



Reporting the Local Impact of the Credit Crunch
March 2009

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Introduction

In the last few months, evidence has been building to suggest that the current recession could be deeper and more protracted than those of the 1970s and 1980s. The current fear is one of falling prices - or deflation. Whilst a short period of deflation can be a good thing because it raises consumer spending power, if prices continue to fall, the consequences can be severe.

The biggest concern will be around peoples' ability to service their debts. Government and consumer debt in the UK stands at unprecedented levels. Falling prices, and as a result wages, means that the real value of this debt increases. Normally the Monetary Policy Committee tries to lesson household and business debt and prompt spending by cutting interest rates below the rate of inflation. This has been introduced six times since October 2008 and the current rate of 0.5% is the lowest in the Bank of England's 315 year history. If inflation goes negative, however, this policy is no longer tenable (since interest rates do not also go negative). The only solution is to inject more money into the economy; a tactic called 'quantitative easing' which was announced this month. In total £150bn, or 10% of the UK's annual output, will be created by the Bank of England buying up government gilts and commercial assets. For critics, the main worry here is around how much money is required. On past experiences, printing money brought about hyperinflation (or an excess of money) once growth, and prices, picked up. However, since so far GDP has not grown at all in 2009 where nominal GDP (the value of what the UK economy produces under usual conditions) grows at 5% each year, deflation not hyperinflation is the biggest concern and 'quantitative easing' the most obvious option.

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Key Points

- Using ILO definition of unemployment, unemployment in East Midlands increased by 0.9% points between November 2008 and January 2009 compared to a national increase of 1.3% points.
- Total JSA claimants in Leicester and Leicestershire increased from 19,022 to 22,100 between January 2009 and February 2009.
- Loughborough Hastings ward had the highest monthly % increase in JSA claimants from 3.9% to 5.2%
- % of 16 to 18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in City and County continue to be lower than previous years.
- In August 2008 47% of people on benefits in County were claiming incapacity benefit as their main benefit. This has remained high over the last decade.
- The number of notified vacancies actually increased in February 2009. The ratio of claimants to unfilled vacancies is now 7 claimants per vacancy in the County and 11 claimants per vacancy in the City.
- Vacancies have increased this month, particularly in health care personal services and sales related occupations but continue to decrease significantly in transport drivers and operatives vacancies.
- Claimants seeking transport jobs continue to increase, along with Construction, Building trades, Engineering and Electrical trades while there is no evidence of increase in claimants seeking teaching jobs despite annual increases in vacancies.
- Leicester City appears low in economic prosperity ranks for English cities, however the County contributes significantly to the sub regions economic performance.
- Market towns are currently particularly vulnerable to the decline in the retail sector with shop closures being a significant factor in whether visitors are satisfied with a town.
-
- Average house prices have decreased by £16,362 in the City and over £20,000 in the County over the last 12 months

National Picture

Output

The recently revised estimate on GDP growth shows that between Q3 and Q4 the UK posted a negative growth rate, contracting by -1.5% and after decreasing by -0.6% between Q2 and Q3 of 2008. The GDP growth rate for each quarter on previous years shows a noticeable reduction of -1.9% since Q4 of 2007. For 2008 as a whole, GDP rose by just 0.7% compared 3.0% growth for the whole of 2007.

The increased rate of decline in output was as a result of poor performance across all sectors (Figure 2). Manufacturing saw the biggest contraction in output on a year, but the service industries have slowed most significantly compared with 2007 output growth rates.

Inflation

Inflation data for February has not yet been released. It is perhaps worth remembering that in January inflation on both measures fell for the fourth consecutive month. On CPI - the government's target measure - the largest downward pressure came from transport costs; the average price of petrol fell by 2.9p per litre between December 2008 and January this year, to stand at 86.3p. There was also, however, significant upward pressure on CPI from the retail sector - on clothes, toys, furniture, leisure services and holidays abroad and it will be interesting to see if this continued through to February. Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation slowed to 0.1% in January, down from 0.9% in December. There was a large downward contribution from housing with the main effect coming from mortgage interest payments and house depreciation, which are excluded from the CPI.

ILO Unemployment

The most recent International Labour Organisation measure of unemployment is available for November 2008 to January 2009. Overall, unemployment in the UK and England increased by 1.3% points between November 2007 to January 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009. Between these two years unemployment increased the most in the North East (by 2.6% points) and West Midlands (by 2.3% points). Unemployment in the East Midlands increased by 0.9% points.

Figure 1: UK GDP Growth over the last 10 years

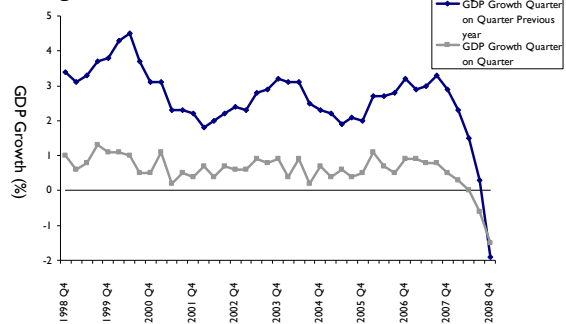


Figure 2: GVA growth by sector

	Change on a year	
	Q4 2008	Q4 2007
Manufacturing	-4.6	0.2
Retail and distribution	-4.3	2.9
Construction	-0.8	2.7
Transport, storage and communications	-0.8	2.4
Banking, finance and business services	0.1	5.5
Government and other services	0.7	1.1

Figure 3: Downward pressure on inflation as CPI down to 3.0%; RPI down to 0.1%

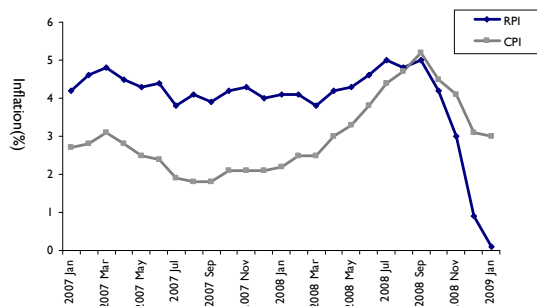


Figure 4: Regional unemployment

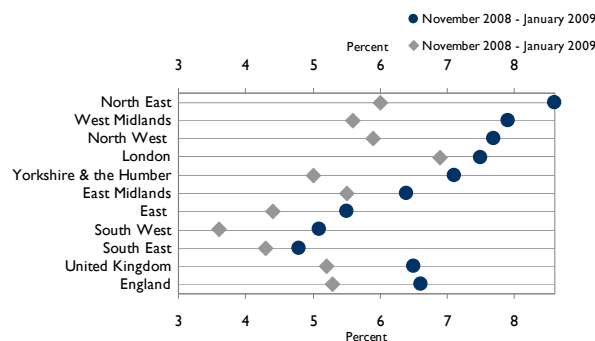
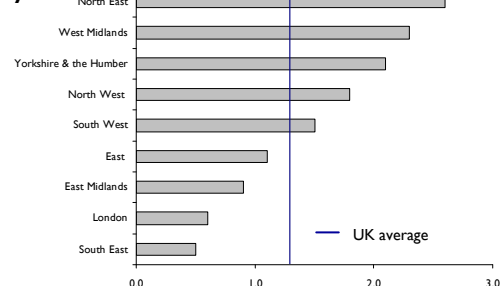


