

Monthly Change in February: National Headlines -

The latest official labour market shows the unemployment rate continued to increase, though the increase is smaller than in recent periods, while the employment rate continued to fall. There was an increase for people who are economically inactive, largely driven by people who are inactive because they are students. Although total hours worked continued to increase from the low levels in the previous quarter, this increase slowed in the latest quarter. The number of job vacancies in December 2020 to February 2021 was 26.8% lower than a year ago. This is an improvement on the position in summer 2020 when vacancies were down by nearly 60% year on year, but the rate of improvement has slowed in the past few months. However the latest three months to February 2021 recorded small increases in the number of payroll employees although since February 2020, the number of payroll employees has fallen by 693,000 with the largest falls seen at the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

One year on from the first national lockdown and provisional monthly ONS unemployed benefit claimants increased for February 2021, the first rise since November 2020. This may partly reflect expectations of furlough ending in April 2021 as the claimant reference period pre-dates the March Budget announcement to extend job support schemes until September 2021, and highlights the degree to which the labour market is dependent upon job support schemes during lockdown. However, the numbers remain lower than the May 2020 peak following the first lockdown in March 2020.

Hart's Economic Dashboard

February Data as a Percentage

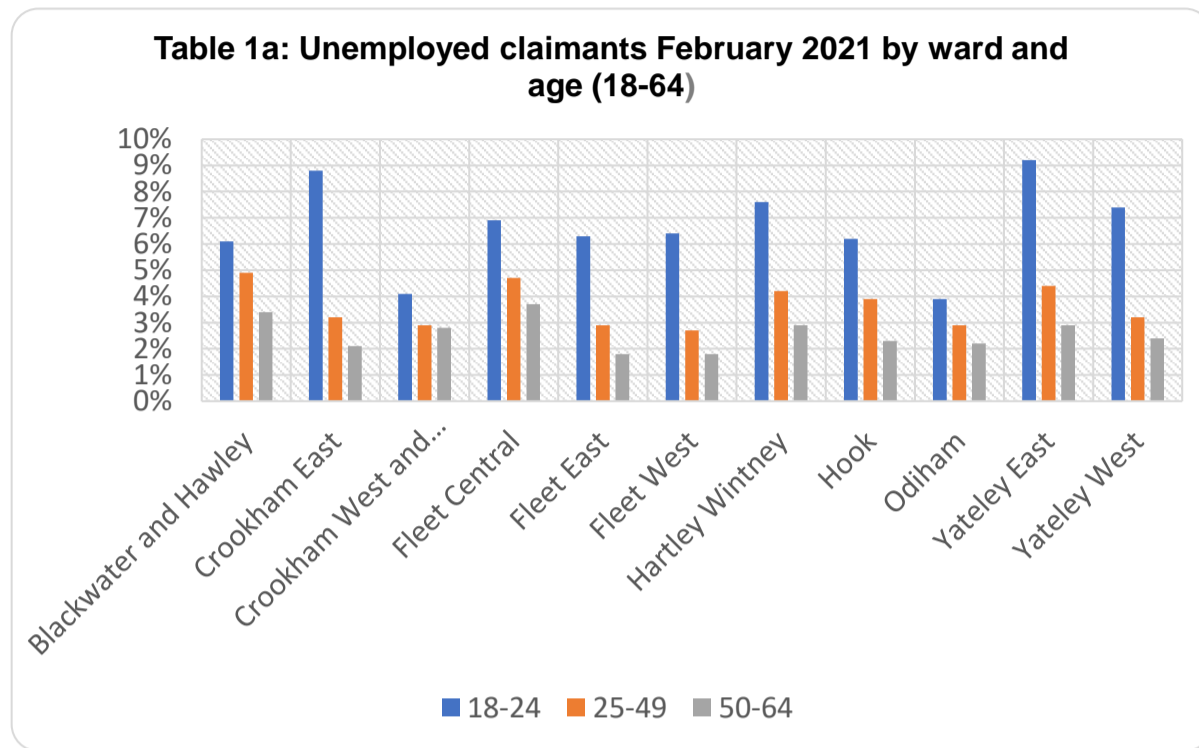


Table 1a: This month's report shows that Yateley East recorded the highest % between 18-24 year olds. Blackwater and Hawley was the highest for 25-49; with Fleet Central recording the highest % for 50-64.

