

# Impact of COVID on Suffolk



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## Note on Data

- The objective of this report is to provide an overview of the local picture of the impact of COVID-19.
- This report is based on both publicly available as well as internal data and information.
- Published data, such as from ONS, HMRC, DWP, etc. are not always timely or available at lower geographical levels and therefore this report may seem incomplete or out of date in some areas due to the lack of up-to-date and / or local data.

## Key Findings

- The health burden of COVID-19 on our Suffolk communities has been very significant overall, with over 1,700 deaths being registered (as at 17<sup>th</sup> Dec). However, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on certain groups, with those aged over 65, women, those classed as overweight / obese, and those in lower socio-economic groups, being more affected by COVID.
- At the beginning of 2022, 81% of eligible Suffolk residents had received their second dose of a COVID vaccine, though rates fluctuate, for example with men lagging behind women and those in more deprived areas also being less likely to be vaccinated. Also, 71% of 18+ eligible residents had received a booster by the start of this year.
- Latest research by Suffolk Mind has found that the number of people susceptible to stress or mental ill health has doubled since March 2020. Those who are not working or are younger are more likely to be susceptible to stress or mental ill health since the pandemic started.
- COVID-19 and the measures brought in place to deal with the pandemic, had a significant negative impact on Suffolk's and the nation's workforce, businesses and the economy. Employment, earnings and benefits are three of the four drivers commonly causing changes in poverty and these have been impacted negatively by the pandemic; across Suffolk, since March 2020...
  - the number of residents relying on benefits has increased by 78%.
  - those classed as 'unemployed' by DWP have increased by 30%.
  - in-work UC claimants have increased by 101%.
  - numbers of UC claimants have increased across all age groups and employment indicators.
  - there are indications that those becoming unemployed during the pandemic have moved quickly back into work – which has impacted significantly on those that were already unemployed pre-COVID staying on UC longer, i.e. finding it harder to get back into employment than those with more recent work experience.
  - the median pay gap between England and Suffolk stood at £40 per week.
- Though numbers decreased across 2021, foodbanks still distributed 5,614 food parcels (helping over 4,000 people) in October 2021.
- Between 2019 and 2021 the number of jobs in Suffolk increased by 7.6% compared to 1.2% national average. And most of the key sectors new job postings were in line or higher in Dec 2021 than pre-COVID. It could be that, though more jobs are available, these are lower paid or part-time – still affecting UC claimant and unemployment numbers, but we need more data to understand how the increased job postings affect these numbers.

The image features a white background with two teal-colored geometric shapes. On the left, there is a large teal trapezoid that tapers towards the right. On the right side, there is a smaller teal triangle that tapers towards the left. The text 'Health, Wellbeing & Communities' is centered between these two shapes.

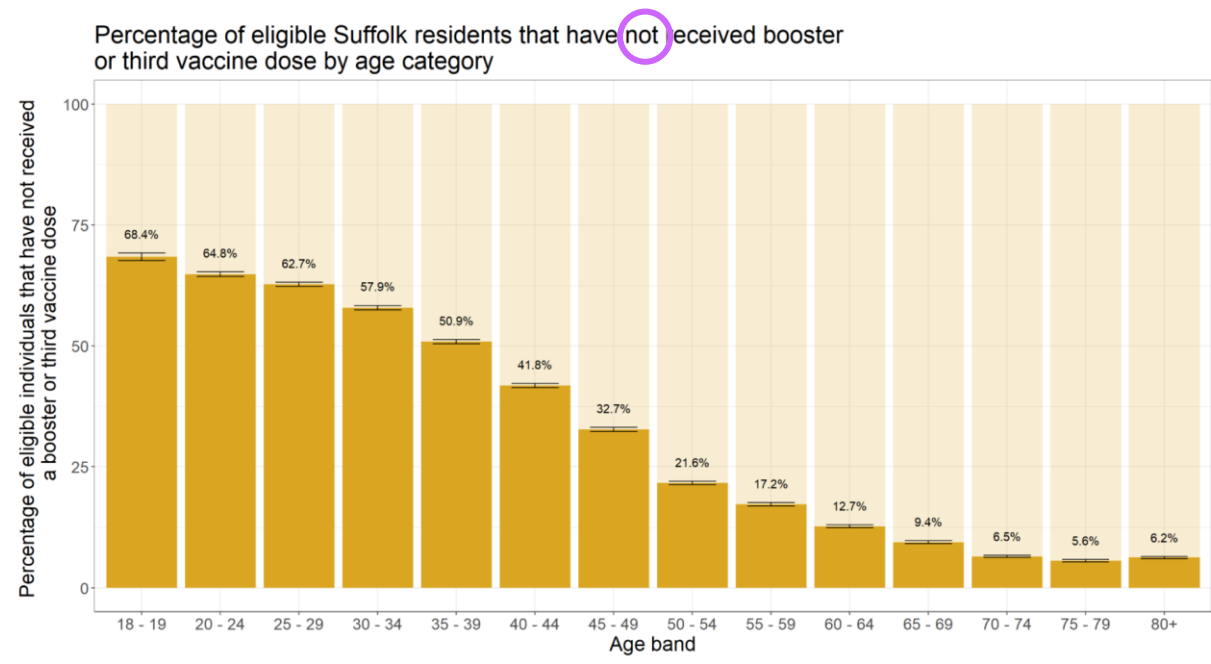
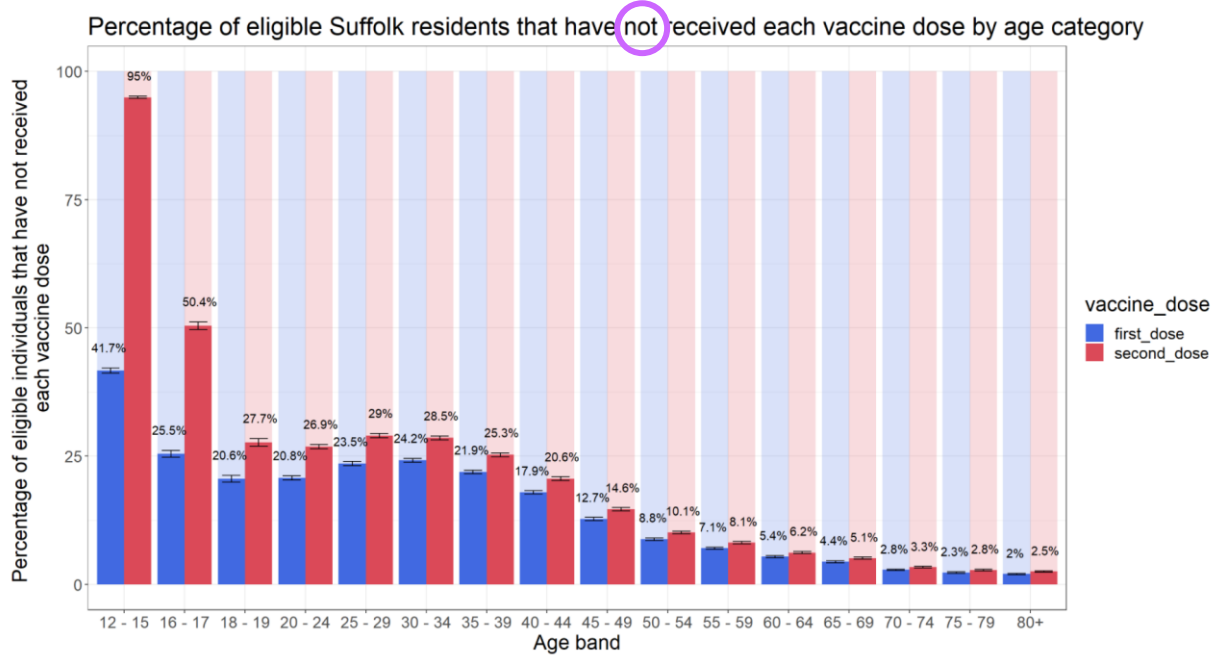
Health, Wellbeing & Communities

# The health burden of COVID-19 on our Suffolk communities has been very significant

	Total no of confirmed cases	Total no of registered deaths (death rate per 100,000 pop.)
<b>Babergh</b>	14,194	251 (272.7)
<b>East Suffolk</b>	35,716	637 (255.4)
<b>Ipswich</b>	25,413	377 (275.4)
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	14,638	223 (214.6)
<b>West Suffolk</b>	26,379	255 (142.4)
<b>Suffolk</b>	116,340	1,743 (228.9)

