

Colchester Quarterly Economic Report



Issue 20: January 2015



Background information

This quarterly economic report for Colchester aims to give a better understanding of the Borough's economic makeup and performance in comparison to national and local trends.

The report also aims to inform policy-making through providing an objective understanding of Colchester's communities of interest and geography.

Data is included on a range of variables including:

- **Regional changes**
- **The demographics of recession impacts**
- **Unemployment**
- **Worklessness**
- **Levels of 16-19 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**
- **Housing market data**
- **News from the business and economy**

Due to changes and restrictions on data sets, there have been some changes in the format of the economic report from March 2013 onwards. Most notable is the removal of GDP data, and Jobs advertised and sought through Jobcentre Plus. In September 2014, Employment by Occupation data was added to the report allowing an insight in to the kinds of jobs people in Colchester are employed in. All data included in this report is the most recently available at the time of writing, including data on unemployment and worklessness, which is from May 2014.

In addition, each report provides a topical focus or briefing section highlighting particular issues or economic developments.

Thanks go to Essex County Council, Connexions Integrated Youth Services and Jobcentre Plus (Essex District and Colchester offices) for providing data towards this report.

For more information or questions about this report, please contact Jevon Harper in the Research and Engagement team at Colchester Borough Council (01206) 282314 or email jevon.harper@colchester.gov.uk

National Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) provides a measure of total economic activity in a region. GDP is often referred to as one of the main 'summary indicators' of economic activity, and references to growth / fall in the economy usually refer to the growth / fall in GDP during the latest quarter.

Official Government data shows GDP growth / decline by industrial sector (manufacturing, construction etc). This data does not show regional or local difference. UK gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 0.7% in Q3 2014 compared with Q2 2014.

In Q3 2014 the employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 73.0%. It was up 1.2% from a year earlier. For August-October 2014 there were 115,000 more people in employment aged 16 and over, compared with May to July 2014 – bringing the total number in employment to 30.80 million.

The UK national accounts are updated with new information annually, and methodological and classification changes, along with the output from the annual supply and use balancing process, are also included. The latest results are published in Blue Book 2013. Due to this publication, there have been revisions to quarterly GDP growth rates throughout the period since 1997.

Information regarding blue book revisions can be found here:

<http://ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa2/quarterly-national-accounts/q1-2013/sty-economic-growth.html>

Index of output, employment and hours since Q1 2008, seasonally adjusted, Q1 2008 = 100



Source: Office for National Statistics

ONS data, © Crown Copyright, 2014

Unemployment and Worklessness Data

Employment and unemployment (Jul 2013-Jun 2014)				
	Colchester (numbers)	Colchester (%)	East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All people				
Economically active [†]	101,100	77.4	80.3	77.5
In employment [†]	93,200	71.1	75.8	72.1
Employees [†]	80,700	63.1	64.2	61.6
Self employed [†]	11,800	7.7	11.3	9.9
Unemployed (model-based) [§]	5,600	5.7	5.4	6.8

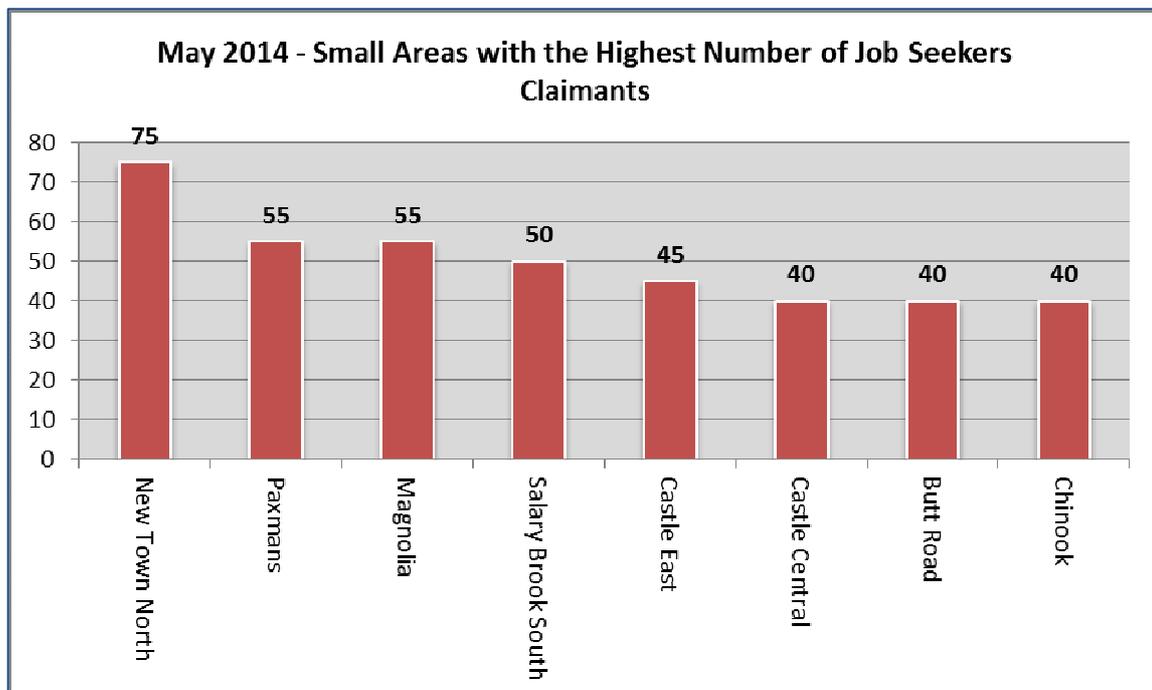
Source: ONS annual population survey

Sample size too small for reliable estimate ([see definitions](#))