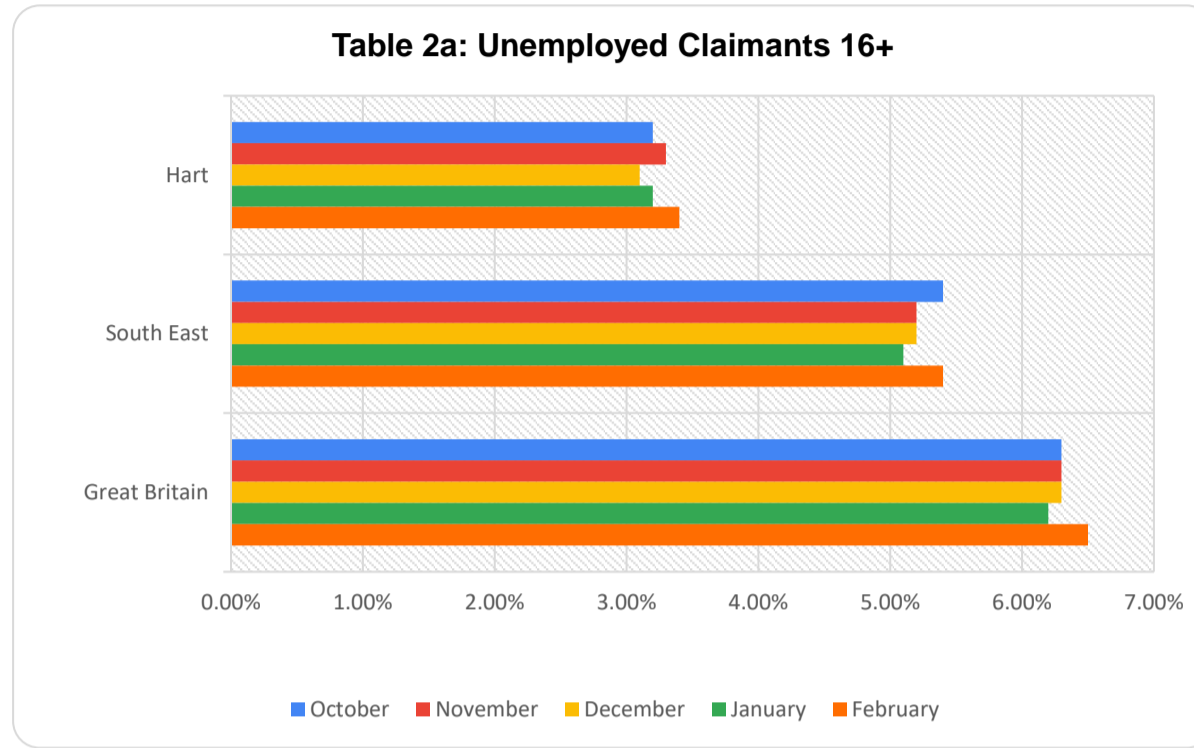


Table 2a: Shows the Unemployed Claimants 16+ in January. Hart recorded 3.4% - up 0.2% from January - which is again less than the GB and South East average. The increase – in % terms – was slightly less than GB and South East increases (both 0.3%).

