

# Hart's Economic Dashboard

## Summary

On the back of an encouraging GDP figure for March published last week, today's Office for National Statistics (ONS) Headline (Survey-based) Labour Market statistics suggest signs of recovery, with employment up and unemployment down. The number of payrolled employees has improved, vacancies are up and redundancies are down. Nonetheless, the economy and labour market remains below pre-pandemic levels. Locally, and using the timelier claimant count measure of unemployment, the number of Hampshire residents claiming unemployment benefits decreased in April after stabilizing in March, although numbers are still above pre-pandemic levels.

## South East Labour Market Update

The South East had the lowest UK regional Economic Inactivity rate at 18.7%, however, the rate is 0.4 ppts up on the previous quarter and up by 1.0 ppts on the year. For the three months to March 2021, the highest employment rate in the UK was in the South East (78.5%), however, the South East rate is 0.2 percentage points (ppts) down on the previous quarter and 1.4 ppts down on the year.

**Table 1: Unemployed claimants April 2021 by ward and age (18-64)**

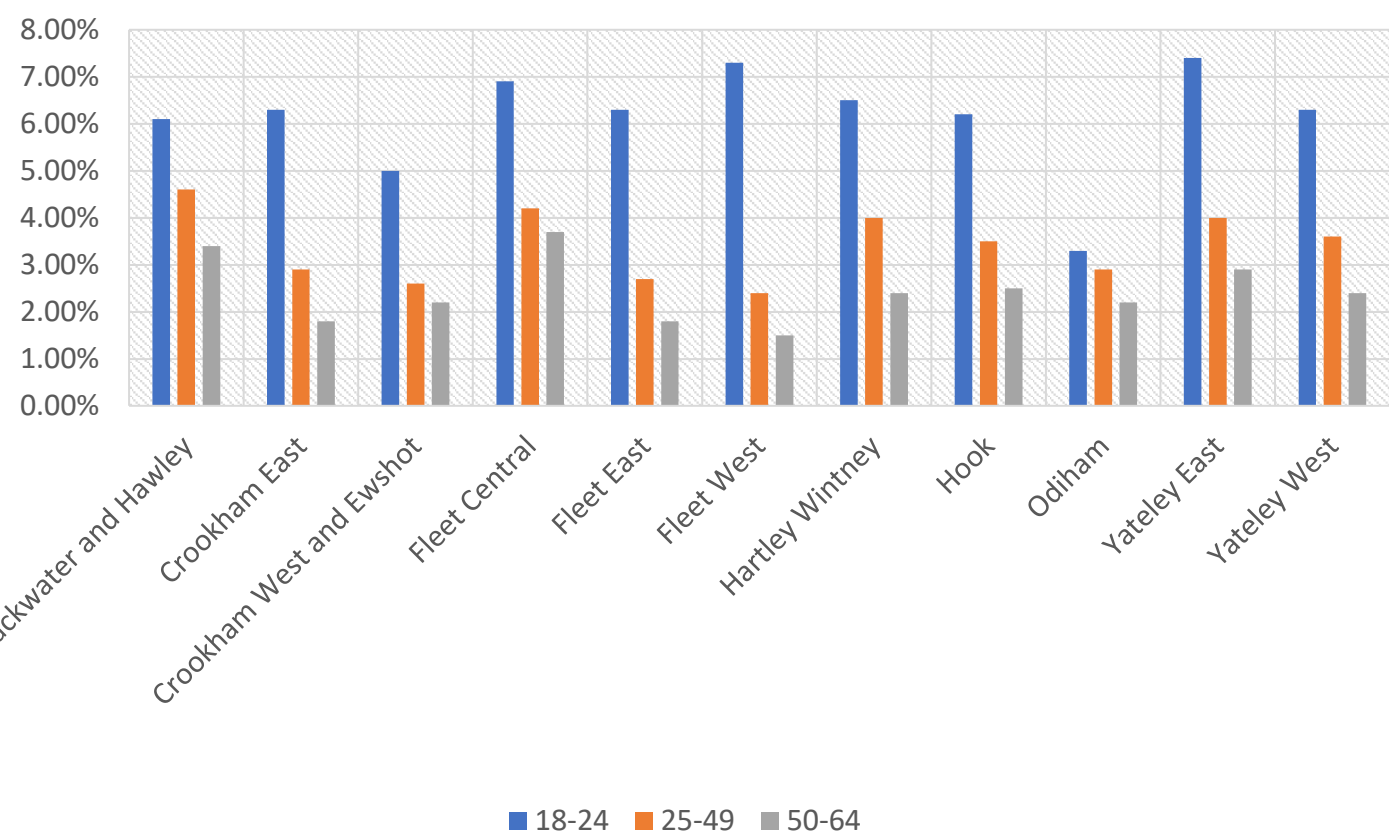


Table 1: Yateley East recorded the highest % between 18-24 year olds, despite a 2% decrease. Blackwater and Hawley was the highest for 25-49; with Fleet Central recording the highest % for 50-64. This is the same as previously, however, all numbers have dropped slightly.