† numbers are for those aged 16 and over, % are for those aged 16-64

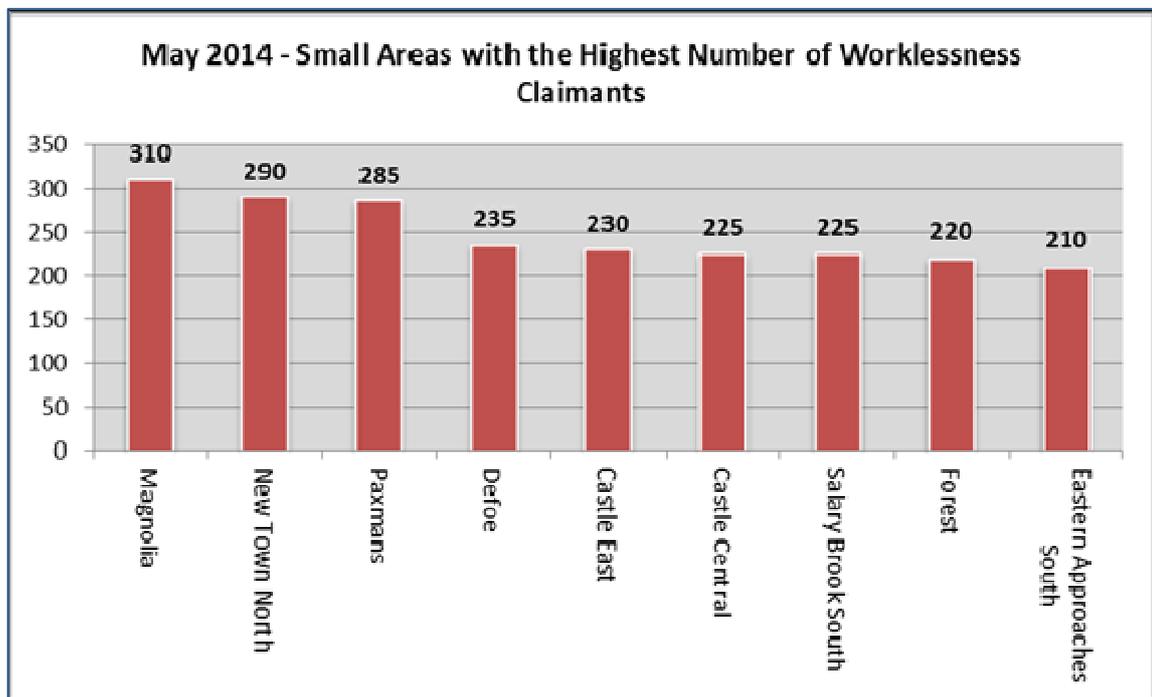
§ numbers and % are for those aged 16 and over, % is a proportion of economically active

The previous report, which featured employment data for April 2013 - March 2014, showed that Colchester had a lower unemployment rate than Great Britain (5.9% in Colchester, 7.2% in Great Britain), and a slightly higher unemployment rate compared to the East overall (5.8% in the East). Data above for July 2013 – June 2014 shows that again Colchester has a lower unemployment rate than Great Britain as a whole. The percentage of unemployed individuals for Colchester has fallen slightly to 5.7%, while the unemployment rate for the East has fallen at a faster rate than that of Colchester, falling by 0.4% to 5.4%. The rate for Great Britain fell by 0.4% when comparing April 2013- March 2014 to July 2013- June 2014.



Source: DWP NESS Dataset, January 2015

New Town North had the highest number of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in May 2014, as was the case in the previous economic report, with the number of claimants remaining the same at 75. Paxmans and Magnolia had the joint second highest number of JSA claimants with 55 claimants each (Castle East, Castle Central and Magnolia had the joint second number of JSA claimants in February 2014 with 60 claimants each). The number of claimants in Paxmans had increased by 5 since February 2014, while the number of claimants in Magnolia had decreased by 5. In May 2014 there were 4 small areas in Colchester with 50 or more JSA claimants resident, a decrease from 6 small areas in February 2014.