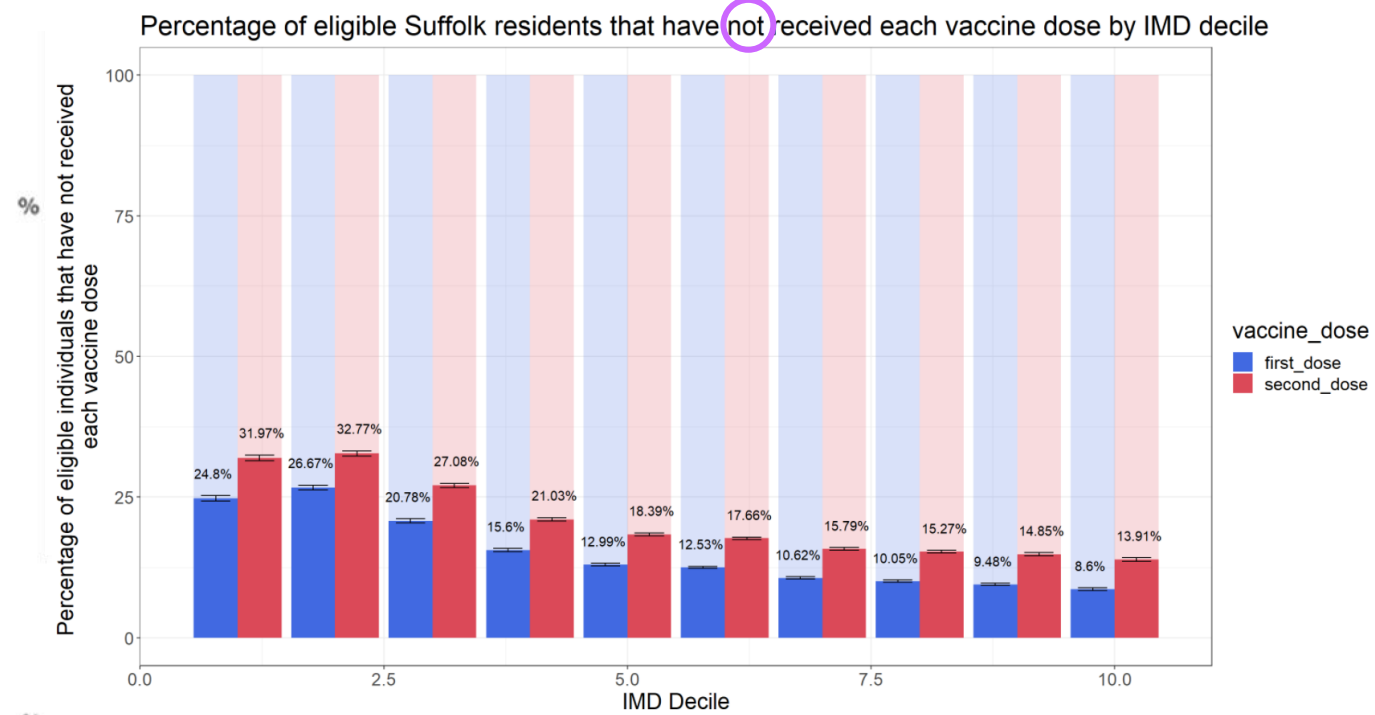
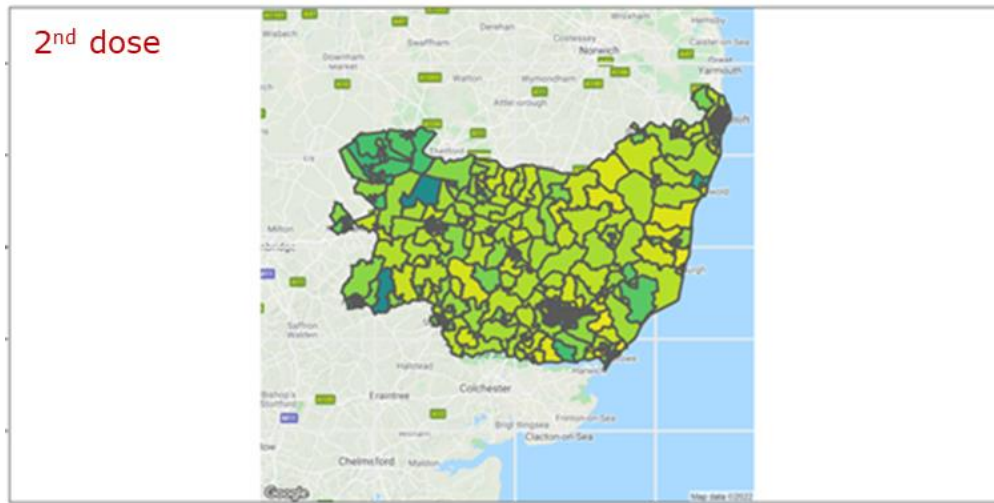
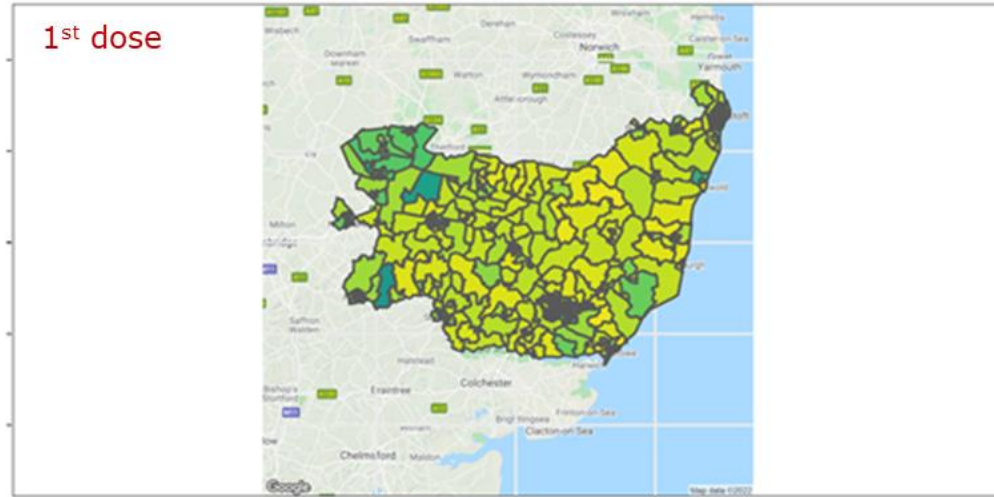
Source: Suffolk Coronawatch, accessed 05.01.2022

Up to 4 January 2022, 600,291 Suffolk residents (86% of eligible residents) have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, with 562,000 Suffolk residents (81% of eligible residents) having also received their second dose. There are also 447,561 Suffolk residents (71% of 18+ eligible residents) that have received a booster or third dose.



Take up rates vary by area across Suffolk, with the more deprived LSOAs recording lower take up.

Vaccination uptake rates by LSOA

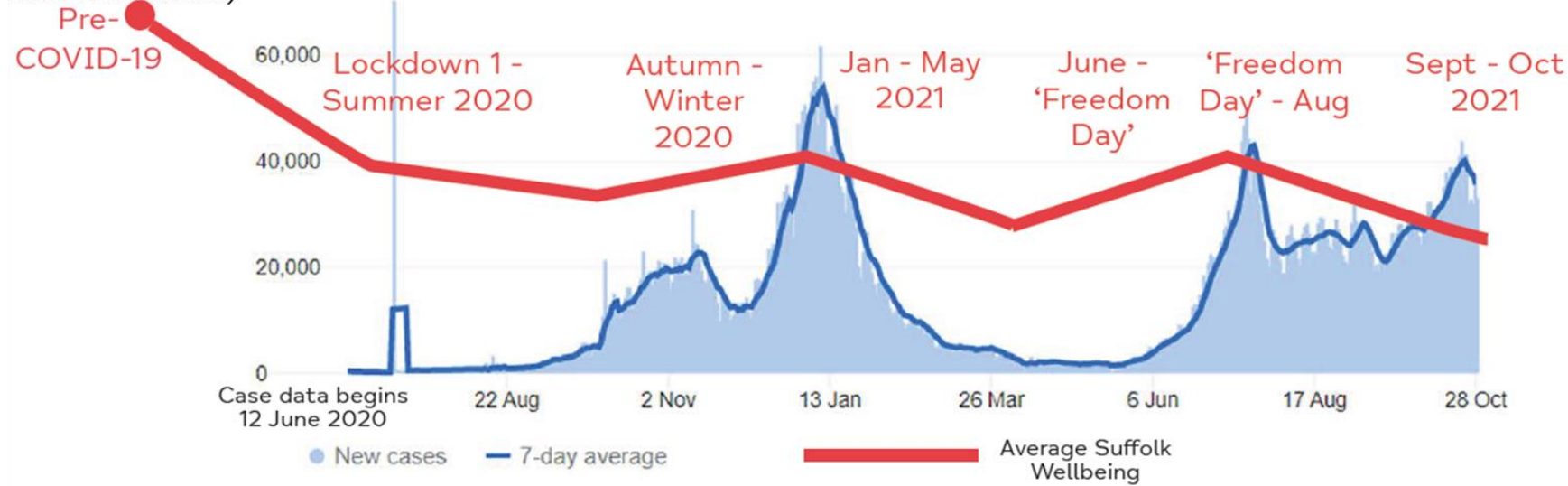


The lowest uptake rates across Suffolk are generally in Ipswich LSOAs that are predominantly in the most deprived IMD decile, while the highest uptake rates are generally found in East Suffolk LSOAs, but with more of a spread around the county.

The number of people susceptible to stress or mental ill health has **doubled** since March 2020. In October 2021 average wellbeing was lower than during the first lockdown and the easing of lockdown restrictions resulted only in small and temporary improvements.

### What has happened to the wellbeing of Suffolk during the pandemic?

(Source: Suffolk Mind)



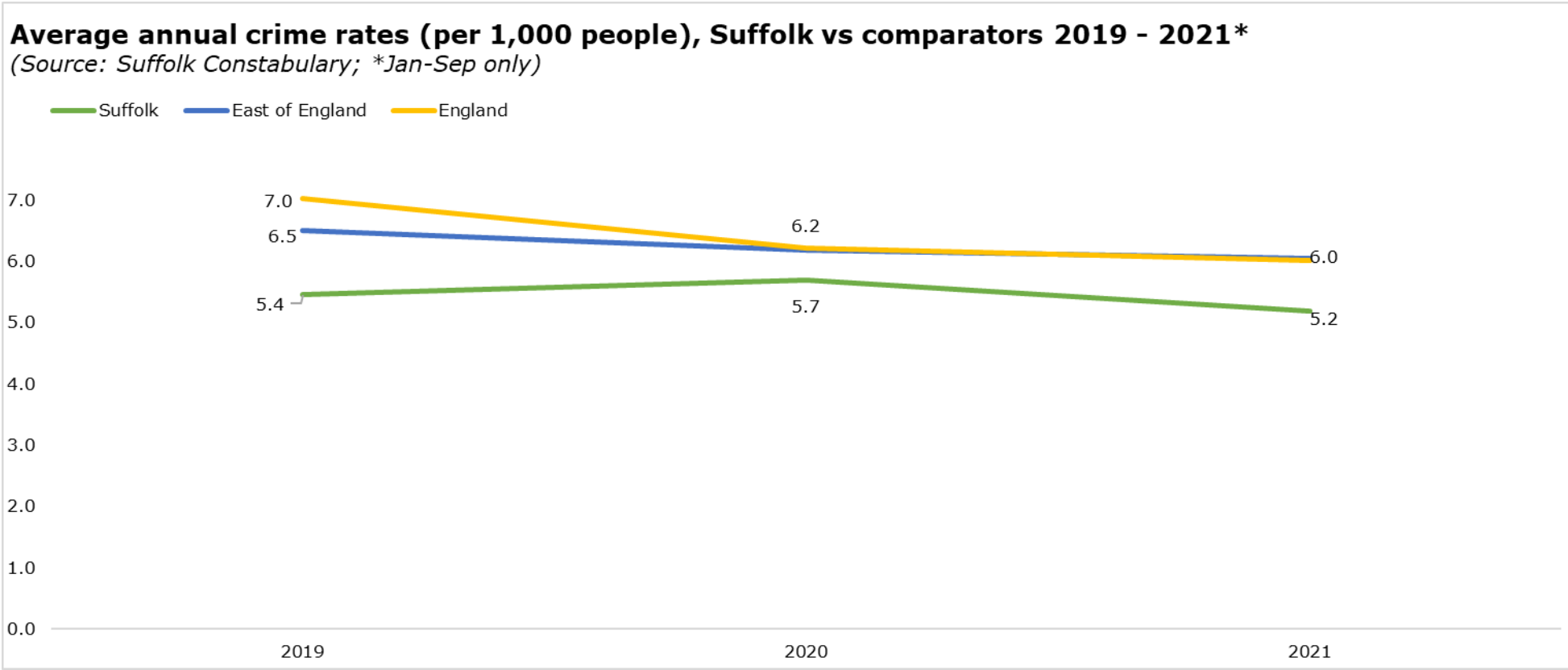
% of people in Suffolk susceptible to stress & mental ill health:

- 24% - before Covid
- 46% - first lockdown
- 54% - winter 2020/21
- 55% - October 2021

- Currently, those who are not working or are younger are more likely to be susceptible to stress or mental ill health.
  - 18-24s have experienced biggest decrease in how well their needs are met overall
  - Those who are unable to work (i.e. due to health condition / disability) have experienced a big decrease in how well their needs are met.
  - Those who are unemployed (i.e. out of, but looking for work) are still one of the groups most at risk of stress or mild to moderate mental ill health, despite this group having experienced the biggest increase in their emotional needs score during the pandemic.
- Respondents identifying as bisexual or other gender are scoring less than 0.5 for their general wellbeing (*score of less than 1 = emotional needs not being met; therefore likely to be experiencing stress and mental ill health*)
- In contrast, the groups that are meeting their wellbeing needs the best, on average, are older people and those who are retired.