Figure 5: Regional unemployment: % point change on a year



JSA Claimants

- The total number of claimants in England has risen from 1,065,839 (3.4%) in January 2009 to 1,217,446 (3.8%) in February 2009
- After a fall in September 2008, Leicester City has seen a rise in claimants from 9,913 in January 2009 to 11,136 in February 2009, while County claimants have increased from 9,109 to 10,974

Table 1: Claimant Count (JSA): January 2009

Leicestershire County	2.3%	9,109
Leicester City	5.2%	9,913
East Midlands	3.3%	90,252
UK	3.4%	1,243,064

Table 2: Claimant Count (JSA): February 2009

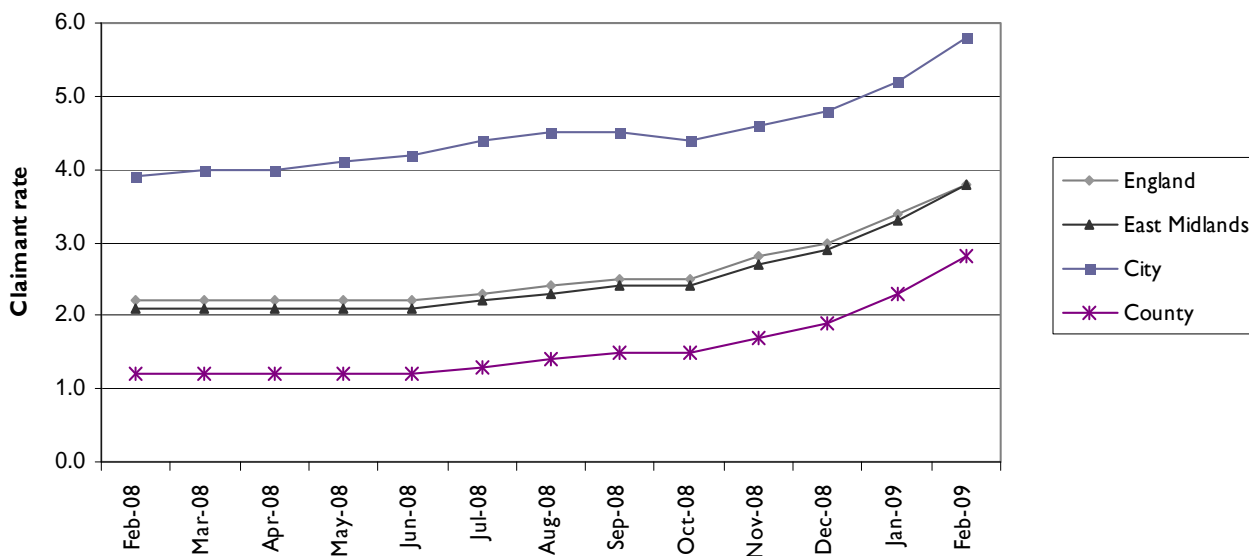
Leicestershire County	2.8%	10,974
Leicester City	5.8%	11,136
East Midlands	3.8%	104,703
UK	3.8%	1,416,213

Source: nomis, 2009

Local, regional and national comparison

- The total number of people now claiming unemployment benefits in Leicester Shire (City and County) is 22,110 in February 2009, compared to 12,160 in February 2008
- Over the past four years, the City and County have followed the national and regional trend of gently increasing rates between 2004 and 2006 followed by relatively steady declines throughout 2007.
- Since December 2007 rates in the City have increased from 3.8% to 5.8% , while for the County, East Midlands and England rates remained constant through the first half of 2008, before increasing from June 2008 onwards. County rates have increased from 1.2% in June 2008 to 2.8% in February 2009.

JSA Claimant Rate
February 2008 to February 2009



Source: nomis, 2009

Leicester City Wards

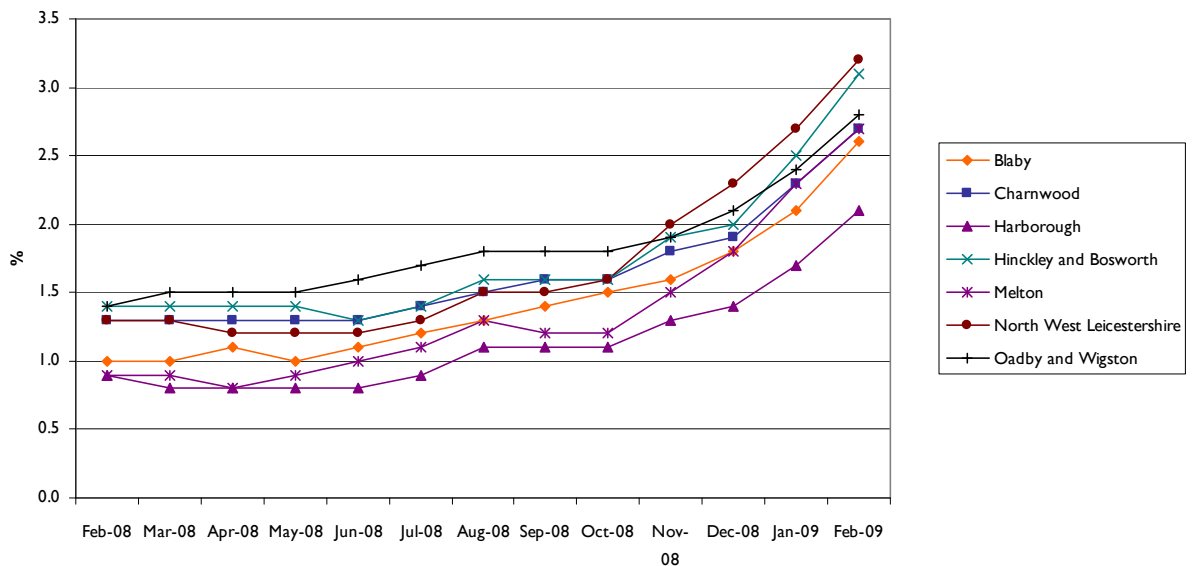
Charnwood ward now has the highest claimant rate in the City at 7.9%, followed by Abbey ward at 7.8%. The highest monthly increases in claimant rates are within Freeman, Fosse, Braunstone Park and Abbey; all increasing by 1% point. Braunstone Park has had the highest annual increase in claimant rates from 4.1% in February 2008 to 7.1% in February 2009. This is equivalent to a change from 422 to 727 claimants. Eyres Monsell and Freeman have increased by 2.9% points and 2.7% points over 12 months respectively, increasing from 248 to 431 claimants in Eyres Monsell and 318 to 502 claimants in Freeman. Thurncote also increased by 2.7% points over the last 12 months from 2.8% to 5.5%.