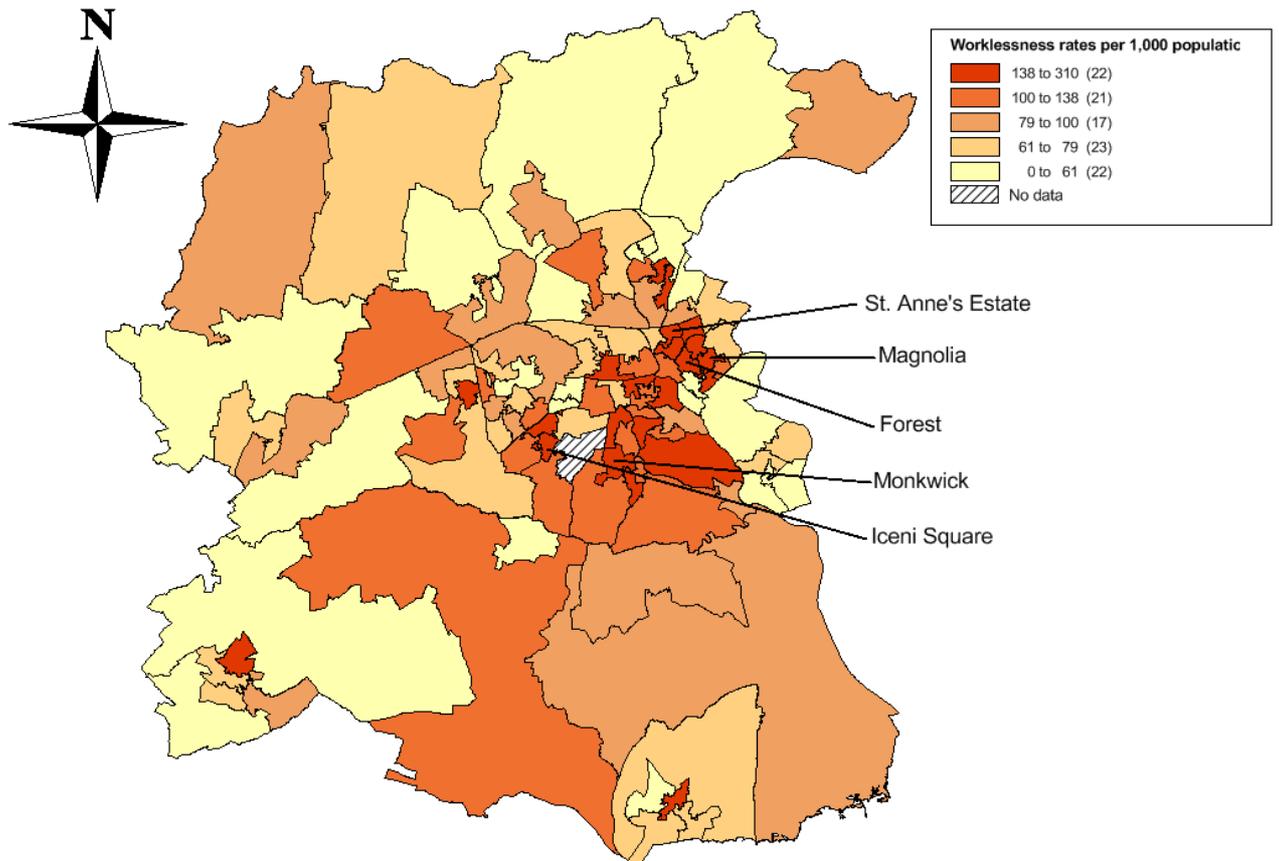
Source: DWP NESS Dataset, January 2015

In May 2014 Magnolia had the highest number of worklessness claimants (310), the same number of claimants since the previous report. There were 11 small areas in Colchester where 200 or more people were claiming worklessness benefits, a reduction of three small areas when compared to February 2014, in which 14 small areas had 200 or more worklessness claimants.

In previous reports Magnolia and New Town North have consistently remained in the top two positions in terms of total numbers of worklessness claimants (they just tend to alternate between first and second position in terms of ranking). However, in February 2014 the number of worklessness claimants in Paxmans overtook New Town North to become the small area with the second highest number of worklessness claimants. Since then, the number of claimants in New Town North has increased at a faster rate (from 280 to 290) than Paxmans, and has moved back to second. Overall, the small areas ranked 1st -8th in May 2014 have featured in the top 8 consistently from November 2011, they have just switched positions.

In addition a map of 'hot spot' worklessness areas has been produced for the borough, and can be found below. This shows a calculated crude worklessness rate, as a proportion of the total population of the small area, for Colchester. When calculated in this way the top 5 'hot spot' areas are; Magnolia, St. Annes Estate, Icen Square, Monkwick and Forest. These top 5 areas have been labelled for reference.

Crude Rate per 1,000 Working Age Population, Worklessness Claimants, May 2014

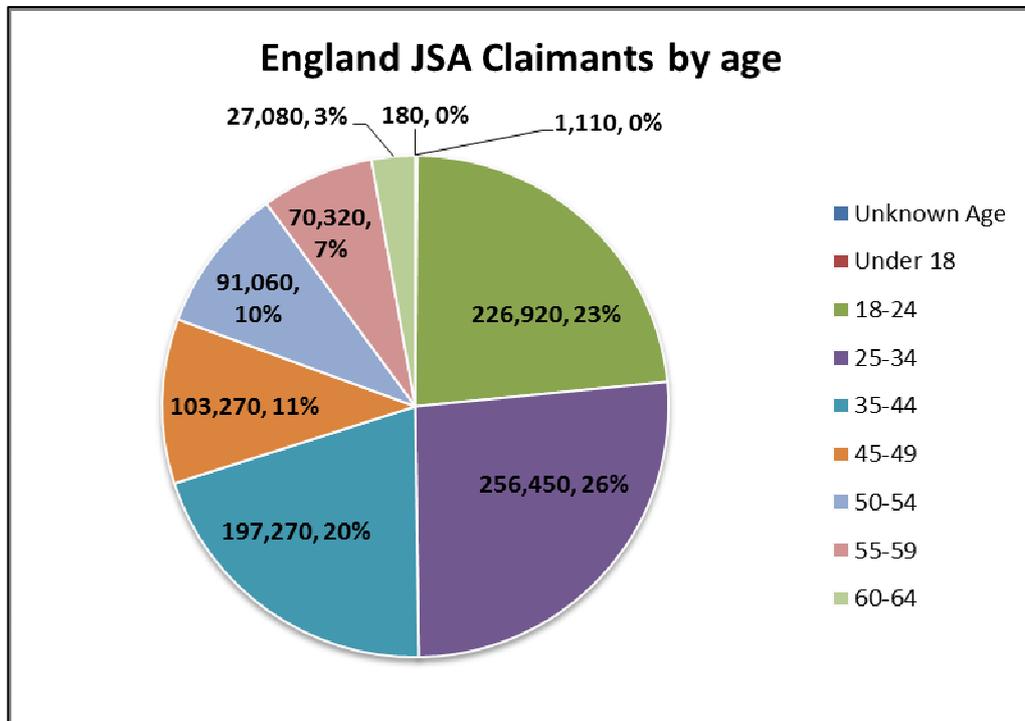


© Crown copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey 100023706.

