

Buckinghamshire's claimant count fell for a second successive month in December to stand at 2,860 or 0.9 per cent of working age residents, the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate among the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> among county council areas. Although Buckinghamshire's claimant count is now at its lowest level since January 2017, it is 9.0 per cent higher than in December 2016 and, despite having risen faster than the national rate for each of the last 15 months, remains less than half the national rate.

Over the last year the claimant count for women has risen by 12.7 per cent, compared to a 6.7 per cent rise for men, so that women now account for 38.8 per cent of all claimants in Buckinghamshire, up from 37.5 per cent in December 2017 and 36.8 per cent in December 2013.

**Table 1: Claimant Count, December 2017**

	No.	%	Rank	Annual Change
Aylesbury Vale	980	0.8	45 of 380	11.4
Chiltern	415	0.8	45 of 380	15.3
South Bucks	265	0.6	10 of 380	-11.7
Wycombe	1,200	1.1	109 of 380	11.1
Buckinghamshire	2,860	0.9	4 of 27	9.0
BTVLEP	2,860	0.9	3 of 38	9.0
Coast to Capital	19,420	1.5	20 of 38	18.2
Enterprise M3	6,265	0.7	1 of 38	9.2
Hertfordshire	8,160	1.1	7 of 38	6.3
London	120,345	2.0	27 of 38	8.3
Oxfordshire	2,980	0.7	1 of 38	12.2
SEMLEP	17,675	1.4	15 of 38	16.7
TV Berkshire	5,110	0.9	3 of 38	-5.1
South East	66,515	1.2	1 of 12	7.4
Great Britain	769,785	1.9	-	6.6

**Source: DWP, 2018**

There were 5,399 advertised job openings in Buckinghamshire in December, bringing the total for 2017 to 70,499, up 3,300 or 4.9 per cent from the 67,199 recorded in 2016. Across Great Britain there were 10.6 per cent more job openings in 2017 than 2016.

The most commonly advertised roles in 2017 were sales related occupations, including retail sales representatives with 3,075 openings over the year, ahead of programmers and software development professionals (2,896), *other* administrative occupations (including administration assistants and clerks, 2,197), nurses (1,879), *other* customer service occupations (including customer advisers and customer service assistants, 1,754), marketing and sales directors (1,753), and secondary school teaching professionals (1,750). Openings for managerial, professional and technical roles accounted for 60.5 per cent of all job openings in Buckinghamshire over the year, compared to 63.4 per cent across England. Openings for skilled trades, caring and administrative roles made up a higher share of the total in Buckinghamshire than for England.

The most sought *specialised* skills in 2017 were customer service (7,647 openings), team work and collaboration (6,212), sales (6,053), teaching (4,972), budgeting (4,578), project management (3,734), and accounting (2,925). The most sought *baseline* skills have been communication skills (16,001), ahead of organisational skills (7,324), Microsoft Excel (5,729), planning (5,624), being detail orientated (5,434), creativity (3,788), Microsoft Office (3,773), and problem solving (3,606).