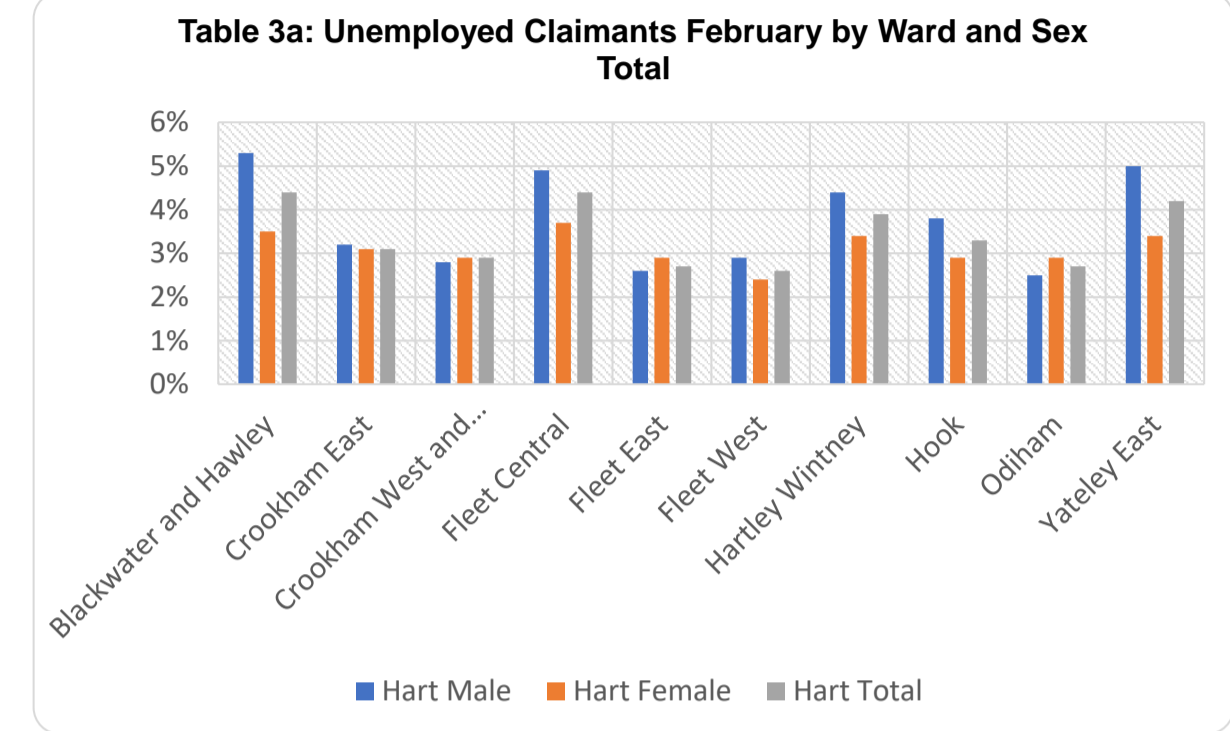


Table 3a: Unemployed Claimants February 2021 by Ward and Sex. Showing that Blackwater and Hawley, recorded the highest at 5.30% for males. For females, it was Fleet Central at 3.7%. The highest recorded for both male & female was Blackwater and Hawley and Fleet Central.

