

Bury Benefits Hot Topic

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JSA Claimants

The count of claimants of unemployment related benefits, which is known as the claimant count, is based on the administrative records of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Claimants must declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which their claim is made.

At the local area level, comparisons are published in the form of the claimant count expressed as a proportion of the local resident population of working age.

There is a large degree of overlap between the claimant count and unemployment although the latter figures are generally higher. People who are not claimants can appear among the unemployed if they are not entitled to unemployment related benefits. For example:

- people who are only looking for part-time work
- young people under 18 who are looking for work but do not take up the offer of a Youth Training place
- students looking for vacation work
- people who have left their job voluntarily

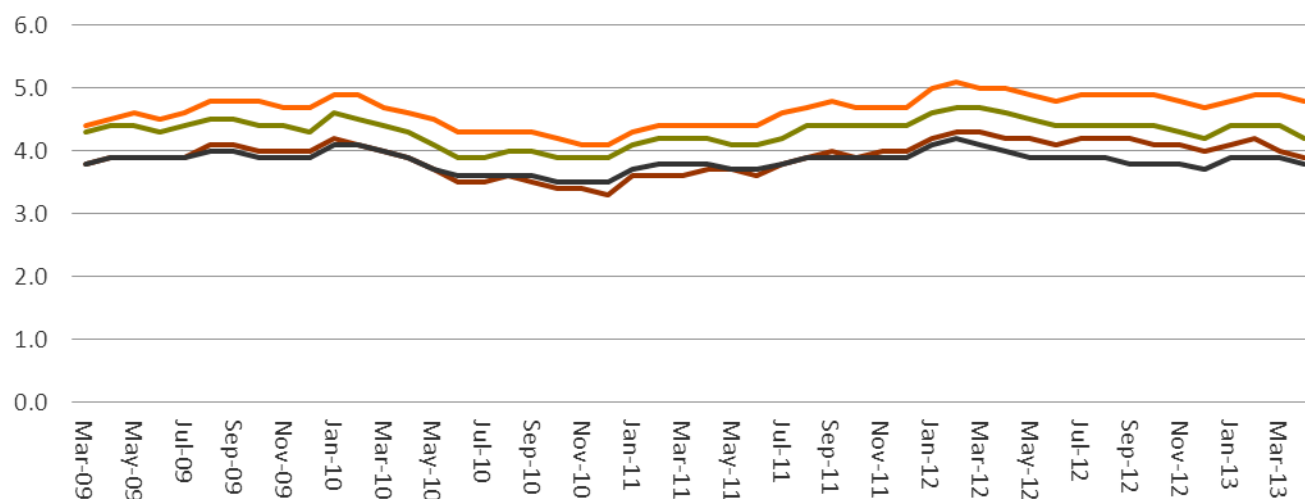
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Bury's JSA claimants over the last year have fallen from 4.2% to 3.9% of the working age population. Claimant rates in Bury are lower than Greater Manchester and the North West, although these areas figures are also falling.

Table 1: Total JSA Claimants (in brackets: Working age rate)

	Bury	Greater Manchester	North West	United Kingdom
Latest (Apr-13)	4,666 (3.9%)	83,960 (4.8%)	192,862 (4.2%)	1,538,576 (3.8%)
Last month	4,770 (4.0%)	85,466 (4.9%)	198,096 (4.4%)	1,584,468 (3.9%)
Same month last year	4,952 (4.2%)	85,810 (5.0%)	204,337 (4.6%)	1,616,849 (4.0%)
Diff. to last month	down by 104	down by 1,506	down by 5,234	down by 45,892
Diff. to last year	down by 286	down by 1,850	down by 11,475	down by 78,273

Figure 1: Total JSA claimants: Working age rate (%)



It is now clear that the continuing economic downturn is having a greater impact on young people than older people and that the impact is significantly worse in this recession than in the last.

So far, for young people this recession has more in common with the 1980s, with a prolonged period of high unemployment and rising long-term unemployment. Worryingly, long-term youth unemployment is now rising at a faster rate than at any point since comparable records began in 1992.

