

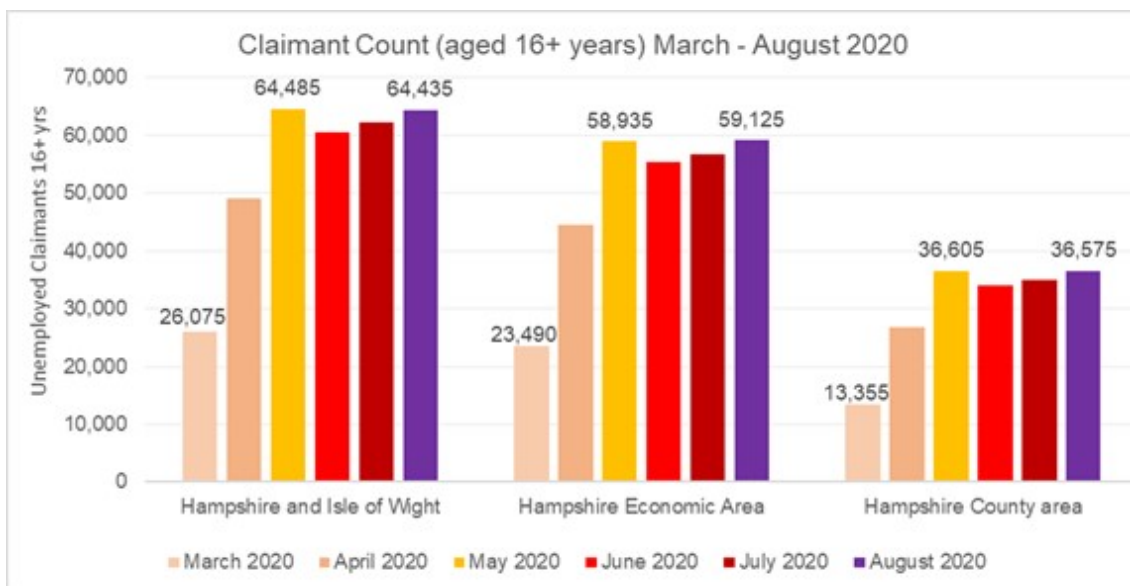
Latest HCC Briefing

Local context

Local claimant counts

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has [published](#) the labour market overview for September 2020. The ONS data shows that in the Hampshire County area, there was an increase in the monthly unemployed claimant count from 35,030 (July) to 36,575 (August 2020). The working age rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.4%. The claimant count for the 16-24 age group who are more vulnerable in a recession increased by 25 on the month and was up by 5,340 on August 2019.

The comparable working age UK rate is 6.5% and the South East region 5.4%, putting the Hampshire County area rate below these benchmarks. However, Portsmouth (7.2%), Southampton (7%), and the Isle of Wight (6.7%) are above both benchmarks. Looking at the data on a district level, Havant (6.3%) and Gosport (5.5%) are above the South East benchmarks, while Hart has the lowest working age rate in Hampshire at 3.4%.



Hampshire's venues and attractions

The County Council is [reminding](#) residents to enjoy the warmer weather that is forecast for the weeks ahead, safely and to take the opportunity to have days out at Hampshire County Council's venues and attractions.

In the [press release](#), the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage, Councillor Seán Woodward, is quoted: "Being active and enjoying the outdoors is an important part of boosting your mental wellbeing and maintaining good health. Our dedicated staff are continuing to work extremely hard across all our recreation sites to ensure that people can get out and escape the everyday, with the peace of mind that they and those around them are as safe as possible from further potential spread of coronavirus."

Visitors are asked to check the latest updates for our venues in advance, adhere to the latest

social distancing guidelines when they visit, and ensure they leave our spaces litter-free. Visit hants.gov.uk/thingstodo for more information.