February Raw Data

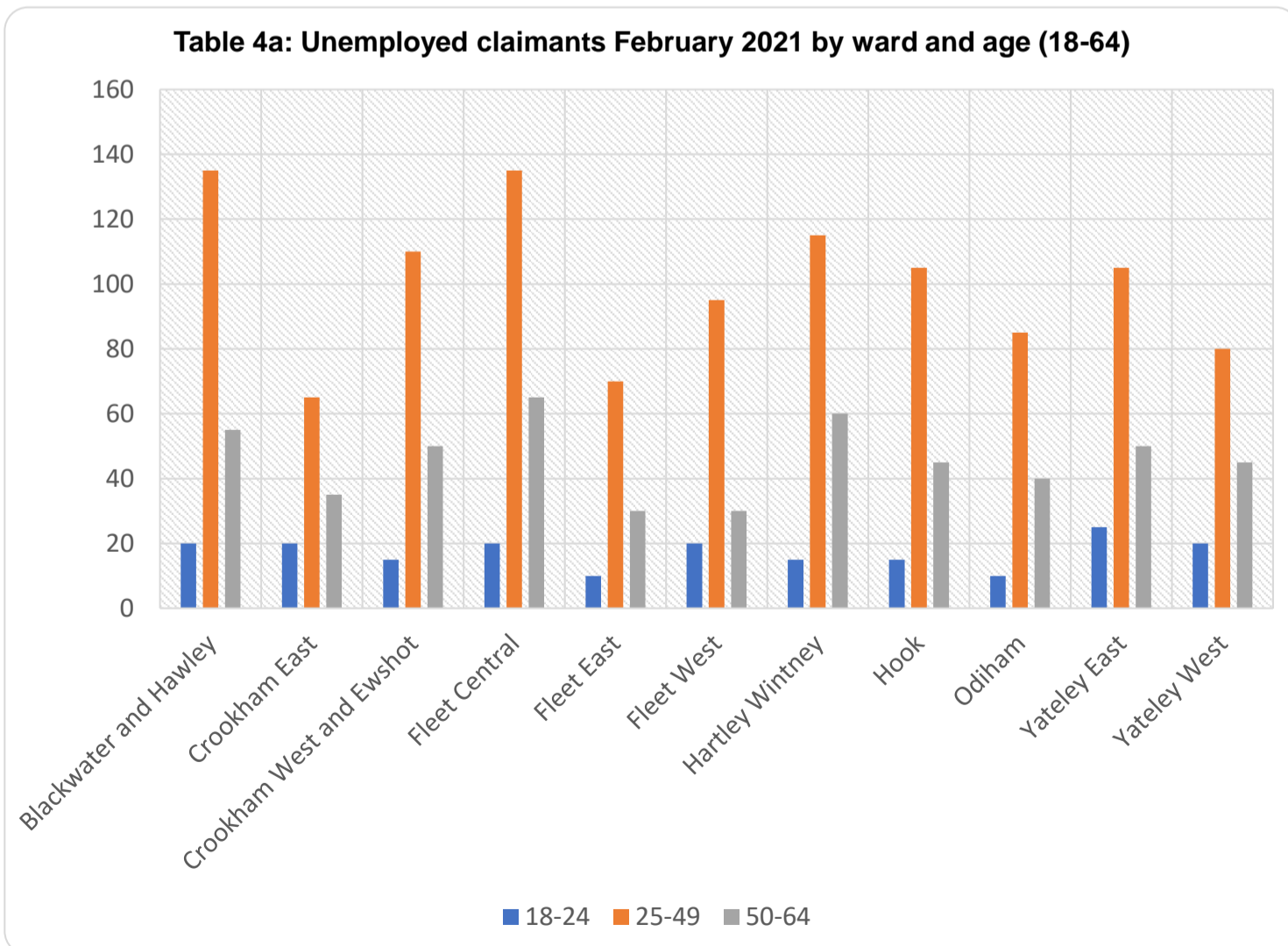


Table 4a: Yateley East had the highest raw number for 18-24 year old with 25. Blackwater and Hawley and Fleet Central had the highest raw number of unemployed claimants for the 25-49 bracket (135); and Fleet Central had 65 in the 50-64 range.

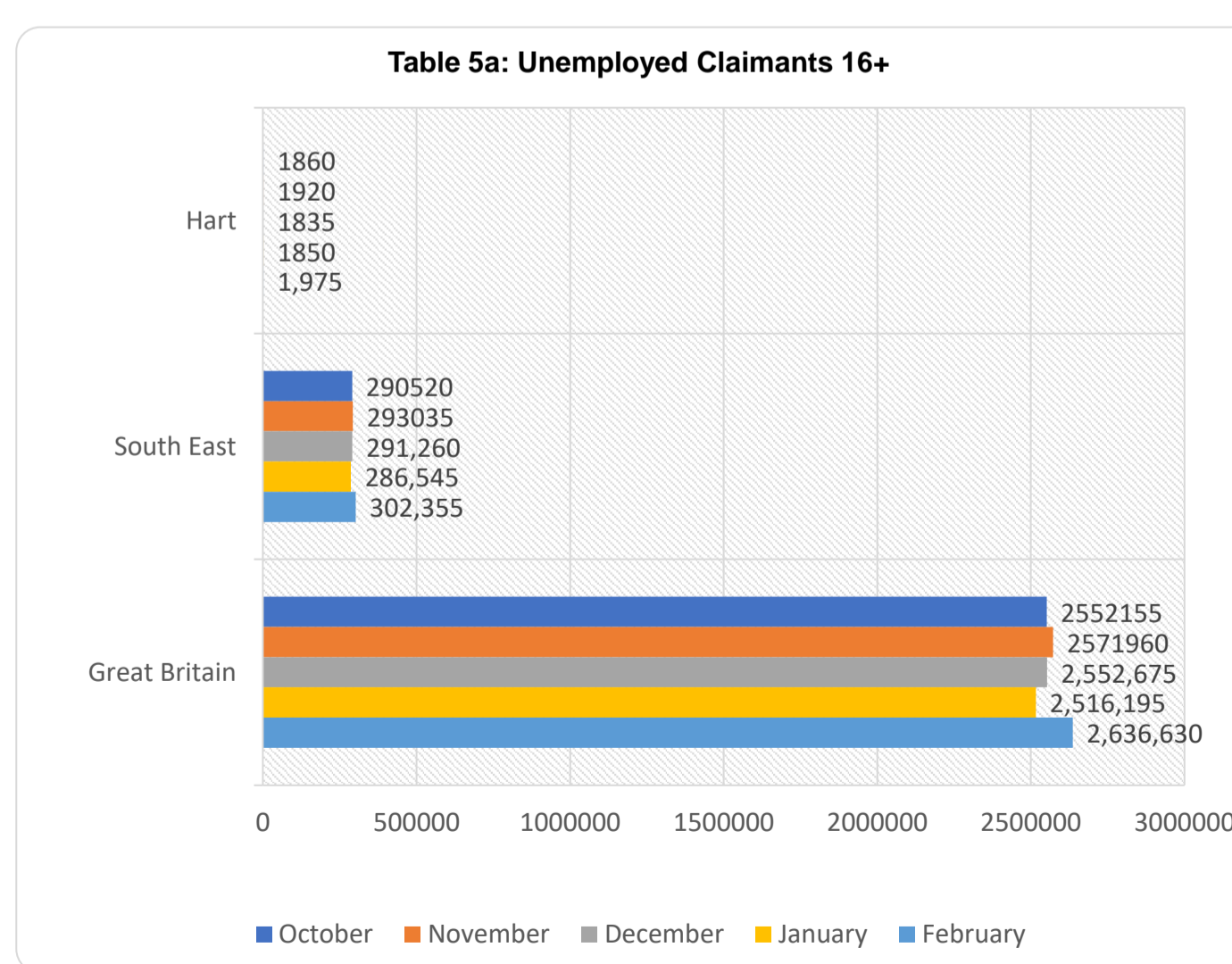


Table 5a: This graph shows an increase across Hart, South East and Great Britain, with all areas seeing their highest number since collecting this data.