Crime rates across Suffolk have always been below regional and national averages. The average crime rates (per 1,000 people) in England and the East dropped between 2019 and 2020, while the trend in Suffolk was in the other direction with a slight increase in the crime rate from 5.3 in 2019 to 5.6 in 2020. So far in 2021 crime rates have declined across all three geographies (vs. 2020).





Employment, earnings, benefits & housing – key factors to changes in poverty

# Changes in poverty are most commonly caused by the effect of four drivers...



**Increasing employment** can reduce poverty because more people have additional earnings from work.

**Benefits** increasing faster than earnings can reduce poverty.



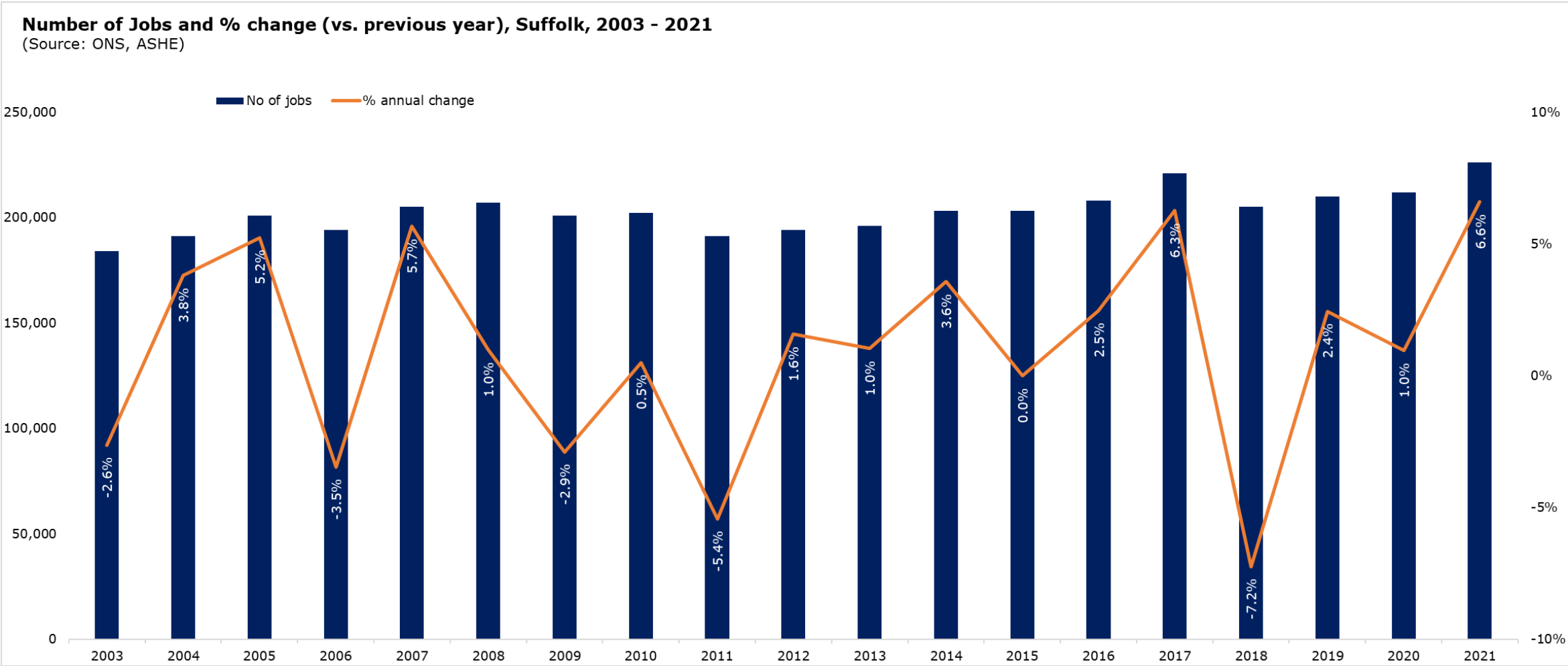
A **decrease in housing costs for poorer households**, for example through access to cheaper housing, or a rise in incomes that outpaces the rise in rents, mortgages or other housing costs can reduce poverty.

**High earnings growth** can reduce poverty if those with low incomes see their earnings grow at least as fast as median earners.



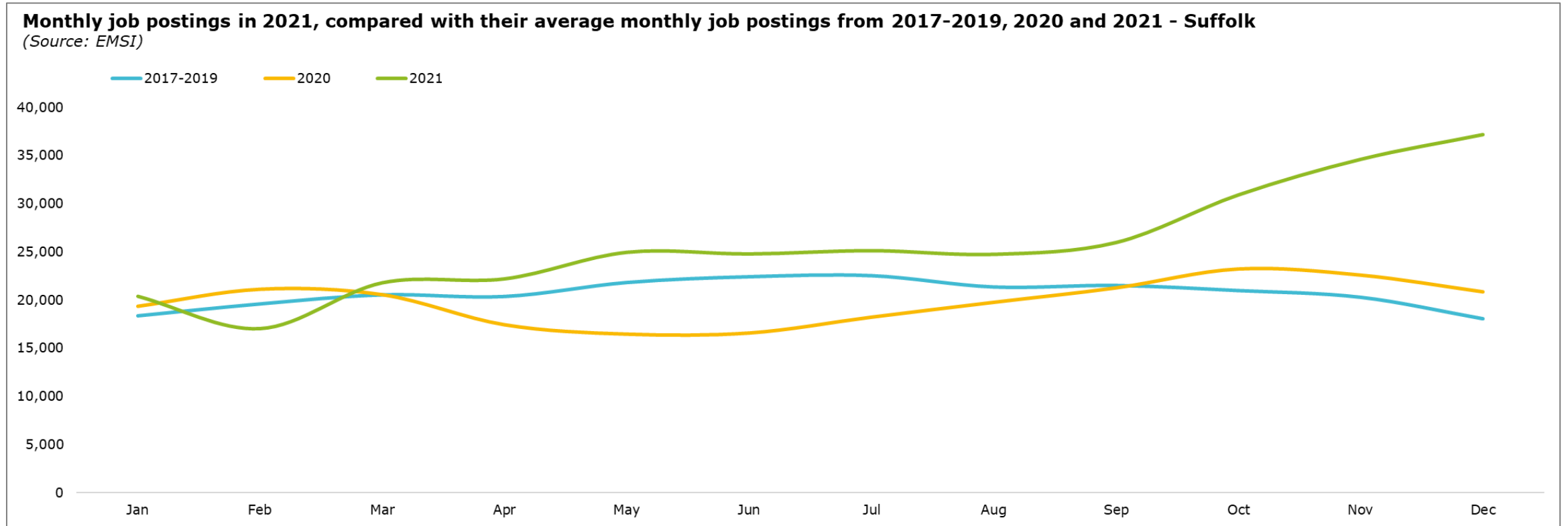
...national and local data shows that all these factors have been impacted negatively by COVID-19

The number of jobs across the country has steadily increased over the past two decades (e.g. 20% for Suffolk and 18% for England since 2002). Between 2019 and 2021 the number of jobs in Suffolk increased by 7.6% compared to 1.2% national average.



Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, December 2021.

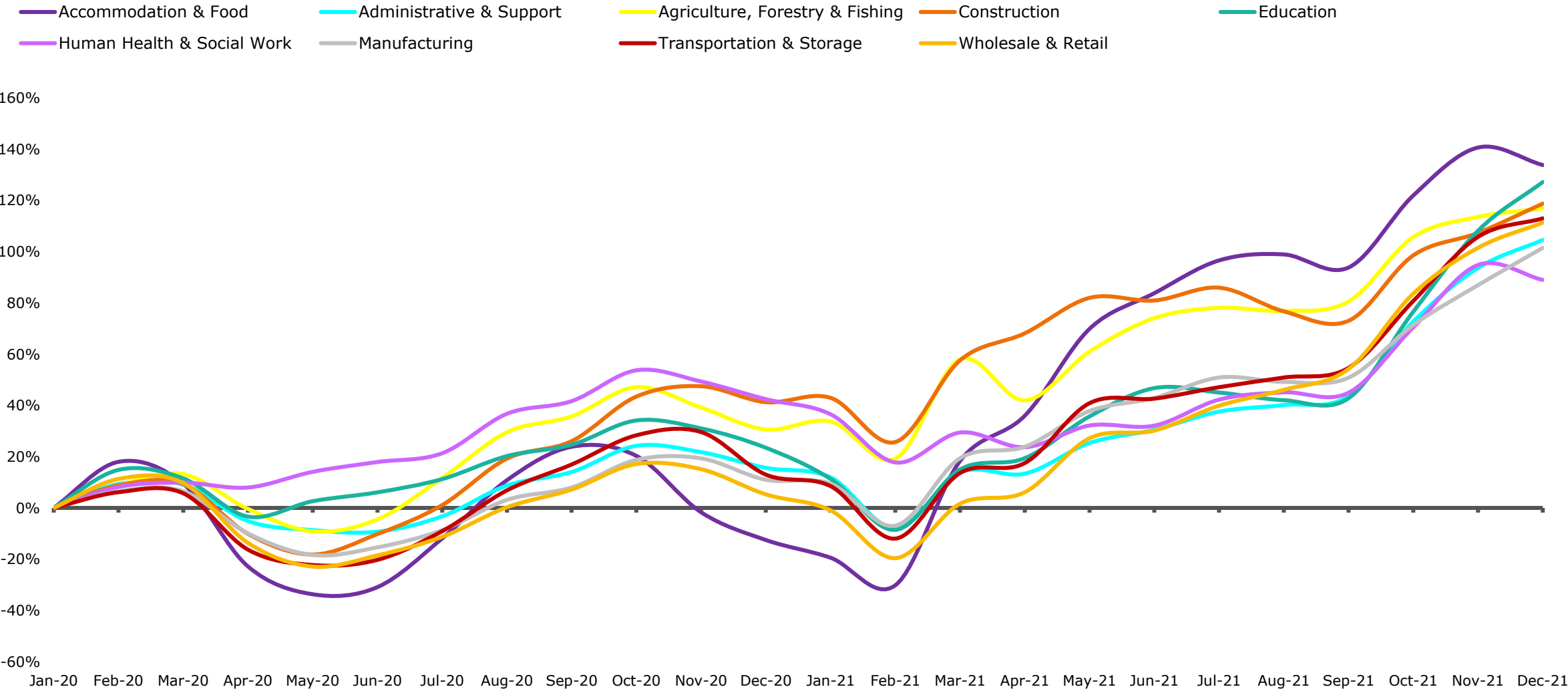
Though job postings declined significantly after the first lockdown, since September 2020 job postings have been mainly higher than the 2017-2019 averages.



