



# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DATA IN THE COVID-19 PERIOD

**April 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 June 2021

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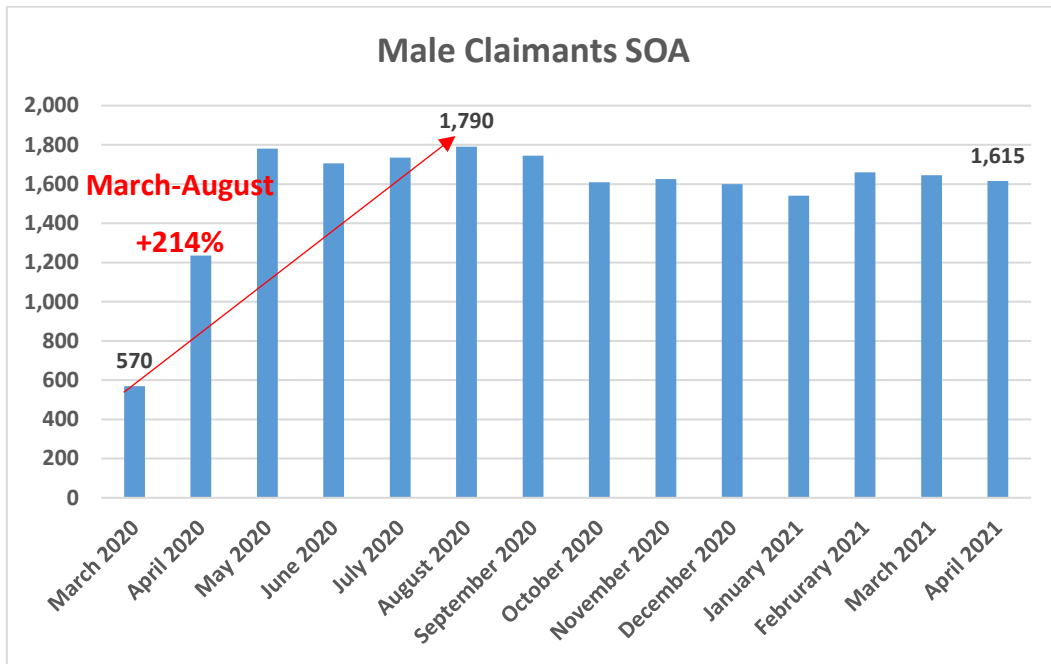
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# 1. Claimant Count Data

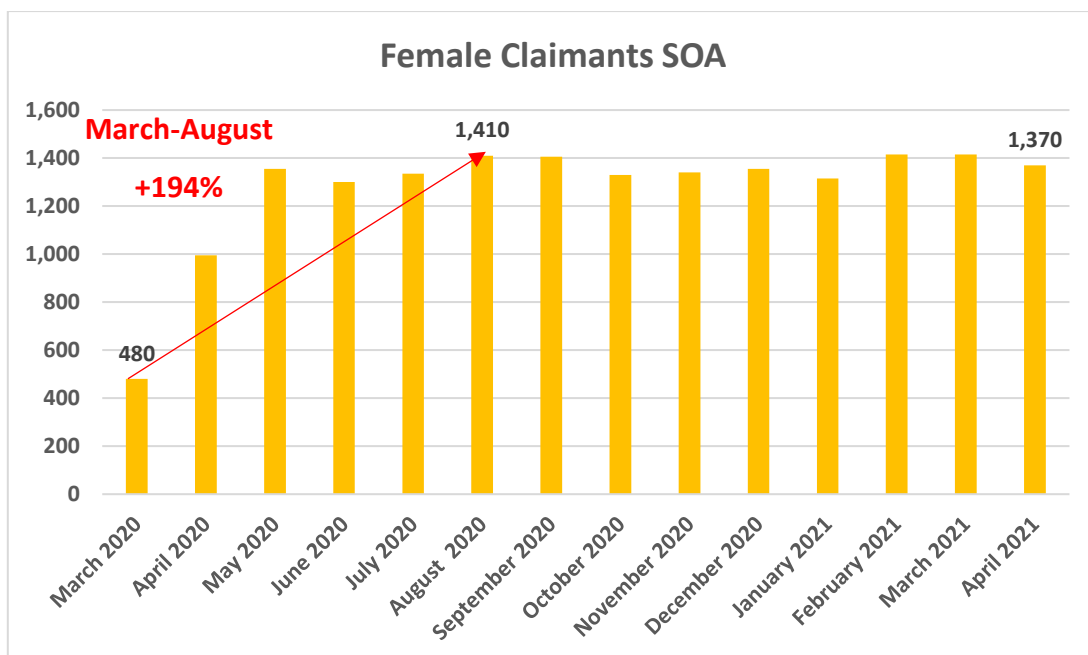
The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. This is measured by combining the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits with the number of people receiving Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Claimants declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made. It is of the resident population aged 16 and over.

Source: NOMIS April 2021 for the following four charts.

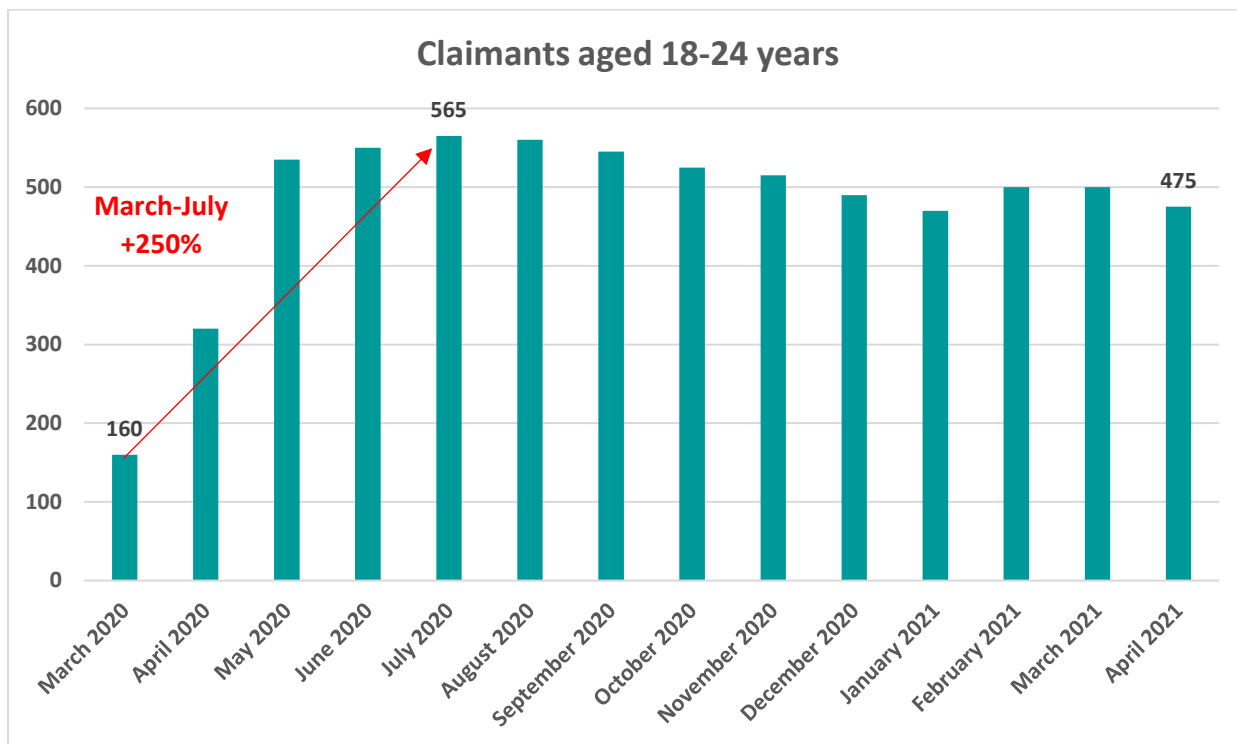
The number of male claimants in April dipped again slightly by 30 to 1,615. This represents an increase of 183% from March 2020.