Leicestershire Districts and Wards

In the County, February 2009 figures show that Hinckley and Bosworth had the highest monthly rate increases; growing from 2.5% to 3.1%. This is equivalent to a monthly change from 1,623 to 2,001. Over the last 12 months claimant rates in North West Leicestershire have increased from 1.3% to 3.2%. This is equivalent to a rise from 707 to 1,769 claimants. Melton have also increased from 0.9% to 2.7% equivalent to an increase from 283 to 809 claimants since February 2008.

Loughborough Hastings ward continues to have the highest claimant rate in the County at 5.8%. Loughborough Lemington ward had the highest monthly rate increase from 3.9% to 5.2%, equivalent to an increase from 166 to 225 claimants. This is followed by Ullthorpe ward in Market Harborough increasing from 1% to 2.2% between January and February. Annually, Coalville ward has had the highest increase in claimant rates from 2.0% to 4.9% equivalent to an increase from 64 to 155 claimants. Claimant rates in Whitwick, Melton Egerton and Hinckley Trinity have also increased by 2.6% points over the last 12 months. In February 2008 the claimant counts in these wards were 40, 45 and 72 respectively. In February 2009 the claimant count in these wards were 143, 105 and 181 respectively. Tables of claimant rates and increases are available in Appendix A.

JSA claimant rates in Leicestershire districts

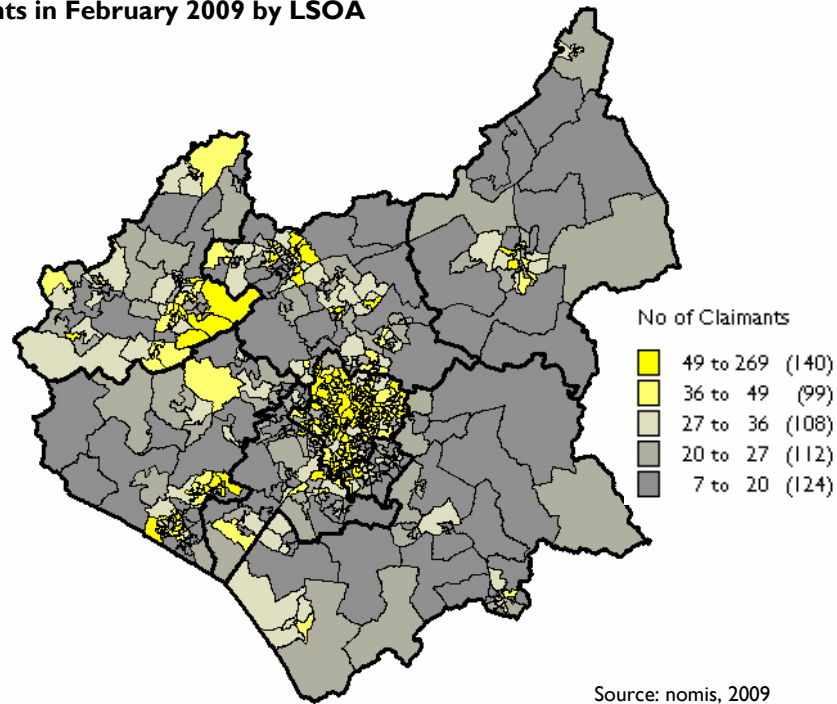


Source: nomis, 2009

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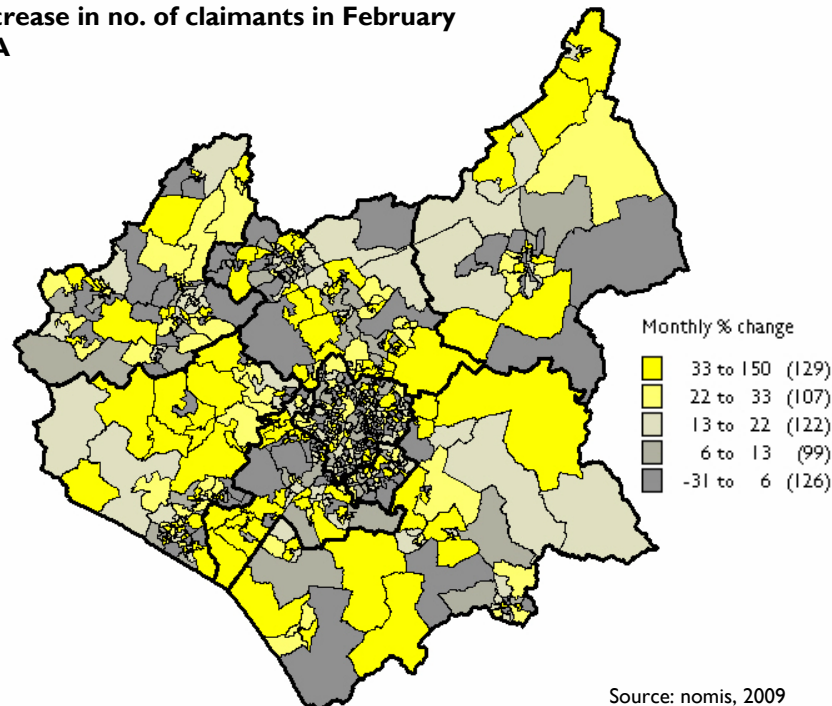
The maps below show the number of claimants and the monthly increase in claimants for February by Lower Super Output Area (LSOAs)¹. The first map shows that neighbourhoods in Leicester City and North West Leicestershire tend to have the highest number of claimants. However, as the second demonstrates, the largest recent increases in claimants, in districts such as Hinckley and Bosworth, are not confined to neighbourhoods which tend to already have high numbers of claimants. This is particularly the case for neighbourhoods in Leicester City, where percentage increases are in relative terms modest.