Though job postings have fluctuated significantly since March 2020, most of the key sectors new job postings were in line or higher in Dec 2021 than pre-COVID.

**% Change in Job Postings since Jan 20 – Suffolk**

(Source: EMSI)



Source: EMSI, Job Posting Analytics, Jan 2021.

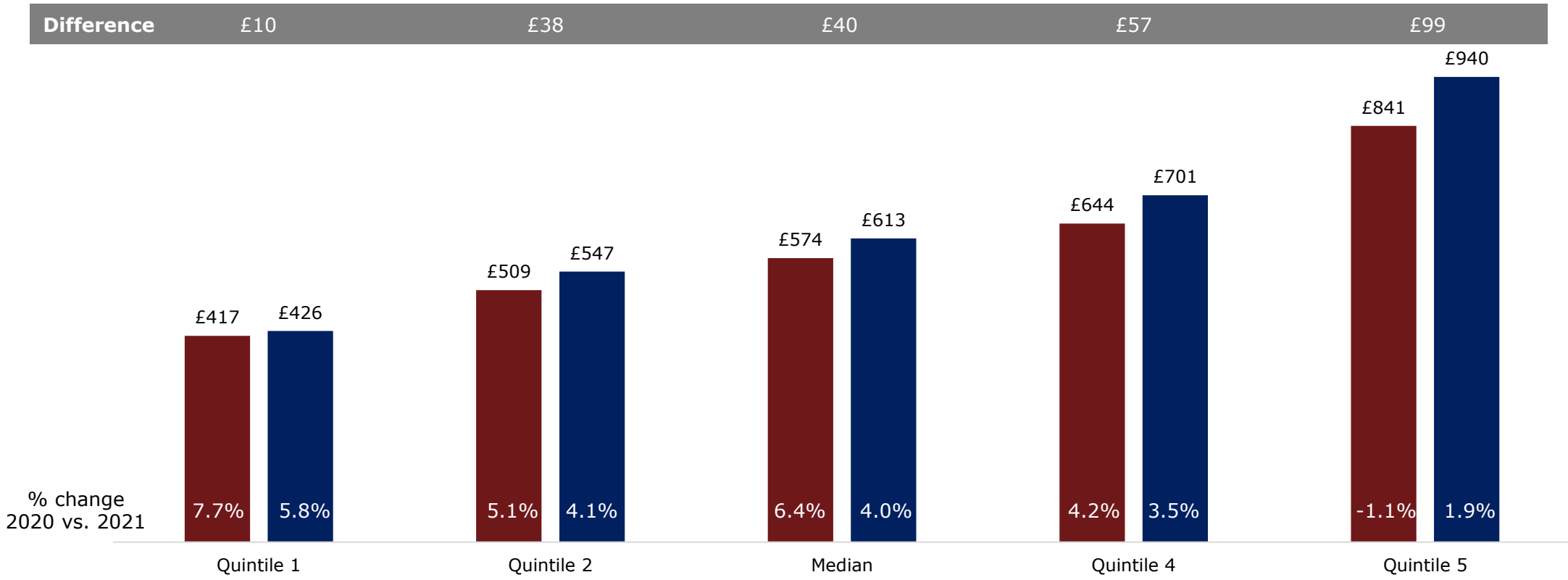
Pay across Suffolk has consistently been below national averages – in 2021, the **median weekly full-time pay gap was £40 between England and Suffolk.**

Median pay dropped by -4.1% in Suffolk between 2019 and 2020, significantly more than the England average (-0.4%), however increased at a faster rate in 2021 (6.4% vs. 4.1%).

**Gross weekly full-time pay by quintile, Suffolk residents vs. England, 2021**

(Source: ONS, ASHE)

■ Suffolk ■ England



Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, December 2021. (Note – we focus on weekly pay rather than annual pay, as the latter relates to employees who have been in the same job for more than a year. Therefore, the weekly pay data provides a better idea of differences and changes over 2021 than the annual pay data would.)

CACI Paycheck data, which looks at **gross annual household income**, is available at more granular income bands than the ONS ASHE data (see previous slide), in FY 2020/21 there were **4,480 households (HH) across Suffolk with a gross annual income below £5k**. A further 20,654 HH had a gross annual income between £5-10k; 29,261 HH between £10-15k; and 33,264 HH between £15-20k.

Based on the CACI data the **Lower Quartile** gross annual income for **Suffolk was £19,317** in 2020/21. **50% of all households across Suffolk earned less than that amount**. Within Suffolk this ranges by LA: in IBC 52% of all HH earned less than £19,317 and 28% in Mid Suffolk.

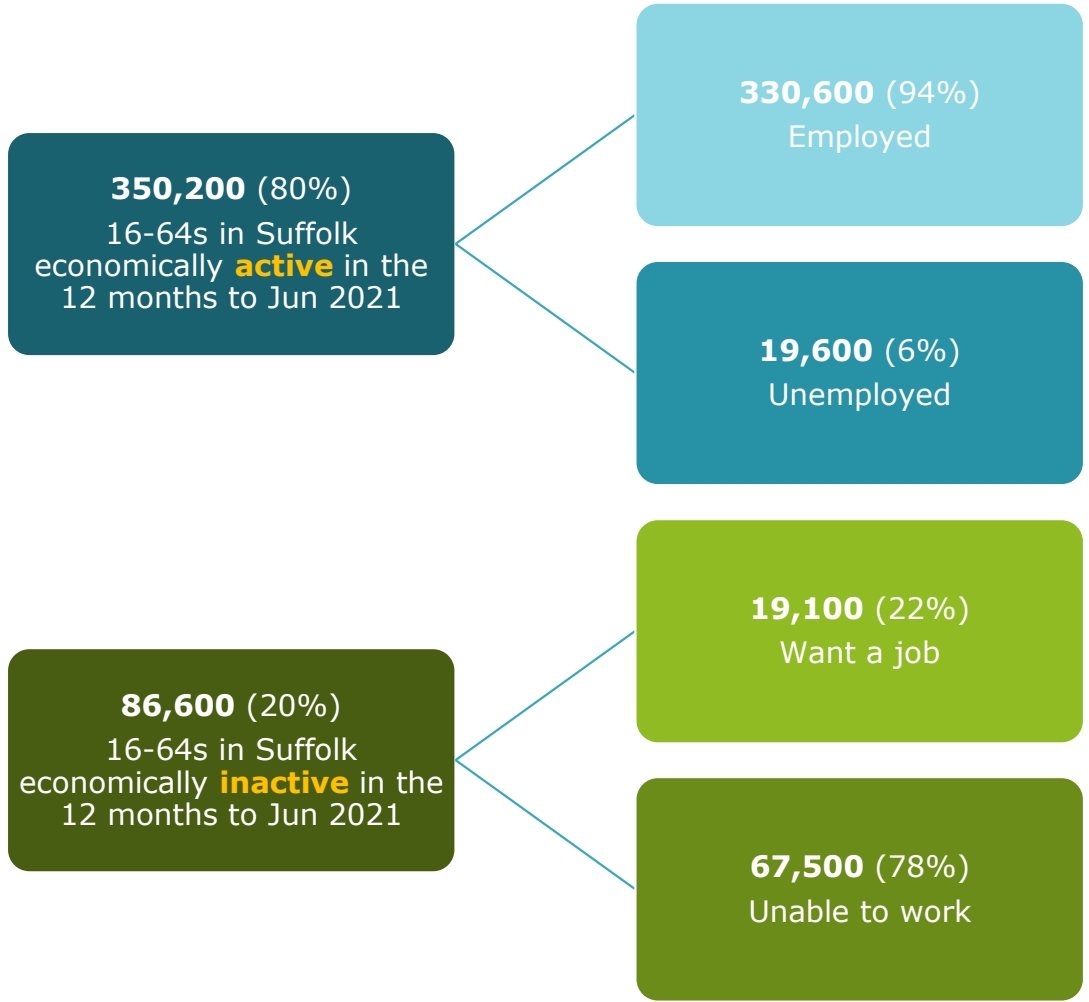
	% of HH, where <b>LOWER QUARTILE</b> income is below Suffolk lower quartile of £19,317	% of HH, where <b>MEDIAN</b> income is below Suffolk median of £34,085	% of HH, where <b>MEAN</b> income is below Suffolk mean of £41,297
BDC	30.7%	37.9%	41.7%
ESC	42.7%	49.7%	54.1%
IBC	52.3%	61.8%	66.0%
MSDC	27.6%	33.9%	38.8%
WSC	35.6%	41.9%	47.8%
SUFFOLK	49.8%	46.5%	51.2%



# The official statistic on employment is the ONS Annual Population / Labour Force Survey (APS / LFS)

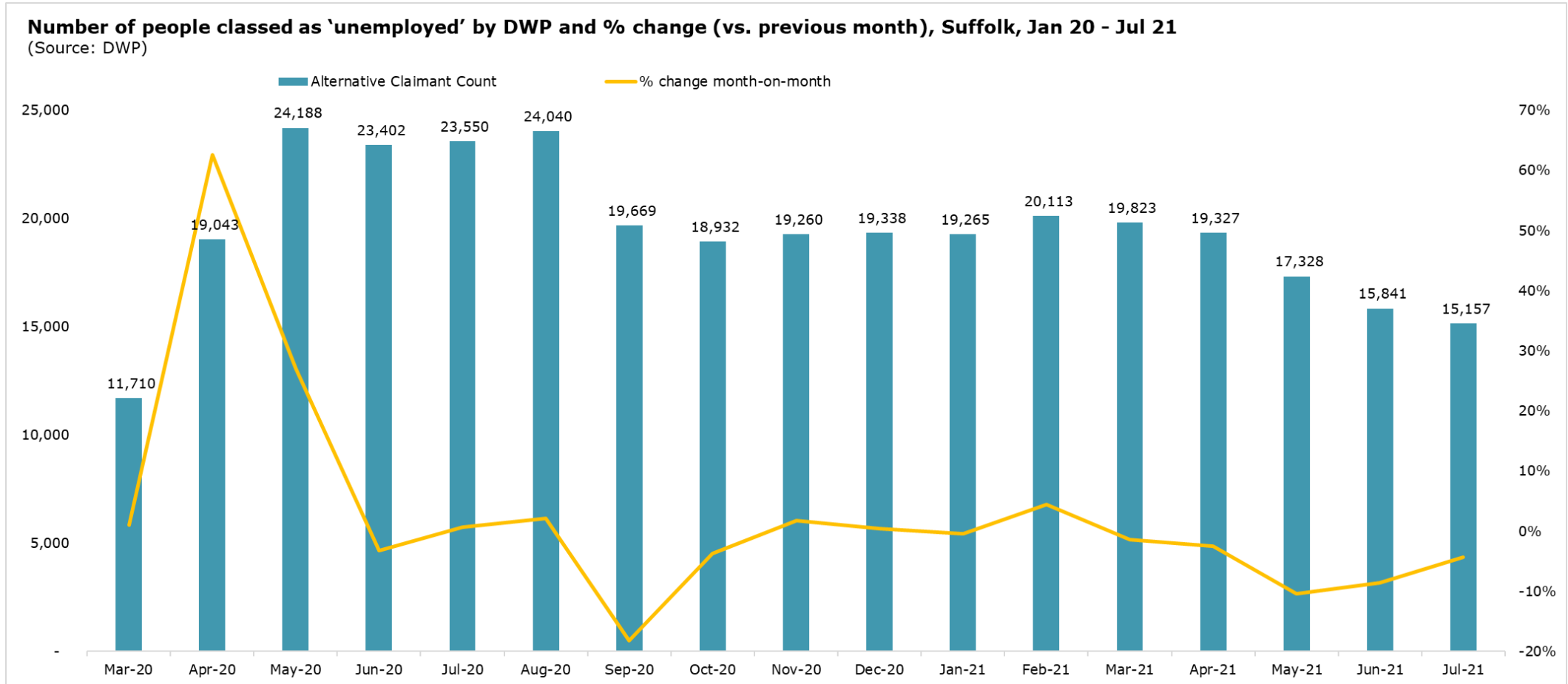
- Residence based labour market survey. The APS divides the total 16-64 population into two groups: economic active vs. economic inactive ('economic active' are those that have actively looked for a job in the past two months). Each of these groups is then further divided into two groups. Therefore, the official unemployment rate is based on a subset of 16-64s.
- Updated quarterly; each quarter's update relates to a rolling 12 months period; the latest data released in December 2021 includes data for the 12 month ending June 2021.

