

Monthly Labour Market Report

May 2022

6.9%
-2.4%

Unemployment
Rate

13.1%
Alexandra

Highest
Unemployed
Ward



9.6%
+0.8%

Youth
Unemployment
Rate

1.6%
Saddleworth
North

Lowest
Unemployed
Ward



16.2%
Hollinwood

Highest Youth
Unemployed
Ward



2.8%
Saddleworth
North

Lowest Youth
Unemployed
Ward



Insight and Intelligence Team

Key Findings this Month

These Statistics are for a month period to early April 2022, the 25th month impact of the COVID-19 lockdown/re-opening/public health policy is within this report.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate stands at **6.9%**, a decrease of **2.4%** in the last month. All local authorities across Greater Manchester saw a decrease in their unemployment rate this month. However Oldham had one of the smallest decreases across Greater Manchester with Oldham's unemployment rate still remaining the highest across the borough. No wards have an unemployment rate equal to or better than pre-COVID levels for this month's report.

As of April 2022, there were 10,130 claimants in Oldham (3,430 claimants more than in Jan 2020 due to the COVID-19 economic shock). Oldham continues to have the highest claimant rate in GM, and higher than the England average.

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment in Oldham has also increased this month by **0.8%**, with 1900 young people (aged 18-24) in Oldham claiming. This represents a youth unemployment rate of **9.6%**, the highest rate across Greater Manchester and higher than the national rate.

All local authorities saw decreases in their youth unemployment rate this month with the exception of Oldham. It's clear to see from the data now that the youth unemployment rate is starting to stabilise at a significantly higher rate than what was seen pre-COVID. This shows Oldham could face a significant challenge in reducing youth unemployment.

Limehurst has also seen a significant increase in youth unemployment this month and now has the highest youth unemployment in Oldham. (27.8%)

No wards this month have a youth unemployment rate which is equal to or better than pre-COVID levels.

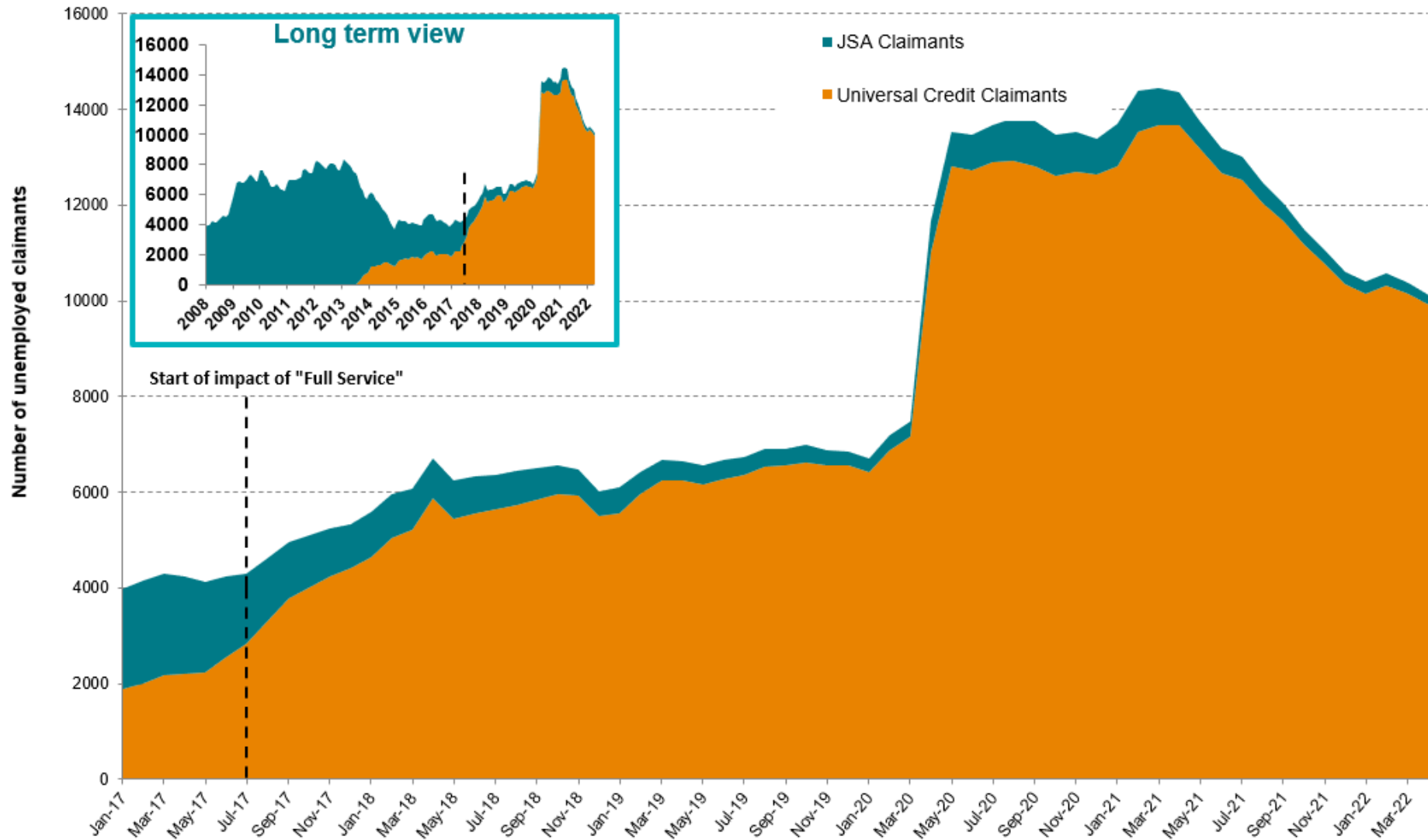
Sanctions

Latest data for sanctions (Up to February 2022) shows Oldham's sanction rate is currently at 2.7% with a record 496 sanctions recorded for February. The sanction rate is now above pre-COVID levels which is likely to be attributed to the changes in UC sanction regime. This is particularly concerning given the current cost of living crisis however it should be noted that this isn't just a local issue and is also seen in the GM and National sanction rates as well.