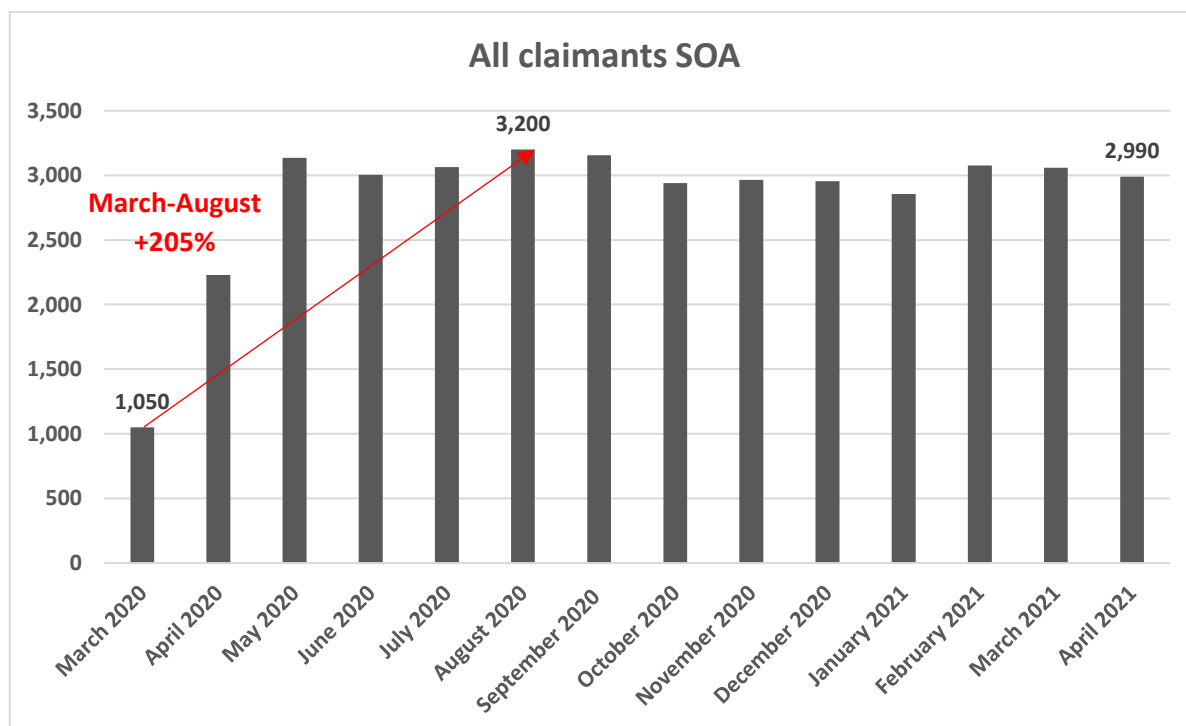
The number of female claimants in April fell to 1,370. This represents an increase of 185% from March 2020.



The number of claimants aged 16 to 24 years in April fell slightly to 475. This is 197% higher than a year ago in March 2020.



The overall number of claimants in Stratford District in April dipped again to 2,990. This is 185% higher than a year ago in March 2020.



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

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

At local authority level, the number of claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16 to 64 years old varies from 11.4% in Birmingham and 10.6% in Wolverhampton, to 3.6% in Staffordshire Moorlands, 3.9% in Warwick and 4.0% in **Stratford-on-Avon**.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	%
Birmingham	11.4
Wolverhampton	10.6
Sandwell	9.7
Walsall	8.7
Stoke-on-Trent	8.0
Dudley	7.3
Coventry	6.9
Nuneaton and Bedworth	6.3
Redditch	6.1
Tamworth	6.1
Telford and Wrekin	5.9
Solihull	5.8
Wyre Forest	5.7
Worcester	5.7
Cannock Chase	5.3
East Staffordshire	5.3
North Warwickshire	5.0
Rugby	4.7
Malvern Hills	4.6
Newcastle-under-Lyme	4.5
Bromsgrove	4.4
South Staffordshire	4.4
Shropshire	4.4
Lichfield	4.4
Wychavon	4.3
Herefordshire	4.2
Stafford	4.1
Stratford-on-Avon	4.0
Warwick	3.9
Staffordshire Moorlands	3.6

Source: ONS claimant count [April 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 April 2021 (16 and over)**

The geographical variations at local authority level across the West Midlands is large, where increases since March 2020 range from 65.4% in Dudley, to a rise of 184% in **Stratford-on-Avon district**, the largest increase of any authority.

<b>local authority: district / unitary</b>	<b>March 2020</b>	<b>April 2021</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>% change</b>
Stratford-on-Avon	1,050	2,990	1,940	184.8
Wychavon	1,320	3,240	1,920	145.8
North Warwickshire	845	1,980	1,135	134.6
Warwick	1,570	3,615	2,045	130.3
Herefordshire, County of	2,110	4,705	2,595	122.8
Bromsgrove	1,165	2,590	1,425	122.7
Malvern Hills	925	2,020	1,095	118.3
Coventry	8,000	17,120	9,120	114.0
Wyre Forest	1,580	3,345	1,765	111.5
Shropshire	4,010	8,385	4,375	109.2
Worcester	1,780	3,710	1,925	108.1
Redditch	1,535	3,175	1,640	106.6
Solihull	3,650	7,400	3,750	102.7
Rugby	1,535	3,090	1,555	101.0
Telford and Wrekin	3,430	6,550	3,120	91.0
Sandwell	10,780	19,755	8,980	83.3
Nuneaton and Bedworth	2,830	5,025	2,195	77.6
Walsall	8,605	15,150	6,545	76.1
Birmingham	49,370	83,490	34,120	69.1
Wolverhampton	10,380	17,250	6,870	66.2
Dudley	8,515	14,085	5,570	65.4

Source: ONS via Nomis (April 2021)

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

See page 2 for the definition in detail.

The highest claimant count levels whilst comparing Stratford District Council wards are in Avenue (8.4%) and Hathaway (6.4%). The lowest levels are in Wellesbourne West (1.6%) and Ettington (1.9%).

Ward Name	Claimant Count Mar 21	Claimant % Mar 21	Claimant Count Apr 21	Claimant % Apr 21
Alcester & Rural	45	2.2%	45	2.2%
Alcester Town	120	5.4%	105	4.7%
Avenue	205	8.2%	210	8.4%
Bidford East	130	5.4%	120	5%
Bidford West & Salford	90	3.9%	85	3.6%
Bishop's Itchington	70	2.7%	70	2.7%
Bishopston	85	4.1%	90	4.4%
Brailes & Compton	85	4.7%	70	3.9%
Bridgetown	125	4.2%	120	4%
Ettington	45	2.1%	40	1.9%
Guildhall	55	2.8%	55	2.8%
Harbury	95	4.6%	75	3.6%
Hathaway	115	6.7%	110	6.4%
Henley-in-Arden	90	4.2%	80	3.7%
Kineton	70	3.6%	65	3.4%
Kinwarton	50	3.3%	50	3.3%
Long Itchington & Stockton	90	3.6%	95	3.8%
Napton & Fenny Compton	80	3.8%	75	3.6%
Quinton	125	6.1%	110	5.4%
Red Horse	50	2.6%	45	2.4%
Shipston North	90	4.1%	100	4.6%
Shipston South	70	3.6%	75	3.8%
Shottery	85	4.4%	85	4.4%
Snitterfield	80	4%	80	4%
Southam North	70	3.2%	75	3.5%
Southam South	95	4.5%	90	4.3%
Studley with Mappleborough Green	85	3.8%	90	4.1%
Studley with Sambourne	120	5.5%	120	5.5%
Tanworth-in-Arden	65	3.7%	60	3.4%
Tiddington	80	4.6%	80	4.6%
Welcombe	115	5.3%	100	4.6%
Welford-on-Avon	80	3.7%	80	3.7%
Wellesbourne East	120	5.4%	115	5.2%
Wellesbourne West	35	1.6%	35	1.6%
Wotton Wawen	50	2.8%	45	2.5%

Source: DWP via LG Inform Plus (April 2021)

## Youth Claimant Count Levels

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

The vast majority of local authorities across the West Midlands saw a fall in the number of people aged 16-24 years claiming benefits in the past month, except for East Staffordshire and Stafford which saw a rise, and Worcester which remained the same. 4.4% of those aged 16-24 years are claiming in Stratford-on-Avon District. Only Warwick has a smaller percentage of their youth population claiming benefits, at 3.5%.

