

Buckinghamshire's claimant count, March 2018

18 April 2018

Buckinghamshire's claimant count rose for a third successive month in March to stand at 3,115, the highest level since September 2014. Despite this rise the claimant count remained unchanged at 0.9 per cent of working age residents, the 4th lowest rate among the 27 county council areas, ranking 3rd among the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Over the last year Buckinghamshire's claimant count has risen by 4.2 per cent, less than half the national rate of increase and the 2nd and 3rd lowest rises among county councils and LEPs respectively.

Table 1: Claimant Count, March 2018

	No.	%	Rank	Annual Change
Aylesbury Vale	1,065	0.9	51 of 380	5.4
Chiltern	435	0.8	27 of 380	4.8
South Bucks	300	0.7	13 of 380	3.4
Wycombe	1,315	1.2	105 of 380	3.1
Buckinghamshire	3,115	0.9	4 of 27	4.2
BTVLEP	3,115	0.9	3 of 38	4.2
Coast to Capital	21,460	1.7	18 of 38	15.6
Enterprise M3	6,785	0.7	1 of 38	5.7
Hertfordshire	9,095	1.2	5 of 38	9.7
London	128,520	2.2	27 of 38	8.9
Oxfordshire	3,680	0.8	2 of 38	25.2
SEMLEP	19,970	1.6	16 of 38	12.7
TV Berkshire	5,800	1.0	4 of 38	-0.3
South East	74,640	1.3	1 of 12	9.7
Great Britain	861,135	2.1	-	9.0

Source: DWP, 2018

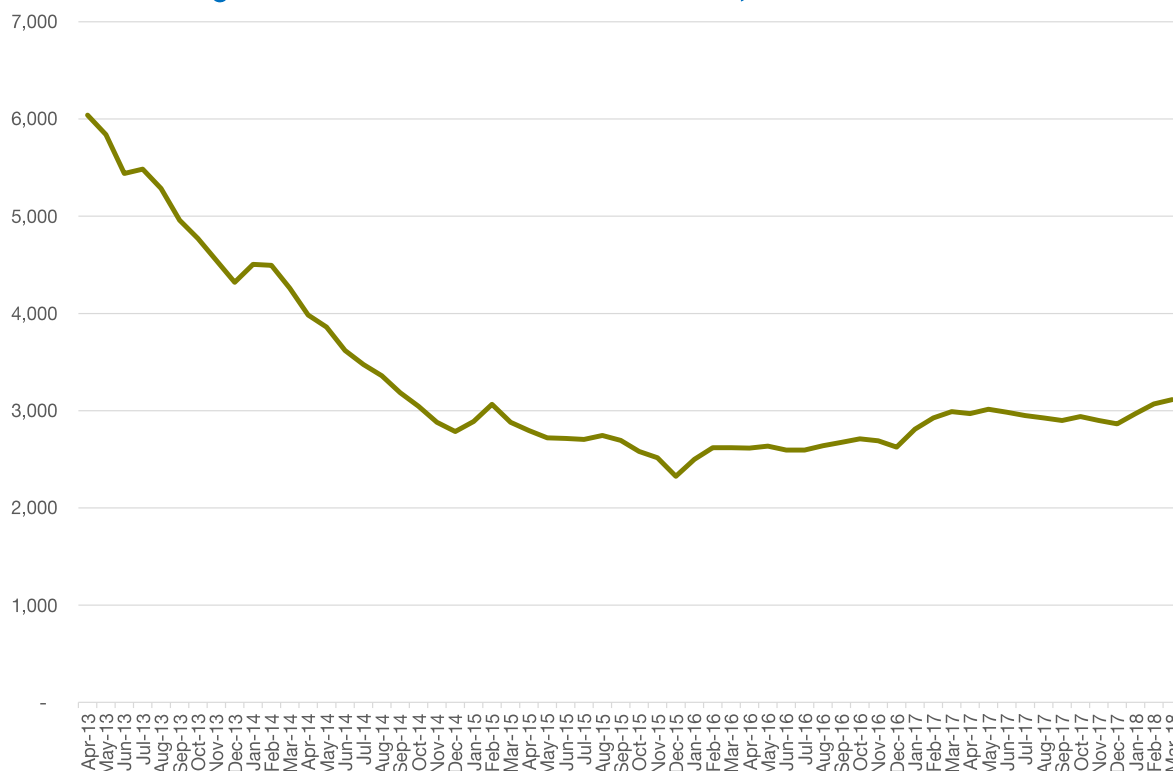
There were 7,454 advertised job openings in Buckinghamshire in March, 3.8 per cent fewer (292 openings) than in March 2017 but 14.8 per cent (962) more than were posted in February. There are now 2.4 openings per claimant in Buckinghamshire and 1.5 for every unemployed resident, compared to 0.9 and 0.5 across Great Britain.

