Job Seekers' Allowance Count in October 2009

Coventry's raw JSA Count fell by 136 between September and October to 11,294 or 5.8%of the working age population. This is 60% higher than October last year when the global financial crisis was at its height.

Seasonally adjusted, the JSA count in the city rose by 135 to 11,573 or 5.9%. This rise confirms the small increase in September and suggests that the labour market remains very weak.

The autumnal recruitment drive which started in September has been later than usual. It may well be that shop recruitment for Christmas has been reduced this year and the fact businesses have adjusted to having smaller labour forces.

In **Warwickshire** the unadjusted count fell by 411 to 11,700 or 3.6%. This fall is greater than might be expected at this time of year and the seasonally adjusted figures show this. Generally the JSA Count in Warwickshire has been more or less stable for six months. The seasonally adjusted JSA Count fell by 266 to 11,930 or 3.7%. The Count is up by 71% on a year ago.

The unadjusted JSA Counts for the Warwickshire Districts Solihull and Birmingham were:

District	Count	Rate	% Change
N. Warwickshire	1,447	3.7	+71.2
Nuneaton & Bdth	3,844	5.1	+67.2
Rugby	2,123	3.9	+72.0
Stratford u Avon	1,612	2.4	+98.3
Warwick	2,674	3.1	+69.9
Solihull	5,503	4.6	+81.4
Birmingham	51,182	8.1	+42.3

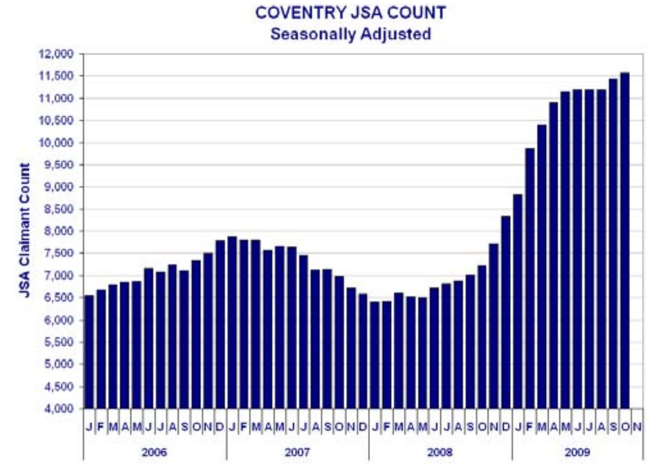
The **W Midlands** JSA Count rose, on a seasonally adjusted basis by 800 to 186,100 or 5.7%. This is 64.1% above last year. The regional count has been creeping up over the last six months.

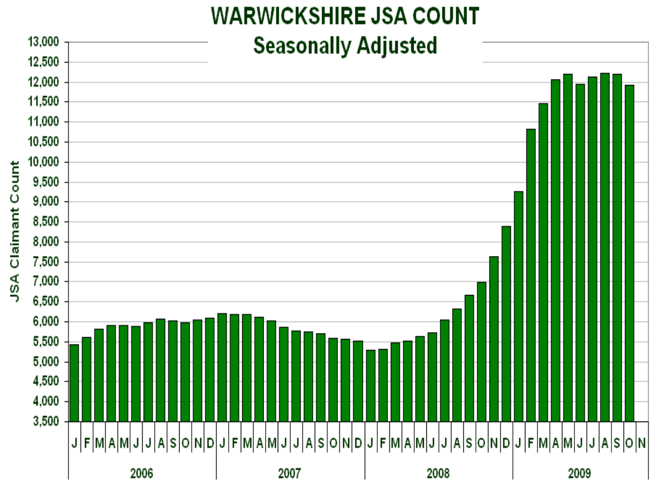
Nationally, the **UK** Count rose by 12,900 to 1,369,400 of 4.3%. This is 67% up on a year ago.