**Table 2: Unemployed Claimants 16+ (From November 2020 to April 2021)**

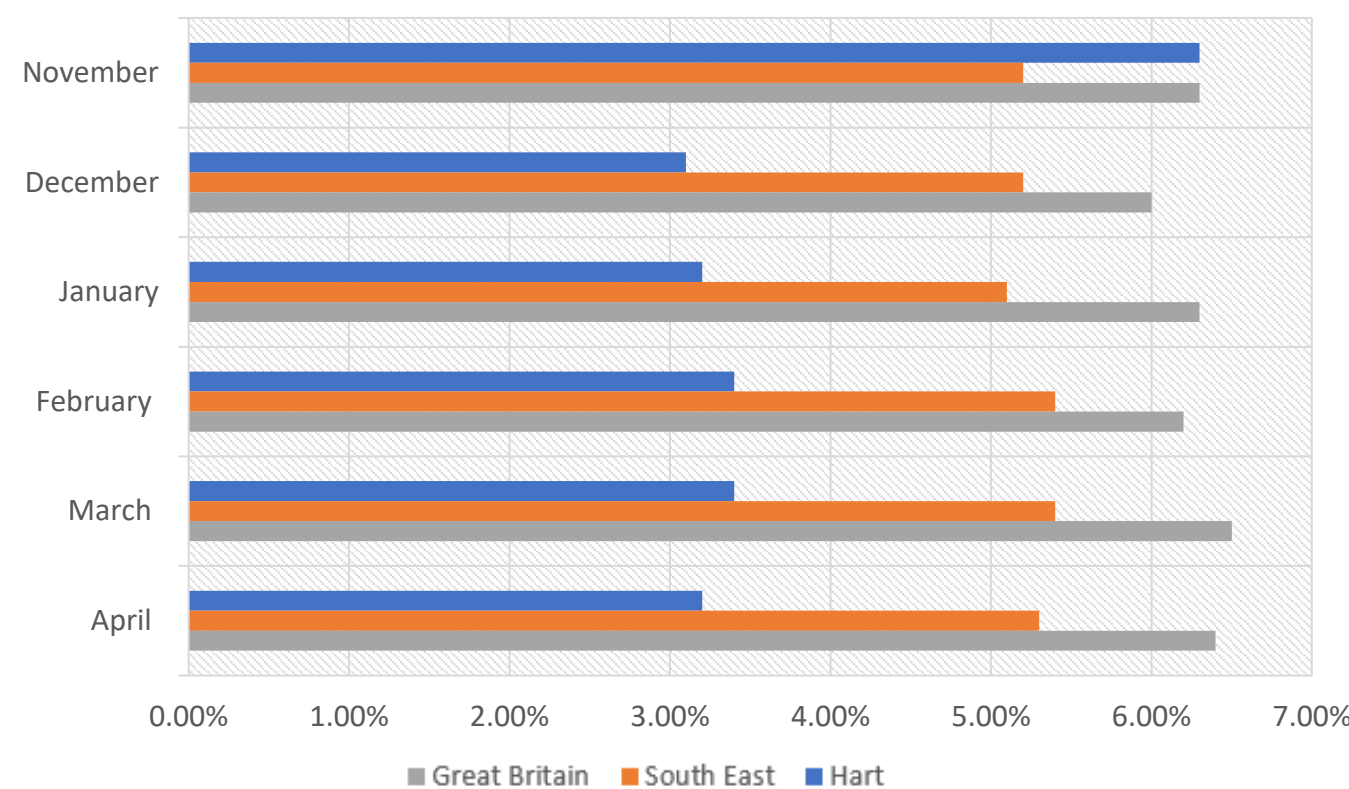


Table 2: Hart recorded 3.20% - which is a decrease from February & March by 0.2%. Data also showed a decrease in South East & Great Britain numbers decrease slightly.