The most commonly advertised roles in March were sales related occupations including retail sales representatives, with 303 openings, ahead of programmers and software development professionals (286), *other* administrative occupations (including administration assistants and clerks) (219), nurses (216), and marketing and sales directors (213).

In the last year the strongest increase in job openings has been for sales occupations, up 2,100 (33.4 per cent) ahead of administrative and secretarial roles (1,299, 13.6) and skilled trades (636, 15.2). Professional occupations remain the most sought, accounting for 30.4 per cent of all openings despite falling 1,537 (6.8 per cent) in the last year. The number of openings also fell for process, plant and machine operatives and caring, leisure and other service roles, as shown in chart 6 below.

In the last year the most sought *baseline* skills have been communication skills (15,464), ahead of organisational skills (6,950), Microsoft Excel (5,527), planning (5,494), being detail orientated (5,205), Microsoft Office (3,658), creativity (3,623), and problem solving (3,483). The most sought *specialised* skill was customer service (6,997), sought by recruiters to roles in all occupational classifications.

Chart 1: Buckinghamshire's claimant count over time, to March 2018



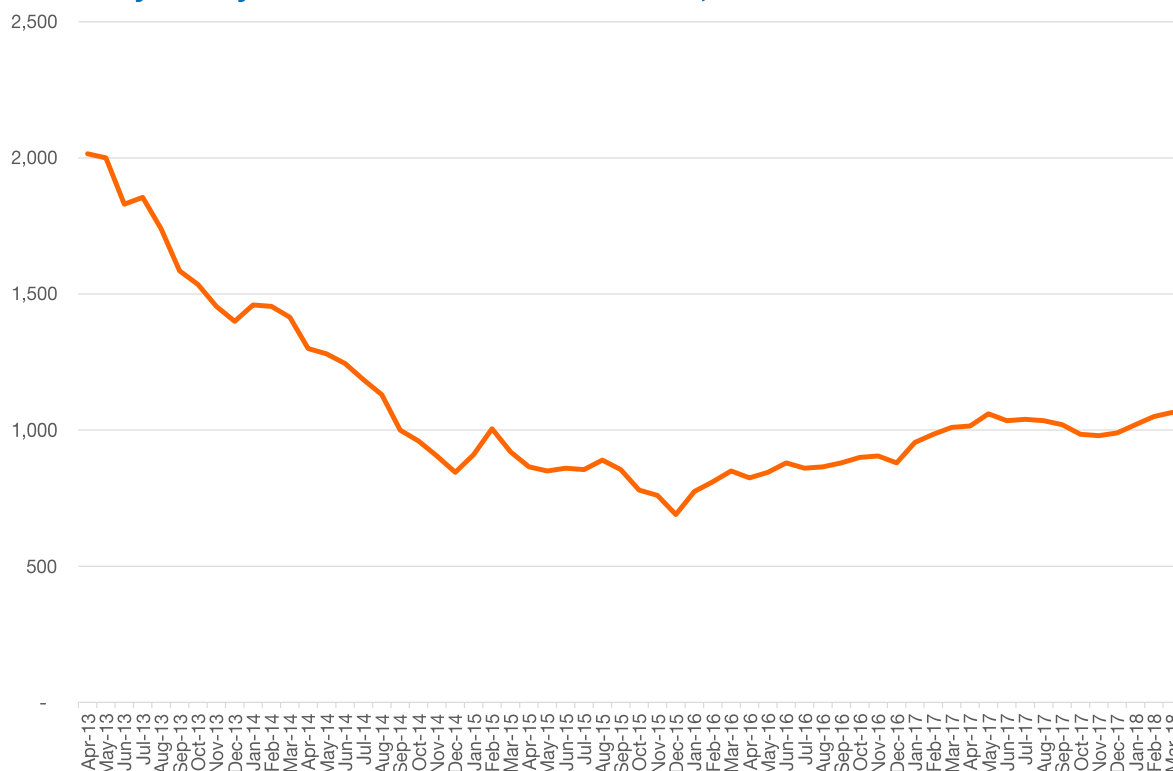
Source: DWP, 2018

Table 2: Claimant count by age group, March 2018

	18-24			25-49			50+		
	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	160	1.2	34	565	0.9	54	335	0.9	79
Chiltern	80	1.4	69	205	0.7	29	145	0.7	37
South Bucks	45	1.0	26	160	0.8	30	95	0.7	27
Wycombe	215	1.6	76	700	1.2	116	400	1.2	147
Buckinghamshire	500	1.3	4	1,630	0.9	5	980	0.9	8
BTVLEP	500	1.3	4	1,630	0.9	3	980	0.9	3
Enterprise M3	1,110	0.9	2	3,495	0.7	1	2,165	0.7	1
Hertfordshire	1,505	1.7	7	4,750	1.2	5	2,825	1.3	14
London	19,100	2.5	16	71,070	1.9	23	38,095	2.8	35
Oxfordshire	585	0.9	1	1,990	0.9	2	1,095	0.9	2
South East Midlands	3,385	2.2	13	10,755	1.6	13	5,805	1.6	22
Thames Valley Berkshire	840	1.2	3	3,150	1.0	4	1,805	1.1	6
South East	14,155	1.9	1	38,590	1.3	1	21,725	1.3	2
Great Britain	169,435	3.0	-	464,815	2.2	-	224,920	1.9	-