NEETs

April figures show an increase from 3.6% to 3.7%, this figure is above the NEET rate (3.5%) for the same time period last year.

Unemployment in Oldham: Jan 2017 - Apr 2022



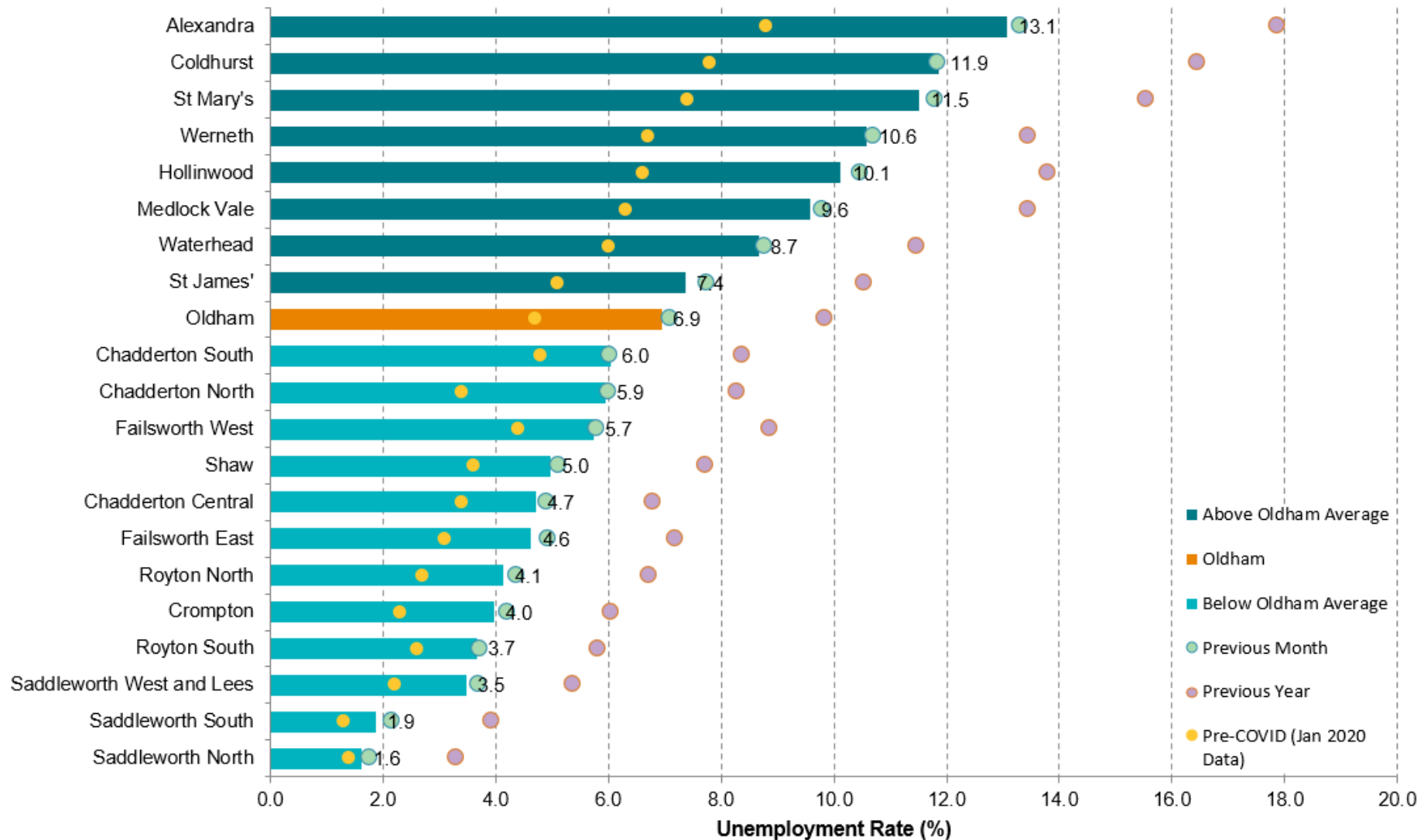
After a short period with the unemployment rate rising we can now see it starting to decrease again. Oldham saw a decrease of 2.4% in the unemployment rate this month. Oldham's decrease for this month however was not as competitive as other local authorities and could indicate a slower return to pre-COVID levels compared to other local authorities of Greater Manchester.

Regional Unemployment Statistics (aged 16-64): Apr 2022

Local Authority	Unemployed	% Unemployed	% Monthly change	% Annual change	GM Rank (1 = highest)
Bolton	10,435	5.9	-2.7	-30.0	4
Bury	5,430	4.6	-2.6	-32.5	7
Manchester	24,320	6.2	-4.7	-31.6	3
Oldham	10,130	6.9	-2.4	-29.5	1
Rochdale	8,945	6.5	-1.3	-25.0	2
Salford	9,640	5.6	-3.4	-33.0	5
Stockport	6,565	3.7	-3.2	-36.7	9
Tameside	7,070	5.0	-2.9	-35.3	6
Trafford	4,660	3.2	-4.8	-38.7	10
Wigan	8,425	4.1	-5.9	-35.7	8
GM	95,620	5.3	-3.5	-32.3	-
England	1,425,955	4.0	-3.5	-36.8	-

