

## UNEMPLOYMENT BRIEFING – SEPTEMBER 2016

Please note from April 2016 the Staffordshire Unemployment Briefing is now based on the out of work claimants of Universal Credit and Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA), not just those people claiming JSA.

The claimant count measures the number of people claiming out of work benefits of Universal Credit and JSA, and stood at just under 600,000 people (1.7%) in England in September 2016. The following table highlights the level of JSA claimants in the Staffordshire Districts and each of the Strategic Authorities in the West Midlands Region.

- **Number of Claimants:** In Staffordshire there were 5,090 working age claimants in September 2016; this was a decrease of 10 since August 2016. In Stoke-on-Trent there were 3,285 claimants in September 2016, a decrease of 85 on the previous month.

Newcastle-under-Lyme currently has the largest caseload of claimants with 910. Tamworth (-35) has seen the largest decrease, while Lichfield (45) has the largest increase over the past month.

- **Claimant Proportion (%):** The proportion of Staffordshire's working age claimant count population has remained the same as the previous month at 1.0%. The regional and national averages have also both remained the same over this period.

The claimant rate in Staffordshire still remains lower than both the regional (2.3%) and national (1.7%) averages.

In Stoke-on-Trent, the claimant rate has remained the same from August 2016 to September 2016 (2.1%). This is lower than regional, but higher than the national average.

Cannock Chase has the highest claimant rate (1.2%) of all the Staffordshire Districts, compared to Lichfield which has the lowest at 0.7%.

- **Annual Change (%):** Between September 2015 and September 2016 there was a 6.8% increase in the number of claimants in Staffordshire compared to a 6.6% increase in the West Midlands and a -1.4% decrease in England. In Stoke-on-Trent there was a 3.1% increase over the same period.

Newcastle-under-Lyme is the only district to have experienced a decrease in the number of claimants over the last year (-1.1%), compared to Tamworth which has seen a 31.9% increase.

- **Quarterly Change (%):** Between June 2016 and September 2016 there was a 2.8% increase in Staffordshire claimants, this was larger increase than the West Midlands (1.4%), and that of England which decreased over the quarter (-1.0%). Stoke-on-Trent also saw a decrease over the same period (-1.2%).

East Staffordshire (-4.2%) is the only district to have seen a decrease over the last quarter, Lichfield has increased by 7.1%.

- **Monthly Change (%):** Between August 2016 and September 2016 there was a decrease of -0.2% in Staffordshire claimants, which was the same as the decrease seen in the West Midlands (-0.2%), but less than England (-0.8%). Stoke-on-Trent has also shown a decrease over the last month of -2.5%.

Tamworth has seen the greatest decrease over the past month (-7.1%), compared with Lichfield which has seen an 11.0% increase over this period.

#### Claimant Count, September 2016 (Sorted by Claimant Rate)

|                                     | Area                           | Number of Claimants | Claimant Rate (%) <sup>1</sup> | Annual Change (%) | Quarterly Change (%) | Monthly Change (%) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                                     | England                        | 599,740             | 1.7%                           | -1.4%             | -1.0%                | -0.8%              |
|                                     | West Midlands                  | 83,315              | 2.3%                           | 6.6%              | 1.4%                 | -0.2%              |
| LEP                                 | Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent | 8,375               | 1.2%                           | 5.3%              | 1.2%                 | -1.1%              |
| West Midlands Strategic Authorities | Birmingham                     | 31,195              | 4.4%                           | 5.9%              | 2.0%                 | 0.1%               |
|                                     | Wolverhampton                  | 6,735               | 4.2%                           | 8.5%              | 1.5%                 | -1.1%              |
|                                     | Sandwell                       | 7,125               | 3.6%                           | 7.3%              | -1.5%                | -0.8%              |
|                                     | Dudley                         | 5,675               | 2.9%                           | 8.7%              | 0.9%                 | -0.5%              |
|                                     | Walsall                        | 4,905               | 2.9%                           | 11.2%             | 3.5%                 | -0.1%              |
|                                     | <b>Stoke-on-Trent</b>          | <b>3,285</b>        | <b>2.1%</b>                    | <b>3.1%</b>       | <b>-1.2%</b>         | <b>-2.5%</b>       |
|                                     | Coventry                       | 4,455               | 2.0%                           | 3.2%              | 1.6%                 | 0.5%               |
|                                     | Solihull                       | 2,210               | 1.7%                           | 11.3%             | 4.5%                 | 2.1%               |
|                                     | Telford and Wrekin             | 1,730               | 1.6%                           | 6.8%              | 1.2%                 | 0.9%               |
|                                     | Worcestershire                 | 4,385               | 1.2%                           | 4.2%              | 0.7%                 | -0.9%              |
|                                     | Herefordshire                  | 1,255               | 1.1%                           | 37.9%             | 5.9%                 | 3.3%               |
|                                     | Shropshire                     | 1,970               | 1.1%                           | 3.1%              | 2.6%                 | 2.6%               |
|                                     | Warwickshire                   | 3,295               | 1.0%                           | -0.8%             | -1.5%                | -2.1%              |
|                                     | <b>Staffordshire</b>           | <b>5,090</b>        | <b>1.0%</b>                    | <b>6.8%</b>       | <b>2.8%</b>          | <b>-0.2%</b>       |
| Staffordshire Districts             | Cannock Chase                  | 750                 | 1.2%                           | 2.7%              | 4.2%                 | 4.2%               |
|                                     | Newcastle-under-Lyme           | 910                 | 1.1%                           | -1.1%             | 1.1%                 | -1.6%              |
|                                     | South Staffordshire            | 720                 | 1.1%                           | 5.1%              | 3.6%                 | 2.1%               |
|                                     | East Staffordshire             | 690                 | 1.0%                           | 10.4%             | -4.2%                | -4.2%              |
|                                     | Tamworth                       | 455                 | 0.9%                           | 31.9%             | 3.4%                 | -7.1%              |
|                                     | Stafford                       | 665                 | 0.8%                           | 0.8%              | 5.6%                 | -1.5%              |
|                                     | Staffordshire Moorlands        | 450                 | 0.8%                           | 11.1%             | 5.9%                 | 0.0%               |
|                                     | Lichfield                      | 455                 | 0.7%                           | 15.2%             | 7.1%                 | 11.0%              |

1 - The claimant rate is the proportion of the working age population claiming out of work Universal Credit benefits including Job Seeker's

Allowance

Source: NOMIS

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