Source: ONS/DWP via LGInform Plus, April 2021

Local Authority	December 2019	March 2020	March 2021	April 2021	%	Change in claimant no's Mar - Apr 2021
Birmingham	8,740	9,220	16,545	16,385	9.6	-160
Bromsgrove	210	220	500	495	6.1	-5
Cannock Chase	325	370	735	710	7.6	-25
Coventry	1,445	1,550	3,390	3,345	5.5	-45
Dudley	1,720	1,755	3,090	2,990	9.6	-100
East Staffordshire	275	320	730	735	6.6	5
Herefordshire, County of	390	415	900	880	5.5	-20
Lichfield	245	275	535	520	5.6	-15
Malvern Hills	180	185	420	395	6.3	-25
Newcastle-under-Lyme	405	430	815	785	4.8	-30
North Warwickshire	165	165	415	400	6.9	-15
Nuneaton and Bedworth	540	570	980	975	8	-5
Redditch	310	310	615	605	7.8	-10
Rugby	250	245	575	560	5.7	-15
Sandwell	1,995	2,130	4,070	3,985	11.6	-85
Shropshire	795	830	1,725	1,655	5.9	-70
Solihull	820	830	1,710	1,645	8.1	-65
South Staffordshire	230	250	650	605	5.9	-45
Stafford	280	320	615	625	5.3	10
Staffordshire Moorlands	180	180	410	385	4.5	-25
Stoke-on-Trent	1,275	1,415	2,555	2,520	8.7	-35
Stratford-on-Avon	150	160	500	475	4.4	-25
Tamworth	275	305	635	655	8.9	20
Telford and Wrekin	740	780	1,480	1,455	7.6	-25
Walsall	1,790	1,940	3,300	3,275	11	-25
Warwick	235	230	700	675	3.5	-25
Wolverhampton	1,840	1,925	3,300	3,260	12	-40
Worcester	315	325	750	750	5.9	0
Wychavon	250	265	680	650	6.2	-30
Wyre Forest	310	315	640	620	7.2	-20



## 2. Universal Credit Claimants in Stratford District

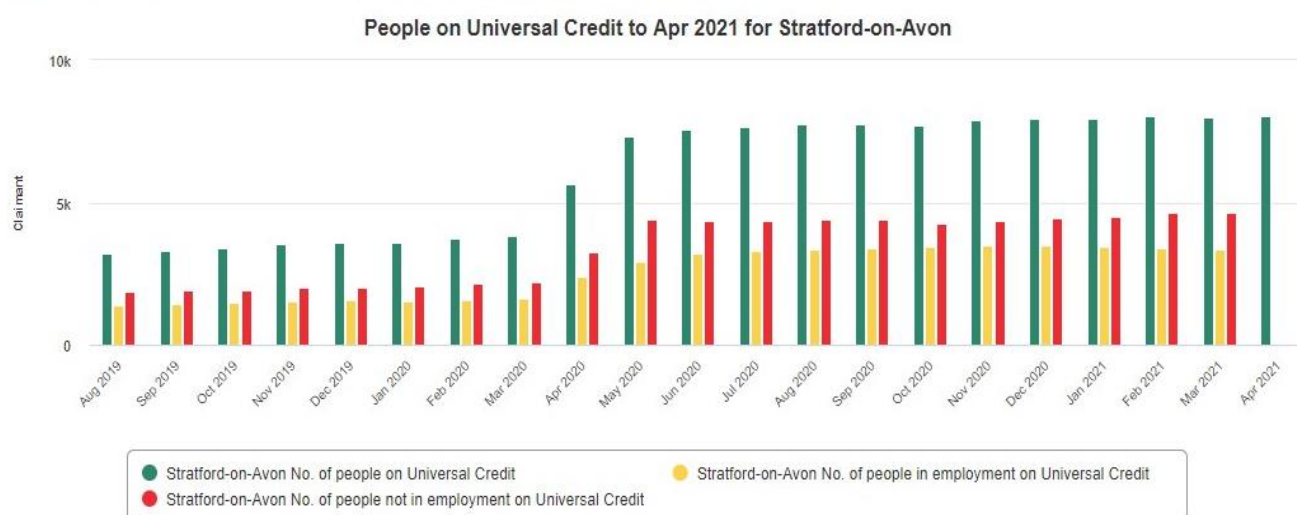
Number of people claiming Universal Credit. This total includes both claimants who are not in employment and those eligible who are in employment. Figures are a count of the number of people on Universal Credit on the second Thursday of each month (completed the Universal Credit claim process and accepted their Claimant Commitment) and have not had a closure of their claim recorded for this spell.

Source: Dept for Work and Pensions

7,965 people were claiming Universal Credit in Stratford-on-Avon in April 2021. For the latest month available with a breakdown (March 2021), 4,633 of these claimants were not in employment, whilst 3,363 were in employment. The total number of claims has changed by 42% compared to April 2020.

### Universal Credit

This data set highlights the total number of people claiming Universal Credit, including the numbers of those in and out of employment. The number of claimants in/out of employment are released one month later than the overall total. The latest month's total for overall number of people claiming is provisional.



Source:  
 Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: People on Universal Credit, Total number of people on Universal Credit  
 Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: People on Universal Credit, Number of people in employment on Universal Credit  
 Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: People on Universal Credit, Number of people not in employment on Universal Credit

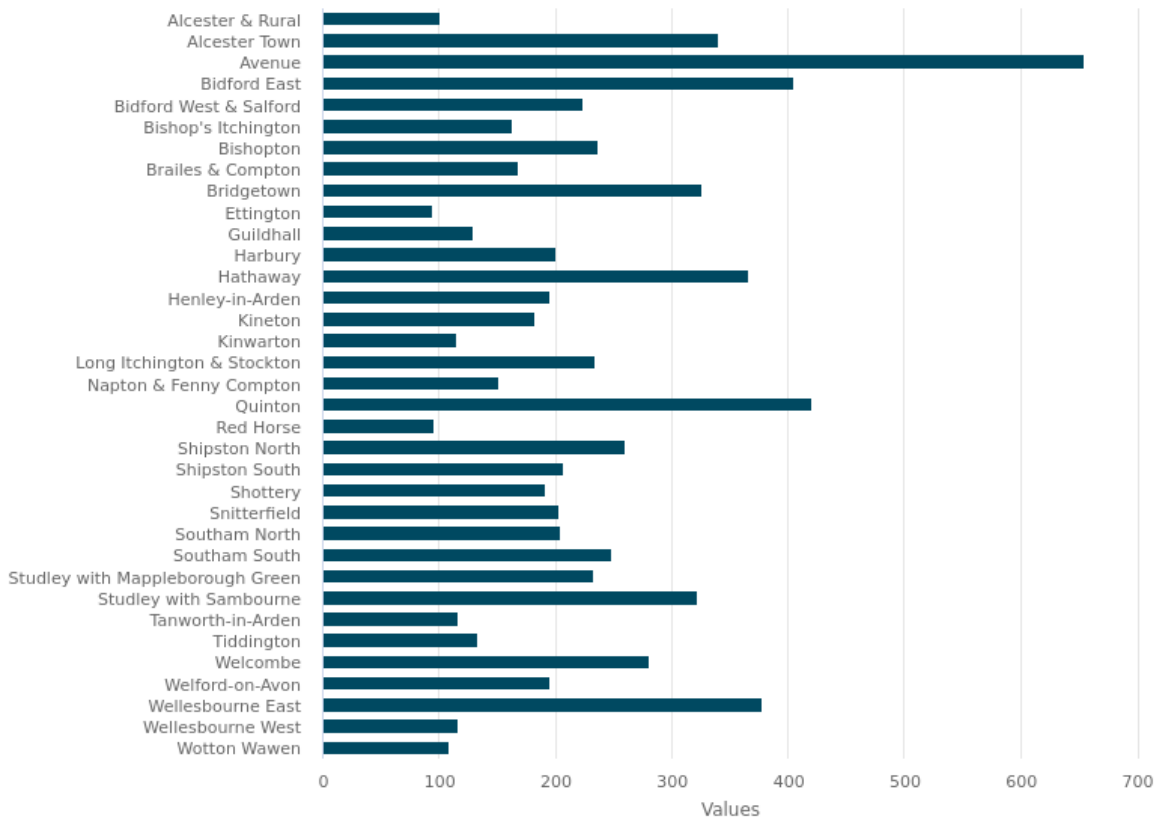
10.6% of people are on universal credit compared with the working age population in Stratford district.