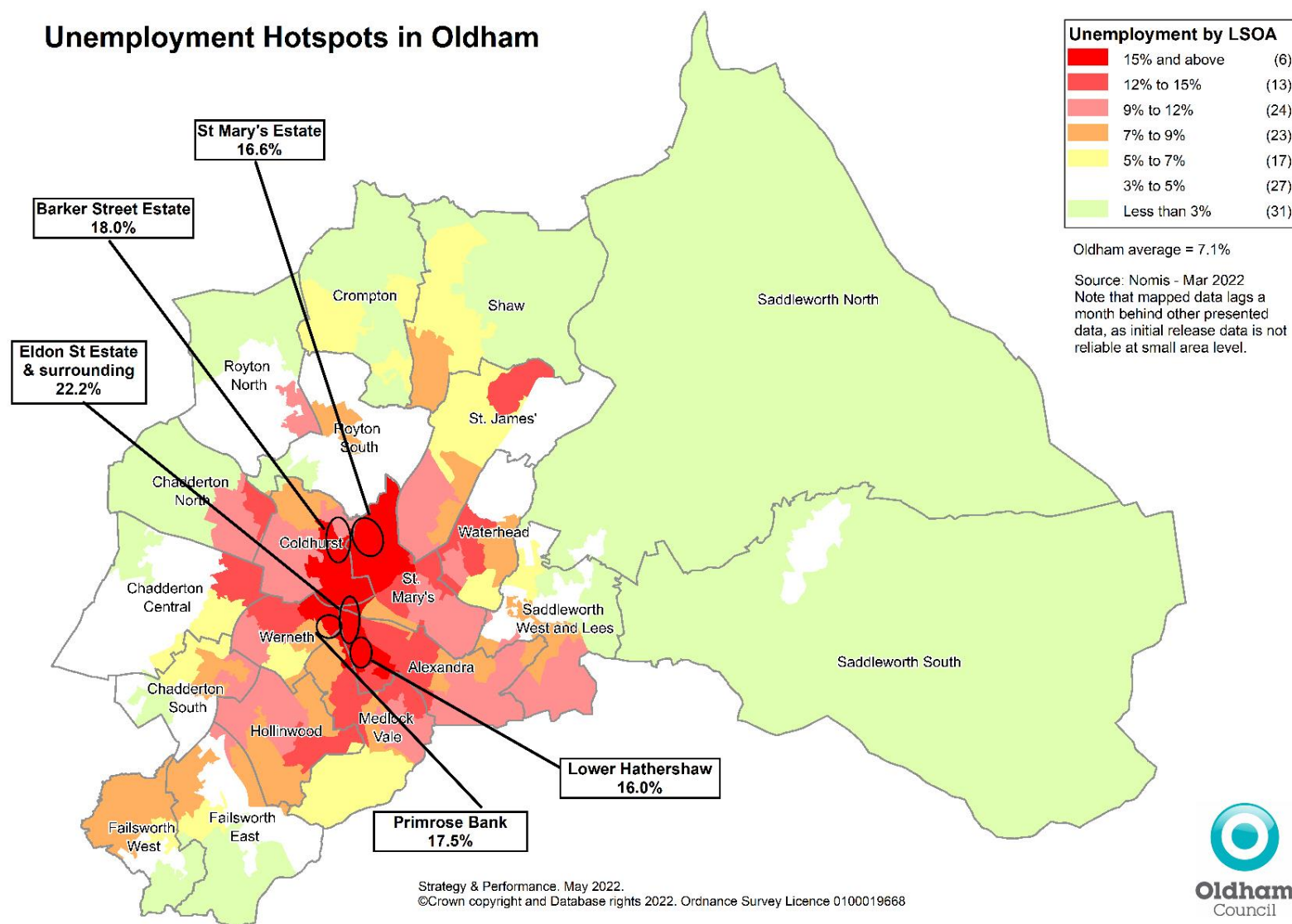
The **unemployment rate** in Oldham currently stands at **6.9%**, a decrease of **2.4%** from the previous month. This month, every Local Authority across Greater Manchester saw a decrease in their unemployment rate, Oldham's decrease however wasn't as competitive as other local authorities. Oldham still remains the highest figure in GM and higher than the national rate however Oldham is starting to narrow the gap to Rochdale.

