Stratford District

Month	Lab-confirmed cases for the month	Rate per 100,000 population as at end of the month
March 2020	73	33.82
April	311	66.87
May	116	9.99
June	18	4.61
July	14	3.07
August	26	6.92
September	125	35.36
October	646	157.57
November	674	58.42
December	974	312
January 2021	1,356	149.89

Covid-19 Cases and Rate per 100,000 by Month for Warwickshire Districts

District/Borough Council	Lab-confirmed Cases for January 2021	Rate per 100,000 population as at end of the month
North Warwickshire	1,072	274.27
Warwick	1,569	160
Nuneaton & Bedworth	2,197	278.71
Stratford-on-Avon	1,356	149.89
Rugby	1,791	249.69

Total cases in Stratford District March 10th to January 31st 2021 = 4,333

Number of people with at least one lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test.

Total number of deaths in Stratford District since pandemic started up until January 31st 2021 = 293

Total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic of people who had had a positive test result for COVID-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test. The actual cause of death may not be COVID-19 in all cases. People who died from COVID-19 but had not tested positive are not included and people who died from COVID-19 more than 28 days after their first positive test are not included.

7. Citizens Advice Stratford

Extract From Citizens Advice Stratford District Monthly Report January 2021

Source: Citizens Advice South Warwickshire

The charts show some information about how we assisted our clients in Stratford District in January 2021 and the analysis compares 2021 with January 2020.

In this Ward we helped

Clients	425
Issues all	1,669

Top Issues

Benefits & tax credits	402
Benefits Universal Credit	275
Debt	242
Financial services & capability	125
Housing	120

Top 5 benefit issues

21 Personal independence payment	160
01 Initial claim	145
99 Other benefits issues	39
17 Attendance Allowance	38
23 Council tax reduction	38

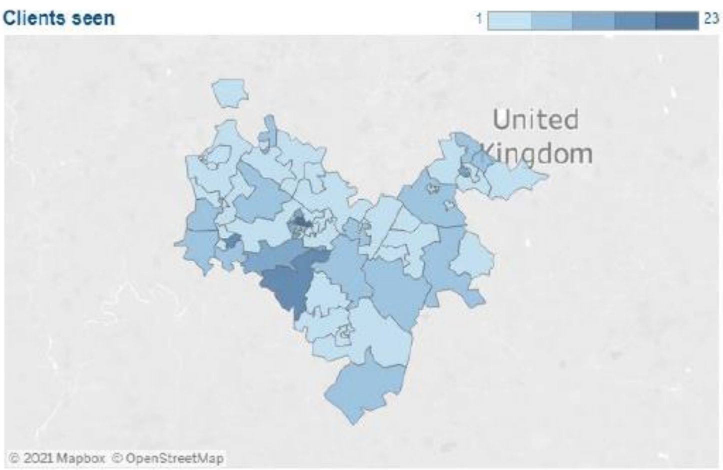
Top 5 debt issues

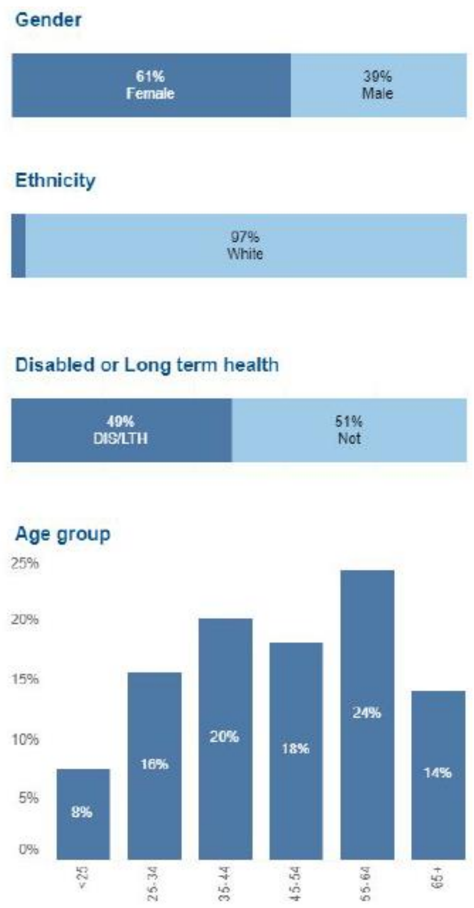
09 Council tax arrears	29
49 Debt Relief Order	29
13 Credit, store & charge card debts	25
99 Other	21
04 Fuel debts	20