The APS data shows that between May 2020 and June 2021, the unemployment rate in Suffolk was 6%. It also highlights the large number (19,100) 16-64s who were economically inactive but would like a job.



To understand the impact of COVID on employment numbers, there are other statistics that count the number of people claiming benefit due to unemployment, which we can use as **another indicator of unemployment**. Based on this DWP statistic\* **unemployment increased by 30% between March 2020 and July 2021**.

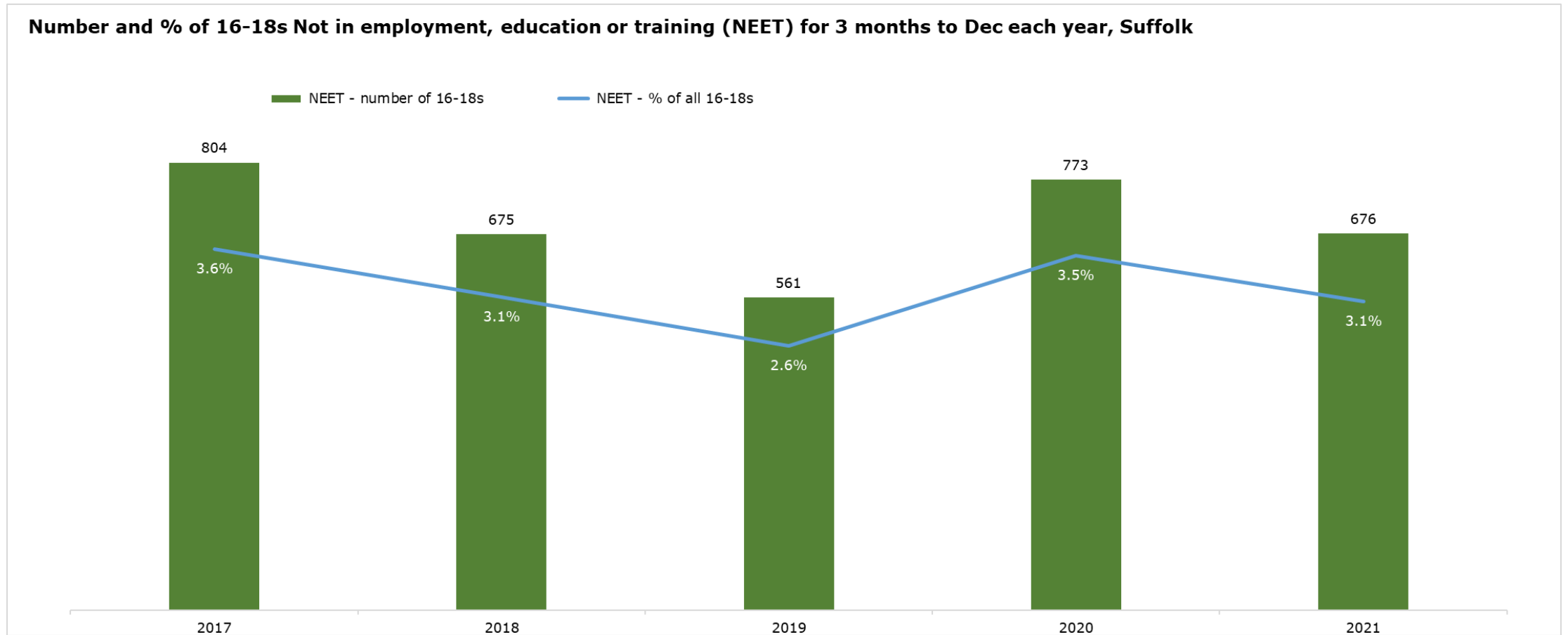
- This means that there were 15,157 16-64s classed as unemployed by DWP, which equates to 3.4% of Suffolk's total 16-64 population.



Source: DWP, Alternative Claimant Count, Oct 2021.

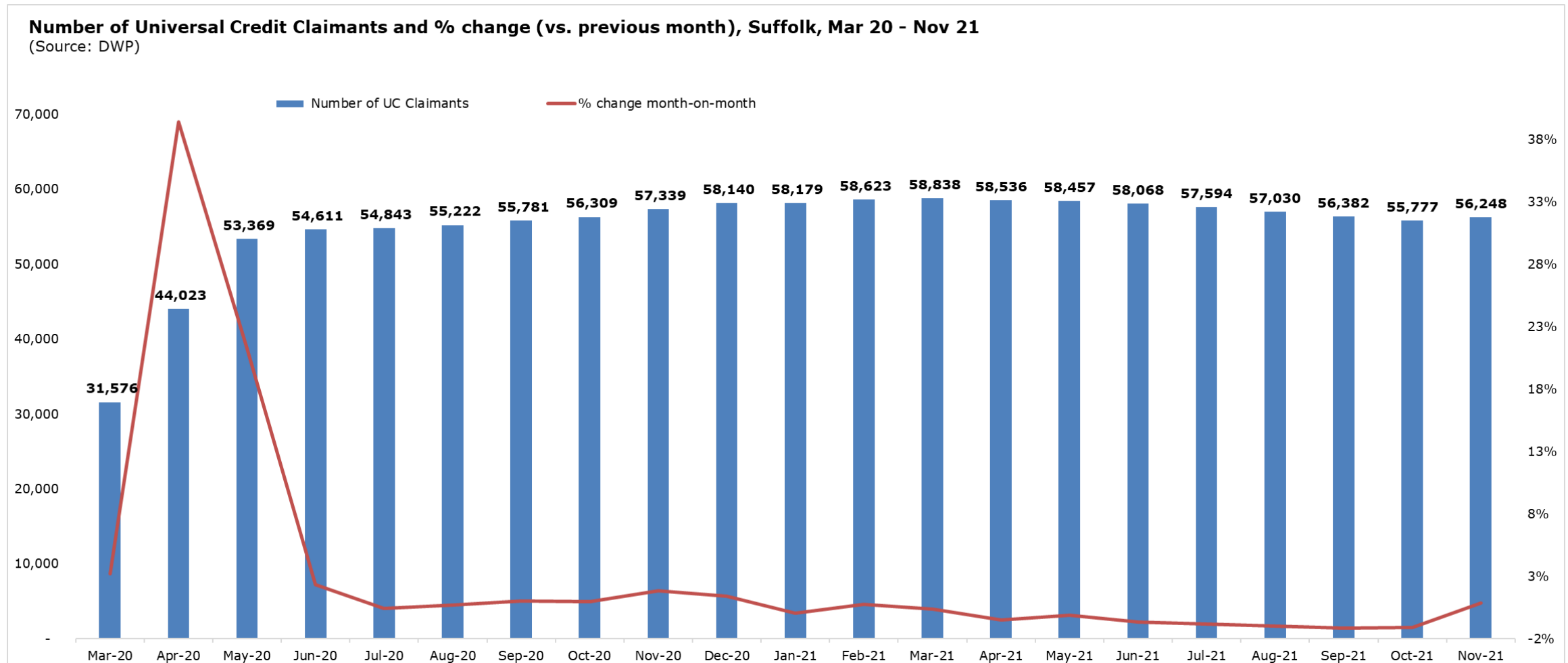
\* DWP's Alternative Claimant Count is currently under evaluation by the UK Statistics Authority and therefore published as Experimental Official Statistics. Provides detailed information about the number of people classed as "unemployed", under the new Universal Credit regime while also still including anyone on relevant JSA legacy benefits.

Across Suffolk, 676 16-18 year olds (or 3.1%) were not in education, employment or training in the 3 months to Dec 2021. This is lower than compared to same time in 2020, but somewhat higher vs. 2019.



In November 2021 there were **56,248 Universal Credit (UC) claimants** across Suffolk. This means that since lockdown measures were implemented in March 2020, Suffolk UC claimant numbers have increased by **78%**.

- In terms of Suffolk's working age population (16-64s) **13%** are now claiming UC.