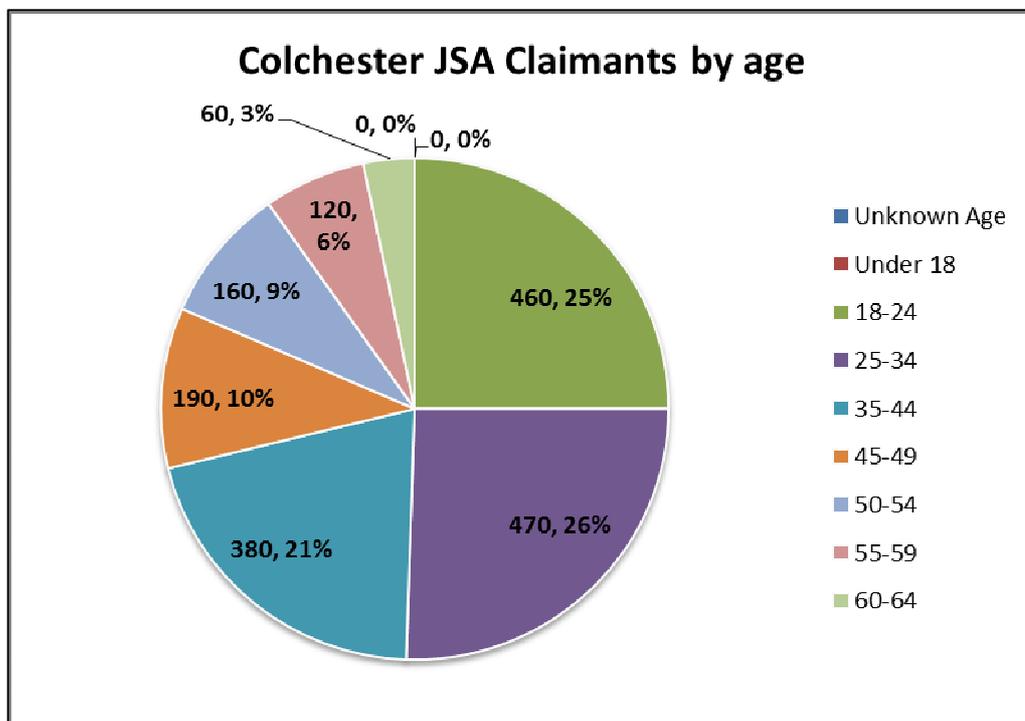
Source: DWP Benefits Working Age Client Group. LSOA rates are calculated by expressing the number of worklessness people as a percentage of the working age population from 2011 Census LSOA estimates (ONS). 16-64 year age group totals were used for both males and females – as working age split of 16-59 years for females was not available. Data for Alamein and Homefield Road small area is not available due to administrative changes with LSOA boundaries.

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claims by Age

In May 2014, the largest proportion of JSA claimants in both England and Colchester were the 25-34 age group, who made up 26% of claimants in both cases.



Source: DWP tabulation tool data downloaded January 2015



Source: DWP tabulation tool data downloaded January 2015

In Colchester in May 2014, the age group with second largest proportion of claimants were those aged 18-24. This age group represented 25% of total

claimants, equating to approximately 460 individuals. This is a change from the previous report, which featured data from February 2014, in which the 18-24 age group marginally made up the largest proportion of JSA claimants.

In both geographies the under 18s made up the smallest proportion of overall JSA claimants, but this may largely be due to eligibility. If they still live in the family home they may not be entitled to income based claims, and lack of previous work may mean they are not entitled to contribution based claims. The group with the second smallest proportion of claimants was the 60 to 64 age group, excluding those with an unknown age.

Employment by occupation

Employment by occupation (Jul 2013-Jun 2014)				
	Colchester (level)	Colchester (%)	East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2010 major group 1-3	41,100	44.1	45.2	44.5
1 Managers, directors and senior officials	6,400	6.9	10.6	10.2
2 Professional occupations	18,900	20.3	19.3	19.9
3 Associate professional & technical	15,800	16.9	15.2	14.2
Soc 2010 major group 4-5	22,600	24.3	22.3	21.4
4 Administrative & secretarial	6,900	7.4	11.5	10.6
5 Skilled trades occupations	15,800	16.9	10.7	10.6
Soc 2010 major group 6-7	14,600	15.7	16.0	17.0
6 Caring, leisure and other service occupations	10,600	11.3	9.1	9.1
7 Sales and customer service occs	#	#	6.8	7.8
Soc 2010 major group 8-9	14,800	15.8	16.5	17.1
8 Process plant & machine operatives	4,800	5.2	6.5	6.3
9 Elementary occupations	10,000	10.7	10.0	10.7

Source: ONS annual population survey

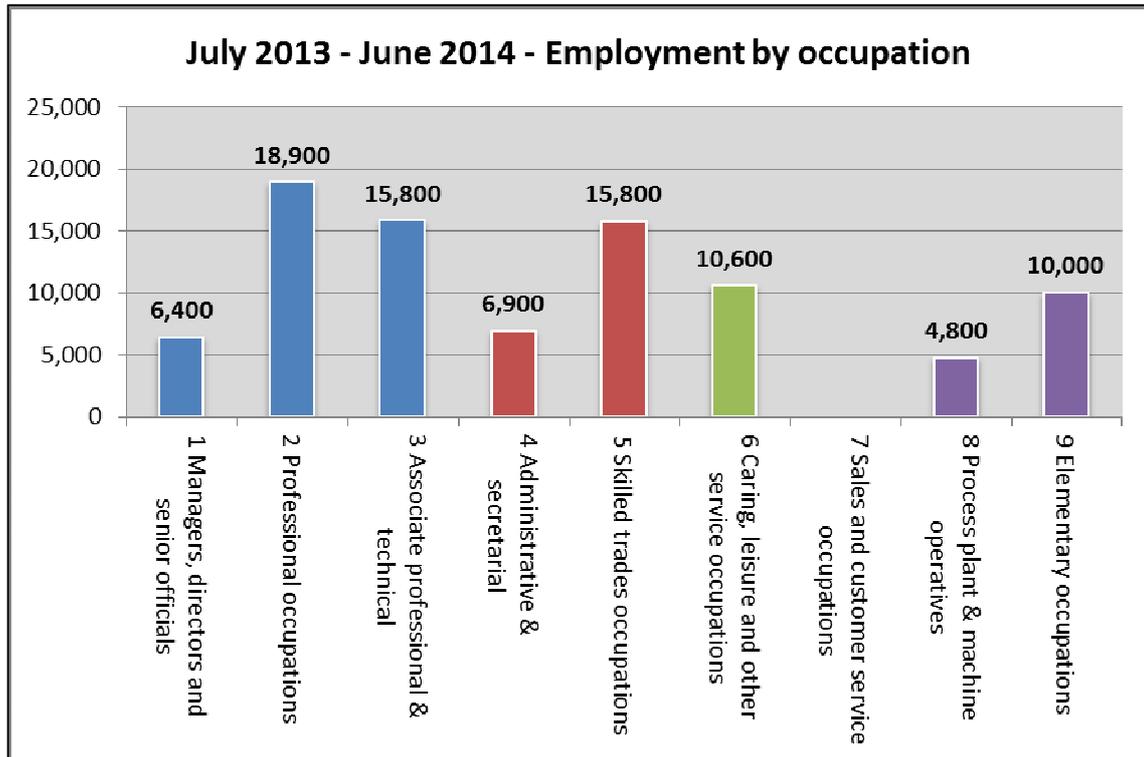
Sample size too small for reliable estimate ([see definitions](#))