Homelessness

03 Threatened homelessness	15
02 Actual homelessness	5

Clients seen





The diagrams on the previous page show some information about our clients in Stratford District and how we assisted them in January 2021 in comparison to January 2020. Considering we are currently in the COVID-19 period of restrictive working, this shows some interesting results.

Our advisers helped 425 clients (down 23.5%) with 1669 issues (down by only 35).

- UC initial claim enquiries rose by 49% (from 97 to 145 issues); however, UC as a whole increased by 46% (from 188 to 275 issues)
- Benefits and Tax Credits rose by 17% (from 343 to 402 issues)
- Debt decreased by 27% (from 332 to 242 issues)
- PIP enquiries increased by 48% (from 108 to 160 issues)

Council Tax Arrears, Housing Association Rent Arrears, Credit/Store/Charge Card debts and Debt Relief Orders featured in January 2020, they have reduced in January 2021. However, Fuel debt (20 issues) appears in January 2021. Our advisers also assisted a reduced number of clients with Threatened (decrease of 16) and Actual (down by 5) Homlessness compared to January 2020.

Generally, there were no changes to the ratio of clients by ethnicity, disability or gender. There was a slight change in the under 55/64s (up 5%) and the 64+ (down 6%).

8. Social Studies

Covid-19 Social Study – Results Release 31

This report provides data from the last 48 weeks of the UK COVID-19 Social Study run by University College London: a panel study of over 70,000 respondents focusing on the psychological and social experiences of adults living in the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic (21/03/20 to 21/02/21).

The full report can be found via this link https://www.covidsocialstudy.org/results and clicking Week 48-49. This report focuses on psychological responses to the first 48 weeks since just before the UK Lockdown was first announced.

Findings

- Over half (57%) of adults are concerned that cases of Covid-19 will increase after the current lockdown restrictions are eased. This is down from 78% in May 2020 when these questions were asked at an almost identical time point as in the current lockdown. A similar proportion of adults across age groups are also concerned that people will not adhere to social distancing guidelines once restrictions start to lift (53%). NB these data were collected before the 22 February 2021 announcement on the timing of lockdown restriction easing in England.

- People are as worried about hospitals being overwhelmed (43%) after the current lockdown restrictions are eased as they were in May 2020 (44%). Young adults are more worried about this happening than adults aged 30 and over.

- Around 1 in 3 people are expressing concerns about an economic recession and increasing unemployment levels once the current lockdown restrictions are lifted. Adults of working age are more affected by economic concerns than those aged 60 and up. One-quarter of young adults are currently concerned about pollution increasing once restrictions are lifted.

- The activities people are missing the most during the latest lockdown are the same as they were in May 2020. Nearly 2 in 3 reported missing meeting up with friends and family, and these proportions were similar across age groups. Over half of adults are reporting missing going out for meals, coffee or drinks, and on holiday, but just 13% miss going to the office.

- Young adults are missing usual activities the most. 1 in 3 young adults miss going to the gym, spending time in nature, and having time alone. Over half (58%) miss going to cultural venues, compared to 49% of adults aged 30- 59 and 42% of older adults. However, in general adults are reporting missing usual activities less than they did in first lockdown in 2020.

- Confidence in the central government to handle the Covid-19 pandemic has increased since the start of the year in England. Whilst levels remain lower in England than devolved nations, they are now back to levels recorded in mid-May 2020.