No of claimants in February 2009 by LSOA



Source: nomis, 2009

Monthly % increase in no. of claimants in February 2009 by LSOA



Source: nomis, 2009

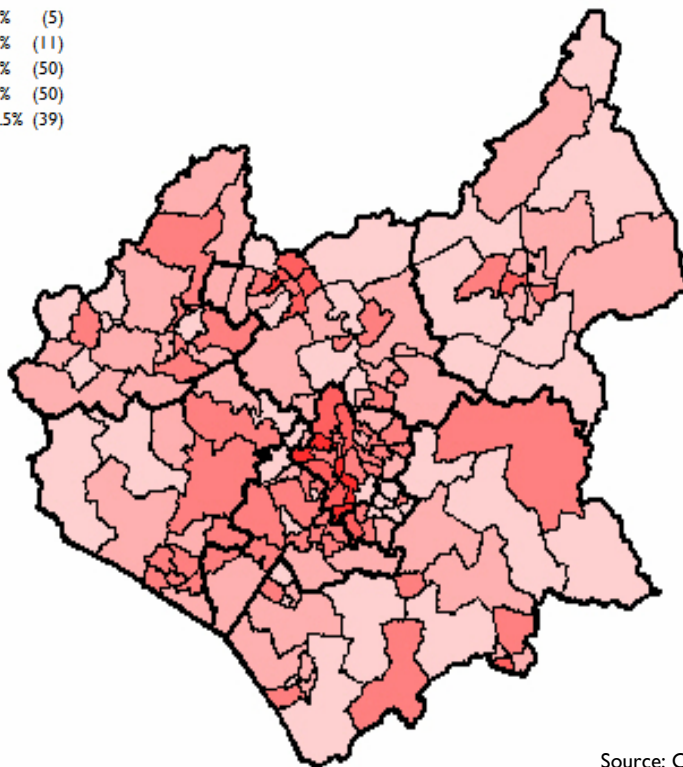
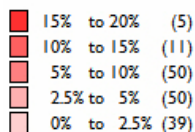
¹ LSOAs are small neighbourhoods with approximately 1,500 inhabitants.

NEET

In February 2009 8.6% of young people aged 16 to 18 in the City and 4.9% of young people in the County were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), following the seasonal trend of slowly increasing proportions as young people drop out of Further Education or short term employment. This seasonal trend continues until after the summer when new cohorts of school leavers enter Further Education or gain employment and training places and older cohort young people, who became NEET during the previous academic year, can access education as new terms begin. For the same period last year (February 2008) NEET was 9.2% in the City and 5% in the County, suggesting that NEET is still decreasing despite the economic climate. This is particularly the case in the City where there are 100 fewer NEET young people than the same time last year, with 84% now in Further Education. However, there are wards in deprived areas of the city where high numbers of young people are still not accessing EET. Many of these young people have additional barriers to engaging such as low educational attainment, involvement with youth offending service, caring responsibilities and housing issues, particularly for those leaving care. Almost 1 in 5 16 to 18 year olds are NEET in Freeman ward, followed by Eyres Monsell, New Parks and Westcotes. In the County, Charnwood district has highest % NEET at 5.8% with the highest 3 wards in the County all located in Loughborough. The map below of the % NEET by ward across the City and County shows a concentration of wards in the west of the City with high % NEET. Tables of highest NEET wards are available in Appendix B.

NEET 16-18 by Ward

NEET as a proportion of all 16-18 year olds in Ward

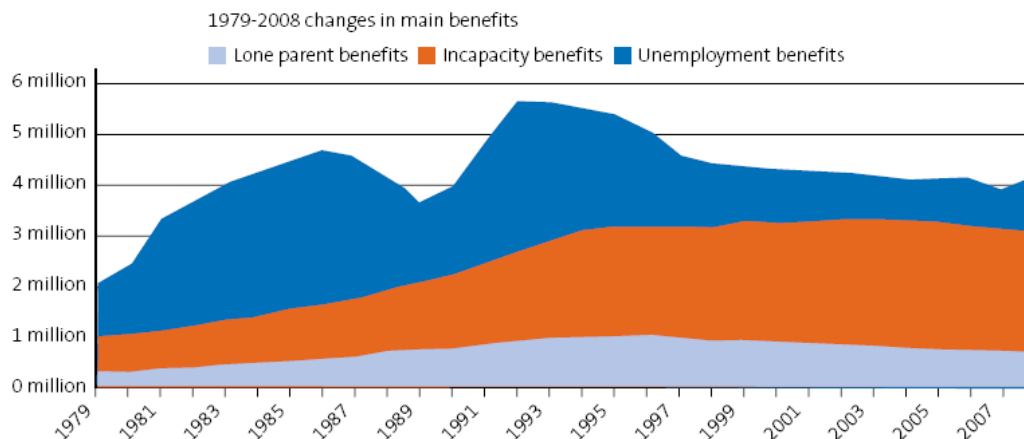


Source: Connexions, Feb 2009

Tackling Worklessness

National research claims that we are entering this recession with more total claimants compared to 1980s and 1990s recessions. The main reason for this is the growth of people on incapacity benefits during the past recession, which has remained high since the 1990s.

Total Benefit Claimants since 1979



Source: DWP Quarterly Statistical Enquiries

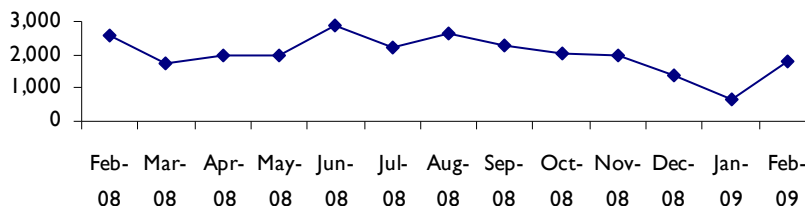
In August 2008 47% of people on DWP benefits in Leicestershire were claiming incapacity benefit as their main benefit, compared to 43% in the City. However, there are areas in the City that have a particularly high concentration of residents on such benefits. Within New Parks ward in the City, 11.9% of working age residents are on incapacity benefits and 7.7% of residents are claiming lone parent benefits as their main benefit. In total, 1 in 3 working age adults in New Parks were relying on DWP benefits in August 2008.