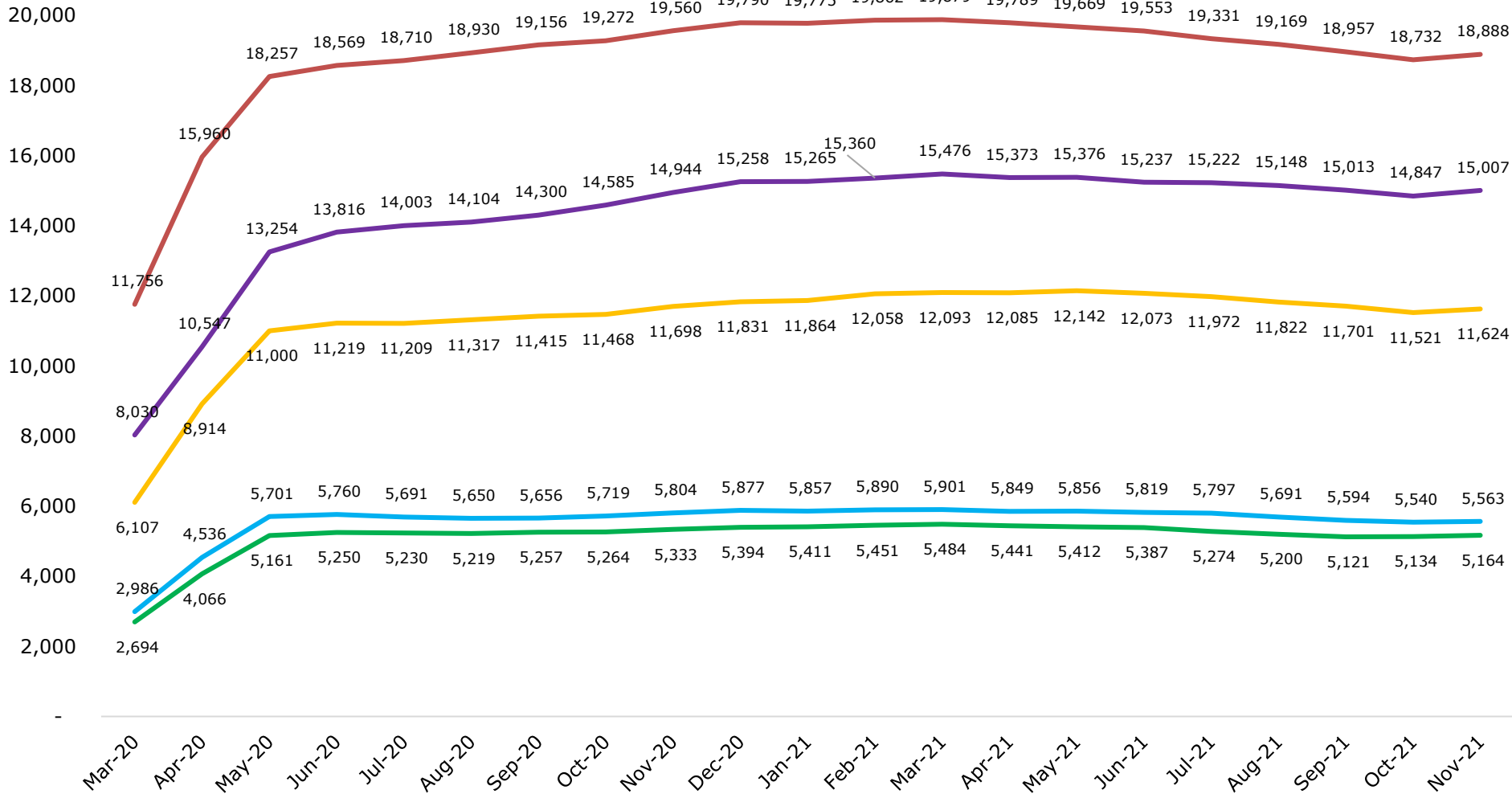


Within Suffolk, the highest increases of UC claimants have been in **Mid Suffolk (92%)** and **West Suffolk (90%)**. In absolute terms, East Suffolk and Ipswich continue to have the largest numbers of UC claimants.

**Number of Universal Credit Claimants by District, Mar 20 - Nov 21**

(Source: DWP)

— Babergh — East Suffolk — Ipswich — Mid Suffolk — West Suffolk



**% change Mar 20 vs Nov 21**

**61%**

**87%**

**90%**

**86%**

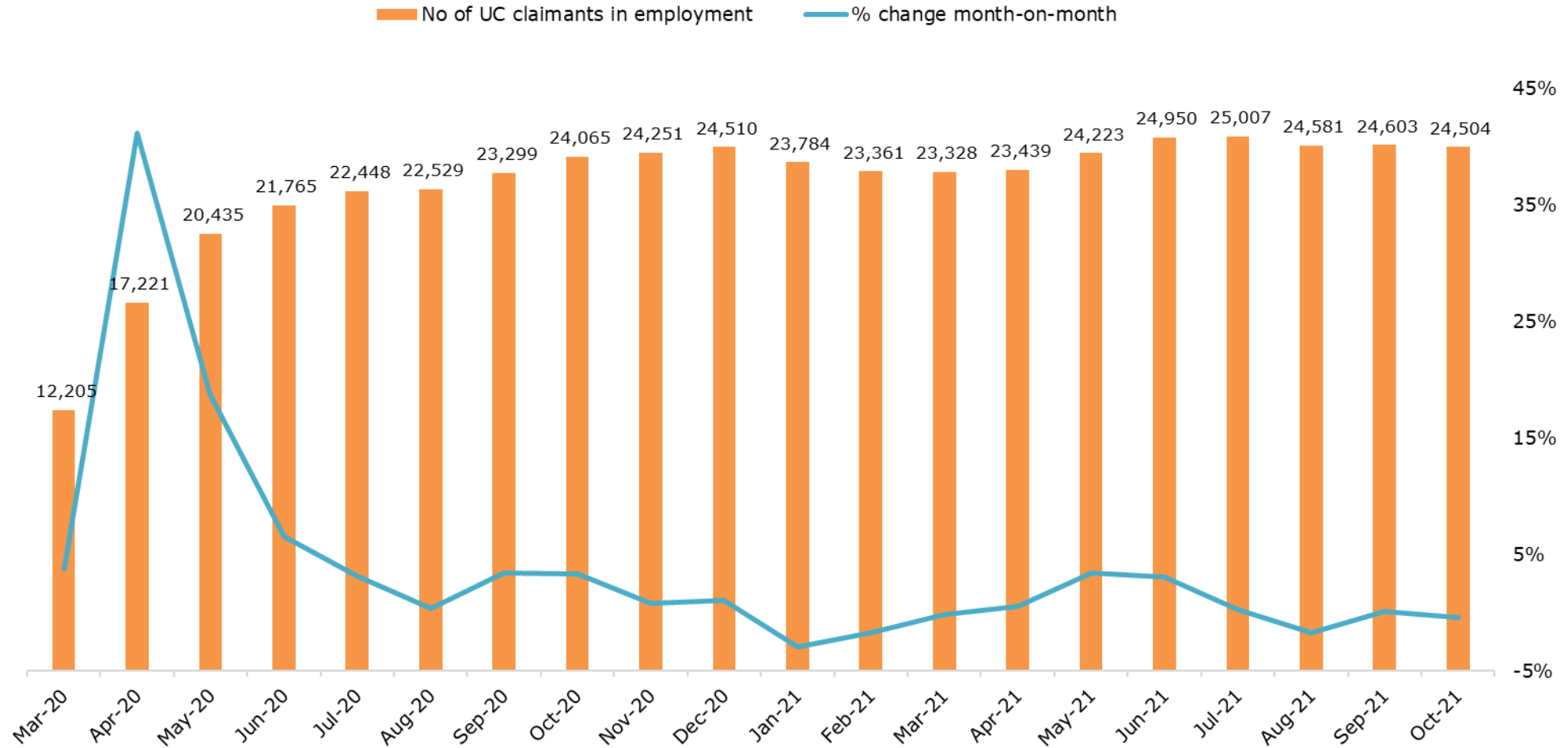
**92%**

Source: DWP, Individuals on UC, Dec 2021.

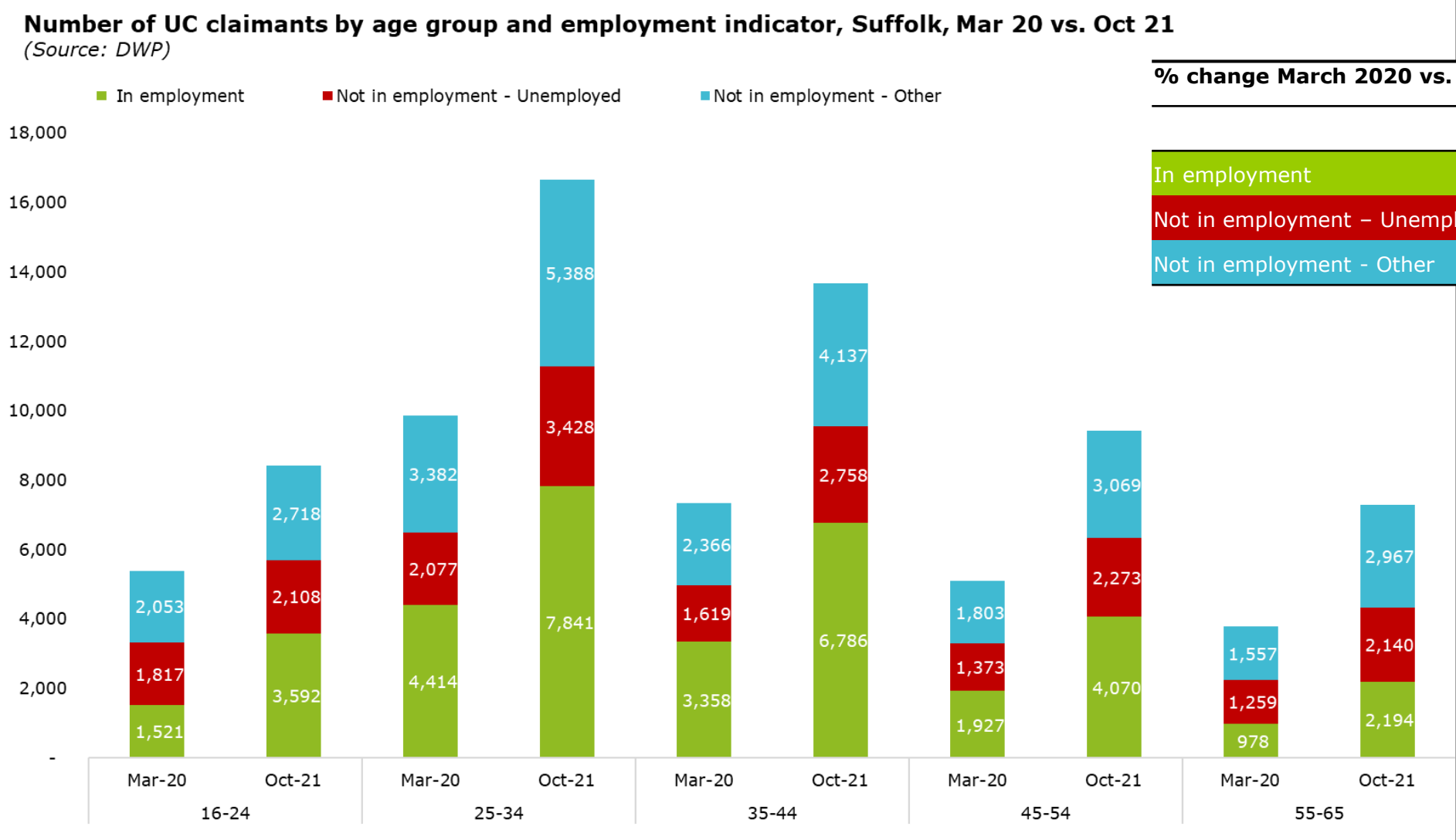
**In-work poverty** has increased by **101%** since March 2020, which means that there were **24,504** (5.5% of Suffolk's 16-64s) on UC while in employment in October 2021.

**Number of Universal Credit claimants that are in employment, Suffolk, Mar 20 - Oct 21**

(Source: DWP)



Numbers of UC claimants have increased across all age groups and employment indicators. The most significant increases have been across all age groups on UC while in employment (see previous slide).