**Chart 1: Buckinghamshire's claimant count over time, to December 2017**



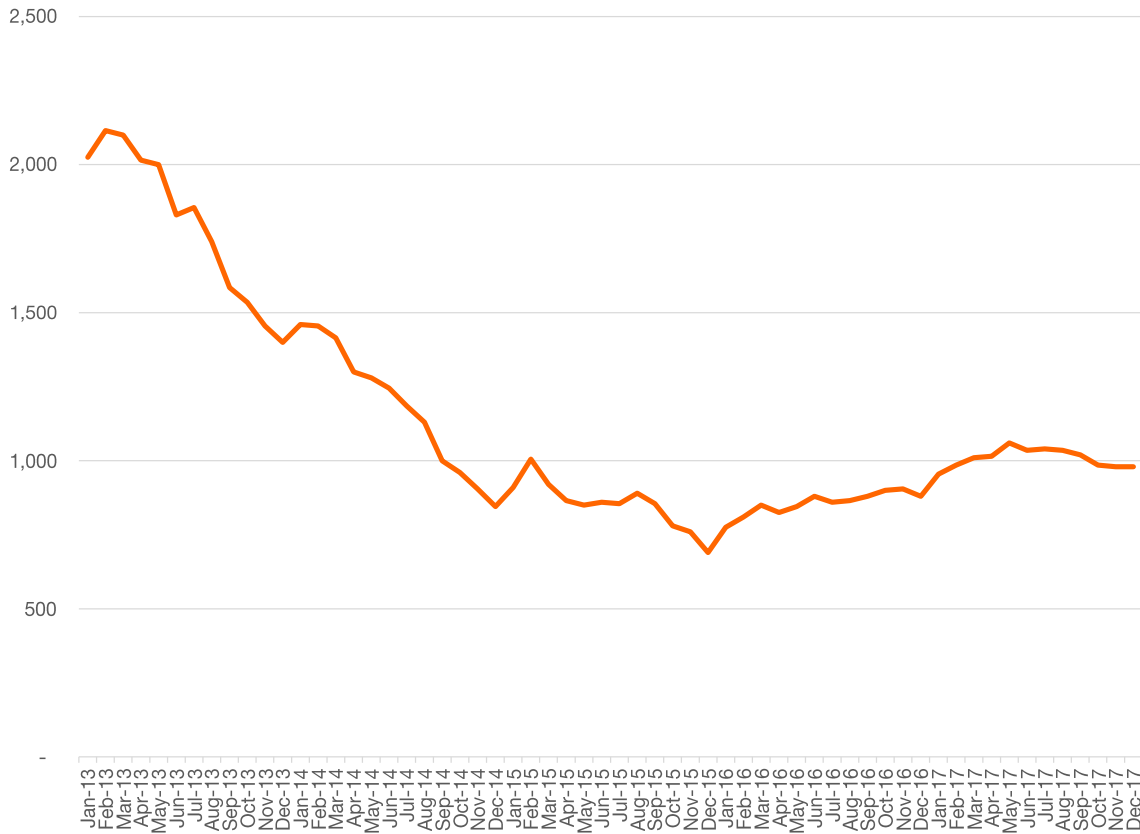
Source: DWP, 2018

**Table 2: Claimant count by age group, December 2017**

	18-24			25-49			50+		
	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	140	1.0	33	520	0.8	60	320	0.9	94
Chiltern	85	1.5	100	200	0.7	50	140	0.7	60
South Bucks	45	1.0	35	135	0.6	21	85	0.6	31
Wycombe	190	1.4	79	645	1.1	123	355	1.1	141
Buckinghamshire	460	1.2	4	1,495	0.9	5	900	0.9	10
BTVLEP	460	1.2	4	1,495	0.9	3	900	0.9	4
Enterprise M3	1,000	0.8	2	3,230	0.6	1	2,025	0.6	1
Hertfordshire	1,325	1.5	7	4,285	1.1	7	2,530	1.2	15
London	17,820	2.4	21	66,025	1.8	25	36,250	2.7	36
Oxfordshire	465	0.7	1	1,615	0.7	2	905	0.7	2
South East Midlands	2,955	2.0	13	9,480	1.4	13	5,215	1.4	23
Thames Valley Berkshire	690	1.0	3	2,830	0.9	4	1,585	1.0	7
South East	12,295	1.6	1	34,520	1.2	1	19,555	1.1	2
Great Britain	150,390	2.7	-	413,800	1.9	-	203,910	1.7	-