### Percentage of Working Age Population Compared with Universal Credit Claimants for Selected Authorities – April 2021

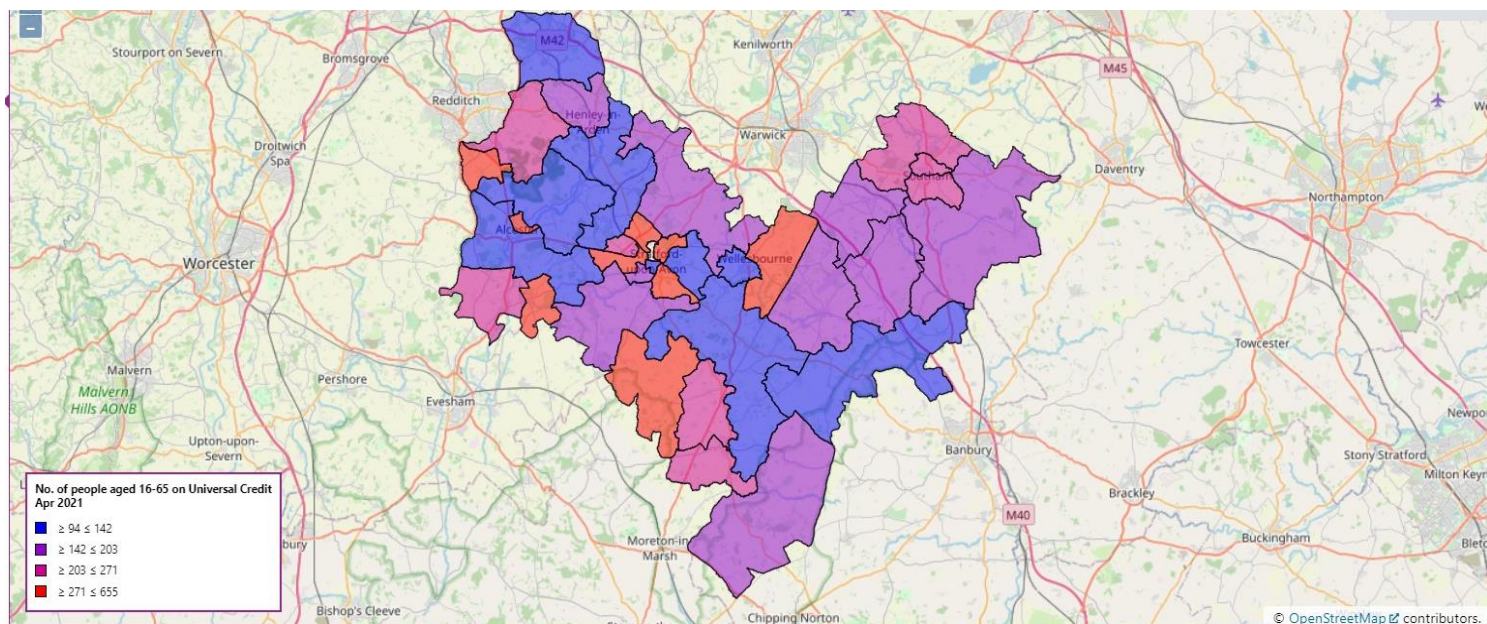
Local Authority	Number of people on Universal Credit	Working Age Population (16-64)	The % of People on Universal Credit compared with Working Age Population
Stratford-on-Avon	7,965	75,200	10.6
North Warwickshire	5,036	39,600	12.7
Nuneaton	12,883	79,200	16.3
Rugby	9,089	66,200	13.7
Warwick	8,283	91,900	9.0
Coventry	36,969	249,000	14.9

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.

No. of people aged 16-65 on Universal Credit Apr 2021 for Wards of Stratford-on-Avon



Source: Stat-Explore: People on Universal Credit via LG Inform



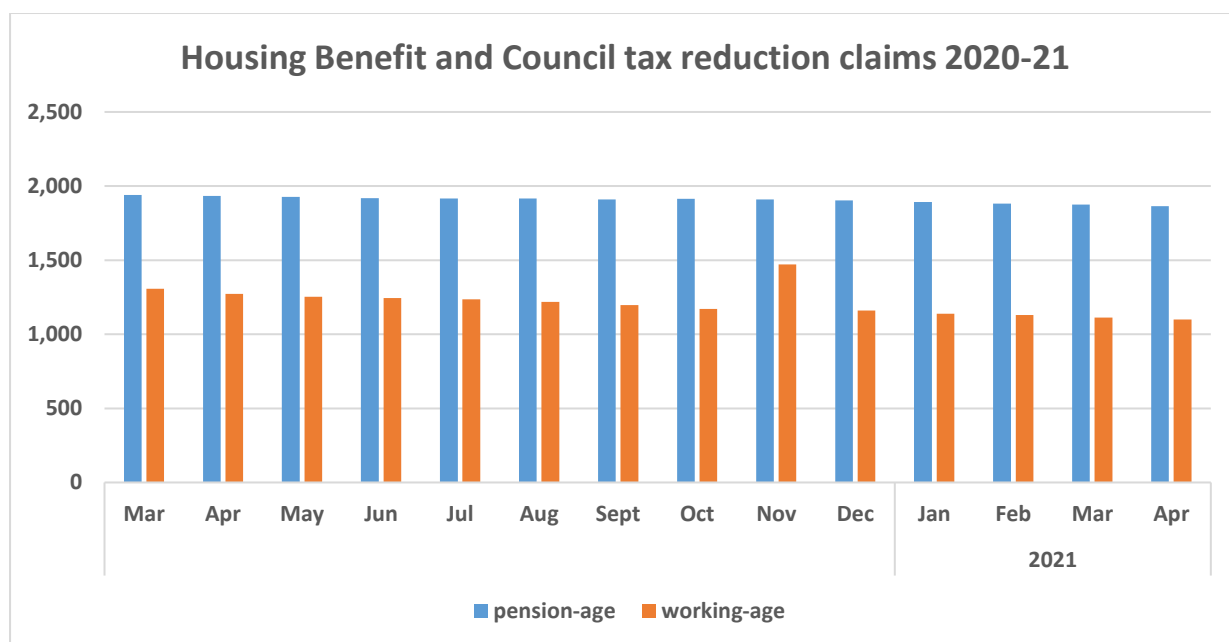
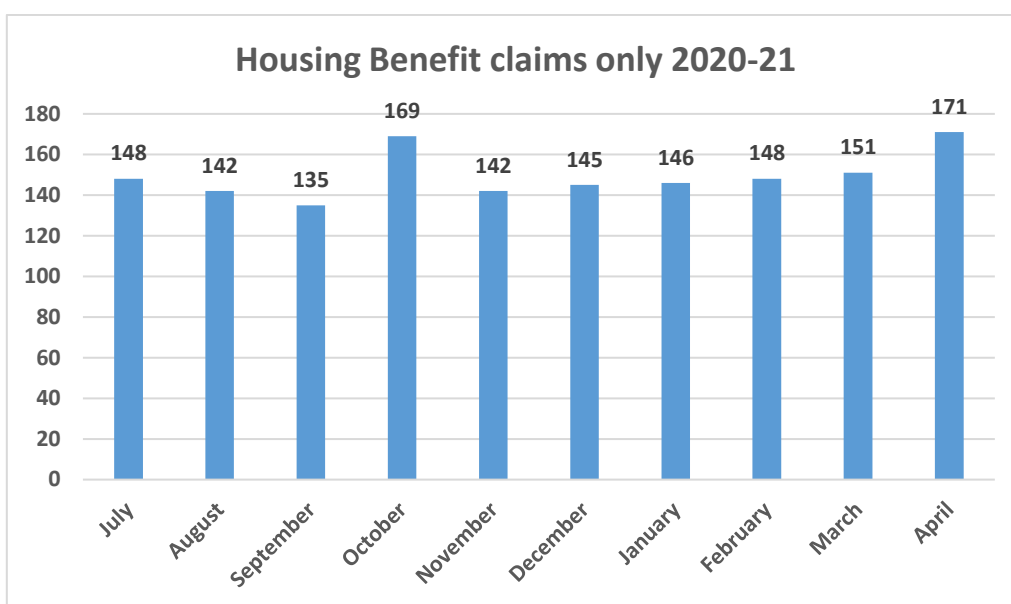
### 3. Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction Claims

Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

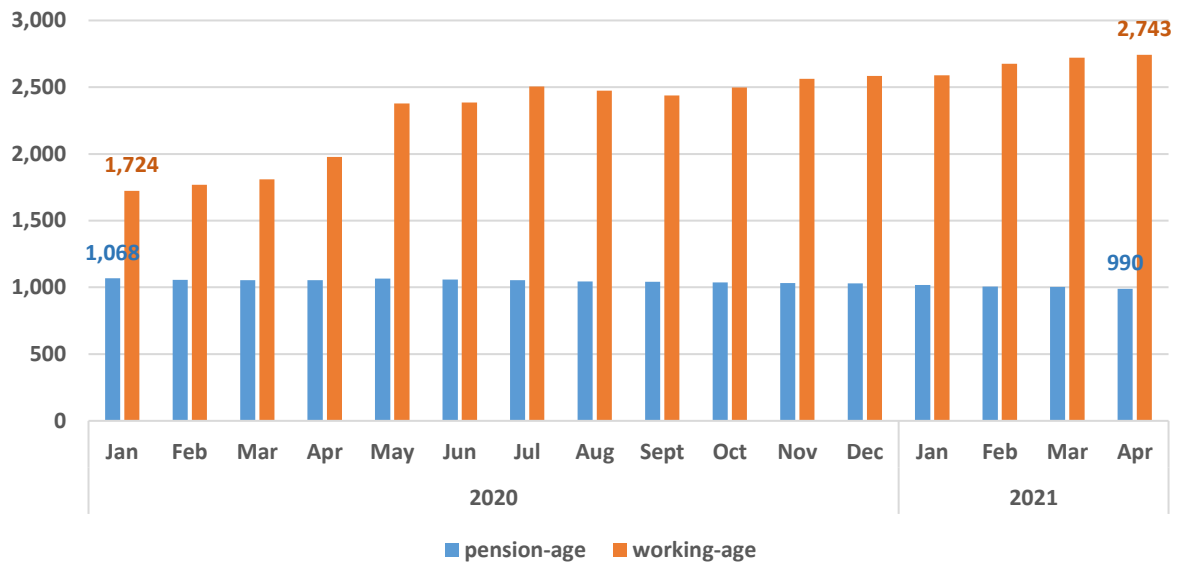
Housing benefit only claims for April stood at 171. The figures exclude cases where the claim fails to qualify for benefit.