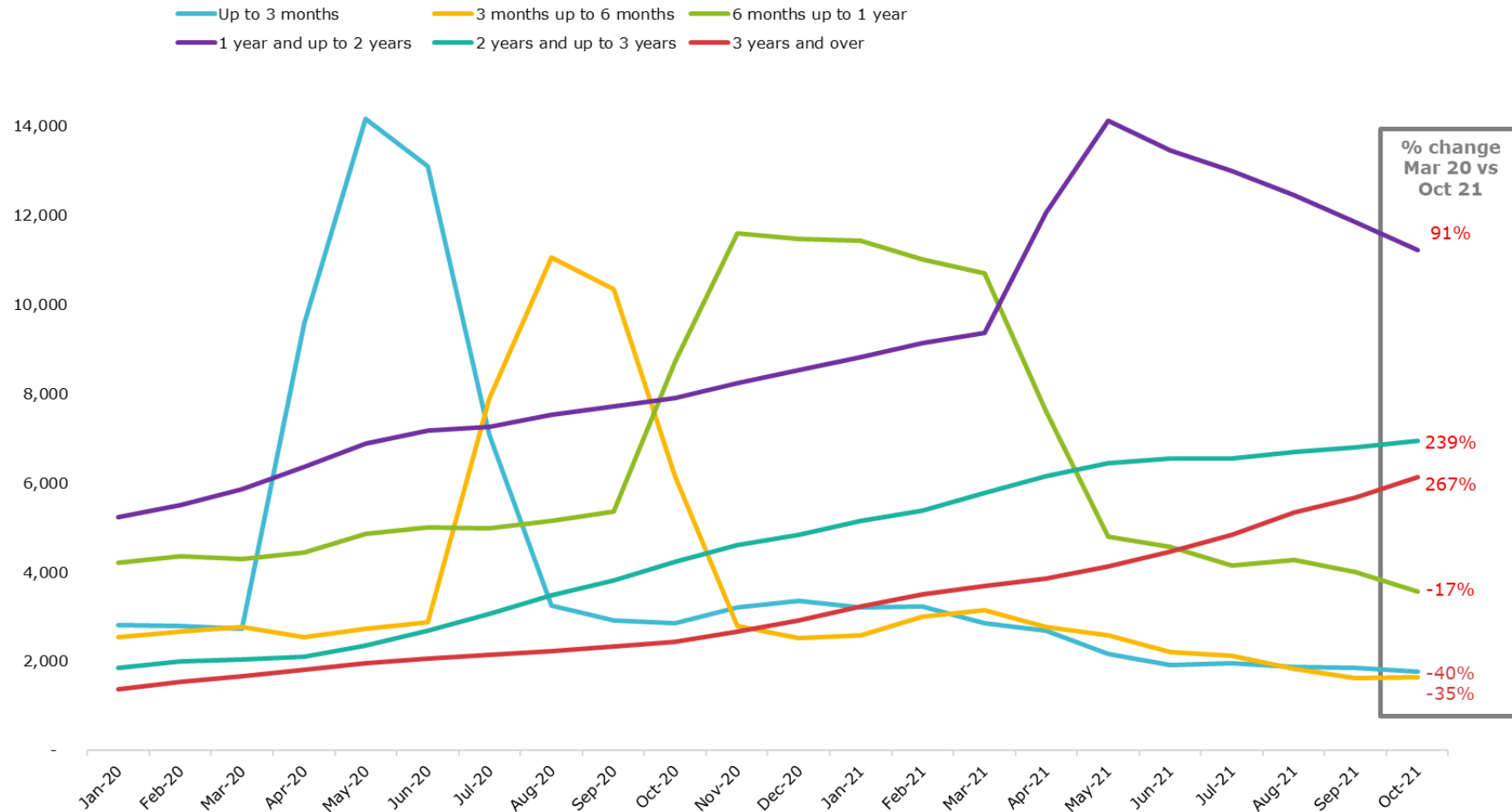


	% change March 2020 vs. Oct 2021				
	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-65
In employment	136%	78%	102%	111%	124%
Not in employment - Unemployed	16%	65%	70%	66%	70%
Not in employment - Other	32%	59%	75%	70%	91%

Source: DWP, Individuals on UC, Dec 2021.

It seems that those coming onto UC as unemployed during the pandemic came off it again quickly, with numbers of those being on UC for a short- term (up to 6 months) falling between March 2020 and Oct 2021. However, the number of those on UC for 1 year or longer have increased sharply over the same time period, indicating that they are the ones finding it harder to get back into employment, than those individuals with more recent employment experience.

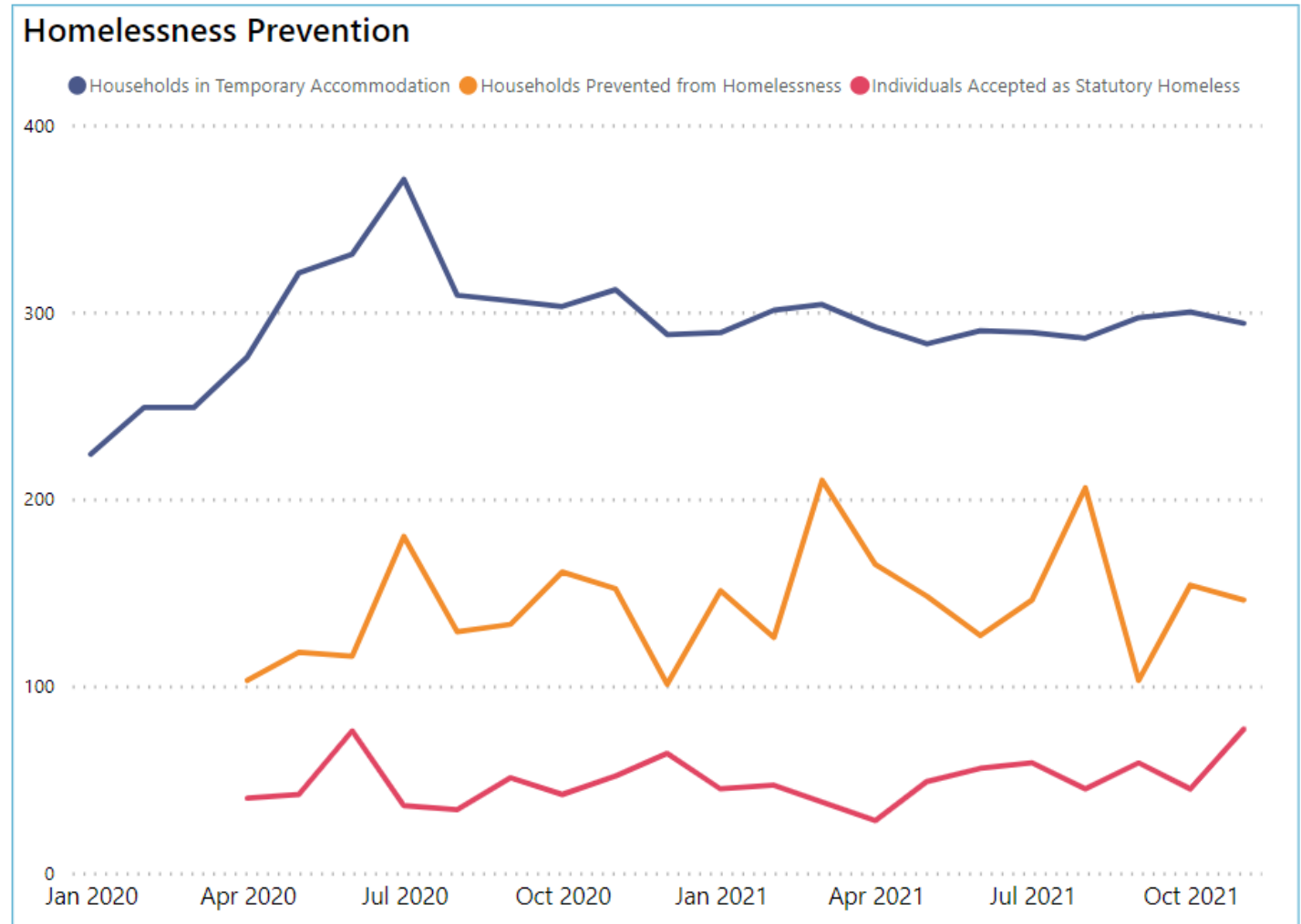
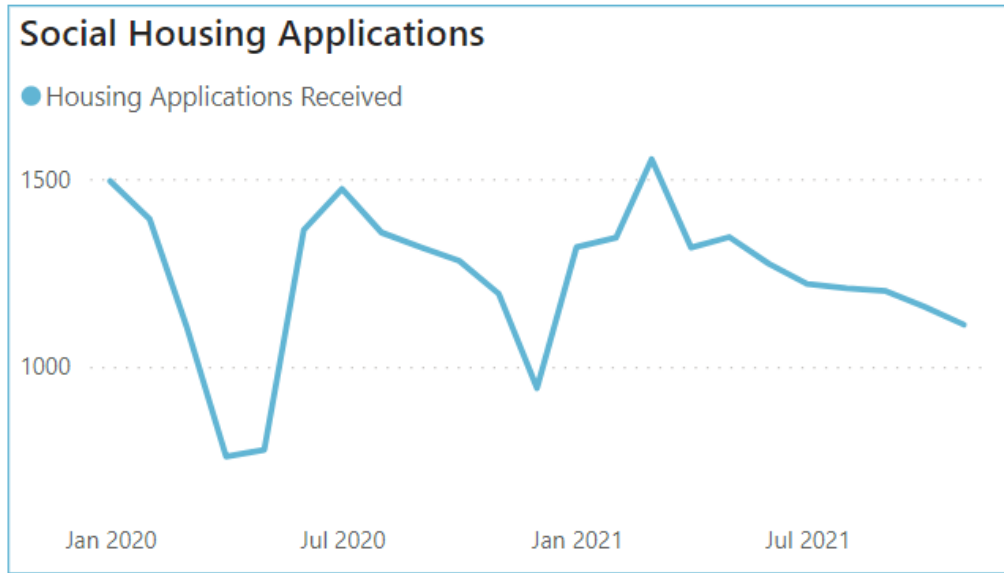
**Number of unemployed UC claimants by duration, Suffolk, Jan 20 - Oct 21**  
 (Source: DWP)