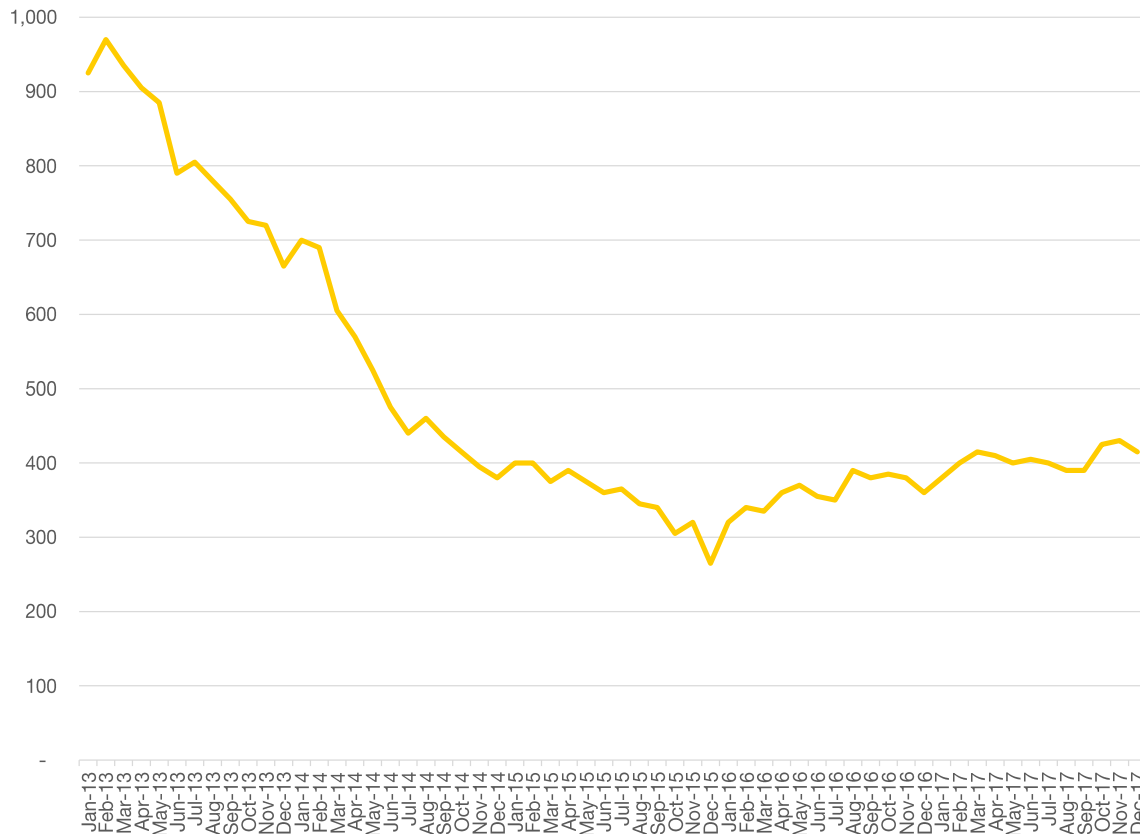
Source: DWP, 2018

**Chart 2: Aylesbury Vale's claimant count over time, to December 2017**



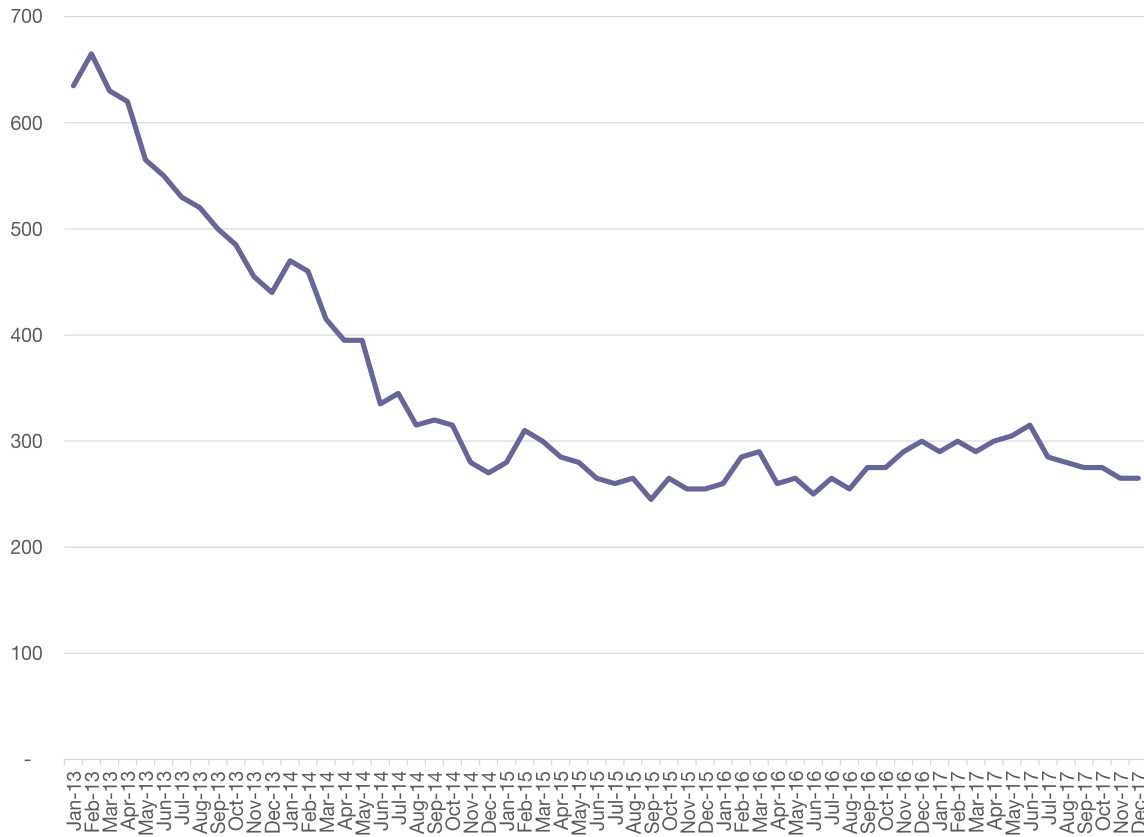
Source: DWP, 2018

**Chart 3: Chiltern's claimant count over time, to December 2017**



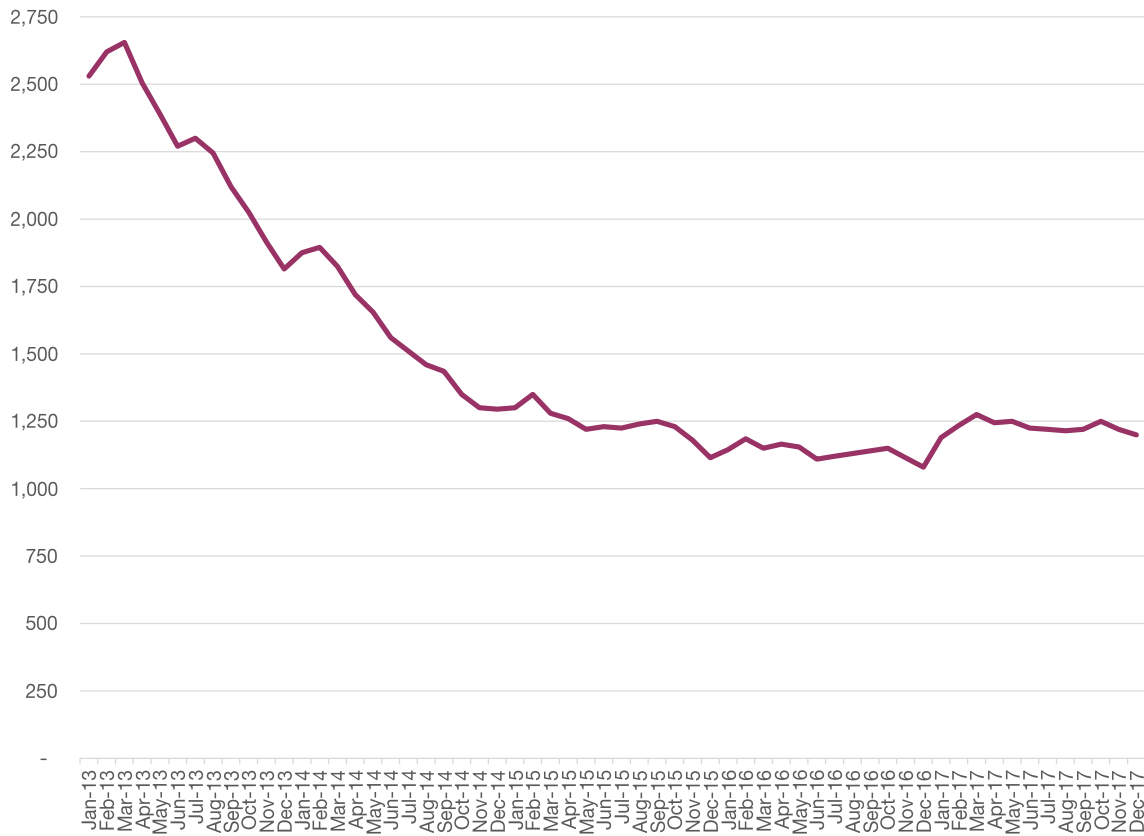
Source: DWP, 2018

**Chart 4: South Bucks' claimant count over time, to December 2017**



Source: DWP, 2018