Tackling worklessness has been a key priority before the recession began, with targets to reduce the number of people on incapacity benefits and extra funding in specific areas to support lone parents and disabled people into work. However, in the current economic climate such initiatives become even more important. Research from past recessions concludes that local action is a determining factor in the resulting success of post recession economies. Flexibly working opportunities, work trials and voluntary work placements can benefit both businesses and employees entering work after periods of unemployment. Training and learning new skills can also prepare people to take advantage of job opportunities when the economy recovers or access the current vacancies that are still hard to fill despite the current recession. This involves both tailored support to take account of individual needs and a good knowledge of the local labour market and current opportunities.

Vacancies

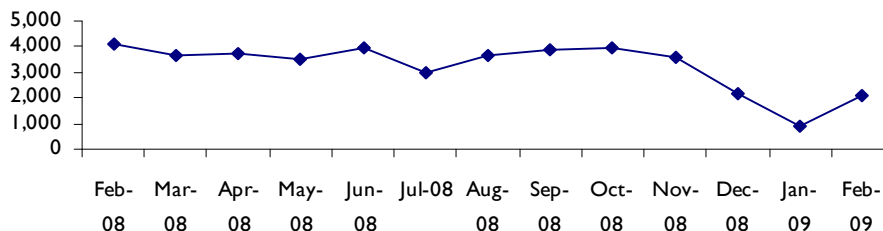
While the number of claimants increased sharply in February in the sub-region, the number of new vacancies also increased for the first time since August 2008 in the City and October 2008 in the County¹. The numbers of new vacancies increased from 644 in January to 1,804 in February in the City and from 910 to 2,101 in the County. The ratio of claimants to unfilled vacancies is now 7 claimants per vacancy in the County and 11 claimants per vacancy in the City.

Total Notified vacancies Leicester City



Source: nomis, 2009

Total notified vacancies Leicestershire County



Source: nomis, 2009

It is interesting to compare the increasing numbers of claimants to trends in vacancy numbers by occupations available and occupations sought. Over the past year, increasing numbers of claimants have been seeking jobs in construction, building trade and transport in the City (over 100% increase in numbers), with further claimant increases in the County seeking manager vacancies, engineering professional, electrical trades and transport (over 200% increase). However, over the past year vacancies have decreased significantly in metal machining, transport drivers, public service professionals, and general administration in the County. Consequently jobs such as transport drivers have become much harder to obtain when the number of unfilled vacancies has decreased from 458 to 59 in the sub-region, whereas the number of claimants seeking this type of work has increased from 489 (approx 1 claimant per vacancy) to 1,220 (20 claimants per vacancy). It is important that advice to claimants takes into account such changes in availability. Other occupations with high jobseeker to vacancies are process plant operations, building trades, assemblers, corporate managers, elementary construction and construction trades. Elementary process plant operation, for example, has 1,585 claimants for 2 unfilled vacancies in the sub-region.

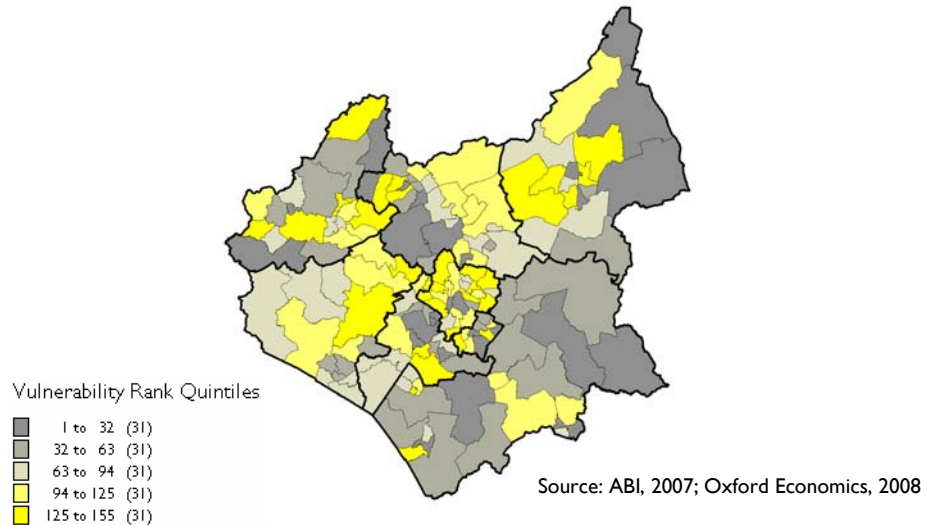
Conversely vacancies in healthcare associates and teaching professionals have increased over the year, with steady numbers of seekers in childcare and teaching, and corporate managers in the City, despite claimant increases. For this month, increases in vacancies have been largely in health care, personal service and sales related occupations, while there were further decreases in transport occupations in the City. In the City there were 74 unfilled sales related vacancies for 35 claimants while in the County there were 269 unfilled health care personal service vacancies for 130 claimants.

¹ 'vacancies' are only those notified to Job Centre Plus, approx 25-30% of all jobs

Vulnerability

An indicator which has been included in recent credit crunch reports to identify which local areas are most vulnerable to recession is *Oxford Economics*' 'Vulnerability Index'. The Index works by estimating a 'vulnerability score' which is defined in terms of potential job losses to each employment sector. The map below is based on the 'vulnerability index' and illustrates where the most vulnerable wards are located within the sub-region. The dark grey areas are in the 20% most vulnerable and the dark yellow areas are within the 20% least vulnerable wards in Leicester and Leicestershire. On this basis, the most vulnerable wards appear to be located in Blaby district and Market Harborough and Leicester City appears to perform comparatively well with only two wards within the 20% most vulnerable in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Vulnerability index for wards in Leicester and Leicestershire



In terms of business opinions of vulnerability, the recent Leicester and Leicestershire business survey, conducted in October 2008, identified that businesses within North West Leicestershire were least optimistic about business conditions in Leicestershire, with 69% expecting conditions to deteriorate. A higher proportion of City businesses expected conditions to improve although this was still low at 12%. Only 3% of Melton businesses felt conditions would improve with a further 22% unsure.