Unemployment by Ward: Apr 2022



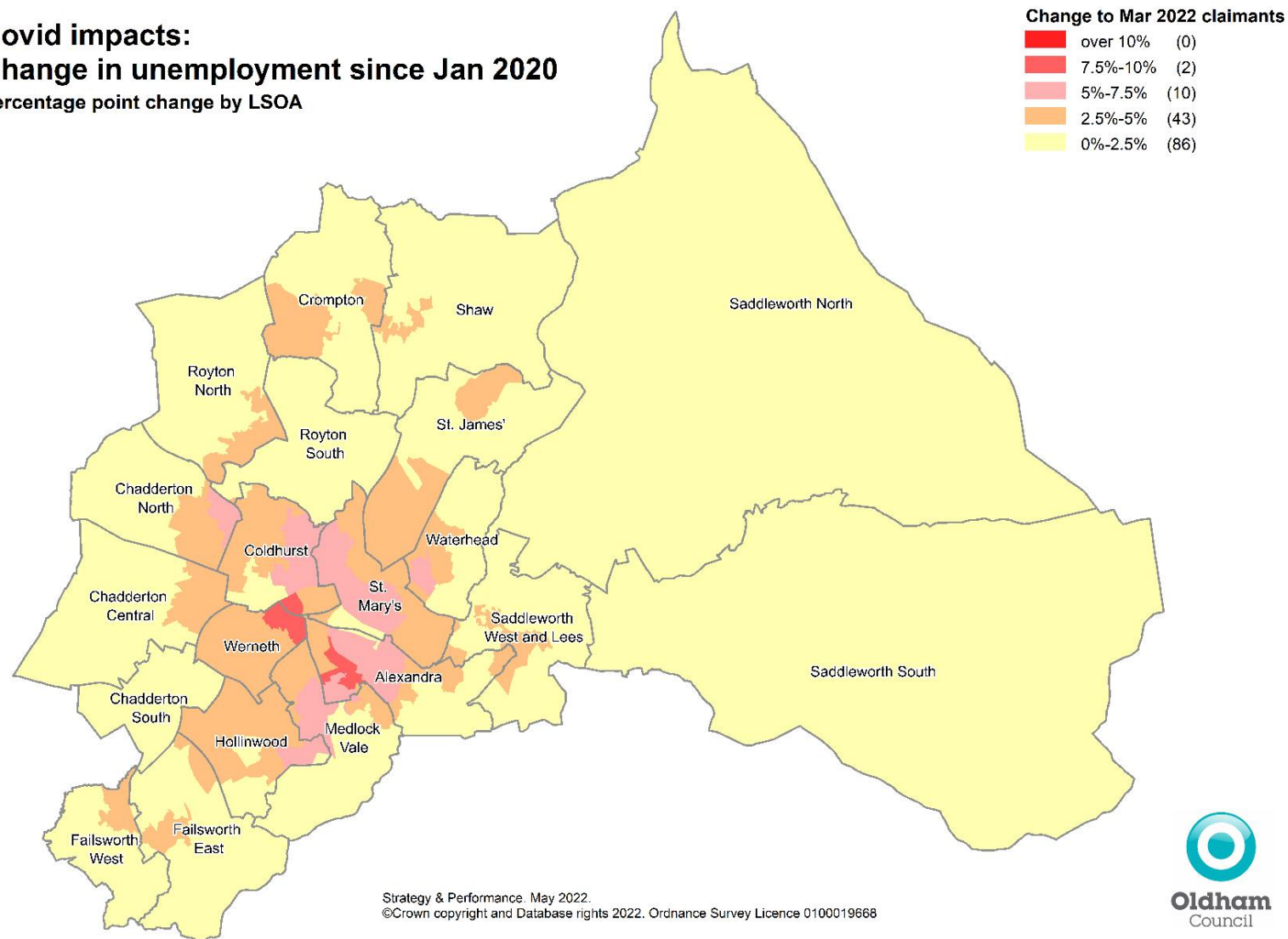
Many wards have remained stable or seen a slight decrease in their unemployment rate this month. Some of the wards with the highest unemployment rate such as Alexandra, St Mary's and St James' have all seen a decrease in their unemployment rate this month. There are no wards with an unemployment rate equal to or better than their pre-COVID levels for this month's report.

Unemployment Hotspots in Oldham



This map shows the extent to which unemployment has had a major impact on many areas across Oldham. There has been little change over the last month in regard to unemployment hotspots and we can see that unemployment is still geographically concentrated around the town centre. The top five unemployment hotspots are almost identical to last month's report with only Higginshaw dropping out of the top five and being replaced by Lower Hathershaw. Eldon Street and St Mary's Estate have seen a drop in their unemployment rate for this month.

Covid impacts:
Change in unemployment since Jan 2020
 Percentage point change by LSOA



The map above shows that since the beginning of COVID-19 the usual areas of highest unemployment from previous months have seen the largest increases in unemployment, ie deprived areas have suffered even greater hardship on top of their existing poverty. As rates start to fall, only two areas are 7.5 percentage points above pre-Covid levels. Overall there has been very little change for this month's report with no area below pre-Covid levels.