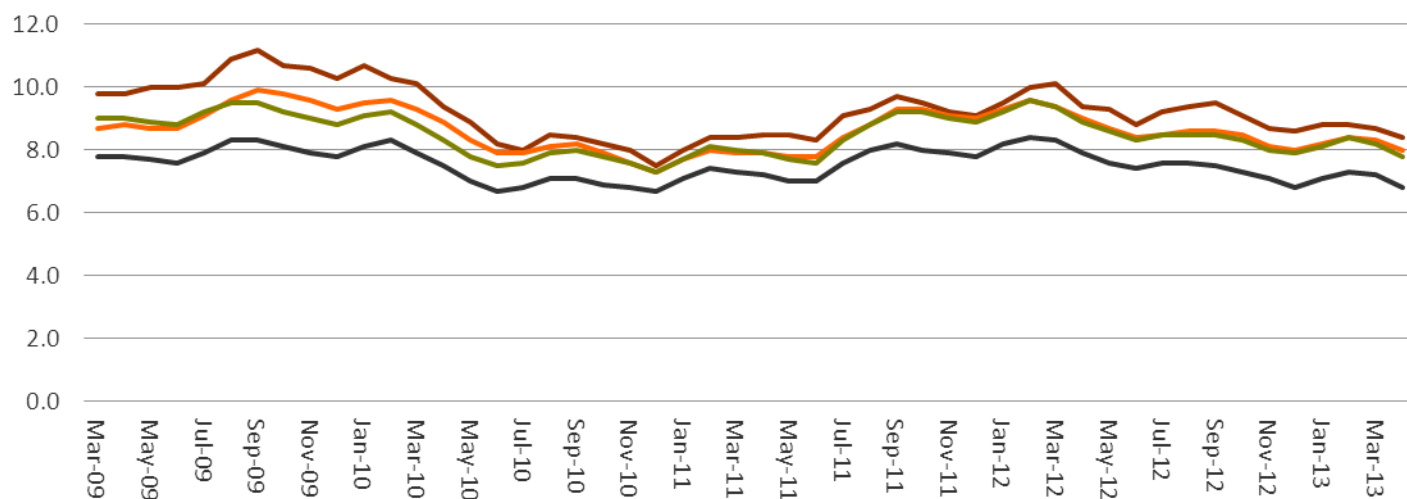
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Bury's rates have fallen since this time last year but are still higher than GM, NW and national rates.

Table 2: JSA Claimants aged 18-24 (in brackets: proportion of residents aged 18-24)

	Bury	Greater Manchester	North West	United Kingdom
Latest (Apr-13)	1,265 (8.4%)	22,130 (8.0%)	52,930 (7.8%)	403,005 (6.8%)
Last month	1,315 (8.7%)	23,095 (8.3%)	55,785 (8.2%)	425,820 (7.2%)
Same month last year	1,470 (9.4%)	25,960 (9.0%)	62,150 (8.9%)	467,395 (7.9%)
Diff. to last month	down by 50	down by 965	down by 2,855	down by 22,815
Diff. to last year	down by 205	down by 3,830	down by 9,220	down by 64,390

Figure 2: Total claimants aged 18-24: Proportion of residents aged 18-24 (%)



Young people will generally enter the DWP Work Programme from nine months of their claim. This early access happens because:

- The proportion of unemployed young people is greater than for any other group. At any one time 18 to 24 year olds make up around 30% of Jobseeker's Allowance claims, and 30% of working age ILO unemployment, compared to just 14% of the economically active working age population.
- A lack of work experience and skills are a particular barrier for young people. A 2009 survey of employers found that the main barriers to recruiting young people (aged 16 to 24) were lack of experience (72%) and the availability of more suitable candidates (65%).

- Early entry into employment support is supposed to prevent young JSA claimants from becoming long-term NEET and to encourage the development of good work habits early in their career. Young people with additional disadvantages (for example, NEET status or disability) will be referred even earlier to the Work Programme at three months.