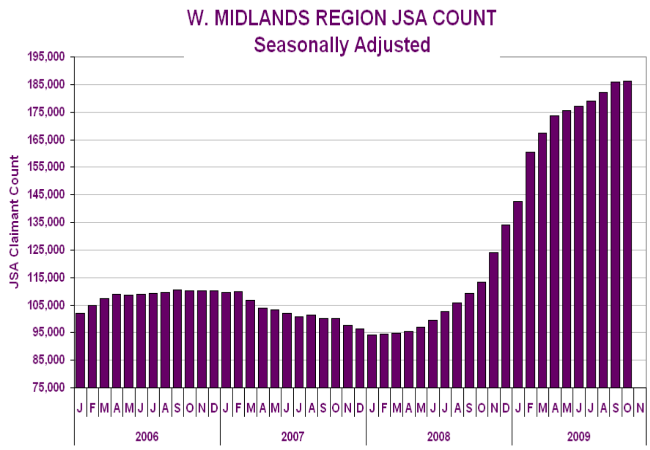
ILO Rates

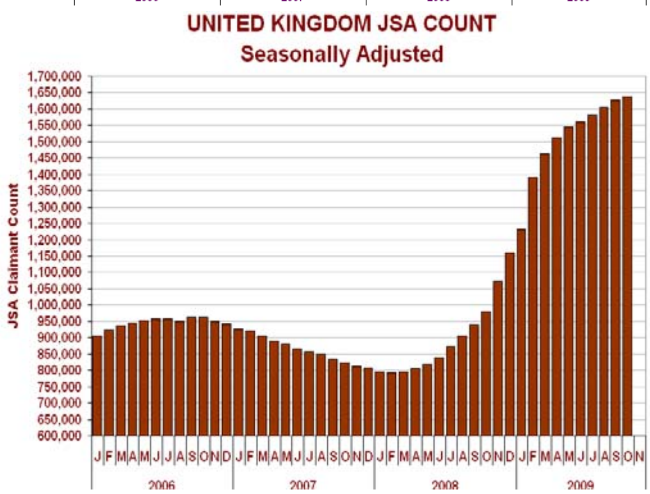
The JSA Count is the number of people claiming unemployment benefit. Another measure of unemployment is the ILO or international comparative rate which measures the number of people looking for work in the last four weeks. The figures are collected by survey every quarter.

The **West Midlands** saw no increase in employment levels but the ILO unemployment rate fell by 14,000 to 270,000 or 10%. The **UK** employment rose by 6,000 but the ILO unemployment rose by 30,000 in the quarter to 8.1%. Current sub regional figures are not yet available but for **Coventry** it is likely to be in the region of 11% compared to **Birmingham's** 13-14%.