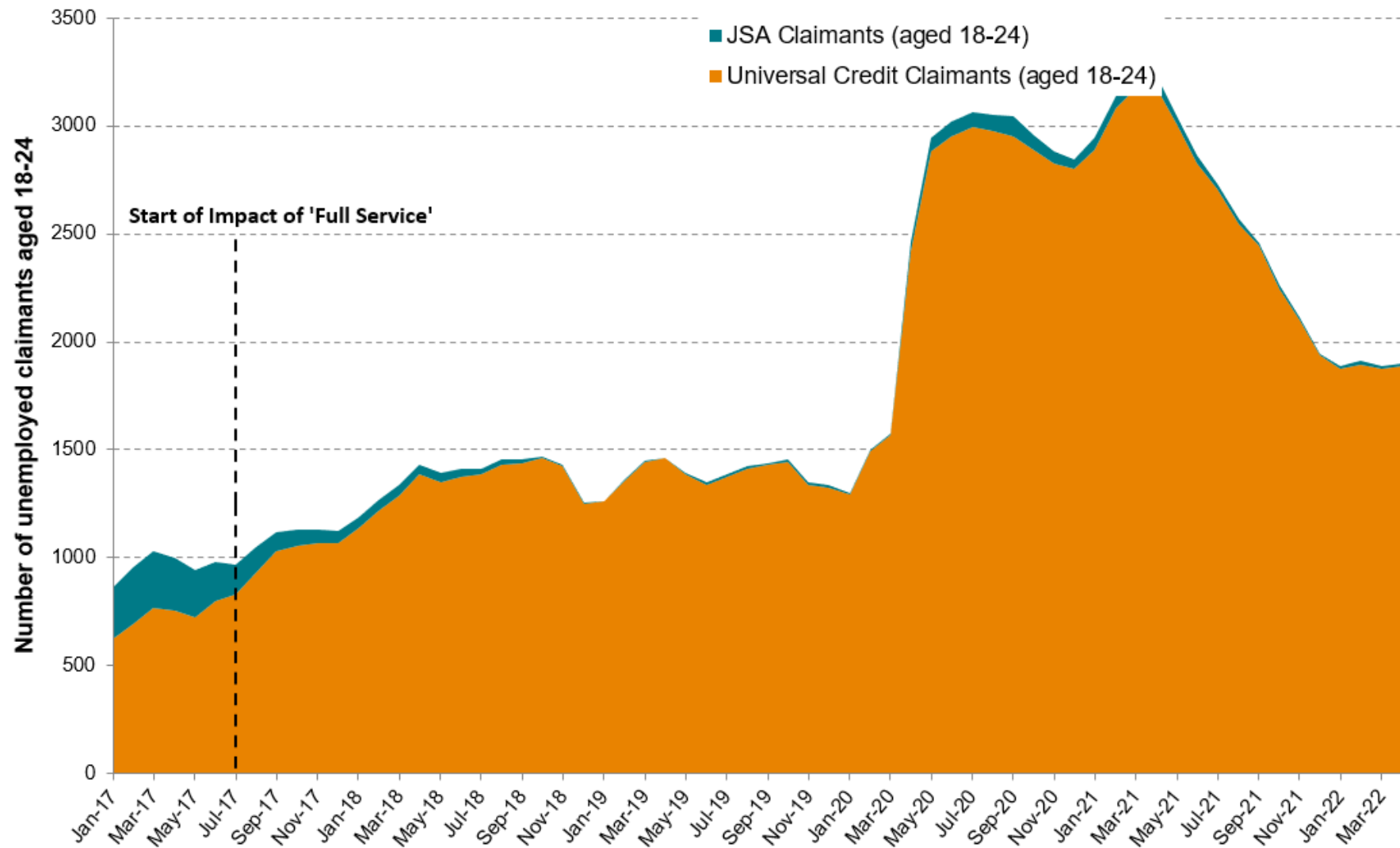
Youth Unemployment (aged 18-24): Apr 2022

Local Authority	Youth Unemployed	% Youth Unemployed	% Monthly change	% Annual change	GM Rank (1 = highest)
Bolton	1,680	7.5	-5.1	-42.2	3
Bury	925	6.8	-6.6	-43.1	5
Manchester	4,045	4.7	-5.3	-39.8	9
Oldham	1,900	9.6	0.8	-41.3	1
Rochdale	1,435	8.2	-0.3	-38.5	2
Salford	1,565	5.8	-2.5	-42.3	7
Stockport	1,040	5.5	-1.4	-48.1	8
Tameside	1,175	7.0	-3.3	-46.3	4
Trafford	700	4.6	-7.9	-51.6	10
Wigan	1,400	5.9	-6.4	-45.2	6
GM	15,870	6.1	-3.7	-42.8	-
England	221,350	4.7	-4.4	-47.5	-

Youth unemployment in Oldham stands this month at **9.6%**, a monthly increase of 0.8%. All local authorities across Greater Manchester except Oldham saw a decrease in their youth unemployment rate.

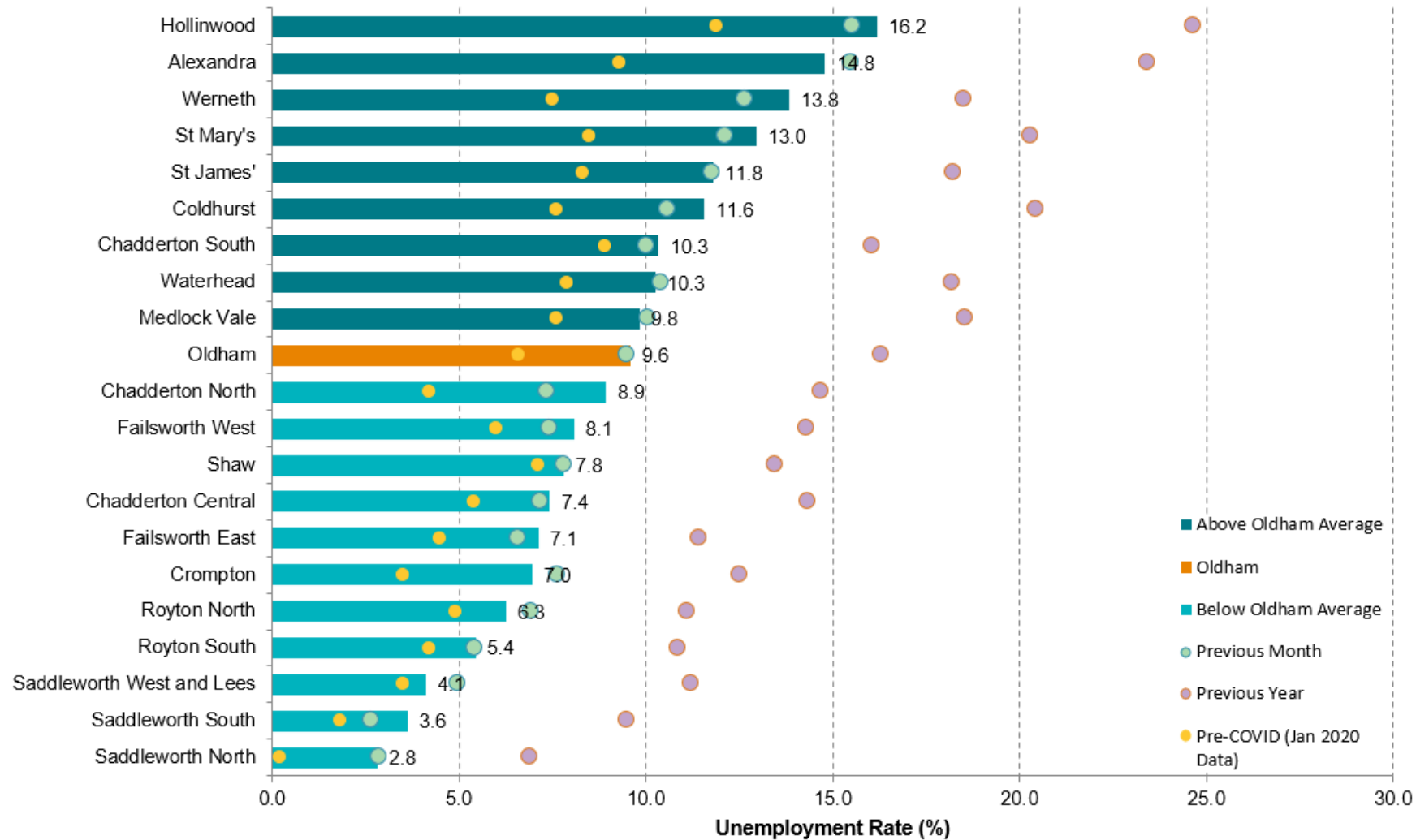
Oldham still has the highest youth unemployment rate in GM, and is significantly higher than the national rate.