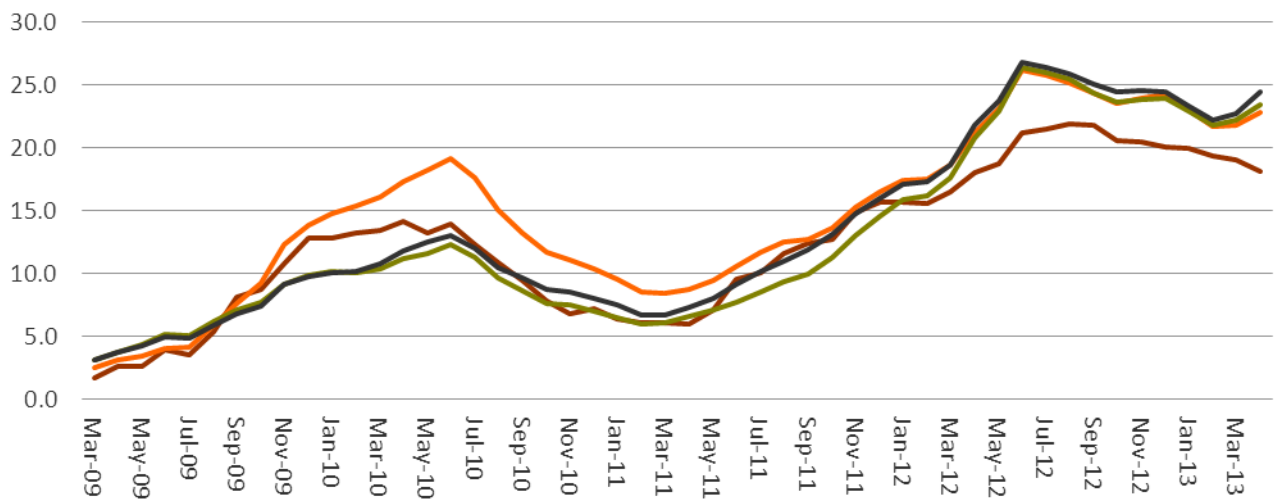
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The number of JSA claimants aged 18-24 that have been claiming for 9 months or more in Bury has fallen from the same time last year by 35. Bury's rates are lower than GM, NW and national rates.

Table 3: JSA Claimants aged 18-24 over 9 months (in brackets: proportion of all claimants aged 18-24)

	Bury	Greater Manchester	North West	United Kingdom
Latest (Apr-13)	230 (18.2%)	5,065 (22.9%)	12,435 (23.5%)	98,505 (24.4%)
Last month	250 (19.0%)	5,045 (21.8%)	12,375 (22.2%)	96,640 (22.7%)
Same month last year	265 (18.0%)	5,495 (21.2%)	12,910 (20.8%)	101,860 (21.8%)
Diff. to last month	down by 20	up by 20	up by 60	up by 1,865
Diff. to last year	down by 35	down by 430	down by 475	down by 3,355

Figure 3: Aged 18-24 over 9 months: Proportion of residents aged 18-24 (%)



Working Age Benefit Claims

On 24 November 2008 changes were introduced to Income Support (IS) for some lone parents. Changes which have been phased in over three years:

- from 24 November 2008, if the youngest child was aged 12 or over, or would have been 12 that year, then Income Support may have stopped during that year
- from 26 October 2009, if the youngest child was aged 10 or over, or would have been 10 that year, then Income Support may have stopped during that year
- from 25 October 2010, if the youngest child was aged seven or over, or would have been seven that year, then Income Support may have stopped during that year

Most lone parents, with a youngest child of seven or over, making a new or repeat claim, are no longer entitled to Income Support only on the grounds of being a lone parent. From 21 May 2012 this will be extended to most lone parents with a youngest child of five or over.

Lone parents will have to instead find work. If they have not found work and need to make a new claim as a lone parent, they will be able to apply for either Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance.