The joint Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Reduction claims for pension-age residents have continued to fall gradually over the past year. Those from working-age residents have fluctuated more over the year, but have fallen over the last five months.

Council Tax Reduction only claims have again fallen gradually over the past year for those of pension-age from 1,068 in January 2020 to 990 in April 2021. However, those for working-age residents have risen consistently over the year, from 1,724 in January 2020 to 2,743 in April 2021.



### Council Tax Reduction claims only 2020-21



## 4. Furlough Data

### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Statistics: April 2021

Claims received up to 14 May 2021, **Date published:** 3 June 2021

Source: HM Revenue & Customs

Figures for furloughing supported by the Job Retention Scheme as at 31 March and provisional figures for 30 April 2021.

Based on claims made by 14 May. The April 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
29,500	29,000	58,500

As at 31 March 2021 (Actual)

Female employments furloughed	Female take up-rate	Male employments furloughed	Male take up-rate	Total employments furloughed	Total take up-rate
5,200	18%	4,200	14%	9,400	16%

- Compared with all UK authorities (including unitaries, London boroughs etc.) the 16% **total** take up rate is the 45<sup>th</sup> highest percentage. Compared with all English districts it is the 16<sup>th</sup> highest percentage. The average for England is 14%.
- The **female** furloughed take up rate of 18% is 22<sup>nd</sup> highest compared with all UK authorities and 13<sup>th</sup> highest compared with all English districts. The average for England is 15%.
- The **male** furloughed take up rate of 14% is 104<sup>th</sup> highest compared with the UK and 37<sup>th</sup> when compared with all districts. The average for England is 14%.

As at 30 April 2021 (Provisional)

Female employments furloughed	Female take up-rate	Male employments furloughed	Male take up-rate	Total employments furloughed	Total take up-rate
4,200	14%	3,500	12%	7,600	13%

- Compared with all UK authorities (including unitaries, London boroughs etc.) the 13% **total** take up rate is the 43<sup>rd</sup> highest. Compared with all English districts it is the 13<sup>th</sup> highest percentage. The average for England is 16%.
- The **female** furloughed take up rate of 14% is 27<sup>th</sup> highest compared with all UK authorities and 12<sup>th</sup> highest compared with all English districts. The average for England is 15%.
- The **male** furloughed take up rate of 12% is 70<sup>th</sup> highest compared with the UK and 18<sup>th</sup> when compared with all districts. The average for England is 13%.

## 5. Homeless Applications

### Homeless Applications Since October 2018

Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

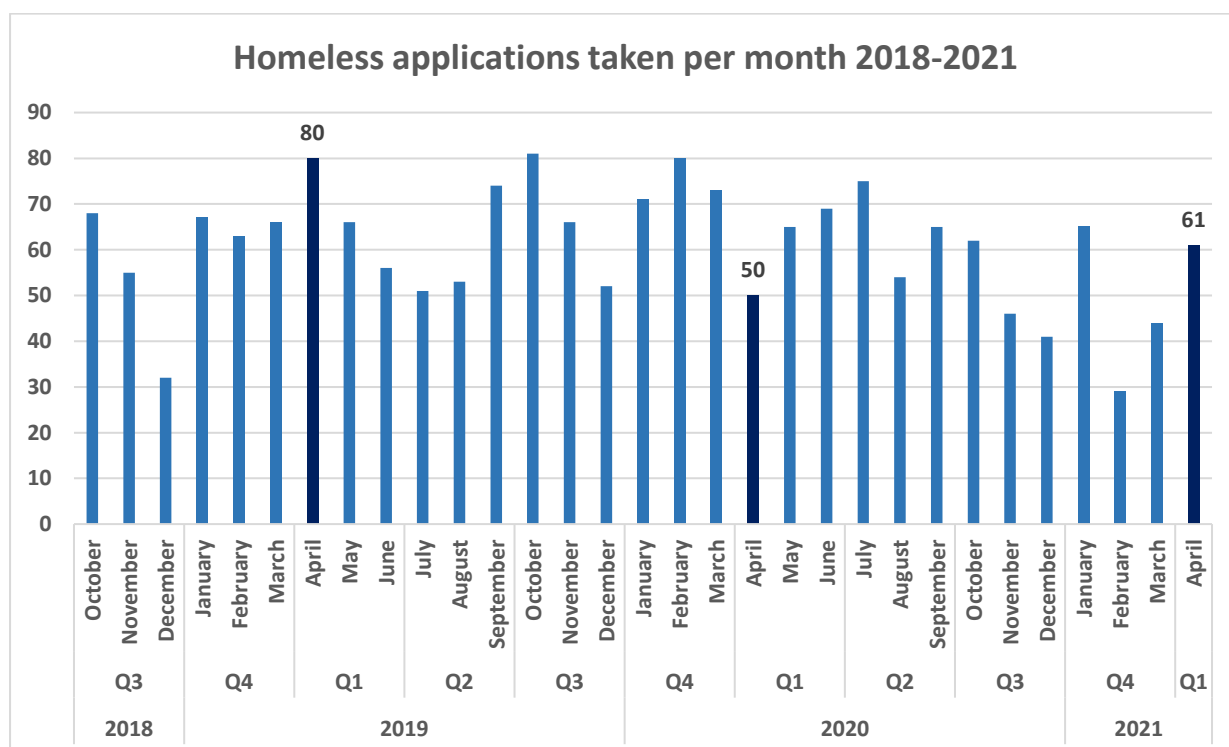
April saw another rise in the number of applications from 44 up to 61. This follows a rise in February-March from 29. (NB: March is a five-week month, whereas February is only 4-weeks).

The mean average number of applications per month for the financial year 2020-21 stood at 55, which was lower than that for 2019-20 (67), and that for 2018-19 (56).

There has been a slight slowdown in homeless presentations at present, because it is still the case that evictions from rented properties are banned (in the main). Ending of tenancies has historically been one of our main reasons for homelessness, and since the pandemic hit, and with the government effectively banning evictions, it has meant that we will have seen a big reduction in this type of homelessness.

Instead, what we have seen in the last 12 months is an increase in family/friend evictions (possibly as a consequence of lockdown with relationships fracturing, and in some cases, because people were shielding, so not being able to accommodate their friend/family member any longer.)

SDC anticipate that once evictions are permitted again, we are likely to see an increase in the numbers once more.



## 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 of April has fallen significantly to 75. The rate per 100,000 at the end of the month also fell to just 8.46 per 100,000.

### 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 2020	311	66.87
May 2020	116	9.99
June 2020	18	4.61
July 2020	14	3.07
August 2020	26	6.92
September 2020	125	35.36
October 2020	646	157.57
November 2020	674	58.42
December 2020	974	312
January 2021	1,356	149.89
February 2021	444	69.95
March 2021	307	32.28
April 2021	75	8.46

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

District/Borough Council	Lab-confirmed Cases for April 2021	Rate per 100,000 population as at end of the month
North Warwickshire	73	13.79
Warwick	79	13.91
Nuneaton & Bedworth	189	40.04
Stratford-on-Avon	75	8.46
Rugby	183	34.88

**Total cases in Stratford District March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 = 5,183**

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 April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 = 304**

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.