Youth Unemployment in Oldham: Jan 2017 - Apr 2022



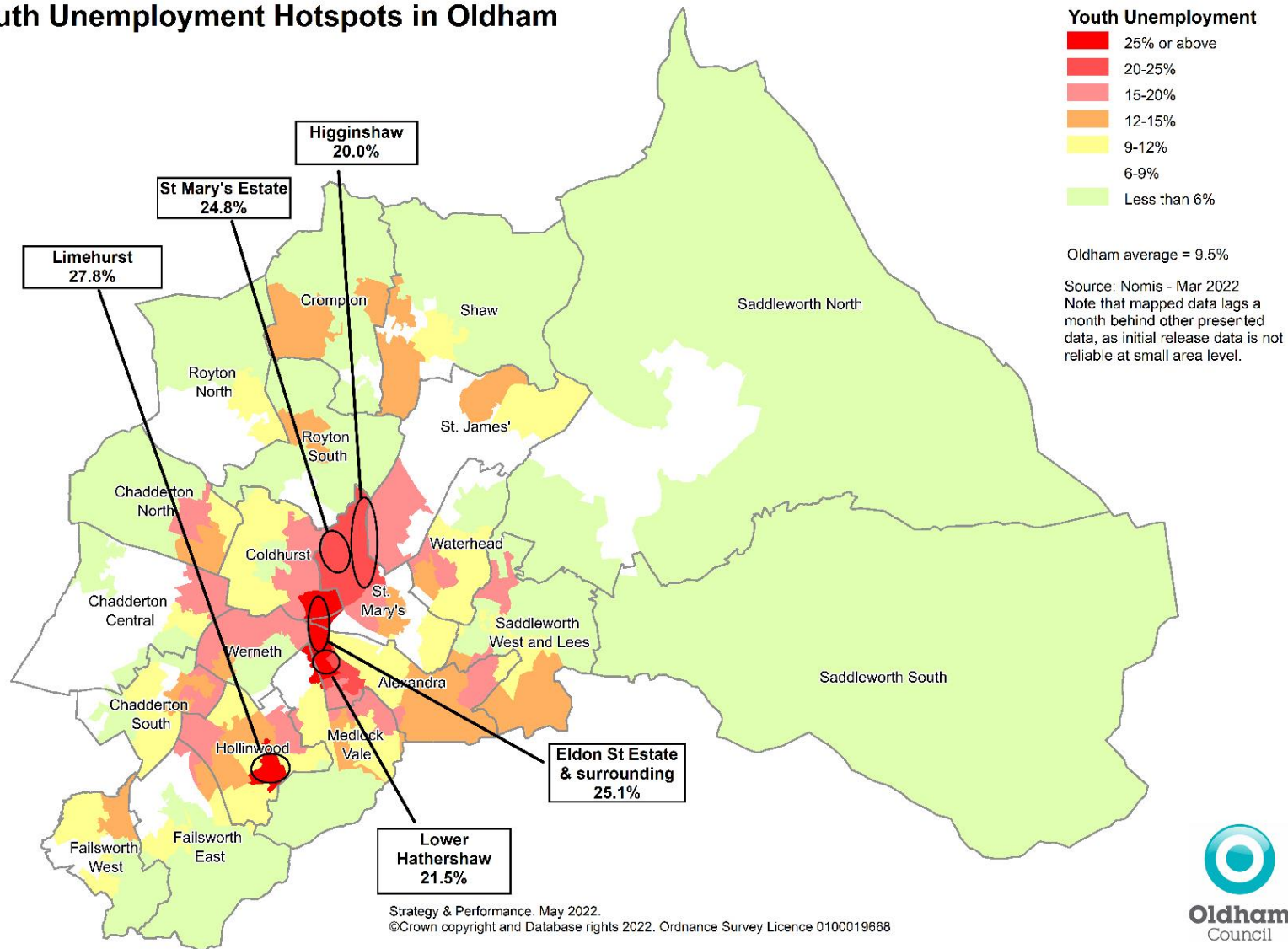
All local authorities across GM except for Oldham saw a decrease in their youth unemployment rate for this month. It's clear to see from the data and time series above that the number of claimants for UC and JSA is starting to stabilise despite being significantly higher than pre-COVID levels. Based on this It looks like Oldham faces a significant challenge in reducing youth unemployment.