Notes: level and % are for those aged 16+

% is a proportion of all persons in employment

The table above outlines the levels of employment by occupational groups for Colchester from July 2013-June 2014. The ONS have grouped various job titles into 9 major groups of similar occupations.

More details on SOC 2010 classifications and definitions, including the SOC2010 manual, and an in-depth index of the job titles assigned to each major group, can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-1-structure-and-descriptions-of-unit-groups/index.html#1>

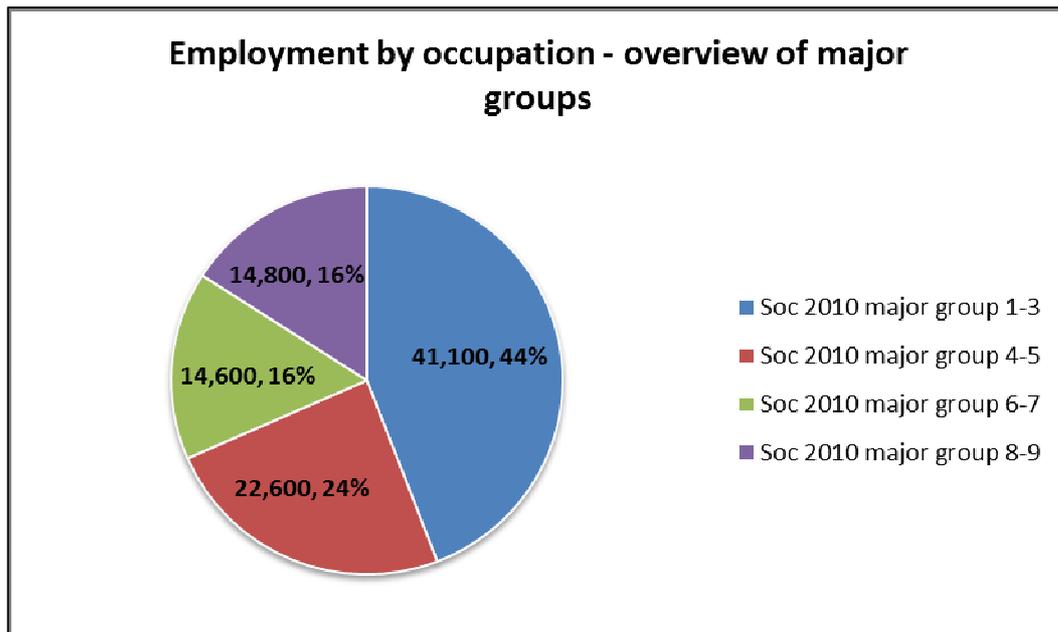


Source: ONS Population Survey, January 2015

When broken down into each of the major groups, those employed in Professional occupations make up the largest proportion of the workforce, with an estimated 18,900 people employed in these roles (this is a fall from 21,800 people employed in these roles in the last report, which covered the period of April 2013 –March 2014).

In the last report, 'Skilled trades occupations' was the second highest category with an estimated 16,100 people employed in these roles. This has fallen to 15,800, now level with the Associate professional & technical group of occupations, which has risen from 15,500 employees.

The lowest occupational group is 'Process plant and machine operatives', with an estimated 4,800 people employed in these roles, although this figure has grown from the 4,500 figure estimated in the last report. Please note, a figure for those working in sales and customer service occupations is unavailable.



Source: ONS Population Survey, January 2015

When grouping these major occupational groups together with similar occupational groups, we can see that the largest group in which people were employed in Colchester was the Soc 2010 major group 1-3, with 44% employed in these roles (a fall from 47% in the last report). This group comprises of jobs such as Managers, directors and senior officials, and those employed in professional, associate professional and technical occupations. Soc 2010 major groups 6-7 and 8-9 employed the smallest proportion of people, with 16% employed in each of these sectors (a rise from 14% in both these sectors as estimated in the last report), however, as already stated, data for those working in Sales and Customer Service is unavailable for Colchester.

Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Data

Please note that for district level NEET figures, adjusted figures are used, whereas the ward data uses actual NEET numbers.

When looking at changes over a two month period (October 2014 –November 2014), most districts saw a decrease in NEET numbers. In the previous report covering May 2014-June 2014 data, most districts had seen an increase in NEET numbers apart from Maldon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford and Uttlesford. In November 2014, the areas with the highest percentage of NEET individuals were; Tendring (7.3%), Basildon (6.0%) and Colchester (4.9%).

Between October 2014 and November 2014, there was a decrease of 12 individuals classed as NEET in Colchester. In November 2014 in Colchester, 4.9% of the total 16-19 age cohort were NEET, compared to 5.8% in June 2014.