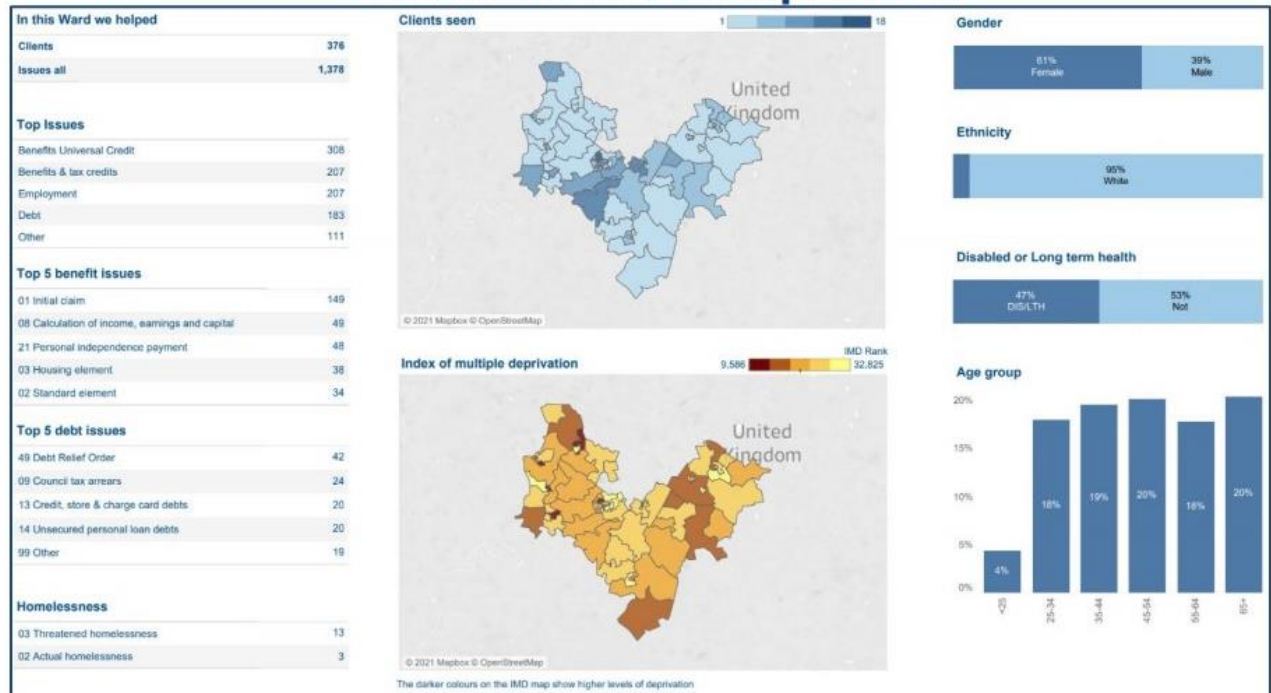
## 7. Citizens Advice Stratford

### Extract From Citizens Advice Stratford District Monthly Report April 2021

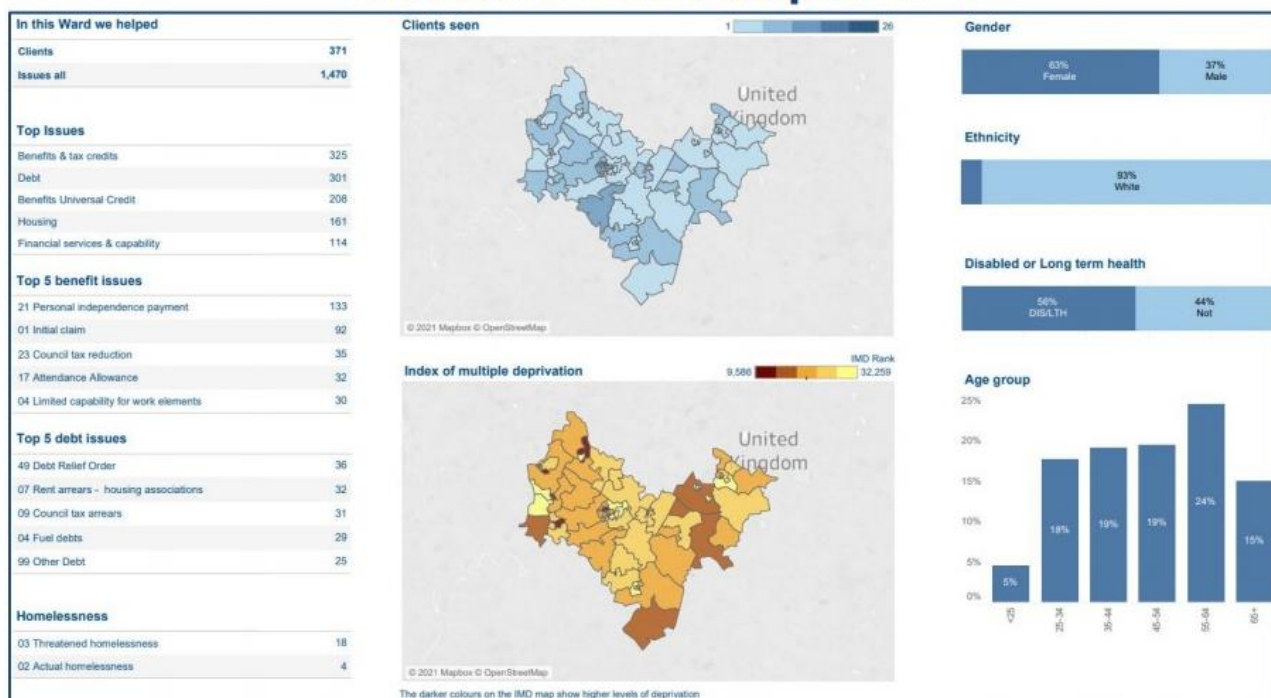
Source: Citizens Advice South Warwickshire

The chart shows how Citizens Advice assisted their clients in Stratford District in April 2021. Advisers helped with 371 clients with 1470 issues.

## Stratford District April 2020



## Stratford District April 2021





## Stratford District April 2021

The diagrams on the previous page show some information about our clients in Stratford District and how we assisted them in April 2021 in comparison to April 2020. This is the first full period of comparing a full of COVID-19.

Our advisers helped 371 clients (down by 5) with 1470 issues (up by 92 6.6%).

- UC initial claim enquiries dropped by 57 (from 149 to 92 issues), and UC as a whole decreased by 32.5% (from 308 to 208 issues)
- Benefits and Tax Credits up by 57% (from 207 to 325 issues)
- Debt increased by 64.5% (from 183 to 301 issues)
- PIP enquiries increased by 177% (from 48 to 133 issues)

Council Tax Arrears, Credit/Store/Charge Card, Debt Relief Orders (increased by 4) and Unsecured Personal Loan Debts featured in April 2020. However, in April 2021, these have changed to being less important than Council Tax Arrears (from 24 to 31 issues), Rent Arrears with Housing Associations (32 issues) and Fuel Debts (29 issues). Our advisers also assisted more clients with Threatened (increase of 5 to 18) and Actual (up 1 to 4) Homelessness compared to April 2020.

The blue shaded 'Clients Seen' diagram shows regions shaded darker, where we saw more clients. The brown shaded 'Index of Multiple Deprivation' diagram shows more deprived regions shaded more darkly.

Generally, there were no changes to the ratio of clients by ethnicity or gender, but there was an increase of 9% disabled / long term health clients and a 6% increase in the 55>64 age group.

## 8. Social Studies

### Covid-19 Social Study – Results Release 34

This report provides data from the last 60 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 16/05/21).

The full report can be found via this link <https://www.covidsocialstudy.org/results> and clicking Week 57-60. This report focuses on psychological responses to the first 60 weeks since just before the UK Lockdown was first announced.

#### Findings

- Fewer than 1 in 3 people (29.1%) say that they completely understand the rules set by the government to control the spread of the virus. Complete rule understanding was at its lowest in November 2020, when just 1 in 5 said they completely understood the rules. Majority understanding (a rating that understanding was 5 or more on a 7-point scale) was also lower in November, with around 70% reporting mostly understanding the rules throughout the month. Some demographic groups have consistently reported poorer rule comprehension since autumn of last year. In England, a smaller proportion of young adults (18%) and people from ethnic minority groups (22%) currently report complete understanding of the rules, compared to older adults (ages 30-59: 32% and age 60+: 35%) and people of white ethnicity (31%). People with lower education levels have consistently reported a better understanding of the rules.
- Majority understanding, however, is high (79.2%), and although there have been slight decreases as the roadmap out of lockdown continues, majority understanding has been relatively stable since the beginning of the year. There were few demographic differences in understanding, but a smaller proportion of young adults and people from ethnic minority groups reported mostly understanding the rules. More people in Wales and England than in Scotland say they have mostly understood the rules over the past few months.
- Despite low levels of complete rule understanding, majority compliance with guidelines remains high, with 91.0% of people in our study saying they are mostly following the rules. Complete and majority compliance have, however, decreased since the easing of the latest lockdown restrictions, with complete compliance showing larger decreases over the past few months. Demographic differences in majority compliance remain minimal, with the exception that a lower proportion of young adults saying they are mostly following the rules.
- There have been clear increases in the proportion of people in our study who have left home for work, to meet people, for meals or other entertainment, and to do other shopping (aside from shopping for food and essentials) since the easing of restrictions for the latest lockdown. Half (52.1%) had left the home to meet up with friends and family, compared with 1 in 3 (34.9%) at the end of December 2020. Just over 2 in 5 (42.9%) had left the home to do shopping other than for food or essentials, 1 in 3 (35.1%) had left home to work, and nearly 1 in 5 (17.4%) had gone out for meals and entertainment.
- Differences between demographic groups in reasons for leaving home were minimal, with some exceptions. Women (57%), young adults (66%), and people with higher household incomes (59%) were more likely to have left home to meet with others. The latter two groups were more likely to have gone out for meals or entertainment (young adults: (33%), higher income households: (23%).
- The easing of lockdown restrictions has coincided with increases in life satisfaction and happiness, and decreases in depression and anxiety symptoms.