Proportions of Businesses expecting their business conditions in Leicestershire to...

	Deteriorate	Not change	Improve	Don't know
North West Leicestershire	69%	19%	5%	7%
Charnwood	62%	21%	8%	9%
Hinckley & Bosworth	62%	24%	5%	8%
Blaby	61%	16%	9%	14%
Harborough	60%	17%	8%	15%
Leicester City	60%	21%	12%	7%
Melton	60%	15%	3%	22%
Oadby and Wigston	59%	19%	10%	13%

Source: Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey, 2008

40% of Business in North West Leicestershire stated the credit crunch or recession as their main business concern, compared to an average of 28%. Businesses in the City were more likely than those in other areas to cite lack of customers as their main business concern, with 26% of businesses in the City saying they had responded to the economic climate by cutting costs and 31% stated they had reduced staff. 'Making redundancies' was also cited by 17% of Charnwood business and 13% on North West Leicestershire business, compared to only 4% of businesses in Melton and Harborough. The Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey 2008 report is now available on Isr-online.

Prosperity

The think tank Centre for Cities has more recently developed an economic prosperity rank for cities in Great Britain. The rank takes into account local incomes, employment rates, productivity, business stock and enterprise activity, levels of professional employment and the relative size of a local private services sector. Those that score worst can be regarded to be less innovative/entrepreneurial, with relatively weak local labour markets, poor business performance and a dependence on public sector employment. These cities may not initially be hit as hard as others from the economic downturn. However, they will be less likely to respond positively to structural changes and new opportunities which might come out of it. This index differs from the *Oxford Economics* 'Vulnerability Index', because it considers local areas' ability to successfully exit recession.

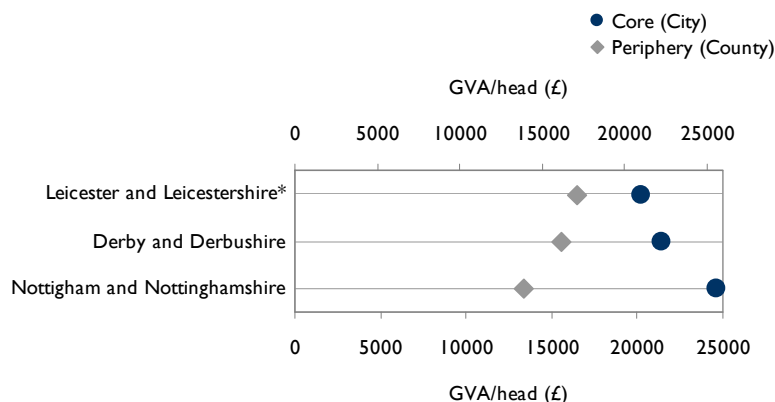
Based on these prosperity rankings, the South East compares most favourably. Of the cities in the top 10 only three (Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Warrington) are a significant distance from the South East and the London City-region. As discussed above, although these cities will be hit hard by the recession, they should bounce back strongly. That Leicester ranks 51 out of the 64 cities included in the index is worrying. The reason it appears so far down the scale might be due to the high proportion of public sector jobs, and low numbers of high skilled, high paid knowledge jobs in the city. It is perhaps worth remembering here that compared with other parts of the UK, Leicestershire County is economically important to the sub-region. The chart below, for example, displays output per head of the resident population for the three sub-regions (or city-regions) within the East Midlands. That there is greater convergence between Leicester City and Leicestershire than for other sub-regions, suggests Leicestershire County makes an important economic contribution to the Leicester and Leicestershire sub-region. The Centre for Cities analysis measures economic activity only within urban administrative boundaries and therefore does not take this into account.

Economic Prosperity by City

Rank	City
1	London
2	Reading
3	Aldershot
4	Crawley
5	Cambridge
6	Edinburgh
7	Aberdeen
8	Warrington
9	Milton Keynes
10	Oxford
11	Southend
12	Brighton
13	Bristol
14	Swindon
15	Cardiff
50	Doncaster
51	Leicester
52	Coventry
53	Middlesbrough
54	Dundee
55	Barnsley
56	Blackburn
57	Grimsby
58	Plymouth
59	Burnley
60	Hastings
61	Mansfield
62	Sunderland
63	Stoke
64	Hull

Source: Centre for Cities, 2009

GVA per head in Leicester and Leicestershire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and Derby and Derbyshire sub-regions, 2006



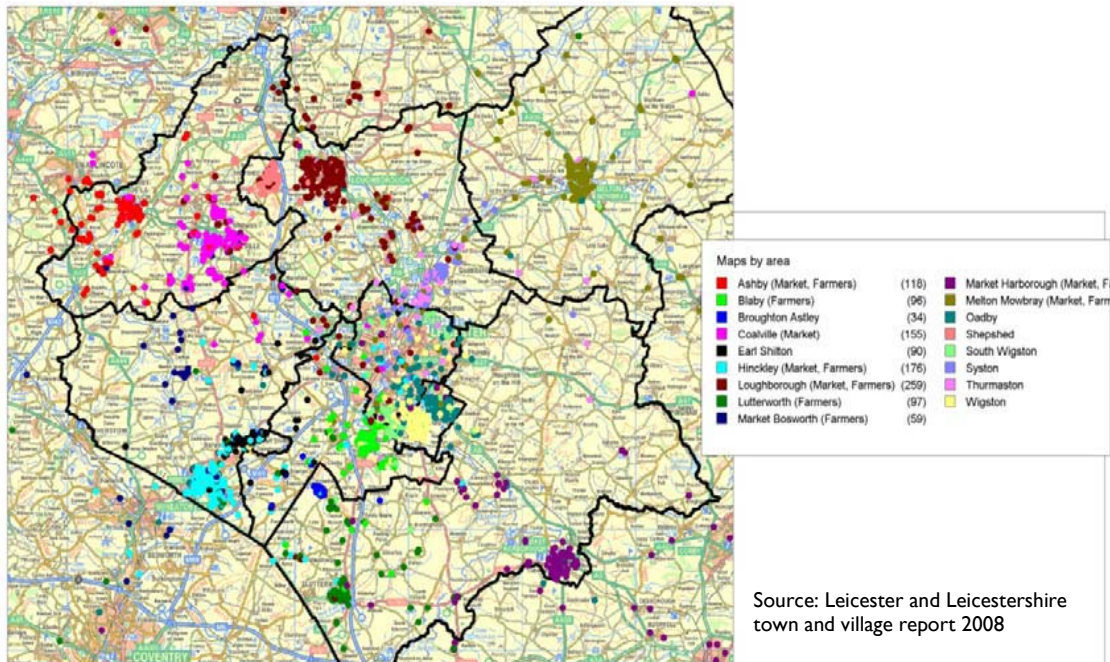
Source: Local GVA, 2006

Market towns

Leicestershire’s town and village centres provide essential services to the local communities and also attract visitors from around the sub-region and further a field. Many towns and villages are home to individual and unique independent shops and local farmers markets that contribute to the character of the area. Recent concerns over shop closures due to the economic climate have had a big impact on many town centres. LGA recently reported that over four out of five councils are reporting an increase in empty properties in town centres and two thirds of those councils that have experienced an increase are saying that empty properties are having a significant or moderate impact on their high street.