Youth Unemployment by Ward: Apr 2022



We can see quite a mixed picture for youth unemployment by ward for this month. Wards such as Werneth, Coldhurst, Hollinwood and Chadderton North have all seen significant increases in their youth unemployment rate however wards such as Crompton, Royton North and Saddleworth W&L have seen a significant decrease in their youth unemployment rate. For this month's report no wards have a youth unemployment rate that is equal to or better than pre-COVID levels.

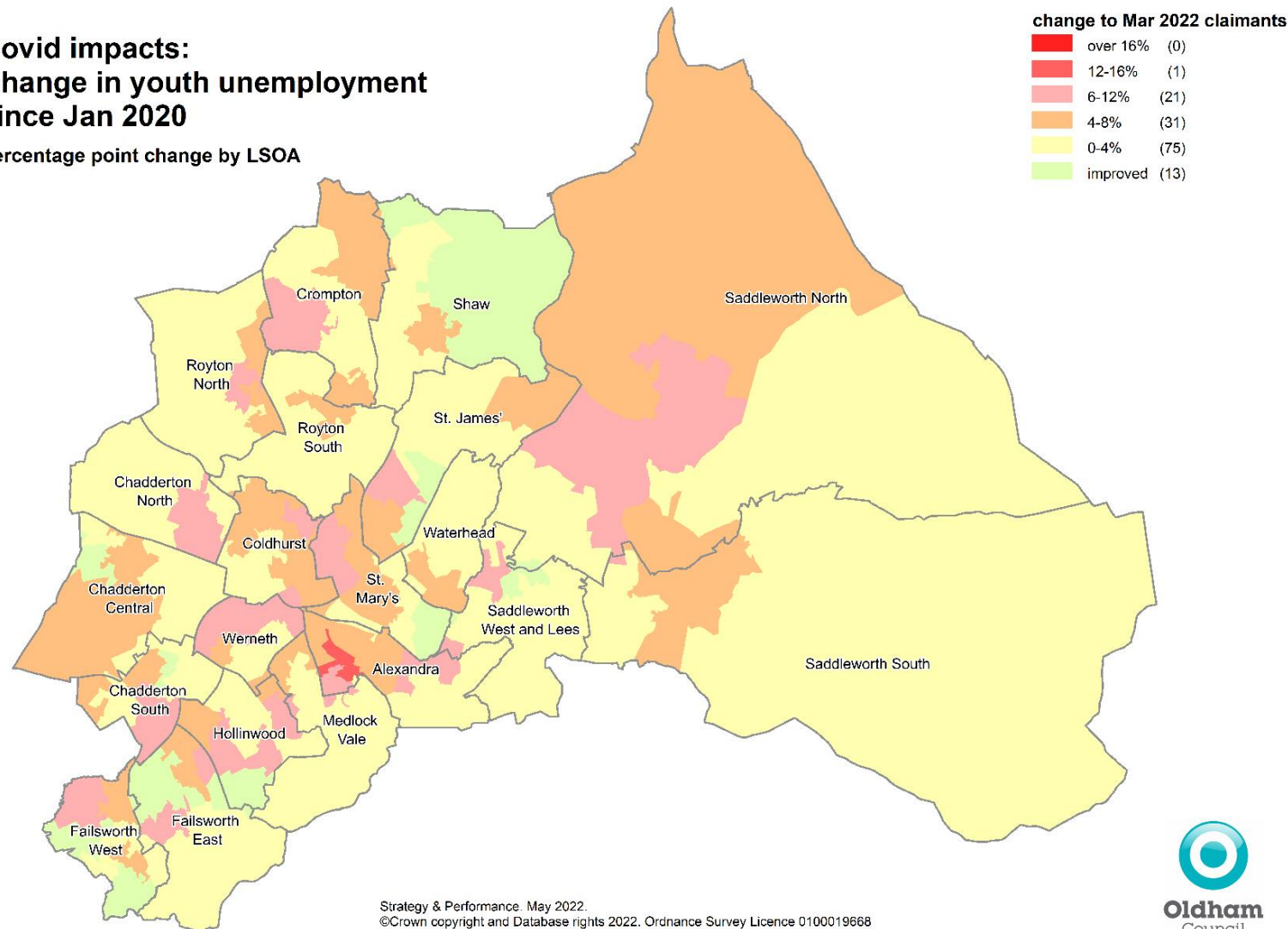
Youth Unemployment Hotspots in Oldham



This map shows the extent to which youth unemployment has had a major impact on many areas across Oldham. Greenacres has dropped out of the top five unemployment hotspots for this month and has been replaced by Lower Hathershaw. We can see from the map and data that wards such as Alexandra and Medlock Vale have all seen a significant increase in youth unemployment for this month. Youth unemployment for Limehurst has also increased significantly this month and is now the hotspot with the highest rate in Oldham.