- Compliance continues to be at its highest levels since May of 2020. Majority compliance is being reported by around 96% of people, while complete compliance (no bending of the rules) by 3 in 5 people. Compliance has maintained a steady rate since the start of the New Year.

- Stress about catching or becoming seriously ill from Covid-19 is similar to what it was in the autumn but has been decreasing since late December. Worries about accessing sufficient food have slightly decreased in the past several weeks but are still affecting approximately 1 in 10 people.

- Although mental health is worse than during the summer, there are some signs of improvement. Happiness and life satisfaction levels have increased over the last several weeks but remain at levels similar to those of the late spring of 2020 when lockdown restrictions had eased. There is also some indication that the previously recorded increases in depression and anxiety are stabilising, with possible improvements.

- Loneliness levels are still roughly the same as they were during first lockdown, although they appear to have been slightly decreasing over the past several weeks. Loneliness remains highest in people living alone, those with a mental health condition, people with lower household income, and people from ethnic minority backgrounds

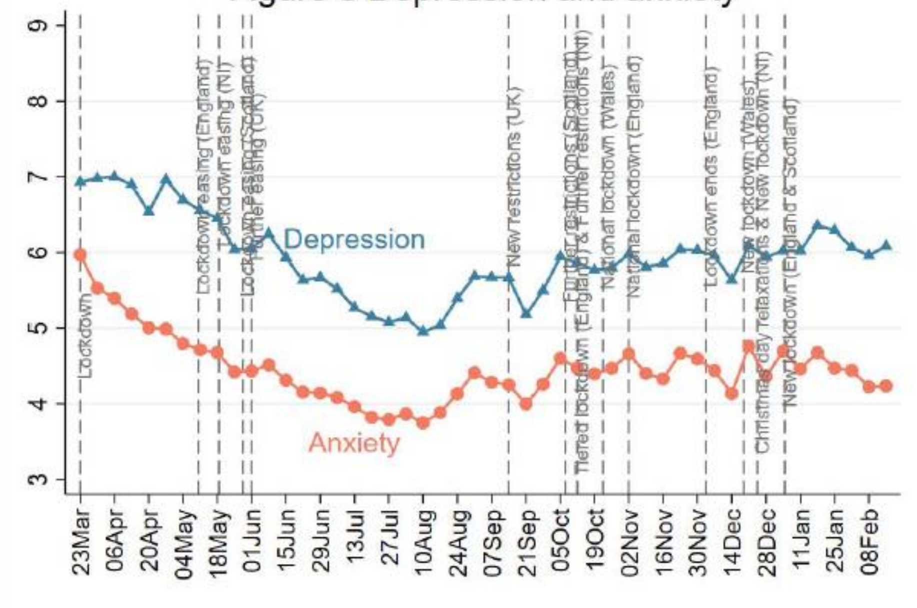
Mental Health

Respondents were asked about depression levels during the past week using the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and anxiety using the Generalised Anxiety Disorder assessment (GAD-7); standard instruments for diagnosing depression and anxiety in primary care. These are 9 and 7 items respectively with 4-point responses ranging from “not at all” to “nearly every day”, with higher overall scores indicating more symptoms. Scores of higher than 10 can indicate major depression or moderate anxiety.

There is some indication that the rises recorded in anxiety and depression levels since the end of the summer may be stabilising and anxiety levels may be beginning to decline. Although this study focuses on trajectories rather than prevalence, the levels overall are higher than usual reported averages using the same scales (2.7-3.2 for anxiety and 2.7-3.7 for depression).

Depression and anxiety are still highest in young adults, women, people with lower household income, people with a long-term physical health condition, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and people living with children. People with a diagnosed mental illness have still been reporting higher levels of depression and anxiety symptoms (as might be expected), especially since the latest lockdown was announced.