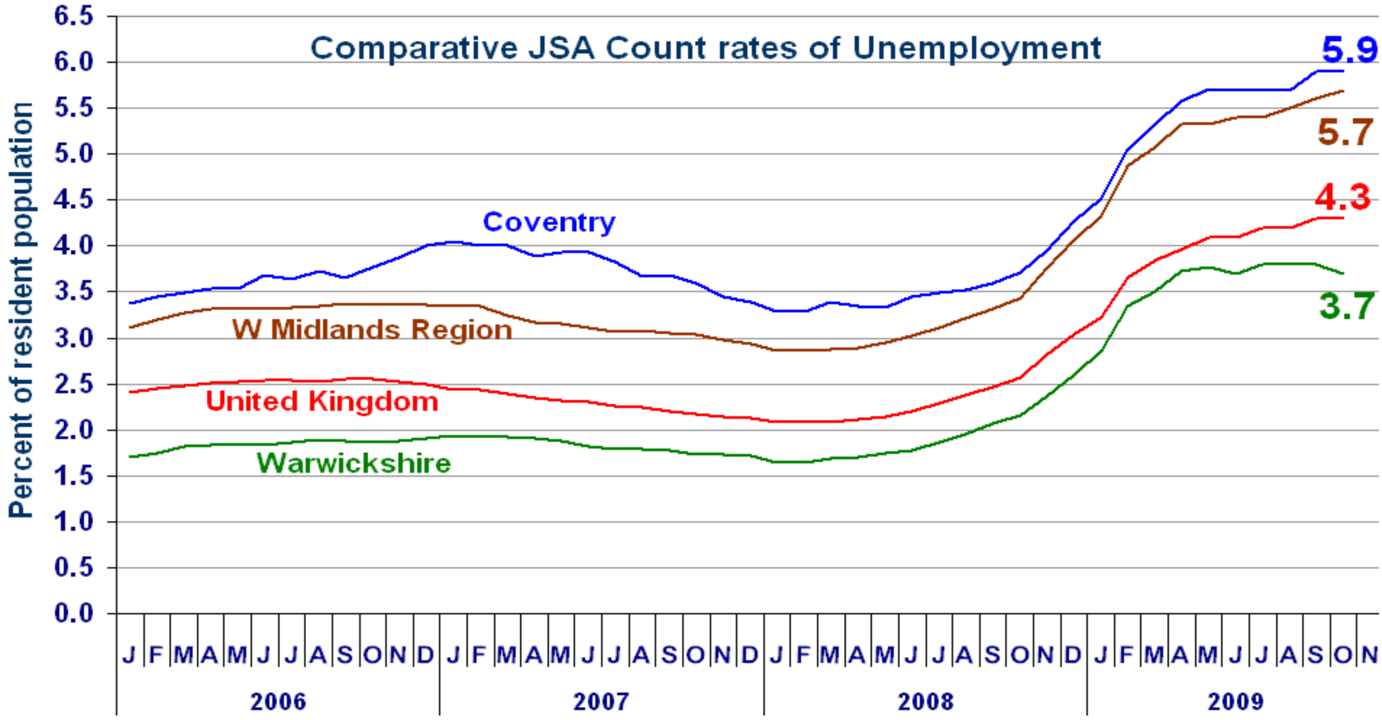






Comparison JSA Rates

The JSA Count expressed as a percentage of the working population remain near their recession highs with only Warwickshire beginning to see a dip. The gap between Coventry and the county has widened but remains the same for West Midlands and the UK.



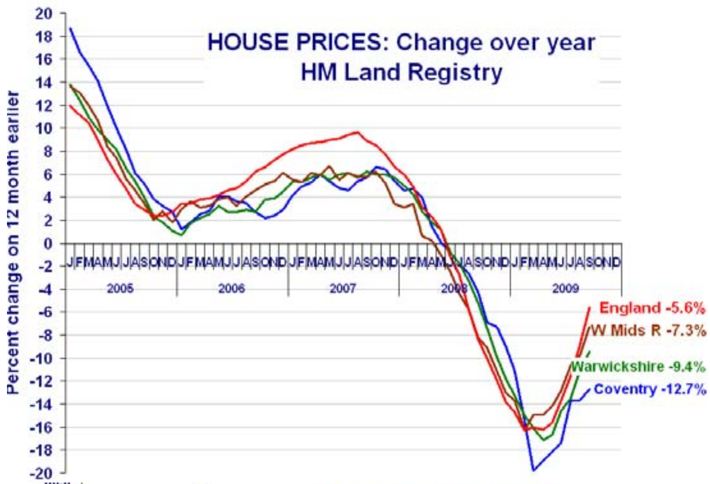
The housing market in the city – HM Land Registry figures for September

A key indicator in this recession is the progress of the housing market and the charts show that there has been an improvement. (It is important to not that below the horizontal line prices – volumes below a year ago.) The Land Registry collects data from all dwelling sales and is not skewed by large numbers through the use a geometric mean analysis.

Coventry prices are at £107,200 are off the bottom which was reach in the spring (£105,400) but remain well below 2008 levels – down 12.7% on September 2008. Coventry prices are following the national trend but are running behind.

The number of Coventry sales in July were 263 just some 3% below the level a year ago when the financial crunch was biting following start of the sub prime crisis and the run on Northern Rock. At 263, the volume of sales is only 46% of the level of September 2006. As with prices the city is lagging behind the recovery.

More generally, the recession has tended to freeze the housing market with potential sellers waiting for recovery to set in before put their property on the market. Builders are not building speculatively and mortgages remain difficult to get, especially for first time buyers.



Vacancies

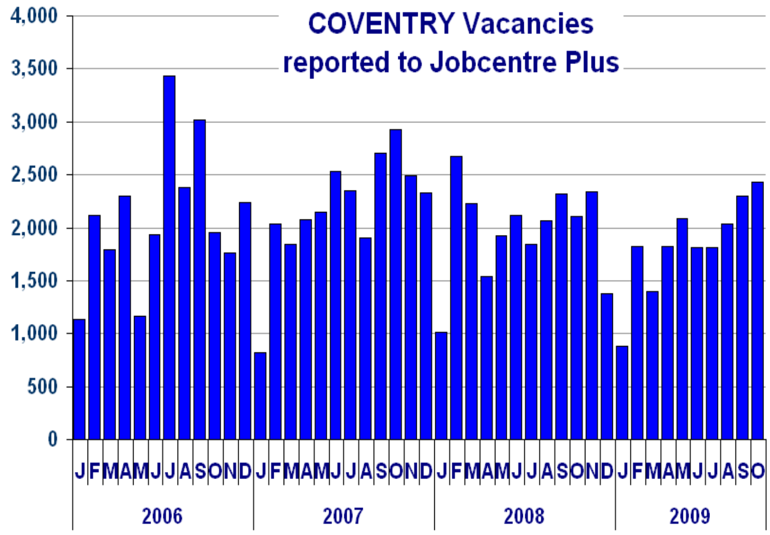
The number of vacancies reported to Jobcentre plus rose to 2,430 – up 128 on September. The autumn recruitment cycle is relatively strong confirming the CW Chamber of Commerce Q3 Survey that more firms are beginning to increase the employment levels.