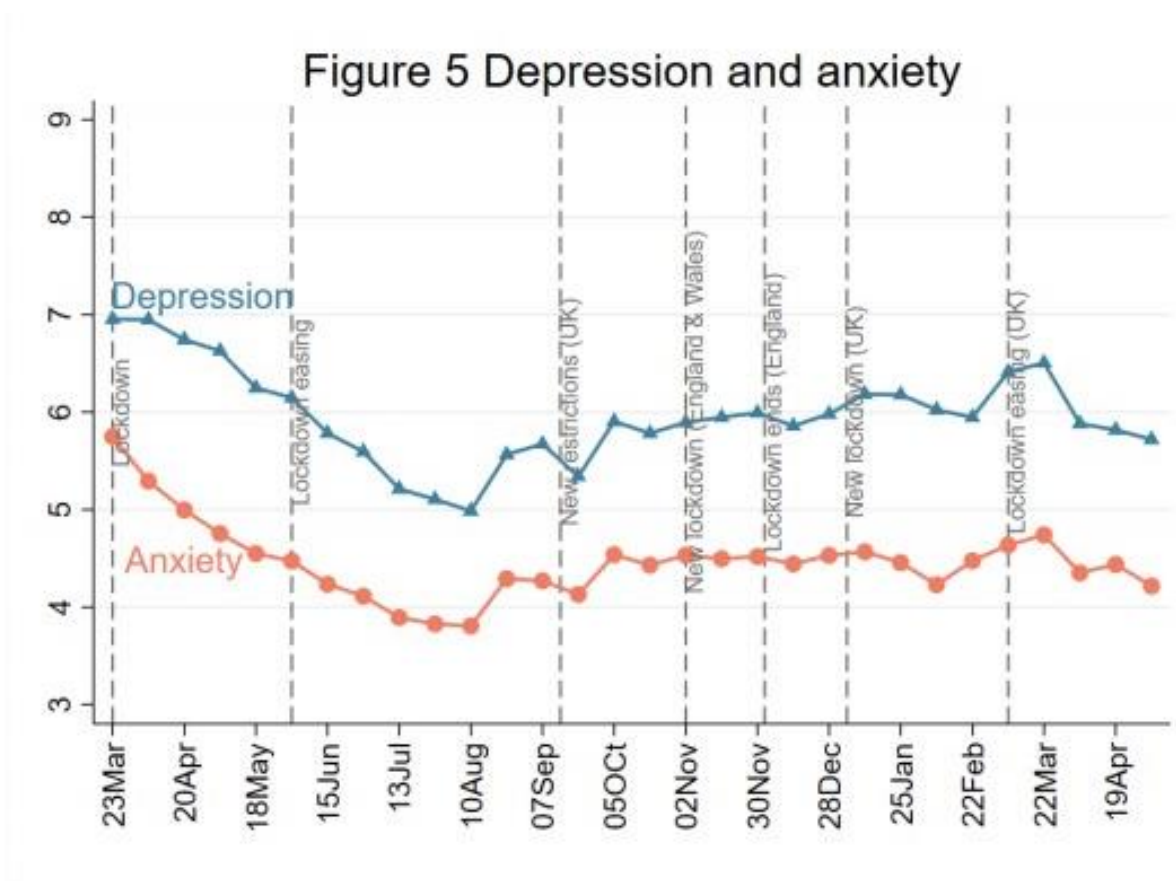
## Mental Health

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 higher than 10 can indicate major depression or moderate anxiety.

Depression and anxiety symptoms have been decreasing over the past three months, but are similar to what they were in the autumn of 2020.

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 from ethnic minority backgrounds, those with a physical health condition, and people living with children. People with a diagnosed mental illness are still reporting higher levels of depression and anxiety symptoms (as might be expected) (see Figures 6d and 7d).



## Stress

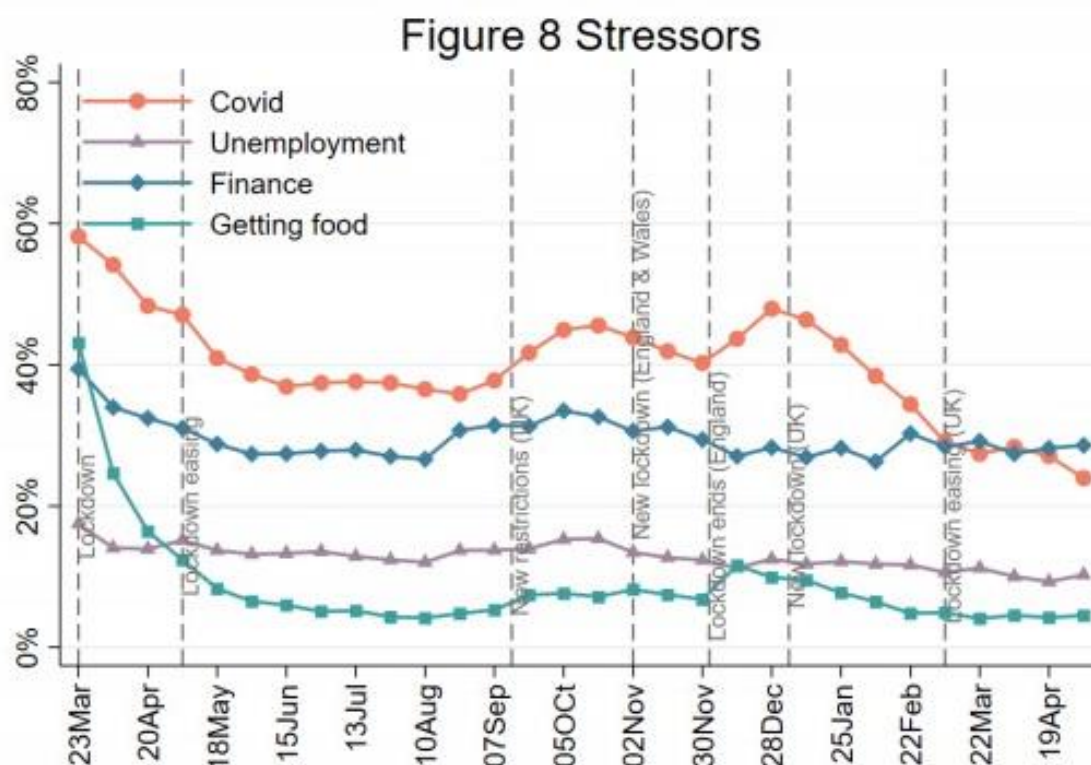
We asked participants to report which factors were causing them stress in the last week, either minor stress or major stress (which was defined as stress that was constantly on their mind or kept them awake at night).

Stress about catching Covid-19 or becoming seriously ill from it has been decreasing substantially since the end of 2020 and is now lower than it has ever been, with around 1 in 4 people reporting being worried. When separated by age group, these decreases were seen more consistently in adults aged 30-59 years and 60 years and older since the start of the year, whilst there were more fluctuations in young adults. The former two groups 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 and are comparable to their lowest levels of around 1 in 4 people over the summer. Worries about unemployment remain relatively low, concerning just 1 in 10 people. Worries about accessing food have been stable since the end of 2020 and are affecting approximately 5% of people; comparable to when lockdown easing began in May 2020.

People with diagnosed mental illness have been more worried about all factors, and these differences are most pronounced for financial stress. In relation to worries about Covid-19, these levels are highest in people with diagnosed mental or physical health conditions, although this has been decreasing since the start of the year. Concerns about unemployment and finances remain highest amongst adults of working age (18-59 years), with just over 1 in 3 reporting concerns about finances. Financial stress is still higher in those living with children, people with lower incomes, and in people from ethnic minority groups.

Most groups are showing similar concern about accessing food, although these concerns are higher in people with a diagnosed mental health condition and people with lower household incomes. People with physical health conditions are also more concerned about accessing food, which may be due to greater concerns about going to supermarkets.