**Table 3: Unemployed Claimants April 2021 by Ward and Sex Total**

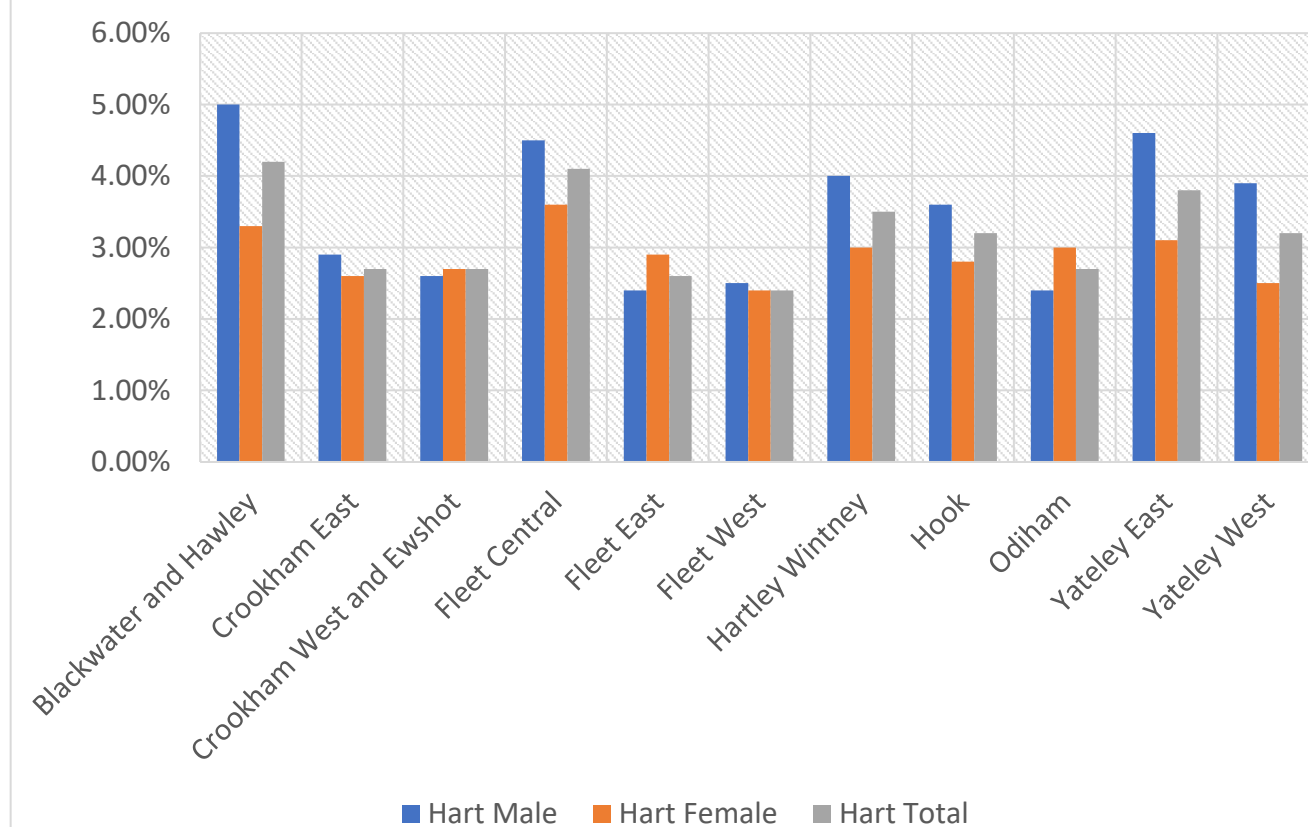
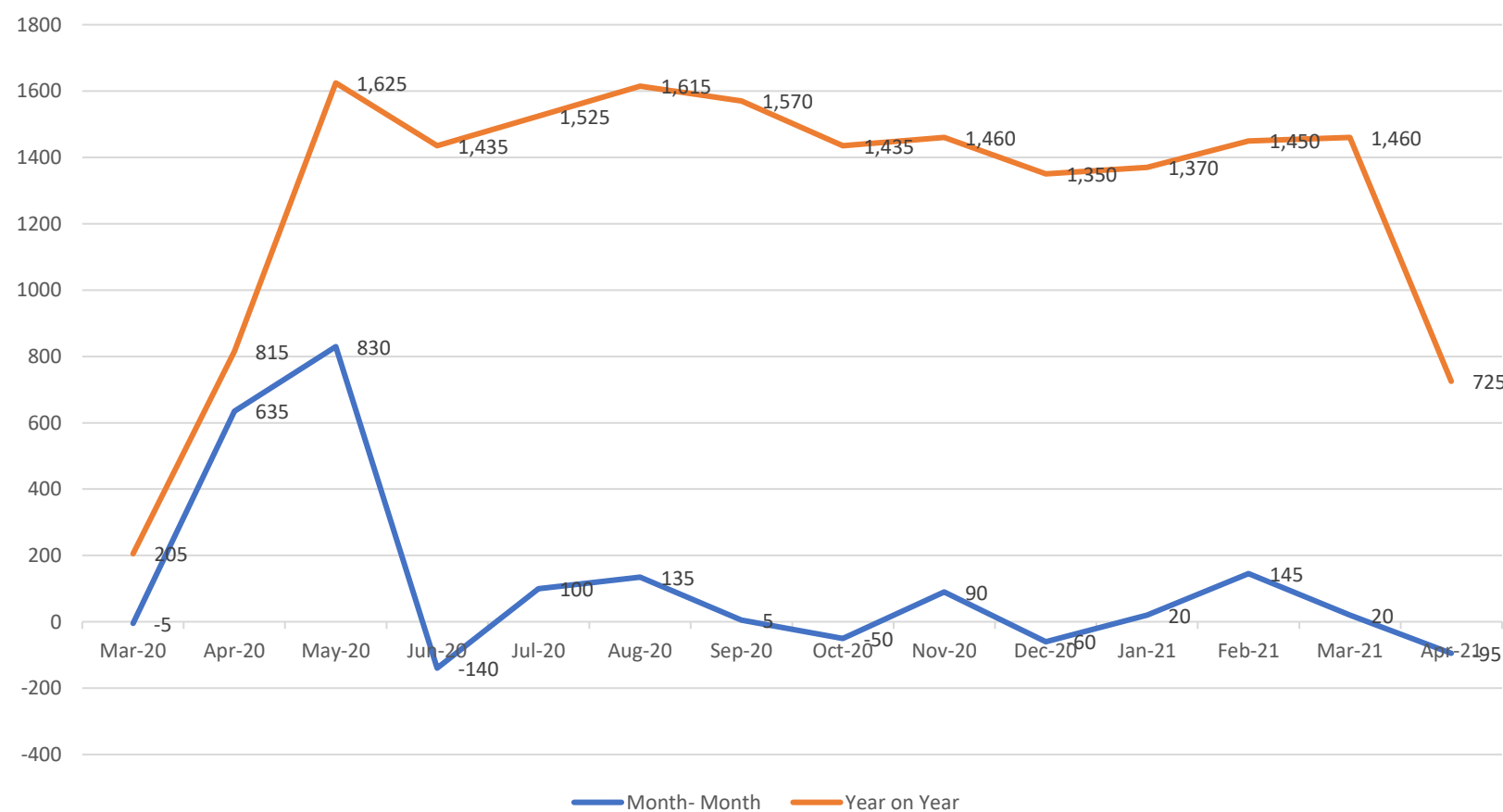