NEET Adjusted Figures by District, October 2014-November 2014

District	NEET Adjusted				
	Nov-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Oct-14	DOT*
Braintree	4.2%	4.5%	219	235	↓
Maldon	4.6%	4.2%	104	97	↑
Chelmsford	4.1%	4.3%	233	241	↓
Basildon	6.0%	6.1%	390	403	↓
Brentwood	3.6%	3.6%	90	91	↓
Castle Point	3.7%	4.2%	121	138	↓
Rochford	4.2%	4.2%	131	133	↓
Colchester	4.9%	5.0%	287	299	↓
Tendring	7.3%	7.2%	351	348	↑
Epping	4.0%	4.1%	151	154	↓
Harlow	4.7%	5.3%	144	162	↓
Uttlesford	3.2%	3.6%	85	98	↓
Essex	4.7%	4.9%	2306	2397	↓

* Direction of Travel

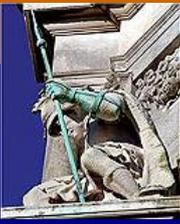
Data Source: CCIS January 2015

The table below shows the top 10 Colchester District Wards by number of NEETs, along with the percentage of the total NEET numbers in Colchester based in each ward. In the previous report, St. Andrew's, New Town and Berechurch had the highest proportion of NEET residents, with 38, 32 and 31 NEETs respectively. In November, the number of NEETs in St. Andrew's has fallen to 31, while Berechurch has moved up to second despite a fall in the number of NEETs to 29. Shrub End saw a rise of 7 NEETs to move up to third, while the number of NEETs in New Town had fallen by 19 to 13 NEETs.

NEET Actual Numbers by Ward, November 2014

Colchester NEET by ward		
Nov-14	NEET Total	NEET %
St. Andrew's	31	11.9%
Berechurch	29	11.1%
Shrub End	28	10.7%
St. Anne's	19	7.3%
Tiptree	17	6.5%
Highwoods	15	5.7%
Harbour	15	5.7%
Castle	14	5.4%
New Town	13	5.0%
Mile End	13	5.0%

Note: Data for other Colchester wards with lower numbers of NEETs was not available at time of writing.



Housing Trends Update

The Land Registry reports that in November 2014 house prices were up 7.1% from last year, albeit with a 0.1% drop in house prices from October to November 2014. The average house in England and Wales now costs £176,581. Over the past 12 months London has had the largest increase in relation to average property value – with a 17.4% rise. Data for the East shows a 9.5% rise from November 2013. Repossessions decreased by 40% between September 2013 and September 2014 to 674 compared with 1,117.

The most recent data available in relation to house sales shows that during September 2014, completed house sales in England and Wales increased by 5% to 73,552 sales, compared with 70,020 sales in September 2013.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) reports that gross mortgage lending held steady year-on-year in November and was an estimated £16.9 billion, down 9% from October's gross lending total but matching the £16.9 billion estimated in November 2013.

Additionally in October 2014, it was reported that first-time buyers took out 29,900 loans, an increase of 12% on September and of 14% compared to October 2013. These 29,900 loans are reported to be worth £4.4bn. First-time buyer lending was 10% up on September and 22% up on October last year (by value).

The most recently available Housing Trends Report (August 2014) reports that average prices for the year from April 2013 to April 2014 in Colchester experienced an increase in price of £11,682. This was the fourth highest reported increase in the Greater Haven Gateway, with the largest increase in Suffolk Coastal (£17,721).

In relation to lower quartile prices for flats and maisonettes across the sub region, Braintree showed a notable increase in prices of £14,000. Five other local authorities saw an increase in prices, including Maldon (£11,500 increase), Suffolk Coastal (£11,000), Colchester (£7,505), Mid Suffolk (£3,495) and Ipswich (£1,250). Two local authorities saw lower quartile prices for flats and maisonettes decrease, the biggest decrease being Babergh (-£8,005), followed by Tendring (-£4,995).

The average turnover of private housing stock in the region from January 2014 to May 2014 was 0.7%. All local authorities in the Greater Haven Gateway had the same turnover of 0.7%, apart from Babergh, Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal who had a slightly lower turnover of 0.6%. Colchester had the highest number of sales at 519 and the highest number of new build properties at 25. The low numbers of new build properties in most local authorities is notable, but particularly in Ipswich and Maldon where only 3 new build properties were sold in each local authority from January-May 2014.

Data available on the average number of weeks it took to sell a property was not available at the time of writing this report as Hometrack are in the process of reviewing the market indicator information they provide.

Data sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/november-2014-market-trend-data>

<http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/4110>

<http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/4103>

Greater Haven Gateway - Housing Market Trends
Quarterly Report – August 2014



Retail Sales and Spending

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports that in November 2014, the quantity bought in the retail industry (volume) increased by 6.4% compared with a year ago. The amount spent (value) increased by 4.3%. Non-seasonally adjusted data shows that since November 2013 the prices of goods sold in the retail industry fell by 2%, the largest fall since August 2002 (this is measured by the implied price deflator).

When looking at where money was spent in June 2014, for every pound spent in the retail sector 42 pence was spent in food stores, 41 pence was spent in non-food stores, 6 pence in non-store retailing and 11 pence was spent on fuel.

The non-store retailing sector consists of retailers that sell predominantly on-line or through mail order. Compared with a year ago, in June 2014 the quantity bought in the non-store sector increased by 14.4%. The amount spent increased by 11.9% in the same period.

Data sources:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_389386.pdf

Background

The purpose of the Employment Land Needs Assessment is to provide part of the evidence base for the Council's new Local Plan by providing the Council with an understanding of the current and potential requirements for employment land.

To help develop this understanding, the Council issued a tender in June 2014 for consultants to carry out an Employment Land Needs Assessment and appointed Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners to carry out the work. The Borough's Strategic Plan Action Plan includes a commitment to regenerating the Borough through buildings, employment, leisure and infrastructure. There are also commitments to attract investment. An understanding of employment land requirements contributes towards achieving these objectives.

As part of the Study, consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders including local commercial agents, economic development and business organisations.