Figure 5 Depression and anxiety



Stress

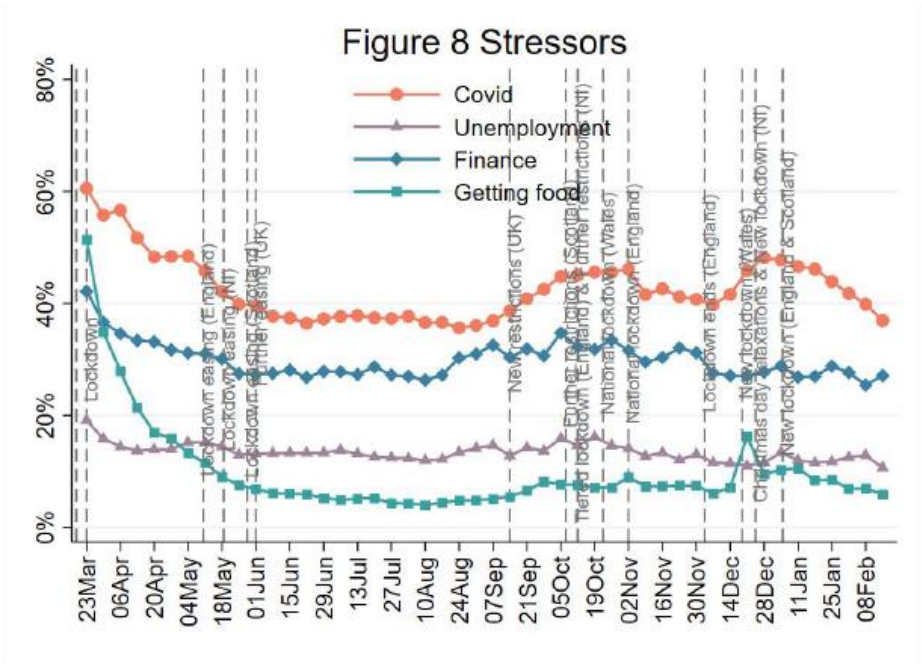
We asked participants to report which factors were causing them stress in the last week, either minor stress or major stress (which was defined as stress that was constantly on their mind or kept them awake at night).

Although stress about catching Covid-19 or becoming seriously ill from it is similar to what it was in the autumn, it has decreased substantially since the start of the year with just under 40% of people reporting being worried. This decrease has followed the increase that was seen after the news of the new more contagious variant at the end of last year. When separated by age group, however, these decreases were only seen in adults aged 30-59 years and 60 years and older, who are more likely to have already received the Covid-19 vaccine or are nearer to doing so.

Worries about finance have remained relatively stable since the latest lockdown started, comparable to their lowest levels of around 1 in 4 people over the summer. Worries about unemployment remain relatively low, concerning just 1 in 8 people. Worries about accessing food have slightly decreased in the past several weeks, affecting approximately 1 in 10 people; comparable to when lockdown easing began in May 2020.

People with diagnosed mental illness have been more worried about all factors. But stressors in other demographic groups have varied. Specifically in relation to worries about Covid-19, these levels are highest in adults over the age of 30, women, and people with diagnosed physical health conditions, but have been decreasing across these groups in the last weeks.

Concerns about unemployment and finances remain highest amongst adults of working age and are comparable to their levels in the summer. Unemployment and financial stress are still higher in those living with children. Most groups are showing similar concern about accessing food, although these concerns are higher in people with a diagnosed mental health condition and those in ethnic minority groups. People with physical health conditions are also more concerned about accessing food, which may be due to greater concerns about going to supermarkets.



Life Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate their life satisfaction during the past week using the ONS wellbeing scale, which asks respondents about how satisfied they are with their life, using a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely).

There has been an increase in life satisfaction in the last month seen across all age groups. Life satisfaction remains lower than during the summer, but levels are now similar to June 2020 when lockdown restrictions were being lifted.

However, younger adults and women continue to have lower levels of life satisfaction, as are people living alone, those with a mental health condition, those with lower household incomes, people with a long-term physical health condition, and people from ethnic minority backgrounds (although smaller sample sizes compared to people with white ethnicity mean there has been greater volatility in these data).