Table 3: Shows that Blackwater and Hawley recorded the highest at 5% for males. For females, it was Fleet Central at 3.60%. The highest recorded for both male & female was Blackwater and Hawley. Blackwater and Hawley was the highest previously, but it is showing a slight decrease.

**Table 4: Raw data of working age Unemployed Claimant counts in Hart**

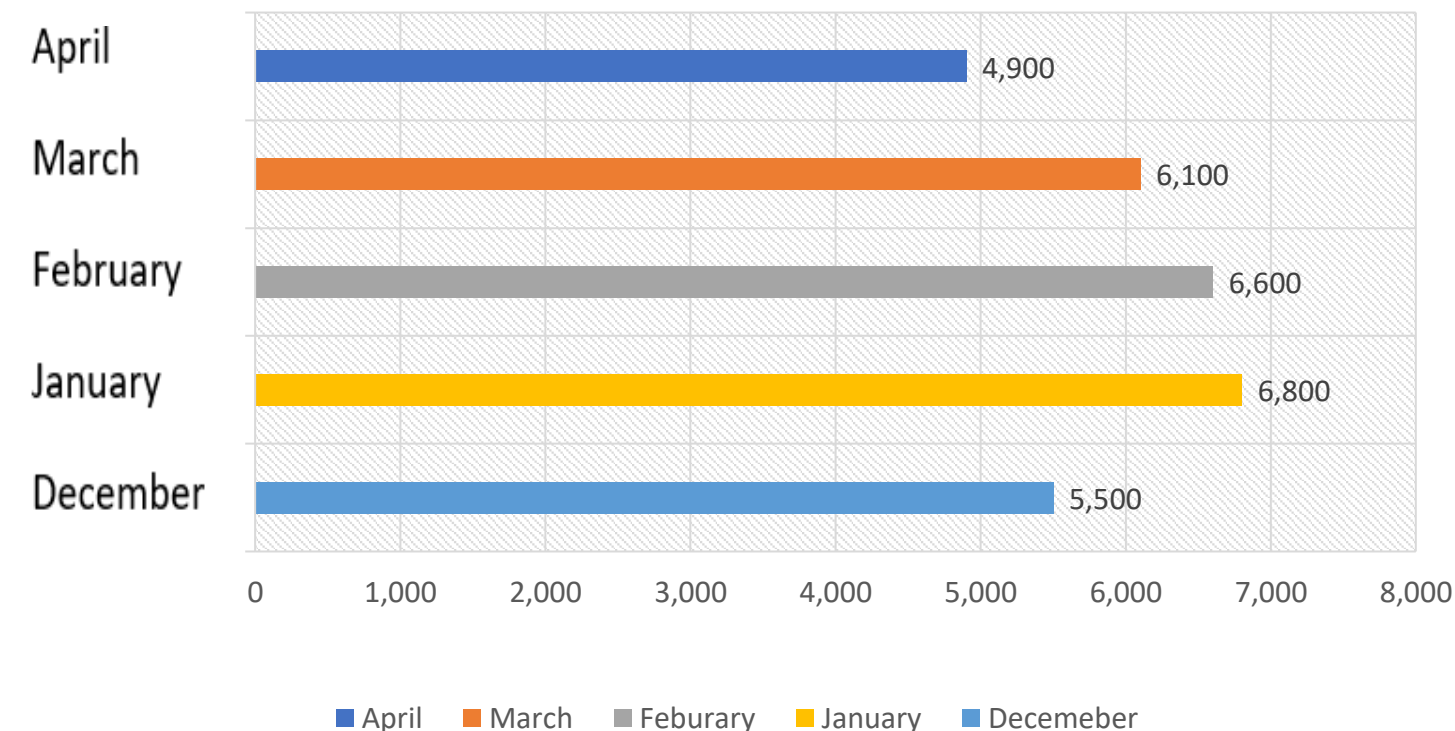


Unlike table 2 this table shows the raw number of Claimant Counts in Hart month-to-month since March 2020 and also year-to-year change since March 2020 specify looking at Hart in more detail.

Table 5 shows that there April 2021 has seen a reduction in both the number of people on furlough, and the UC rate for Hart. The UC rate has dropped across all wards, except Yateley West which has stayed static.

There are currently 1,860 Hart residents on Universal Credit. This is 725 more than this month last year, but the lowest year-on-year monthly difference for 12 months.

**Table 5: Number of Hart residents on the furlough scheme (From November 2020 to April 2021)**



There currently 4,900 Hart residents on furlough (reduced from 6,100 in March 2021).

## What has the data said?

Since gathering data in August 2020 there has been consistency showing that 18-24 year old were the highest number of growth of unemployed claimants. This was especially the case in Blackwater & Hawley, Fleet Central and Yateley East. However, these are very small changes between each ward. The data is showing that there has been a decrease in the number of people on the furlough scheme. Over time, this could mean that people are returning back to their work; or over the next couple of months, there could be some case of redundancies. However, below are some of the initiatives to support the data to help improve the situation, and be prepared for if the district does start to see redundancies occurring.

## What has been done?

### Job creation activities:

- We have regularly promoted the employer incentives and benefits for taking on apprentices to Hart businesses.
- The Hampshire Apprenticeship Hub launched with virtual drop-in sessions offered to employers.
- Launch of the Kickstart scheme
- Here for Hart campaign included employment and skills support web pages and social media comms