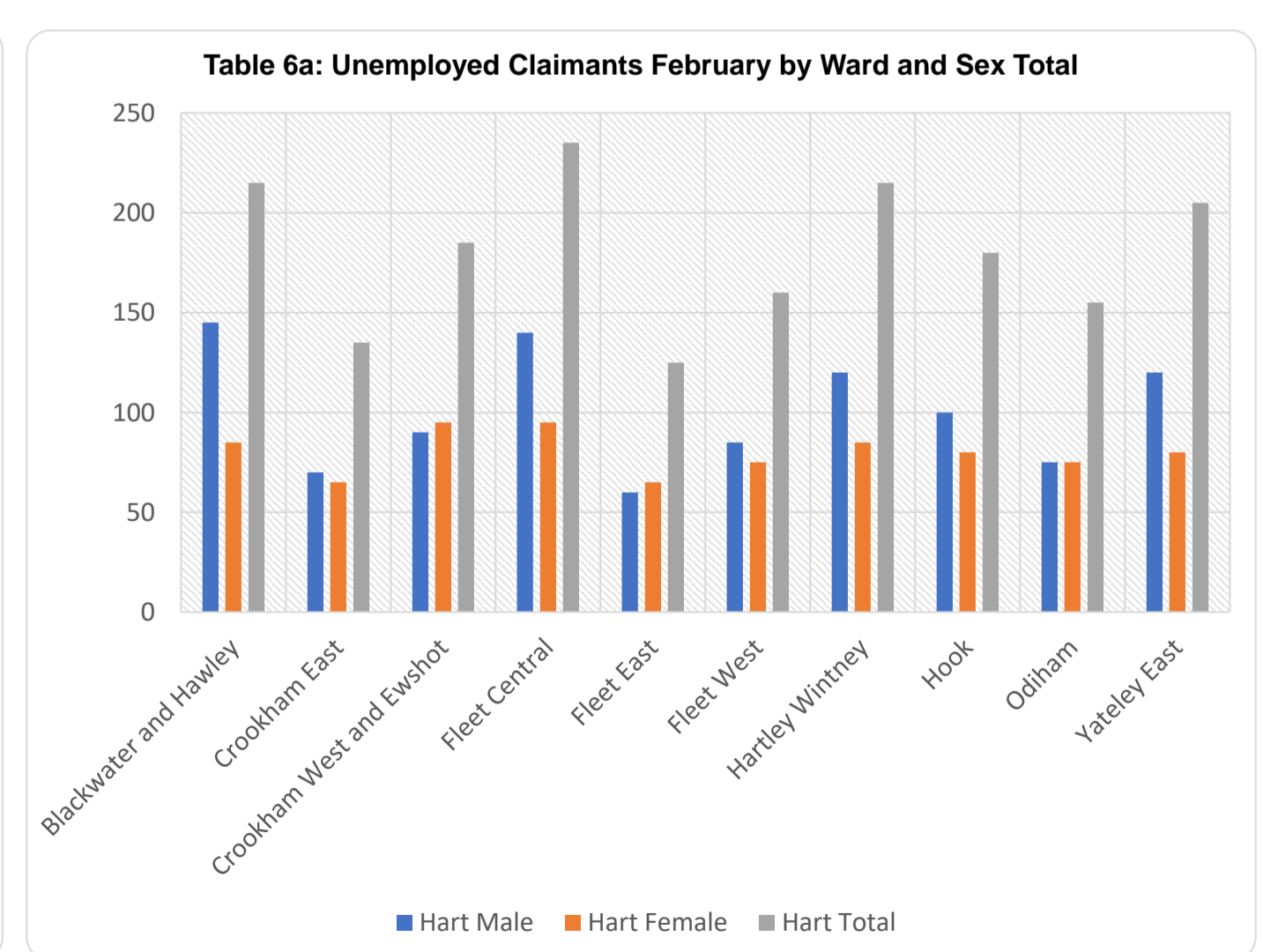


Table 6b: Blackwater and Hawley recorded the highest raw figure for Males (145); while Fleet Central and Crookham West and Ewshot had the highest figure for Females (95). With 235 claimants overall, Fleet Central had the largest number of unemployed claimants.