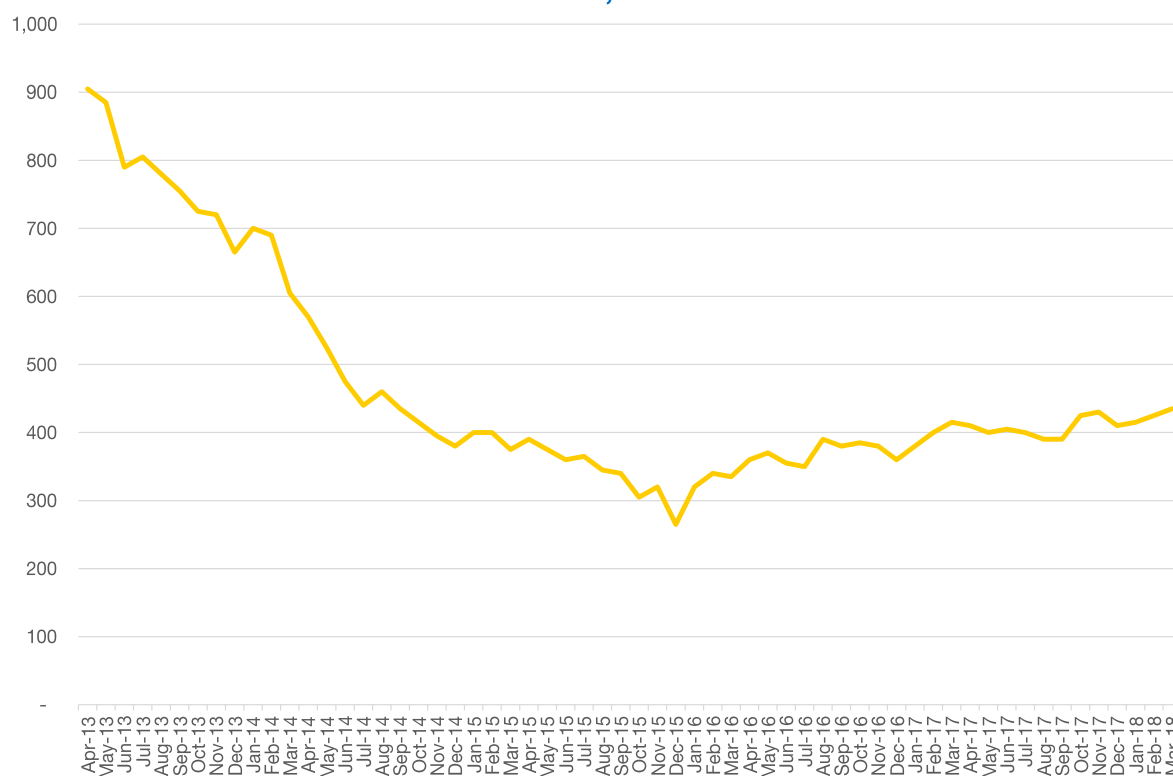
Source: DWP, 2018

Chart 2: Aylesbury Vale's claimant count over time, to March 2018



Source: DWP, 2018

Chart 3: Chiltern's claimant count over time, to March 2018



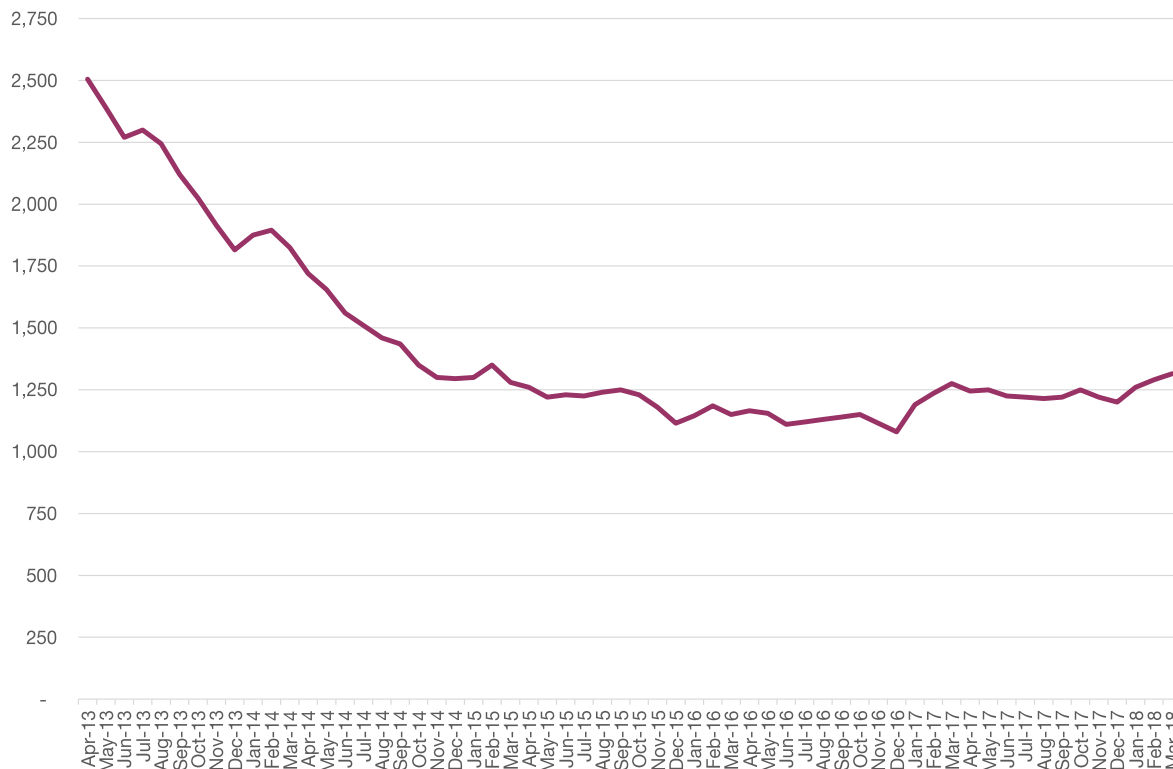
Source: DWP, 2018

Chart 4: South Bucks' claimant count over time, to March 2018



Source: DWP, 2018

Chart 5: Wycombe's claimant count over time, to March 2018