- Promotion of Hart Employment and Skills support via the community networks, social media and Vivid Housing – including a new food pantry/food bank and other key partners.
- April 2021 Hart into Employment virtual job club launched, with the first job success recorded in May 2021.

### Hartland Village Updates

- Hartland Village ESP – Feb 2021 launched their apprenticeship programme, the first cohort is due to start September 2021, with a new additional scheme launched June 2021.
- Also, Hartland Village has launched a virtual work experience programme that took place with 20 participants from the local Colleges.
- Hartland Village community training hub opened May 2021

### Support to businesses

- Continue to make referrals and promotion the Enterprise First partnership with have with them.
- Promote government schemes such as Help to Grow: Management & Help to Grow: Digital
- Enterprise were selected by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Innovate UK to deliver an exciting fully-funded programme for small family businesses based in the South East. There were limited spaces, but with the help of promoting this initiative through the Hart for Business Newsletter and on social media, they got two applications from Hart.
- Engaging with businesses to promote the Kickstart scheme.
- One of the reasons that we wanted to engage with the larger businesses in the district was to understand their situation and if covid had had a big impact on the businesses which could have resulted in redundancies. However, this is not the case. We will look to engage with these businesses later on in the year to make sure we are kept updated.

## Going forward

- Discussions with communities regarding funding opportunities for a hub space near the food pantry in Yateley for use of a range of activities including drop-in employment and skills support.
- Growth of activities and entry jobs on the Hartland Village site and use of the community training hub.
- Continue to signpost and promote available virtual training and skills programmes to residents, and the Kickstart and Apprenticeship programmes
- Pending youth hub bid outcome (Basingstoke resubmitted the bid with DWP changes and support on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> June) to enable targeted support for the under 25s which is the largest UC age group in Hart and surrounding LAs.