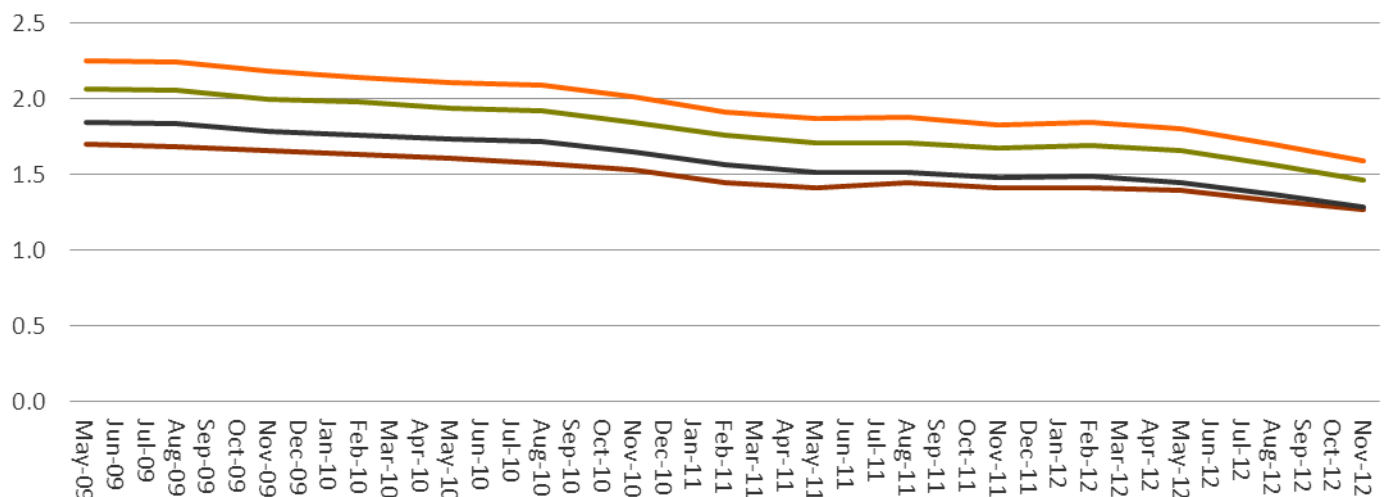
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The number of lone parents claiming IS in Bury is falling and is currently at a lower rate than GM and NW rates, and equal to national claimant rates.

Table 4: Lone Parents on IS (in brackets: Working age rate)

	Bury	Greater Manchester	North West	Great Britain
Latest (Nov-12)	1,500 (1.3%)	27,980 (1.6%)	66,650 (1.5%)	510,030 (1.3%)
Last month	1,580 (1.3%)	29,950 (1.7%)	71,360 (1.6%)	545,210 (1.4%)
Same month last year	1,660 (1.4%)	31,690 (1.8%)	74,920 (1.7%)	581,590 (1.5%)
Diff. to last month	down by 80	down by 1,970	down by 4,710	down by 35,180
Diff. to last year	down by 160	down by 3,710	down by 8,270	down by 71,560

Figure 4: Lone Parents on IS – Working age rate (%)



Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced on October 27th 2008. It is paid to people whose ability to work is limited by disability or ill health. Employment and support allowance replaces both incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity. All applicants for ESA will be required to undergo an assessment process. This process has four main components:

- The limited capability for work test. This test determines whether your health or disability limits your ability to obtain a job. If you pass this test then you remain on Employment and Support Allowance. If you fail then you should claim jobseekers' allowance instead.
- The limited capability for work-related activity test. This determines whether claimants are placed in either the support group or the work-related activity group. Those in the support group will not be required to undertake work-related activities.
- The work-focused health-related assessment. This is only undertaken by those claimants that have been placed in the work-related activity group. It is carried out by a healthcare professional and its findings are used as the basis for discussion at the work-focused interview.
- The work-focused interview. Those applicants who are placed in the work-related activity group are required to attend six of these interviews. At interview an action plan will be drawn up with a view to getting you back into work. Failure to attend or participate in these interviews will result in sanctions being applied to your benefit.

Nearly all ESA decisions carry the right of appeal.