Although this study focuses on trajectories rather than prevalence, the levels of life satisfaction are lower than usual reported averages using the same scale (7.7).

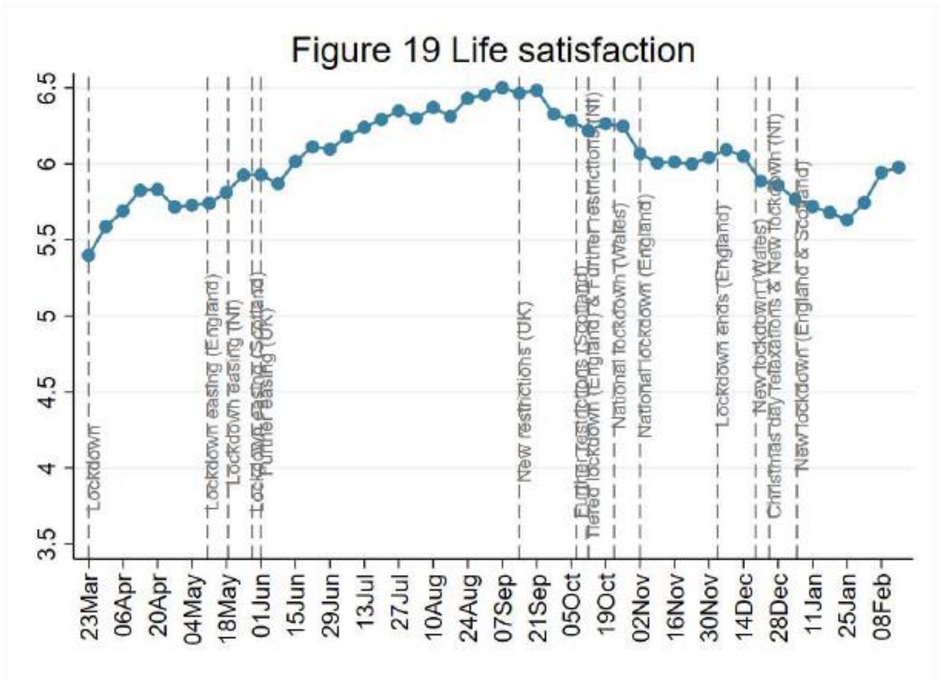


Figure 19 Life satisfaction

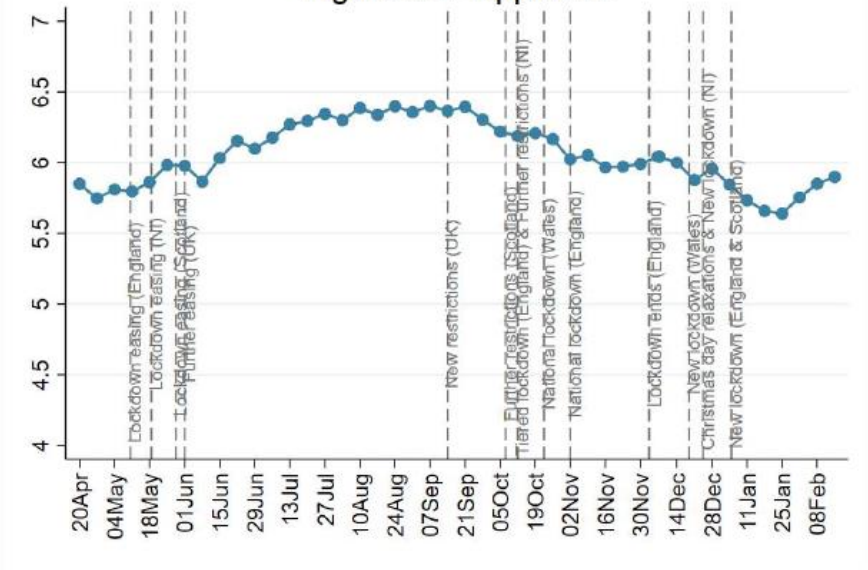
Happiness

Respondents were asked to rate to what extent they felt happy during the past week using the Office for National Statistics wellbeing scale on a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely). Happiness ratings are only available from 21st April onwards.