**Chart 5: Wycombe's claimant count over time, to December 2017**



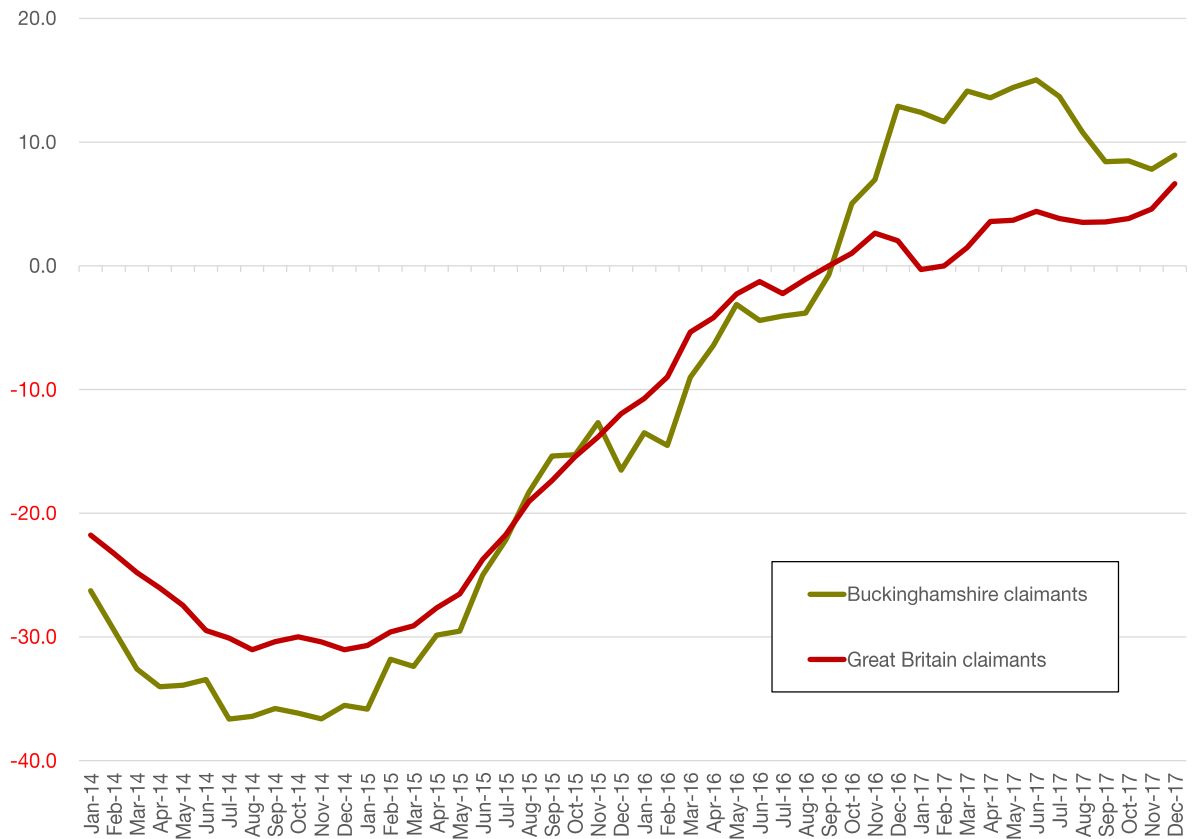
Source: DWP, 2018

**Table 3: Claimant count by sought occupation (JSA only), December 2017**

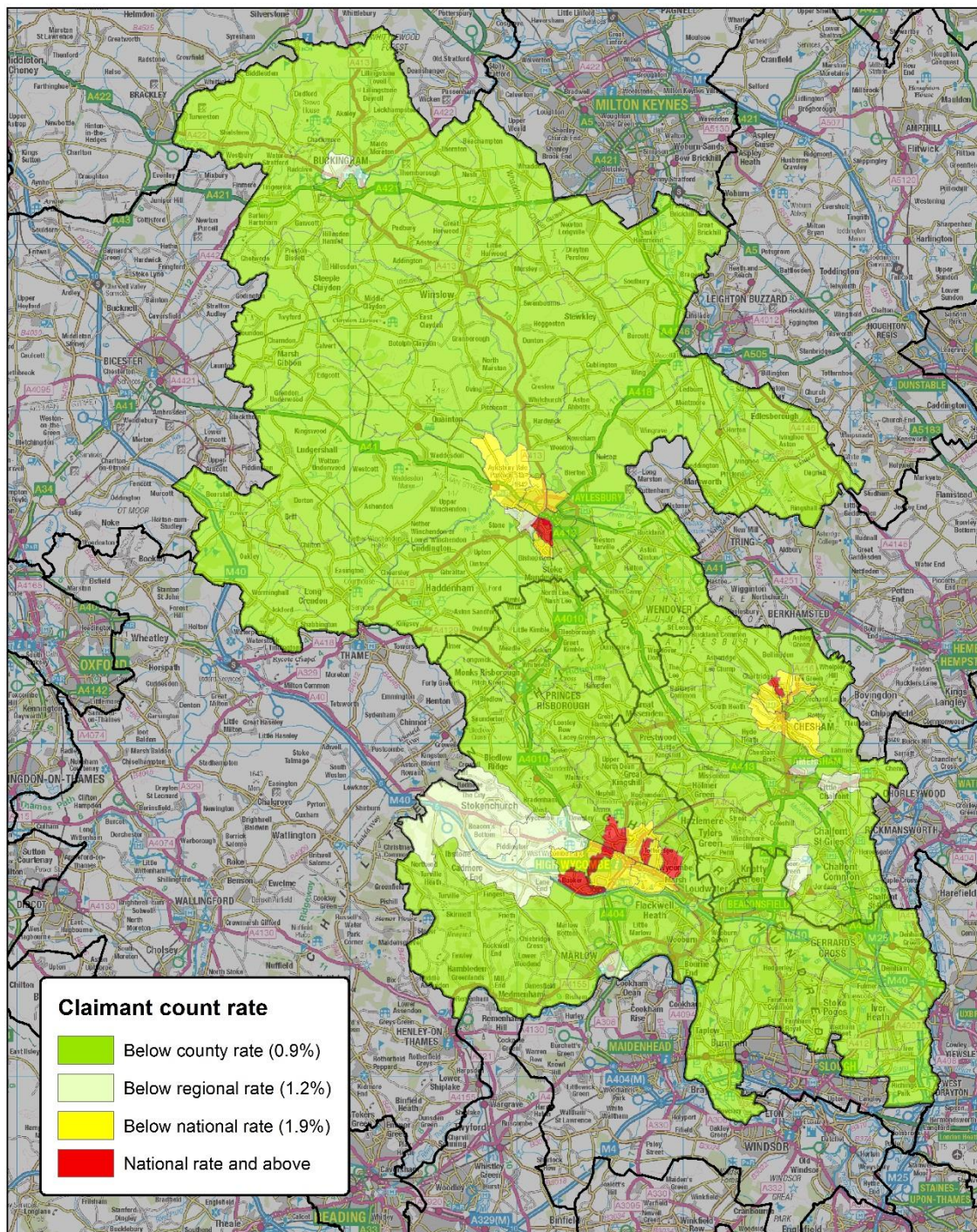
	SOCs 1-3			SOC 7 - Sales			SOC 9 - Elementary		
	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	50	7.1	225	490	69.5	83	60	8.5	233
Chiltern	25	8.9	161	185	66.1	137	20	7.1	279
South Bucks	20	11.1	107	110	61.1	229	10	5.6	332
Wycombe	80	9.4	148	555	64.9	161	70	8.2	251
Buckinghamshire	175	8.7	10	1,340	66.7	11	160	8.0	21
BTVLEP	175	8.7	15	1,340	66.7	16	160	8.0	32
Coast to Capital	550	7.1	24	5,330	69.0	10	455	5.9	37
Enterprise M3	525	12.4	7	2,555	60.4	30	260	6.1	35
Hertfordshire	270	5.0	33	3,365	62.2	23	565	10.4	20
London	6,825	10.3	12	44,300	67.1	15	5,335	8.1	29
Oxfordshire	145	9.6	14	1,020	67.5	13	115	7.6	33
South East Midlands	665	6.5	27	6,470	63.6	19	1,360	13.4	11
Thames Valley Berkshire	300	8.4	18	1,960	54.9	34	310	8.7	28
South East	4,260	11.1	4	23,890	62.4	6	3,275	8.6	10
Great Britain	39,405	9.6		260,965	63.3		49,155	11.9	

Source: DWP, 2018

**Chart 6: Year-on-year change in claimant count**



Source: DWP, 2018



**Buckinghamshire Claimant Count Rate (JSA & Universal Credit) by Ward  
December 2017**

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