This concern is echoed in a recent survey of over 3,000 visitors in Leicestershire town and villages during Summer 2008. Visitors to seventeen market towns and villages across Leicestershire were interviewed. The survey largely repeats the approach and methodology of a similar survey carried out in 2006. This map shows where respondents surveyed in each town and village lived. This indicates the difference between local centres, serving a very local market, such as Broughton Astley, Earl Shilton and Shepshed, and the more substantial market towns such as Loughborough, Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough, where distances travelled by respondents tend to be much greater.

Postcodes of respondents by centre interviewed at



The primary reasons for visiting the centres remain shopping, particularly weekly and top up shopping, working in the centre, and accessing local services. About 1 in 20 are likely to be tourists. Shop closures are the most common reason cited for centres getting worse, whilst for those thinking centres are improving, it is new shops, and improved cleanliness, which are the reasons most likely to be behind this view.

Respondents were asked a stand alone question about their overall satisfaction with the centre in which they were interviewed. On a 1 to 5 scale, where higher scores indicate greater satisfaction, the average score across all centres has fallen from 3.81 to 3.57. This overall satisfaction is strongly driven by confidence about household financial circumstances – those with a more pessimistic outlook about the latter are likely to give lower satisfaction scores. Overall satisfaction was highest in Market Bosworth and Market Harborough, and lowest in Coalville and Shepshed. Leicestershire Towns and Villages reports 2008 are now available on [Isr-online](#)

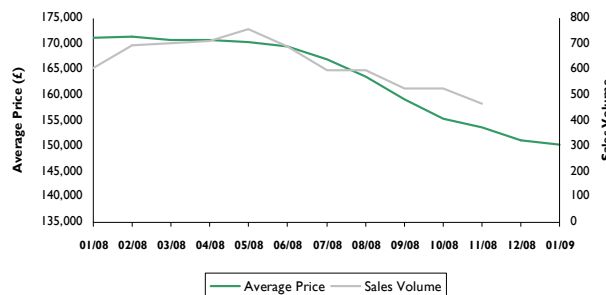
House prices

Table 1 shows that average house prices in Leicestershire have continued to fall over the last 12 months. Since January 2008 the average house price has decreased by over £20,000, equating to 12% of its value. The largest decreases occurred during September and October 2008; these two months alone accounting for 5% of the 12% drop. In November, whilst average house prices witnessed a smaller drop than the preceding two months, the number of actual sales fell 11% on the previous month. Average house prices in January 2009 dropped by their smallest margin for 8 months. Detached houses suffered the greatest drop (£32,475) whereas flats, which are inherently cheaper in value, have dropped the least (£11,132). Whilst the price of each household type has fallen by varying amounts, the per cent that it represents is equal for each type (12.3%).

Table 1: House Price Index for Leicestershire

Month	Index	Average Price	Monthly Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Sales Volume
Jan-08	277.3	171,276	-0.3	4.1	607
Feb-08	277.4	171,359	0	3.6	695
Mar-08	276.5	170,806	-0.3	2.3	704
Apr-08	276.5	170,802	0	1.8	713
May-08	275.9	170,390	-0.2	1.4	759
Jun-08	274.5	169,577	-0.5	0.8	689
Jul-08	270.4	166,990	-1.5	-1.4	595
Aug-08	264.9	163,607	-2	-4	597
Sep-08	257.7	159,188	-2.7	-7.2	523
Oct-08	251.6	155,401	-2.4	-9.7	524
Nov-08	248.6	153,548	-1.2	-10.8	464
Dec-08	244.5	151,006	-1.7	-12.1	-
Jan-09	243.2	150,203	-0.5	-12.3	-

- Data for the two most recent months are not used as comparisons due to the lag in the registration

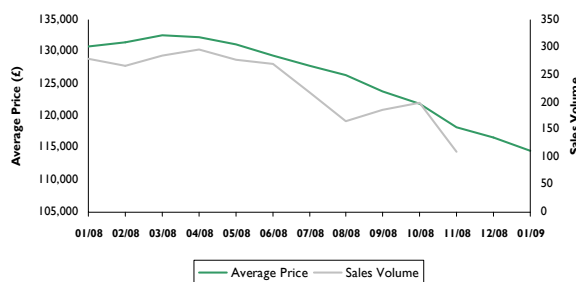


Source: Land registry

The average house price in Leicester City fell £16,362 between January 2008 and January 2009, equivalent to 12.5% of its value (see table 2 and chart 2). House prices in the 6 months after January 2008 decreased by a modest 1.1% whereas the subsequent 7 months up to January 2009 seen a large drop in value of 10%. House sales have followed in kind; dropping from 280 sales in January 2008 to 109 sales 12 months later, representing a drop of 61%. Detached houses have suffered the greatest drop (£32,185) whereas terraced houses, which are inherently cheaper in value, have dropped the least (£13,007). Whilst the average price of each household type has fallen by different amounts, the per cent that it represents is equal for each type (12.4%).

Table 2: House Price Index for Leicester City

Month	Index	Average Price	Monthly Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Sales Volume
Jan-08	281.3	130,900	0.1	3.8	280
Feb-08	282.6	131,521	0.5	3.3	266
Mar-08	285	132,635	0.8	4.6	284
Apr-08	284.1	132,241	-0.3	2.5	296
May-08	281.9	131,194	-0.8	2.5	278
Jun-08	278.1	129,416	-1.4	1.4	270
Jul-08	274.6	127,797	-1.3	-1.1	218
Aug-08	271.5	126,358	-1.1	-3	165
Sep-08	266.2	123,895	-1.9	-5.8	186
Oct-08	262.1	121,990	-1.5	-8	199
Nov-08	254	118,225	-3.1	-10.5	109
Dec-08	250.8	116,720	-1.3	-10.8	-
Jan-09	246.1	114,538	-1.9	-12.5	-



Source: Land registry

Reporting the Local Impact of the Credit Crunch March 2009

Summary

JSA Claimant numbers increased by almost three thousand in the sub-region in February 2008. Claimant rates in Hinckley and Bosworth District increased from 2.5% to 3.1% between January and February while claimant rates remain high in the City and parts of North West Leicestershire. Despite concerns, proportions of 16-18 year olds in NEET continue to be lower than previous years with more young people in the City taking advantage of Further Education opportunities, although NEET remains relatively high in the some wards west of the City.