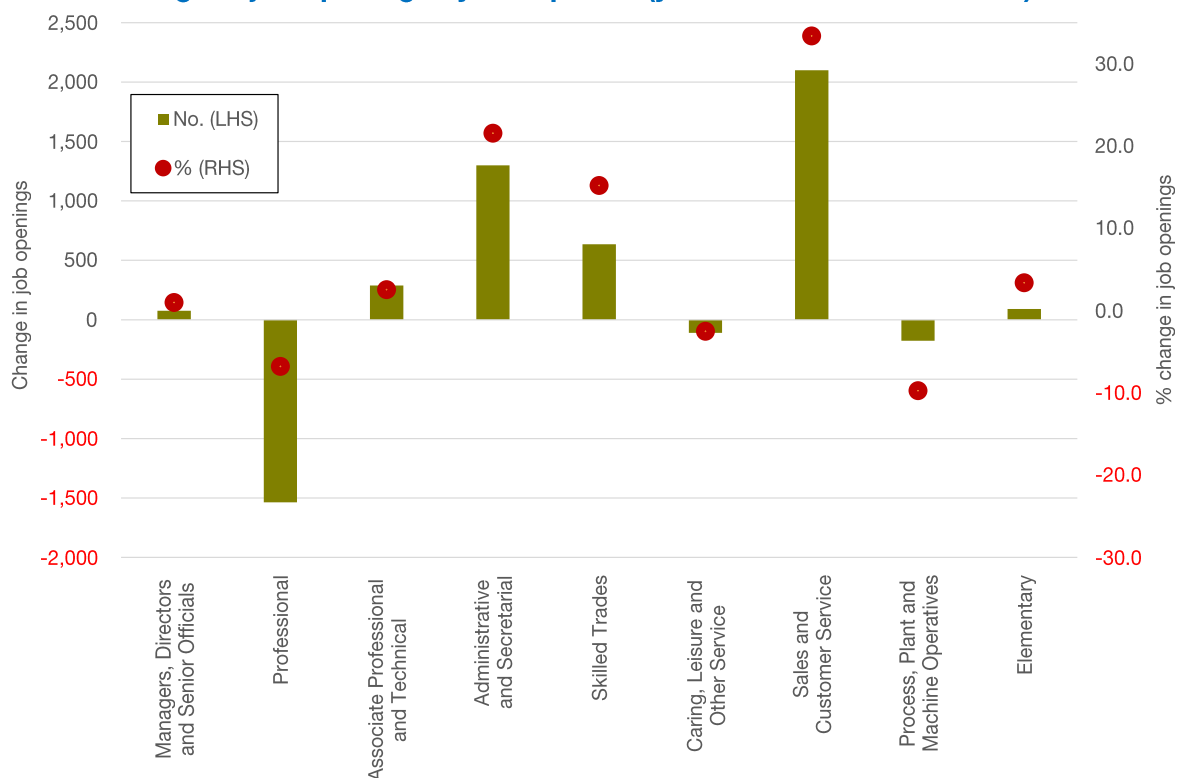
Source: DWP, 2018

Table 3: Claimant count by sought occupation (JSA only), March 2018

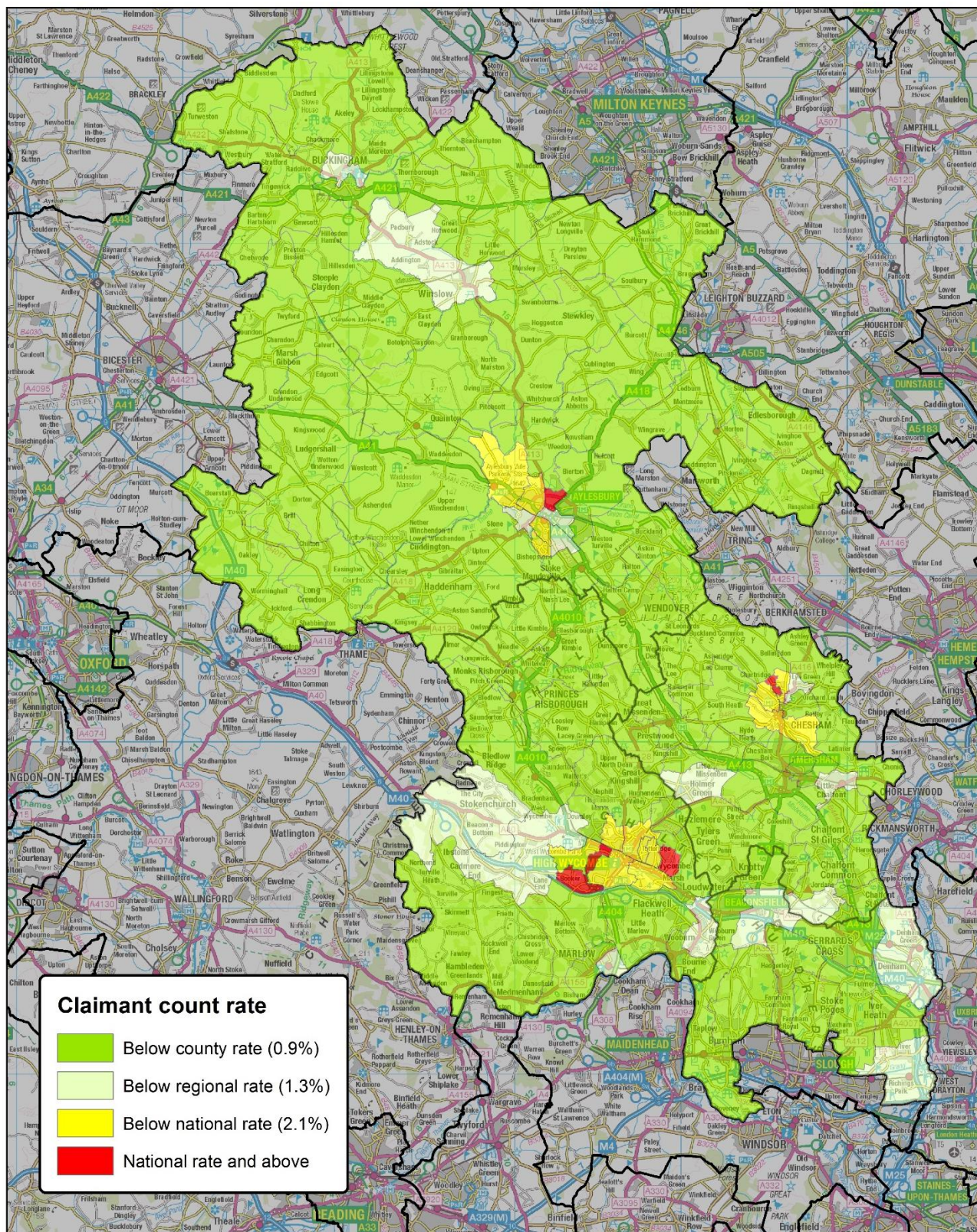
	SOCs 1-3			SOC 7 - Sales			SOC 9 - Elementary		
	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	60	7.2	219	575	69.3	98	70	8.4	219
Chiltern	35	10.9	114	210	65.6	159	20	6.3	299
South Bucks	25	11.4	107	145	65.9	152	10	4.5	349
Wycombe	80	8.0	189	670	67.3	126	80	8.0	235
Buckinghamshire	200	8.5	11	1,600	67.7	10	185	7.8	19
BTVLEP	200	8.5	17	1,600	67.7	15	185	7.8	28
Coast to Capital	645	7.8	21	5,790	70.0	9	465	5.6	37
Enterprise M3	680	13.8	5	3,085	62.8	22	265	5.4	38
Hertfordshire	240	4.7	33	3,200	62.1	25	550	10.7	17
London	7,715	10.8	11	48,250	67.5	16	5,305	7.4	31
Oxfordshire	120	10.1	13	790	66.4	18	90	7.6	30
South East Midlands	715	6.2	28	7,480	64.6	20	1,475	12.7	11
Thames Valley Berkshire	270	7.4	25	2,040	55.7	35	320	8.7	25
South East	4,740	11.5	4	26,265	63.5	6	3,335	8.1	10
Great Britain	43,605	9.7		286,445	64.0		50,245	11.2	

Source: DWP, 2018

Chart 6: Change in job openings by occupation (year to March 2018 & 2017)



Source: Labour Insight, Burning Glass, 2018



Buckinghamshire Claimant Count Rate (JSA & Universal Credit) by Ward
March 2018

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