Study structure

The study involved three main stages, in line with Government guidance on methodology in Planning Practice Guidance:

- Stage 1: Taking Stock of the Existing Situation: analysis of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the local economy, functional economic area, and an assessment of the fitness for purpose of a portfolio of designated employment sites.
- Stage 2: Assessing Future Requirements: testing the implications of different population/household growth scenarios on future employment space requirements for the Borough, with a focus on B use classes (office, industrial and warehouses) including latest economic forecasts and housing targets.
- Stage 3: Identifying a Site Portfolio: analysing the suitability and deliverability of sites available to meet future needs under each growth scenario, which sites should be retained for B uses employment and which released for alternative uses, and any need for additional sites.

The report takes into account the following:

- Economic Context– a review of current economic conditions and recent trends in the Borough and its economic strengths and weaknesses that may affect future needs for employment space;
- Overview of Employment Space– analysis of the current stock and trends of employment space in the Borough in terms of mix of uses, development rates, gains and losses, age of premises, and provision in adjoining local authority areas;
- Commercial Property Market Signals and Intelligence– a review of the local commercial property market, including the supply of and demand for different types of employment space within the Borough and the needs of different market segments;

- Review of Current Employment Sites Portfolio – assessment of the quality of current and potential employment land supply against defined criteria including its attractiveness to the market and its ability to meet future needs;
- Future Requirements for B Class Employment Space – estimates future employment space requirements for B Class sectors in quantitative terms drawing on employment forecasts and other factors;
- Demand/Supply Balance – assesses the balance between current land supply and future needs, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, comparing forecast requirements with availability of existing sites;
- Overall Conclusions and Policy Implications - considers policy and other measures needed to support the existing site portfolio and maximise economic growth in Colchester.

Key findings

Key findings from NLP on future requirements for employment land from the Executive Summary are detailed below:

“Four different scenarios of future employment space requirements were considered for the period up to 2032, based on a number of approaches which reflect economic growth, past development trends and potential housing supply factors. Two of these reflect an assumption of higher future economic growth in Colchester than the Borough has achieved in the recent past. The overall gross space requirements related to these different scenarios range from -60,075sq.m to 247,130sq.m of all types of employment space to 2032, implying in broad terms a need for between -21.0ha and 55.8ha of employment land. The majority of this spatial requirement relates to office (B1a/b) uses.

When compared with available employment space identified by CBC and the site appraisal process undertaken by this study, Colchester would appear to have sufficient employment floorspace in quantitative terms to meet future needs up to 2032 under all scenarios of future growth. However, this positive balance is highly dependent upon three Strategic Employment Zones coming forward for development over the plan period, with the remaining available land elsewhere in the Borough much more limited by comparison.

The pattern of demand and availability of employment land to meet future needs varies significantly across the Borough’s sub areas and key settlements, with Colchester town and the Northern Gateway Growth Area attracting the greatest levels of occupier demand but also accommodating a significant amount of available employment land. The Strategic Employment Zones at Stanway and the Knowledge Gateway are characterised by a more limited level of demand which in both quantitative and qualitative terms would appear insufficient to necessitate retaining the full quantum of employment land identified as available.

In response to this, the Council could consider rationalising the Borough’s existing and future supply of industrial space by seeking to concentrate this space in the Borough’s key locations and areas of strongest market demand.

Beyond these, a selective approach could be taken to condensing the Borough's portfolio of industrial sites, drawing upon market feedback on which individual sites and locations perform an important role and those which have proved less attractive to the market despite prolonged periods of marketing. In the more peripheral areas of the Borough where demand levels are weaker, it may be necessary to adopt a flexible approach to bringing forward employment sites by allowing the development of other higher value non-B uses on part of allocated sites, in order to unlock the site's potential and fund associated infrastructure works.

In light of the quantitative surplus of office land to meet future business needs over the plan period, there would appear to be limited scope for identifying/allocating new land for office development over the next few years in Colchester based on current levels of business demand and rental values/viability, particularly outside of key employment areas such as Colchester Business Park and town centre.

From a more qualitative perspective, the requirement for office space in future will be for better quality, modern space and to cater for small and start-up businesses. The focus for Colchester should increasingly be on retaining existing office employers and allowing for their expansion, alongside continued efforts to attract new office-based firms into the Borough through targeted initiatives such as the Colchester Creative Business Centre. A key challenge for the Council will also be to manage the shift from older, outdated office space to providing new space which meets modern business needs, particularly within Colchester town centre where some of the stock tends to be dated."

Next steps.

The Employment Land Needs Assessment reinforces the importance of reviewing the Council's employment land allocations to ensure they are appropriate to meet both anticipated market needs and overall spatial planning objectives. The next stage in the process is the development of a portfolio of sites to be put forward through the site allocation element of the Local Plan.

Call for Sites process.

The findings from the Employment Land Needs Assessment will also assist the Council in the determination of applications for new commercial development, particularly in cases involving the loss of B use floorspace. There is scope to lose some sites at the lower end of the range to other uses while sites at the higher end could expect to be successfully safeguarded by the Council.

Conclusion

The Study will support development of a new Local Plan which will address the implications of creating sustainable communities.

A link to the Study can be found by going to the following page and clicking on Employment Land Needs Assessment:

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/13329/New-Evidence-Base-Documents>

Free WiFi in Colchester Town Centre

Colchester town centre businesses, residents and visitors will benefit from 30 minutes of free WiFi a day, as part of an innovative project launched by Colchester Borough Council in partnership with Arqiva.

This development has been commended as a major step forward in enhancing digital services for the town, by providing public WiFi to streets and open spaces in the Town Centre.

The deal with communications provider Arqiva, offers 30 minutes of free WiFi services every day for any smartphone, laptop or tablet user, on top of any contract or pay as you go service. It will be available to access from 18th December 2014.

Independent of the 30 free minutes each day, users of the service will also be able to access Colchester Borough Council's online services, Visit Colchester and Universal Jobmatch for free at all times.

Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, Councillor Paul Smith said: "I'm delighted that we are launching this free WiFi scheme in the town centre. This is a significant step forward for digital services in Colchester.