Happiness levels have increased somewhat in recent weeks in all age groups, showing similar levels to during first lockdown in 2020. However, they remain lower than they were in the summer. Happiness levels over the past several weeks are similar to levels early in the pandemic in the UK. There continue to be differences in reported levels of happiness across demographic groups.

Levels of happiness remain lower in adults under the age of 60, people living alone, people with lower household incomes, people with a diagnosed mental or physical health condition, in urban areas, in females, and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Figure 23 Happiness



Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 26 February 2021

This contains data and indicators from the Office for National Statistics' (ONS's) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

The statistics below are based on a survey of 6,017 adults aged 16 years and over in Great Britain conducted between 17 and 21 February 2021 (inclusive). Results this week are based on 4,113 responding adults (68% response rate).

Source: ONS
Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Main Points

- Compliance with most measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) remained high, with the proportions reporting always or often handwashing after returning home (89%) and using a face covering (96%) both unchanged from last week; however, 86% of adults reported always or often maintaining social distance when meeting up with people outside their support bubble, which was lower than last week (91%).
- This week, the proportion of adults reporting staying at home or only leaving for work, exercise, essential shopping or medical needs in the past seven days fell to 54% (56% last week) but remains higher than the mid-November peak (43%) when governments introduced tighter restrictions across Great Britain.
- A similar proportion of adults reported exclusively working from home in the last seven days (35%) to those who reported to have exclusively travelled to work in the last seven days (36%); this is in comparison with 16 to 20 September 2020 when the proportion of adults reported travelling to work was considerably higher (53%) than those working from home (21% over the same period).
- Personal well-being measures including life satisfaction (6.4), the feeling that things done in life are worthwhile (7.0) and anxiety (4.1) were at similar levels to last week; however the level of happiness (6.6) has increased slowly from the low level seen at the end of January (6.4).
- This week, over 3 in 10 (35%) adults in Great Britain reported they had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, compared with 26% last week; this increased with age with the majority (97%) of adults aged 70 years and over reporting they had received at least one dose of the vaccine.
- Positive sentiment towards the COVID-19 vaccine increased this week with 94% of adults reporting they had now either received the vaccine or would be likely to have the vaccine if offered; an increase from the 91% reported last week.

9. Other Studies – Business Impact of Coronavirus

Office for National Statistics – Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey: 25 February 2021

Source: ONS
Business insights and impacts on the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

The business indicators are based on responses from the voluntary, fortnightly BICS, which captures businesses' views on the impact on turnover, workforce, prices, trade and business resilience. The Wave 24 survey was live for the period 8 to 21 February 2021, and businesses were asked about their experience for the two-week survey reference period, 25 January 2021 to 7 February 2021.

Wave 24 of BICS saw a sample of 39,278, with 10,351 businesses responding.

Main Points

- The percentage of businesses currently trading has remained low in mid-February 2021 at 72%, which has been stable since early January 2021 when lockdown restrictions were imposed.
- Of businesses not permanently ceased trading, approximately 6.5 million employees (20% of their workforce) were on furlough leave in early February 2021, increasing from 6 million (18%) in the previous month.
- Both the arts, entertainment and recreation industry and the accommodation and food service activities industry had more than half of their workforce on furlough leave in early February 2021.
- Approximately half of all businesses that have temporarily closed or paused trading reported cash reserves will last three months or less in mid-February 2021.
- Half of the businesses not permanently ceased trading in the accommodation and food service activities industry and other service activities industry had cash reserves to last three months or less, and are the industries with consistently lower cash reserves.
- The main challenge reported by internationally trading businesses for both exporting and importing was additional paperwork, at 38% and 39% respectively.