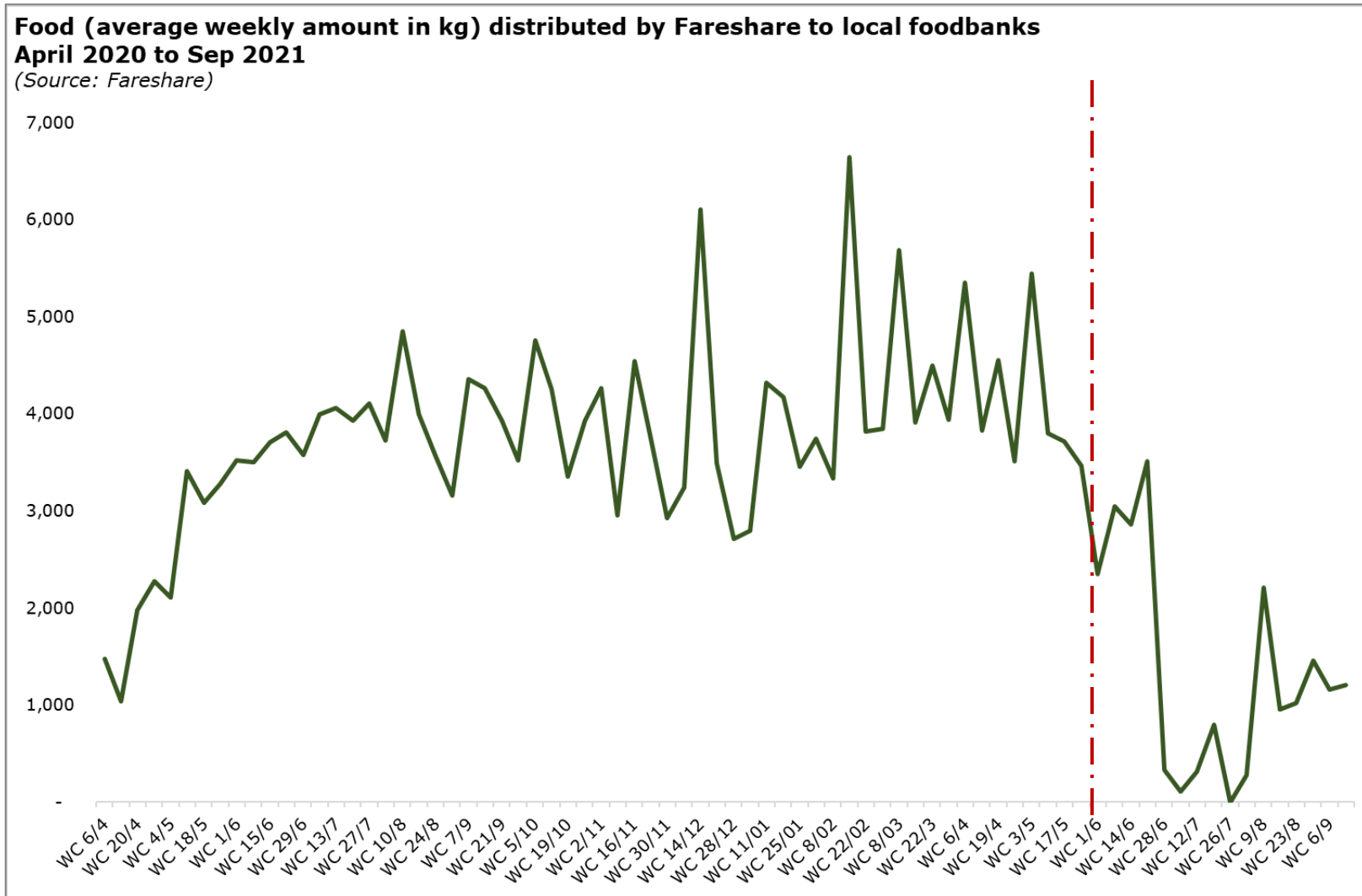
Across Suffolk social housing applications have fluctuated significantly between Jan 2020 and Nov 2021, with numbers at their peaks being around 1,500 (Jan & Jul 2020 and Mar 2021).

In Nov 2021, 294 HH were in temporary accommodation, 146 were prevented from being homeless, 77 were accepted as statutory homeless.



For data by district / borough please click on link below.

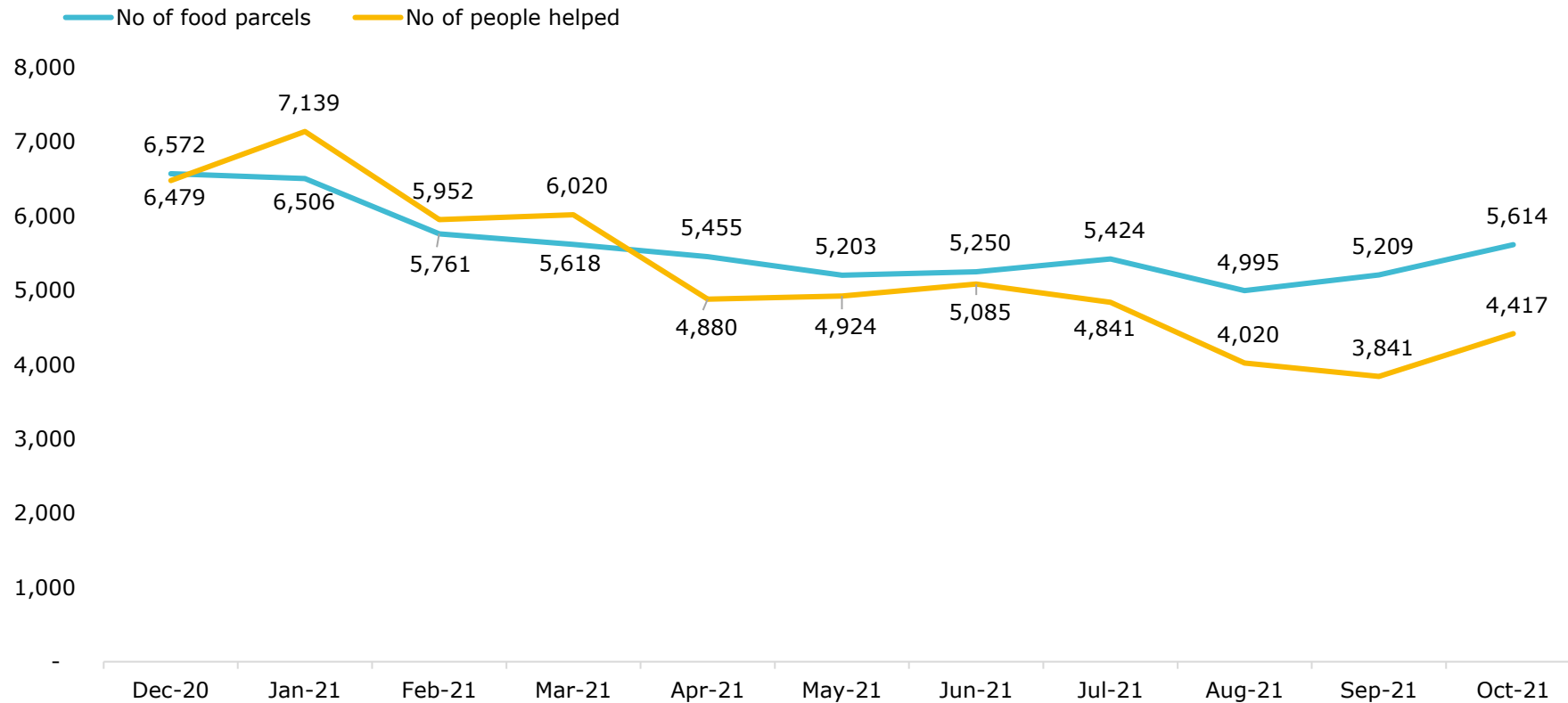
Since the beginning of April 2020, Foodshare have distributed 247,810 kg of food, which is equivalent to 16,996 food parcels.



Note – drop since June not due to lack of demand but to the East Anglian depot being closed. Meaning provision is not as it should be. It is hoped this will be resolved soon.

While the numbers of food parcels as well as the number of people helped have decreased between Dec 20 and Oct 21, foodbanks still distributed 5,614 parcels, helping over 4,000 people in October 21.

**Number of food parcels handed out and people helped, Suffolk, Dec 20 - Oct 21**  
(Source: Suffolk Foodbank Network - data supplied by 35 foodbanks)

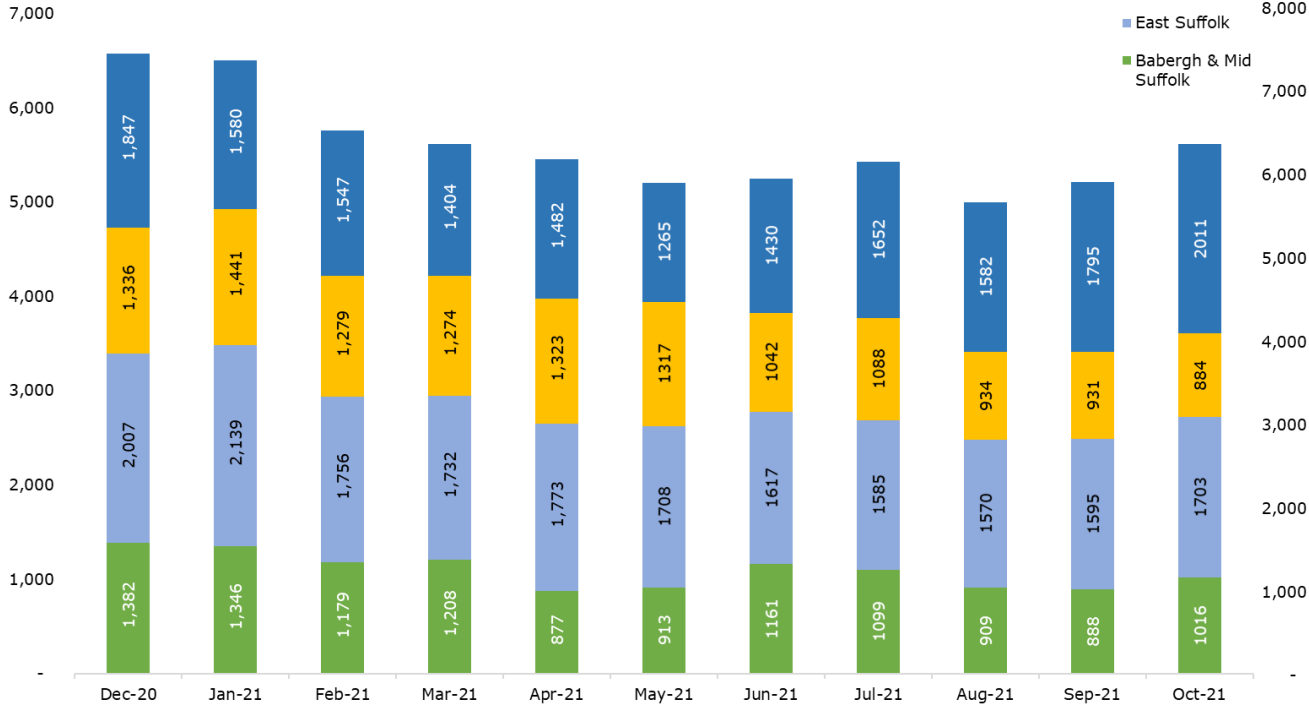


# Number of food parcels and people helped by district.

**Food Parcels - by month and district**  
**Dec 2020 to Oct 2021**

(Source: Suffolk Foodbank Network - data supplied by 35 foodbanks)

- West Suffolk
- Ipswich
- East Suffolk
- Babergh & Mid Suffolk



**Number of People Helped - by month and district**  
**Dec 2020 to Oct 2021**

(Source: Suffolk Foodbank Network - data supplied by 35 foodbanks)

- West Suffolk
- East Suffolk
- Babergh & Mid Suffolk