"Whether you are waiting for a bus, having a coffee, or on the move around town you can take advantage of this excellent service for free.

"Free, fast access to Visit Colchester will be a real benefit to visitors, helping them discover all the local attractions the town has to offer. Plus unlimited access to Universal Jobmatch and the Council's online services will give residents the assistance they need when they need it most."

Paul Hellings, Director of WiFi at Arqiva said: "Staying connected when you're out and about is nothing short of a necessity and demand for WiFi services is only ever increasing. Working together with Colchester Borough Council, we are pleased to announce that the street WiFi is live, providing the local community with the ability to connect and explore online services."

Registration is easy, by going to: [_@ColchesterWiFi](#). The 4G-enabled service offers rapid Internet access with download speeds of around 10 Mbps. Once users have taken advantage of the 30 minutes of free time they will have the opportunity to switch back to their own provider or purchase extra time.

Because the service is also available to the Mobile Network Operators, the new infrastructure will help free up 3G and 4G mobile network capacity meaning that speeds will be higher in the Town Centre across all networks. The Project is one element in Colchester Borough Council's wider Digital Strategy which aims to improve connectivity for all residents of the Borough.

Tollgate Business Park office units almost full

Eleven of the twelve office units on the strategic employment site of Tollgate Business Park are now occupied, demonstrating that this premium location in the Borough is attractive to key employers, both relocating and inward-investing.

Occupiers include:

- Gateway Qualifications - the new name for Open College Network Eastern Region, an Awarding Organisation with over 20 years of expertise in the credit-based learning field.
- iSiteTV – a fast-growing broadcast and media company which moved from Clacton last year to purpose-built studios and now employs 45 creatives
- Push Energy – a solar farm developer
- Wizard Information Technology UK – computer consultants
- Henleys Surveyors – regional office headquarters for Essex and Suffolk

ACtronics moves to new premises for expansion

ACtronics who research, design and produce electronic automotive components have moved to refurbished, larger premises in Brunel Way on Severalls Park from their smaller premises in De Grey Road.

Supplying both main dealers and smaller independent garages, ACtronics Ltd services the UK market from their Colchester base.

The company manufactures components for its UK customer base, using equipment and technology developed by the R&D team in the Netherlands.

The move will help to facilitate the continued growth and expansion of the company who employ 12 staff.

UK Power Networks

UKPN, which owns and runs the electricity networks in the East of England, South East and London, has moved to refurbished premises in Brunel Way, Severalls Park.

The company, which was formerly located in Smeaton Way, employs around 70 staff and the move confirms the continued presence in Colchester of this major utility provider.

Polestar closes Colchester print plant

This major print company informed its staff in November that the Colchester web offset facility was to close in January. The declining B2B market and cost pressures meant that the facility could no longer stay open.

The plant which has been subject to continuing downsizing over recent years due to market conditions informed its 57 direct staff and 30 contracted in finishing workers from Aktrion that they would be made redundant.

JobCentre Plus and business advice and training company, TCHC, which delivers under contract the Rapid Response to Redundancy service, provided service talks to the workforce in December.

The loss of these jobs is a further blow to the Borough which was known until recent decades as a print location due to a number of large web offset plants employing hundreds of workers.

Census 2011



The Census 2011 for England and Wales was conducted on the 27 March 2011, and the first wave of Census data was released on 16 July 2012. At the end of January 2013, the release of Key Statistics (35 tables) and Quick Statistics (69 tables) for Output Area, ward, parish and parliamentary constituency geographies occurred. This data included information on national identity, passports held, qualifications, employment status and living arrangements. A more comprehensive list of data publications can be found on the Research and Engagement area of the website.

Overview Indicators for Colchester:

Indicator	Value
Usual Resident Population	173,074
Number of Households	71,634
Males	49.3%
Females	50.7%
Lives in a household	96.5%
Lives in a communal establishment	3.5%
Area (Hectares)	32,908
Population Density (Persons per Hectare)	5.3

Highest Level of Qualification Obtained:

Indicator	Value	Percentage
All categories: Highest level of qualification	141,427	-
No qualifications	27,440	19.4
Highest level of qualification: Level 1 qualifications	20,294	14.3
Highest level of qualification: Level 2 qualifications	23,629	16.7
Highest level of qualification: Apprenticeship	4,772	3.4
Highest level of qualification: Level 3 qualifications	19,572	13.8
Highest level of qualification: Level 4 qualifications and above	38,412	27.2
Highest level of qualification: Other qualifications	7,308	5.2

Level 1 qualifications: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills

Level 2 qualifications: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh*

Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma, Apprenticeship

Level 3 qualifications: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma

Level 4+ qualifications: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)

Other qualifications: Vocational/Work-related Qualifications, Foreign Qualifications (Not stated/ level unknown).

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) in Colchester:

Indicator	Value	Percentage
All categories: NS-SeC	128,562	
1. Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	13,711	10.7
1.1 Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations	3,443	2.7
1.2 Higher professional occupations	10,268	8.0
2. Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	29,004	22.6
3. Intermediate occupations	17,418	13.5
4. Small employers and own account workers	11,684	9.1
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	8,154	6.3
6. Semi-routine occupations	18,241	14.2
7. Routine occupations	11,087	8.6
8. Never worked and long-term unemployed	4,881	3.8

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation. It is an Office for National Statistics standard classification.

Of all employees in Colchester:

- **11.3%** work 15 hours or fewer a week
- **18.9%** work between 16 and 30 hours a week
- **54.9%** work between 31 and 48 hours a week
- **15.0%** work 49 hours or more

On Census day **3.8%** of people over 16 years of age in Colchester were described as having never worked and being long-term unemployed. This is lower than the England and Wales average of **5.6%**.

To view the ONS website for the Census please visit:

www.ons.gov.uk/census

Keep up to date with local Census developments at:

http://www.colchester.gov.uk/census_2011