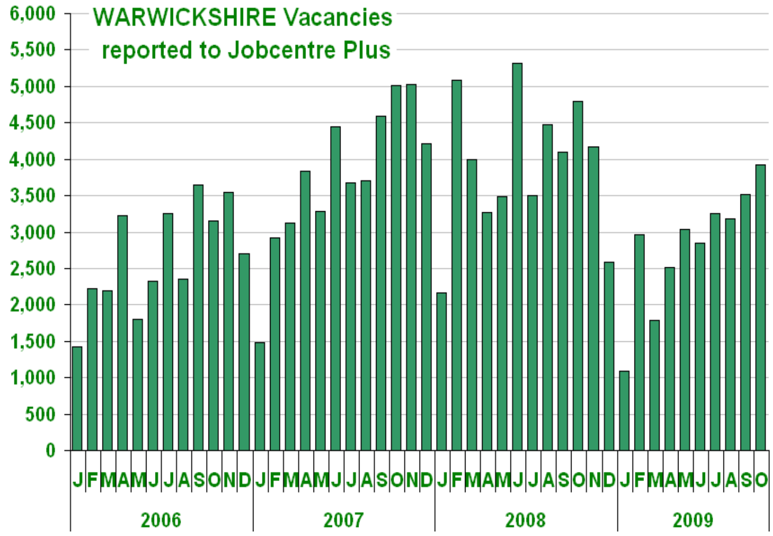
Warwickshire has also seen a general recovery in the number of vacancies but the number remains well down on 2008. In October there were 3,920 vacancies – up by 403 on September but 880 down on 2008.

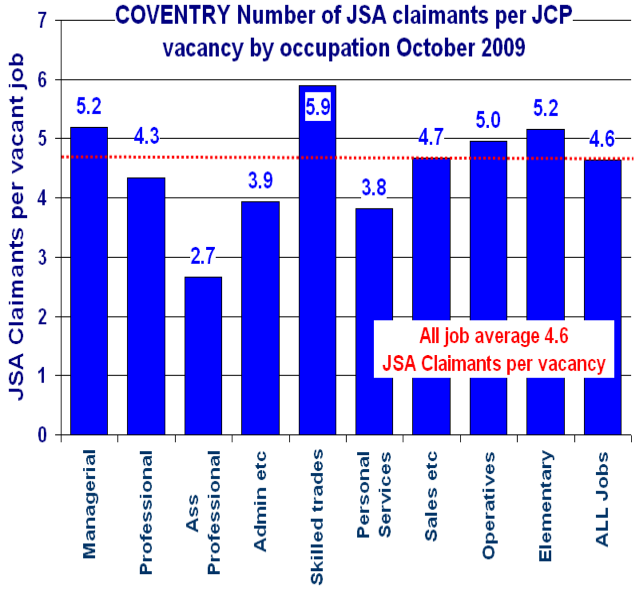
The number of JSA claimants per jobcentre plus vacancy in October was 4.6 compared to 6.2 in June. In Warwickshire the ratio was 3.0 compared to 4.2 in June. These falls are encouraging as there is some caution to recruit by many firms. During the summer, the Federation Small Business survey shows a marked weakening in confidence.

Skills remain a key issue for people getting work. 30% of vacancies in October 2009 were elementary jobs and had 5.2 per vacant elementary job per JSA claimant. Skilled trades which have suffered in the manufacturing cutbacks have just under 6 claimants after each vacant job.

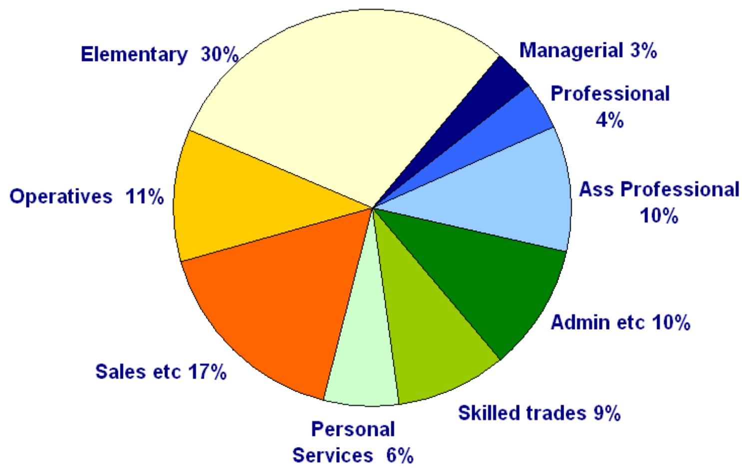
The professional, ass. professional and admin vacancies have increased the most in the last year and these sectors have below average number of claimants per vacancy.