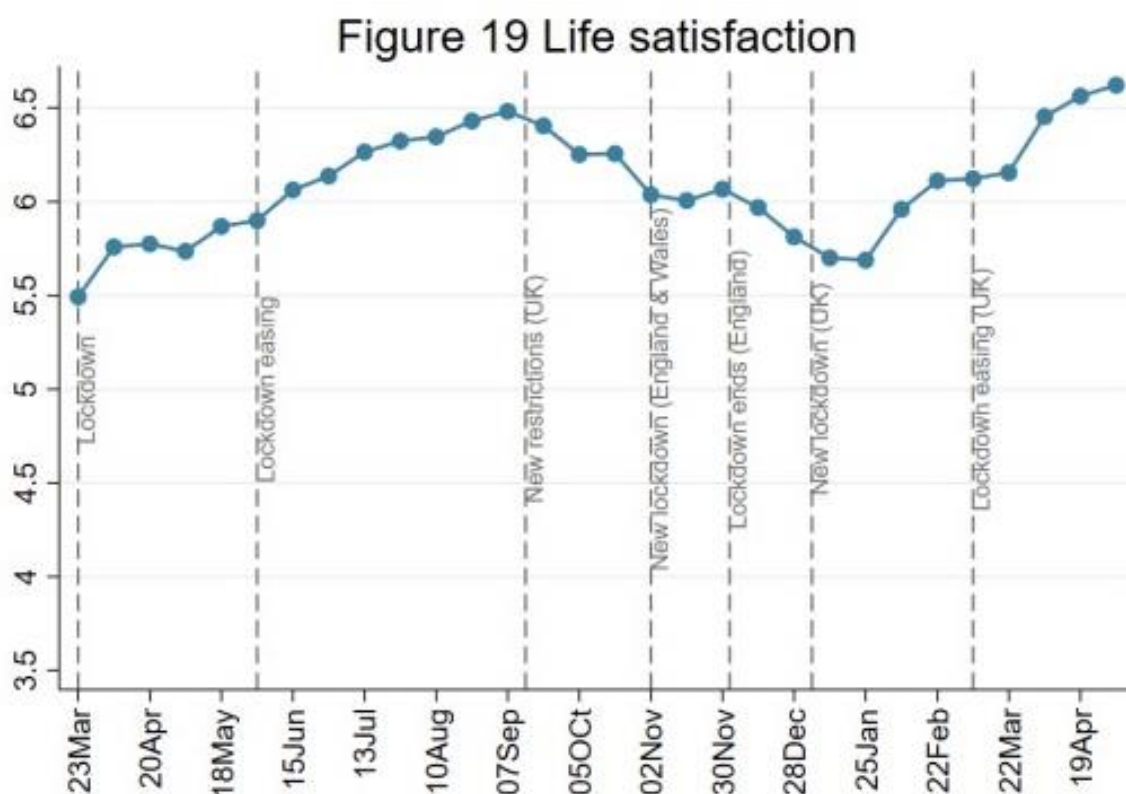
## Life Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate their life satisfaction during the past week using the Office of National Statistics (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).

Life satisfaction has been increasing since the start of the New Year and is now higher than it was at the end of summer 2020. This increase in life satisfaction since the start of the New Year has generally been seen across all demographic groups.

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 living in cities/towns, 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).

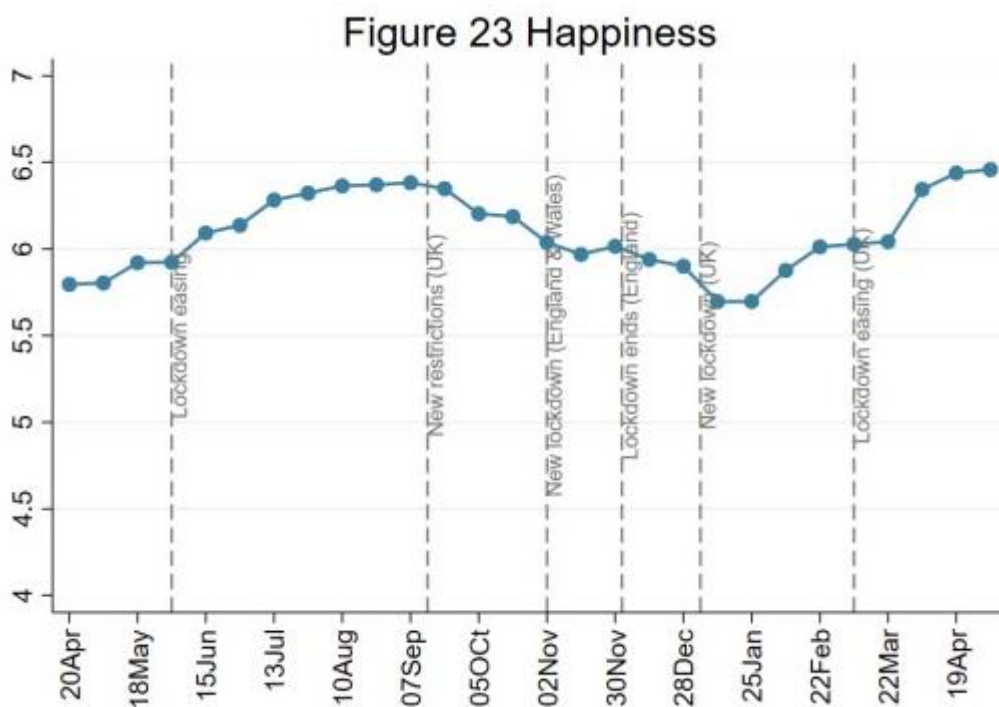


## Happiness

Respondents were asked to rate to what extent they felt happy during the past week using the Office for National Statistics (ONS) wellbeing scale on a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely). Happiness ratings are only available from 21st April 2020 onwards.

Happiness levels have been increasing over the past three months and are now slightly higher than they were last summer.

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 women, and people from ethnic minority backgrounds





## Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 28 May 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 3,072 adults aged 16 years and over in Great Britain conducted between 19 and 23 May 2021 (inclusive). 51% response rate.

*Source: ONS*

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

### Main Points

- Compliance with measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) such as handwashing when returning home from a public place (87% this week and last week) or using a face covering when outside the home (97% this week and last week) continued to remain high.
- Almost three-quarters (74%) of adults reported maintaining social distancing with people outside their household; this continued a general decrease in this proportion since early April (7 to 11 April 2021) when 88% of adults reported this before the easing of lockdown restrictions in England from 12 April 2021.
- As indoors hospitality venues opened across the majority of Great Britain (step 3 of the easing of lockdown restrictions in England) from 17 May 2021, of adults who reported they left home in the last seven days, 17% did so to eat or drink indoors at a restaurant, café, bar or pub; 1 in 10 (10%) did so to visit an indoor gym or swimming pool and 1 in 100 (1%) did so to visit a cinema or theatre.
- The proportion of adults meeting up indoors with someone not in their household, childcare or support bubble in the last seven days almost doubled (39% this week, 20% last week) as restrictions around this eased across Great Britain (step 3 of lockdown easing in England) from 17 May 2021.
- Personal well-being levels remained relatively stable, with anxiety (3.9) unchanged from last week; levels of life satisfaction (7.1 from 7.0 last week), feeling that things done in life are worthwhile (7.4 from 7.3 last week) and happiness (7.1 from 7.0 last week) increased slightly.
- Positive sentiment towards the COVID-19 vaccine remained high; 95% of adults reported they had now either received a vaccine or would be likely to have a vaccine if offered (94% last week).
- Almost three-quarters (74%) of adults reported to have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (71% last week), which includes around 45% of adults reporting to have received their second dose (39% last week).

## 9. Other Studies – Business Impact of Coronavirus

### Office for National Statistics – Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey: 3 June 2021

Source: ONS

[Business insights and impacts on the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/business-and-productivity/articles/articles/business-insights-and-impacts-on-the-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 31 survey was live for the period 17 to 30 May 2021, and businesses were asked about their experience for the two-week survey reference period, 3 to 16 May 2021.

Wave 31 of BICS saw a sample of 38,752, with 9,436 businesses responding, a response rate of 24.4%.

#### Main Points

- The percentage of businesses currently trading has increased to 87%, the highest proportion since comparable estimates began in June 2020, with a further 3% of businesses intending to restart trading in the next two weeks.
- The percentage of businesses currently trading in the accommodation and food service activities industry rose from 61% to 83% during May 2021, as further relaxation of coronavirus (COVID-19) regulations allowed the re-opening of indoor dining.
- The proportion of businesses' workforce on furlough leave has fallen to 8% in mid-May 2021, as a result of coronavirus restrictions continuing to be relaxed across the UK; this is comparable with the lowest recorded proportion in October 2020 since the furlough scheme began.
- The proportion of businesses experiencing challenges in importing and exporting has remained broadly unchanged since the start of January 2021, following a rise after the end of the EU exit transition period in December 2020.
- The main challenge reported by currently trading businesses involved in exporting was additional paperwork, and for those importing, it was change in transportation costs.