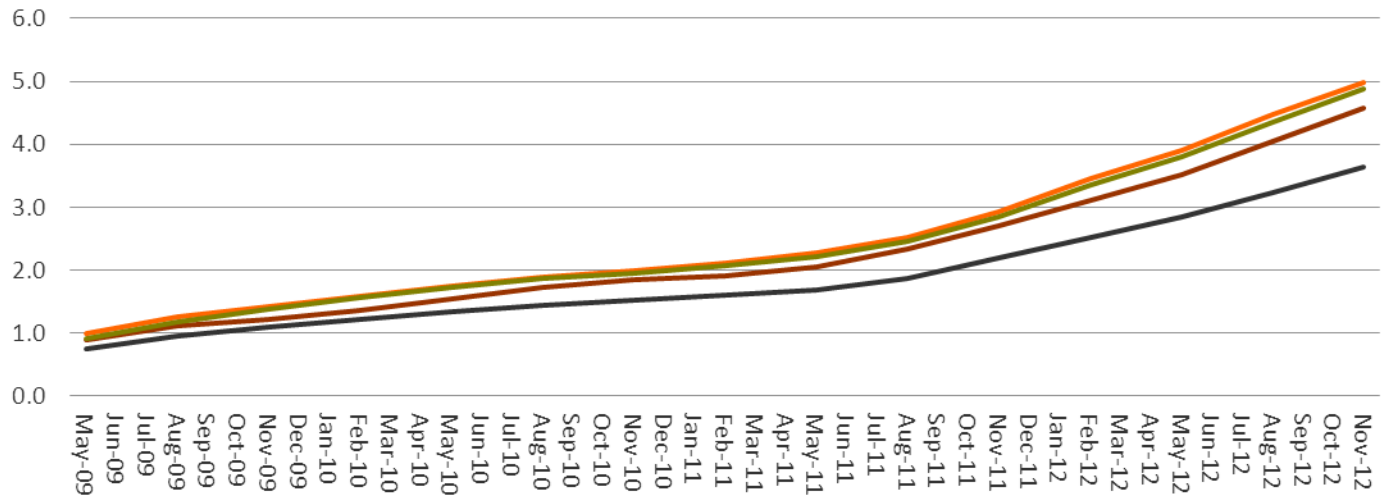
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The number of ESA claimants in Bury is increasing in Bury compared to this time last year but is still lower than GM and NW.

Table 5: ESA Claimants (in brackets: Working age rate)

	Bury	Greater Manchester	North West	Great Britain
Latest (Nov-12)	5,420 (4.6%)	87,700 (5.0%)	222,430 (4.9%)	1,445,140 (3.6%)
Last month	4,790 (4.0%)	78,580 (4.5%)	197,900 (4.3%)	1,284,320 (3.2%)
Same month last year	3,170 (2.7%)	50,530 (2.9%)	126,930 (2.8%)	857,160 (2.2%)
Diff. to last month	up by 630	up by 9,120	up by 24,530	up by 160,820
Diff. to last year	up by 2,250	up by 37,170	up by 95,500	up by 587,980

Figure 5: ESA Claimants – Working age rate (%)



NEETS

A report by the British Chambers of Commerce on NEETS says that there are a number of reasons why young people become NEET. Educational disaffection, family disadvantage and poverty, being in care, teenage motherhood, having special educational needs, being a young carer, belonging to certain BME groups, and participating in crime and risk activities all increase a young person’s risk of becoming NEET and can act as additional barriers to finding work.

An analysis of over 6,000 young people who had been through the New Deal for Young People found that 80% of participants had at least one of four known markers of disadvantage - living in social rented accommodation, having no qualifications, suffering from a health problem or disability expected to last for more than a year, or having no job prior to their unemployment spell- and 40% experienced multiple disadvantage. The same research also found that the barriers to work mentioned most frequently by the young people were that there were no jobs nearby and a lack of personal transport.

The rates used in this tool are based on EET and NEET figures which have been adjusted for unknowns. The series now takes account of the young person’s usual residential address rather than the academic institution address.

