

## EMPLOYMENT BRIEFING – MAY 2014

The claimant count measures the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), and stood at just under 875,000 people (2.5%) in England in May 2014. 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 8,385 working age people claiming JSA in May 2014; this was a decrease of 619 since April 2014. In Stoke-on-Trent there were 5,684 JSA claimants in May 2014, a decrease of 323 on the previous month.

Newcastle-under-Lyme currently has the largest caseload of claimants with 1,658. All Staffordshire Districts have seen a decrease over the last month with Newcastle-under-Lyme seeing the biggest decrease with 109 fewer claimants.

- **Claimant Proportion (%):** The proportion of Staffordshire's working age population claiming JSA decreased from 1.7% in April 2014 to 1.6% in May 2014. This is a similar decline to both regionally and nationally.

The claimant rate in Staffordshire still remains lower than both the regional (3.3%) and national (2.5%) averages.

In Stoke-on-Trent, the JSA claimant rate has decreased from 3.7% in April to 3.5% in May. This is still higher than both the regional and national averages.

Cannock Chase and Newcastle-under-Lyme have the highest claimant rates (2.1%) of all the Staffordshire Districts, compared to Lichfield, Stafford and Staffordshire Moorlands which have the lowest at 1.2%.

- **Annual Change (%):** Between May 2013 and May 2014 there was a -35.6% decrease in the number of claimants in Staffordshire compared to only a -25.8% decrease in the West Midlands and a -28.5% decrease in England. In Stoke-on-Trent there was a -29.5% decrease over the same period.

All of the Staffordshire Districts are shown to have experienced an overall decrease in the number of claimants over the last year. Tamworth (-48.9%) has seen the greatest drop in claimant numbers.

- **Quarterly Change (%):** Between February 2014 and May 2014 there was a -18.9% decrease in Staffordshire JSA claimants, this was a higher decrease than the West Midlands (-11.7%) and for England as a whole (-12.7%), which both saw decreases over the quarter. Stoke-on-Trent also saw a larger decrease over the same period (-15.1%).

Tamworth has seen the largest decrease over the last quarter (-30.6%), compared to Newcastle-under-Lyme that has seen the smallest decrease (-13.9%).

- **Monthly Change (%):** Between April 2014 and May 2014 there was a decrease of -6.9% in Staffordshire JSA claimants, this is a larger decrease than seen in the West Midlands (-4.5%) and for England (-4.8%). Stoke-on-Trent also had a larger decrease over the last month of -5.4%.

All Staffordshire Districts have seen decreases over the past month with the greatest decrease seen in Tamworth (-12.6%).

- **Pre-Recession:** Since the height of the recession in April 2009, there has been a fall of -2.5 percentage points in the claimant rate in Staffordshire and -2.9 percentage points in Stoke-on-Trent.

### Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count, May 2014 (Sorted by Claimant Rate)

	Area	Number of Claimants	Claimant Rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	Annual Change (%)	Quarterly Change (%)	Monthly Change (%)
	England	874,383	2.5	-28.5	-12.7	-4.8
	West Midlands Region	115,970	3.3	-25.8	-11.7	-4.5
<b>LEP</b>	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent	14,069	2.0	-33.3	-17.4	-6.3
<b>West Midlands Strategic Authorities</b>	Wolverhampton	9,851	6.2	-20.5	-6.4	-2.7
	Birmingham	37,720	5.4	-20.4	-9.4	-3.5
	Sandwell	9,875	5.0	-26.9	-10.7	-4.9
	Walsall	7,369	4.4	-25.5	-10.2	-3.8
	Dudley	7,461	3.8	-25.2	-9.3	-3.3
	<b>Stoke-on-Trent</b>	<b>5,684</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-29.5</b>	<b>-15.1</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
	Coventry	7,227	3.4	-23.4	-9.8	-3.8
	Telford and Wrekin	3,029	2.8	-30.4	-11.4	-5.3
	Solihull	2,860	2.3	-29.9	-12.8	-5.3
	Worcestershire	6,559	1.9	-32.3	-17.3	-7.7
	Shropshire	3,302	1.7	-26.1	-14.9	-6.3
	<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>8,385</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-35.6</b>	<b>-18.9</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
	Warwickshire	5,180	1.5	-30.7	-15.9	-5.7
Herefordshire	1,468	1.3	-41.9	-24.9	-10.2	
<b>Staffordshire Districts</b>	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,658	2.1	-25.5	-13.9	-6.2
	Cannock Chase	1,298	2.1	-35.7	-15.8	-6.8
	South Staffordshire	1,107	1.6	-31.4	-15.6	-5.6
	East Staffordshire	1,185	1.6	-39.4	-20.9	-7.5
	Tamworth	654	1.3	-48.9	-30.6	-12.6
	Lichfield	773	1.2	-37.3	-16.5	-3.5
	Stafford	1,021	1.2	-36.7	-21.2	-5.7
	Staffordshire Moorlands	689	1.2	-37.0	-23.7	-9.1

<sup>1</sup> - The claimant rate is the proportion of the working age population claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Source: NOMIS

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