Restart and Recovery and Kickstarting Tourism Grants

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is seeking applications for a share of a new £375,000 SME grant fund. The Restart and Recovery and Kickstarting Tourism Grants have been created specifically to help SMEs in the Solent LEP area to adapt and diversify in response to the impacts of Covid-19. At least £157,000 is ring-fenced to support the visitor economy and the remaining funds are open to applications from SMEs in the wider economy. The first round of the Fund will close once 1,000 applications have been received, or one week from its launch on 16 September, whichever is the sooner. The Solent LEP is expecting application levels to be very high and is strongly encouraging businesses to apply as soon as possible. More information is available on the [Solent LEP website](#).

National context

Communities

Prime Minister thanks councils

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has [thanked](#) councils for their efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and promised the sector it will have his full support “in the months ahead”. The comments were made during a surprise appearance on a call with Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick and officials to update Council Leaders and Chief Executives yesterday afternoon (15 September).

Business evictions

The Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick, has [announced](#) that businesses will be protected from the threat of eviction until the end of year. The move aims to help businesses most in need of additional support to remain in their premises without the threat of eviction, giving them the chance to focus on rebuilding their business over the autumn and Christmas period.

Support for domestic abuse charities

The Government has [announced](#) that a further 25 charities will receive a share of £1 million to support domestic abuse victims and their families in the pandemic.

Also [published](#) today (16 September) is a prospectus to provide prospective bidders with information on how to apply for funding for domestic abuse safe accommodation from the emergency support fund and how the assessment process will work.

Jewish High Holidays

From Friday (18 September), Jewish communities will be marking a series of religious festivals, starting with Rosh Hashana, known as the High Holy Days. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has [published](#) a High Holidays checklist which sets out what is and isn't permitted under current public health measures.

Local outbreaks: lessons learnt and good practice

The Government has [published](#) the report of Dame Mary Ney's rapid stocktake of lessons learnt from the Leicester City/Leicestershire experience of responding to a local surge in Covid-19 cases.

Community facilities

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has [updated](#) the guidance for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities to reflect upcoming changes to NHS Test and Trace rules and restrictions on social gatherings.

Children and education

Attendance in education and early years settings

The Department for Education (DfE) has [issued](#) updated figures on attendance in education and early years settings during the Covid-19 pandemic, up to 10 September. There is a higher absence rate than the usual figure of about 5%.

Test kits for schools and FE providers

The DfE has [updated](#) the guidance for schools and further education (FE) providers on the initial supply of Covid-19 home testing kits for pupils, teachers and staff with updated information on ordering test kits and clarification of wording for different age group test use.

Adults' social care and public health

Testing

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [published](#) information on the distance travelled for a Covid-19 test in England between 1 - 14 September. The data shows that between 8-14 September the median distance travelled was 5.8 miles and 90% of people who registered for a test travelled 27.8 miles or less.

Antibody testing

The DHSC has [updated](#) the guidance on antibody testing to reflect the launch of the new antibody testing service, which is currently restricted to care home workers in England and Wales.

In addition, guidance has been [issued](#) on how to do an antibody test correctly, post the sample and receive results.

Public health funerals

The MHCLG has [published](#) good practice guidance for councils on the delivery of public health funerals. The non-statutory guidance does not place any additional duties on councils, but instead aims to support councils in ensuring dignity for the deceased and to protect public health.

Environment, transport and travel

£40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund opens for applications

Grants from £50,000 to £5 million are now available to help the nation build back greener from

the coronavirus pandemic. The Government has [announced](#) that grants from the £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund are now available to help the nation build back greener from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Self-isolation when traveling to the UK

The DHSC has [updated](#) the guidance on how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK with a new example of exceptional circumstances which may permit you to leave your place of self-isolation: if you have a health condition or a disability that would be seriously exacerbated if you were not able to leave your accommodation (and its outdoor areas) where you are self-isolating to take exercise.

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 16 September, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **378,219**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **3,991**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **41,684**, with **20** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.0-1.2** and the growth rate range is **-1% to +3%** per day as of 11 September.