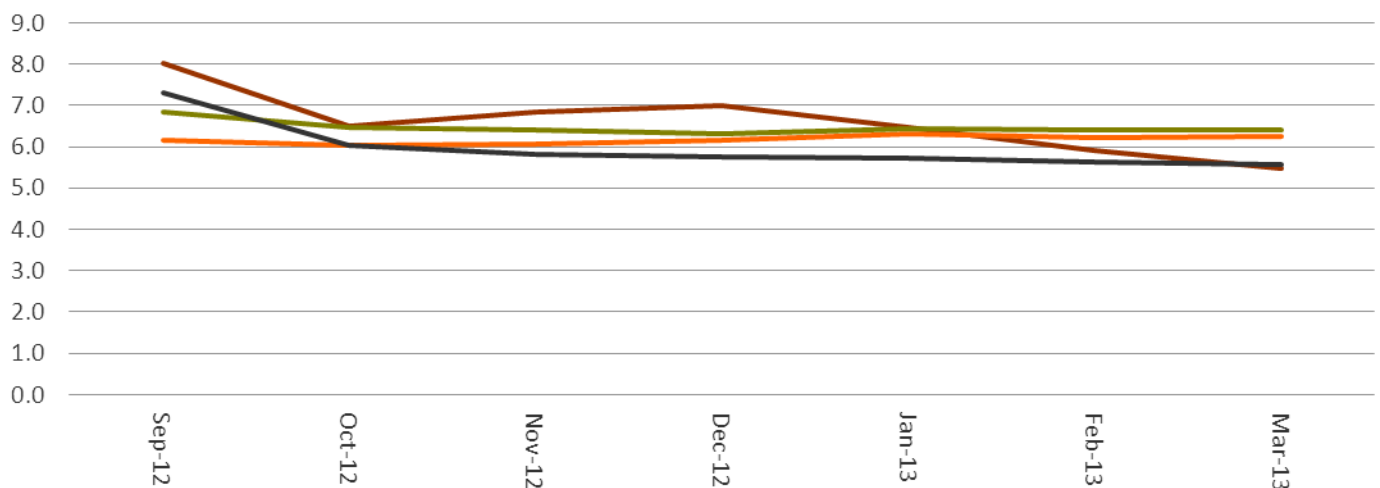
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The number of NEETs in Bury has fallen since September last year and is lower than GM, NW and England.

Table 6: NEET (in brackets: % of academic age 16-18 year olds)

	Bury	Greater Manchester	North West	England
Latest (Mar-13)	364 (5.5%)	5,795 (6.2%)	15,471 (6.4%)	93,904 (5.6%)
Last month	395 (5.9%)	5,782 (6.2%)	15,378 (6.4%)	94,660 (5.6%)
Same month last year				
Diff. to last month	down by 31	up by 13	up by 93	down by 756
Diff. to last year				

Figure 6: NEET – % of academic age 16-18 year olds



Work Programme: Attachments and referrals & attachment ratio: by Payment Group. Up to July 2012

Work Programme was launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011. It provides personalised work-focused support for people who are long-term unemployed or who are at risk of becoming so. Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants are referred to the Work Programme at specified points in their claims, depending on their circumstances.

The statistics on referrals record the number of eligible claimants referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. A claimant remains on the Work Programme for 2 years from the date of their referral to the programme. The statistics on attachments record the number of people with whom a provider has completed initial engagement activity. There will be a proportion of claimants who either sign off benefit or move into work after referral but before the point at which the provider has completed engagement activity with them. Therefore the number of attachments will always be slightly lower than the number of referrals.

Payment Group Payment Groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive.

Table 7: Bury Work Programme Referrals and Attachments

	Payment Group								
	Total	JSA 18 to 24	JSA 25 and over	JSA Early Entrants	JSA Ex-Incapacity benefit	ESA Volunteers	New ESA claimants	ESA Ex-Incapacity benefit	IB/IS Volunteers
Referrals	2,740	540	900	890	40	50	200	40	-
Referrals (% of total referrals)	100%	20%	33%	32%	1%	2%	7%	1%	0%
Attachments	2,680	530	880	880	40	50	190	40	-
Attachments (% of total attachments)	100%	20%	33%	33%	1%	2%	7%	1%	0%
Attachments % of referrals	98%	98%	98%	99%	100%	100%	95%	100%	-

SOURCE: DWP: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)