Initiatives to tackle worklessness during the recession must continue to acknowledge the high numbers of residents on incapacity and lone parent benefit, focusing on tailored support and good knowledge of the local labour market. While numbers of claimants continue to increase, numbers of vacancies also increased in February 2009, particularly in sales related occupations and health care personal services. Further research can identify where these opportunities are and the distances that claimants will need to travel to take advantage of them.

In terms of vulnerability, businesses located in the City are considered less vulnerable based on Oxford Economics' methodology, while other reports have suggested that Leicester City is comparably weak in terms of economic prosperity and dynamism. The lack of vulnerability is possibly due to low risk employment sectors which are concentrated in the City. However, the County has higher rates of self employment, business survival rates and private sector employment and contributes significantly to the sub-regional GVA compared to other sub-regions. It will therefore be important to the sub-region's economic recovery in the long term. In the short-term, though, Market towns in the County which depend relatively heavily on retail are currently vulnerable. As house prices continue to fall, volumes of sales show no signs of increasing and consumer demand drops, confidence in the economy remains particularly low.

We are currently looking at improving the monthly Credit Crunch monitoring report to include more detailed data that can be identified at local levels, particularly claimant count and vacancy data. If you have any further suggestions on information that you would like about your area please contact:

Joëlle Bradly
Research Manager
Research and Information Team,
Chief Executive's Department
Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 3055883
E: jbradly@leics.gov.uk

For more information on a range of economic and social information about Leicestershire and the East Midlands, please visit Leicestershire Statistics & Research Online at www.lsr-online.org

The next monthly report will be available on 24th April 2009

Appendix A Claimant rates

Leicestershire

Lowest Claimant rate	rate
Loughborough Nanpantan	1.0
Dunton	1.1
Waltham-on-the-Wolds	1.1
Peatling	1.2
The Wolds	1.3
Wreake Villages	1.3
Tilton	1.3
Ashby Castle	1.3
Oadby Grange	1.3

Highest Claimant rate	rate
Loughborough Hastings	5.8
Loughborough Lemyngton	5.2
Earl Shilton	4.9
Coalville	4.9
Greenhill	4.7
Barwell	4.5
Melton Egerton	4.5

Lowest annual increase	rate	% point increase
Waltham-on-the-Wolds	1.1	0.3
Broughton Astley - Broughton	1.6	0.4
Wreake Villages	1.3	0.4
Forest Bradgate	1.4	0.5
Queniborough	2.0	0.6
Loughborough Ashby	1.5	0.6
The Wolds	1.3	0.6
Loughborough Nanpantan	1.0	0.6

Highest annual increase	rate	% point increase
Coalville	4.9	2.9
Melton Egerton	4.5	2.6
Hinckley Trinity	4.4	2.6
Whitwick	3.6	2.6
Earl Shilton	4.9	2.5
Bardon	3.1	2.5
Loughborough Lemyngton	5.2	2.4
Measham	3.5	2.4

Leicester City

Lowest Claimant rate	rate
Knighton	2.9
Rushey Mead	4.1
Evington	4.3
Western Park	4.6
Latimer	4.7
Aylestone	4.8

Highest Claimant rate	rate
Charnwood	7.9
Abbey	7.8
Spinney Hills	7.6
Freemen	7.3
New Parks	7.3
Beaumont Leys	7.1
Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	7.1

Lowest annual increase	rate	% point increase
Latimer	4.7	1.2
Rushey Mead	4.1	1.2
Knighton	2.9	1.2
Castle	5.1	1.3
Evington	4.3	1.4
Belgrave	6.0	1.5

Highest annual increase	rate	% point increase
Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	7.1	3.0
Eyres Monsell	6.7	2.9
Freemen	7.3	2.7
Thurncourt	5.5	2.7
Coleman	6.8	2.6
Humberstone and Hamilton	5.1	2.6

Source: NOMIS

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Appendix B NEET 16-18

Leicestershire Districts and highest % NEET wards

District	All	NEET	% NEET
Blaby (Bl)	2976	140	4.70%
Charnwood (Ch)	4896	283	5.80%
Harborough (Ha)	2432	97	4.00%
Hinckley and Bosworth (HB)	2992	134	4.50%
Melton (Me)	1322	53	4.00%
NW Leicestershire (NW)	2850	118	4.10%
Oadby and Wigston (OW)	1979	78	3.90%

Ward	Cohort	NEET	Previous month	Feb
Loughborough Ashby (Ch)	116	21	17.00%	17.70%
Loughborough Lemington (Ch)	162	22	9.80%	13.30%
Loughborough Hastings (Ch)	148	19	10.00%	12.60%
Melton Eger-ton (Me)	108	12	10.60%	11.20%
Market Harborough-Welland (Ha)	184	20	11.60%	11.10%
Loughborough Shelthorpe (Ch)	254	28	7.90%	10.90%
Loughborough Storer (Ch)	113	12	9.50%	10.60%
South Wigston (OW)	233	23	9.50%	10.10%
Winstanley (Bl)	173	16	7.80%	9.20%
Coalville (NW)	180	16	8.00%	9.10%

Leicester City highest % NEET wards

Ward	Cohort	NEET	Previous month	Feb
Freemen	361	70	18.20%	19.20%
Eyres Monsell	420	82	19.00%	19.10%
New Parks	655	109	16.30%	16.70%
Westcotes	140	23	16.20%	16.60%
Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	693	100	16.00%	14.90%
Beaumont Leys	551	64	11.50%	11.80%
Abbey	491	58	12.40%	11.80%
Aylestone	329	37	11.50%	11.70%
Charnwood	449	41	9.40%	9.30%
Thurncourt	346	30	7.90%	8.80%
Humberstone and Hamilton	465	39	6.90%	8.40%

Source Connexions Leicester Shire