COVENTRY: Vacancies by occupation
reported to Jobcentreplus
October 2009



Myles Mackie
Corporate Research Information & Consultation
11th November 2009

JSA Count		COVENTRY			WARWICKSHIRE				WEST MIDLANDS REGION				UNITED KINGDOM			
		Count	Rate	% change	Count	Rate	% change	Gap	Count	Rate	% change	Gap	Count	Rate	% change	Gap
	J	6,402	3.3	-18.3	5,293	1.6	-14.2	1.6	94,100	2.9	-13.5	0.4	794,600	2.1	-13.9	1.2
	F	6,416	3.3	-17.2	5,317	1.6	-13.1	1.6	94,500	2.9	-12.3	0.4	793,500	2.1	-12.9	1.2
	M	6,605	3.4	-14.9	5,463	1.7	-11.3	1.7	94,700	2.9	-11.1	0.5	794,300	2.1	-11.8	1.3
	A	6,526	3.3	-13.6	5,521	1.7	-9.7	1.6	95,300	2.9	-8.4	0.5	806,300	2.1	-9.1	1.2
	M	6,510	3.3	-14.7	5,637	1.7	-6.5	1.6	97,000	2.9	-6.2	0.4	819,300	2.1	-6.4	1.2
	J	6,718	3.4	-12.1	5,720	1.8	-2.3	1.7	99,400	3.0	-2.6	0.4	840,100	2.2	-2.4	1.2
	J	6,808	3.5	-8.7	6,043	1.9	4.8	1.6	102,600	3.1	1.3	0.4	872,400	2.3	2.0	1.2
	A	6,878	3.5	-3.4	6,315	2.0	9.7	1.6	105,900	3.2	6.0	0.3	904,900	2.4	7.8	1.2
	S	7,019	3.6	-1.9	6,673	2.1	17.3	1.5	109,300	3.3	11.0	0.3	939,900	2.5	14.1	1.1
	O	7,234	3.7	3.8	6,995	2.2	26.2	1.5	113,300	3.4	16.0	0.3	980,900	2.6	21.1	1.1
	N	7,714	4.0	15.7	7,632	2.4	39.3	1.6	124,000	3.8	29.3	0.2	1,071,900	2.8	34.4	1.1
2008	D	8,325	4.3	27.4	8,380	2.6	54.2	1.7	134,100	4.1	41.1	0.2	1,159,200	3.0	45.9	1.2
	J	8,831	4.5	37.0	9,257	2.9	71.5	1.7	142,600	4.3	50.4	0.2	1,233,000	3.2	54.4	1.3
	F	9,856	5.0	51.5	10,828	3.3	96.7	1.7	160,400	4.9	67.1	0.2	1,391,100	3.6	72.0	1.4
	M	10,405	5.3	55.9	11,473	3.5	105.2	1.8	167,400	5.1	74.6	0.3	1,464,100	3.8	80.8	1.5
	A	10,894	5.6	65.7	12,060	3.7	116.3	1.9	173,600	5.3	80.9	0.3	1,513,000	4.0	86.5	1.6
	M	11,143	5.7	70.2	12,203	3.8	117.7	1.9	175,500	5.3	80.7	0.4	1,544,800	4.1	88.1	1.6
	J	11,188	5.7	66.9	11,948	3.7	112.4	2.0	177,200	5.4	78.5	0.3	1,560,100	4.1	86.2	1.6
	J	11,186	5.7	64.4	12,135	3.8	102.2	1.9	178,900	5.4	73.7	0.3	1,582,700	4.2	81.7	1.5
	A	11,196	5.7	62.8	12,210	3.8	93.3	1.9	182,000	5.5	71.9	0.2	1,606,000	4.2	77.5	1.5
	S	11,438	5.9	63.0	12,196	3.8	82.8	2.1	185,900	5.6	70.1	0.3	1,626,800	4.3	73.1	1.6
	O	11,573	5.9	60.0	11,930	3.7	70.6	2.2	186,100	5.7	64.3	0.2	1,639,500	4.3	67.1	1.6
2009	N															

% = percent change over a year earlier
Gap = difference between Coventry & rates elsewhere