Covid impacts: Change in youth unemployment since Jan 2020

Percentage point change by LSOA



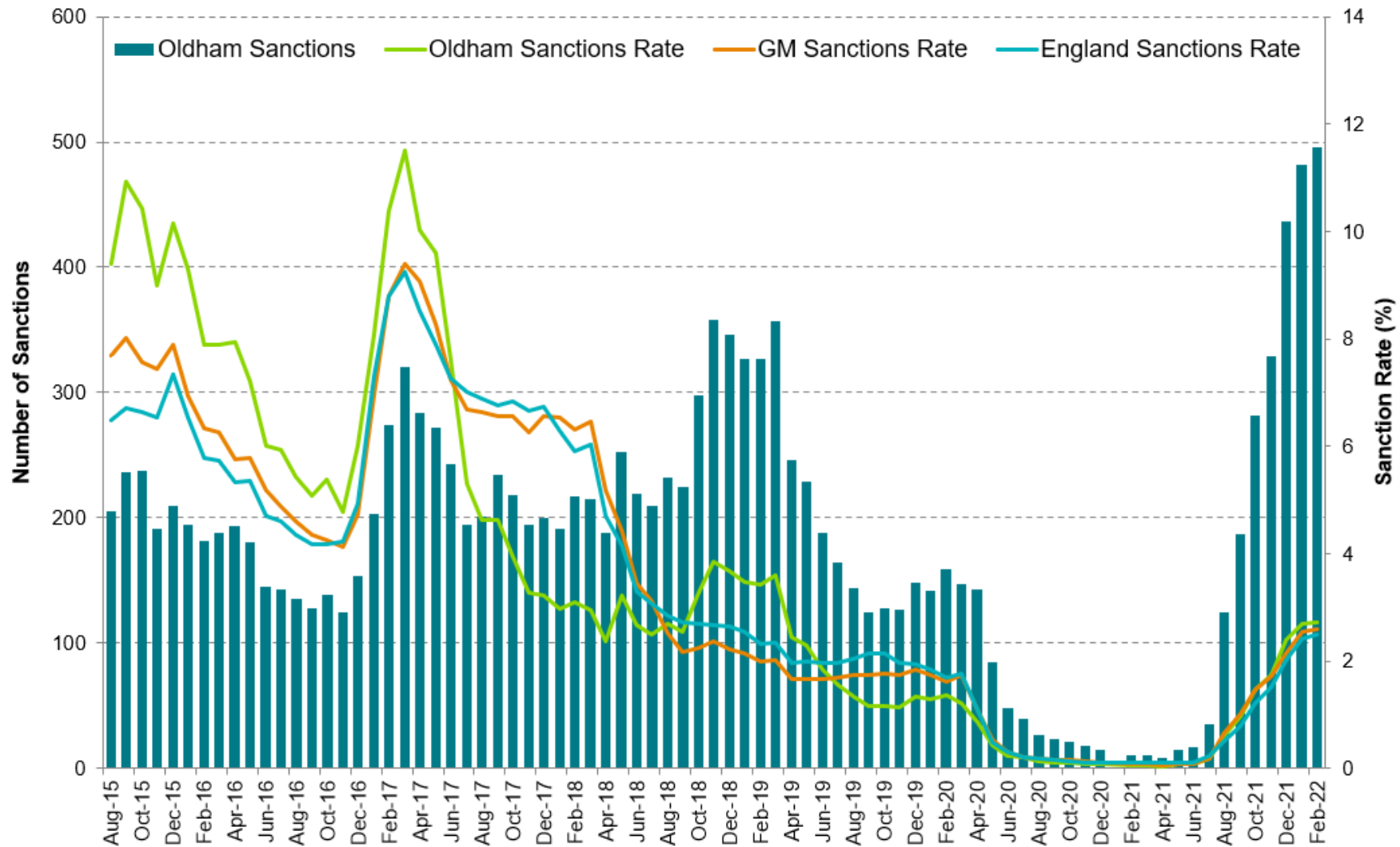
Covid impacts on youth unemployment are evident over much of inner Oldham, but also in more deprived parts of other areas. Some areas on the periphery of urban areas are now returning to pre-covid levels particularly in Shaw, although it is difficult to understand why this phenomena might be occurring. We can see for this month's report that there has been a reduction in the number of LSOA's classed as 'improved' going from 16 to 13 in this month's report.

Universal Credit Sanction Rates: February 2022

Local Authority	UC Claimants eligible for sanctions	Number of UC Sanctions	Sanction Rate (%)	GM Rank (1 = highest)
Bolton	17,890	506	2.8	2
Bury	9,488	244	2.6	5
Manchester	43,396	1,195	2.8	3
Oldham	18,184	496	2.7	4
Rochdale	15,146	321	2.1	10
Salford	16,695	390	2.3	8
Stockport	10,848	255	2.4	7
Tameside	12,778	293	2.3	9
Trafford	8,095	203	2.5	6
Wigan	14,671	439	3.0	1
GM	167,191	4,342	2.6	-
England	2,583,489	64,614	2.5	-

Oldham has a record number of UC sanctions at 496 and a sanction rate of 2.7%. There is a far greater number of UC claimants currently as a result of COVID and as a result is likely to lead to a higher number of UC sanctions but we can also see from the data that the sanction rate is greater than pre-COVID levels of 2019 and early 2020. This is likely a result of the stricter changes to UC now being implemented (the criteria for a sanction to be applied increasing) leading to more claimants being sanctioned. This is particularly concerning given the current cost of living crisis and the impact this may have on society's most vulnerable.

UC Sanctions in Oldham: Aug 2015 - Feb 2022



Due to COVID, UC sanctions were not applied between April 2020 and April 2021 and this can be seen in the chart above. Oldham now has a record number of UC sanctions at 496, by examining the rate of UC sanctions we can now see that the rate is above pre-COVID levels and is likely a result of the changes to UC sanctions (the criteria for a sanction to be applied increasing). The increase in the rate of UC sanctions appears to be slowing however this rate of UC sanctions is still concerning given the current cost of living crisis.

16-19s Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs)

NEET as % of cohort (Years 12 & 13)	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Q2	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Q3	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Q4	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Q1
Target																
Actual (Year 12 & 13)					2.5%	2.8%	2.9%	2.7%	3.3%	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%	3.7%			
Last Year's Performance					2.5%	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
Actual Numbers	220	222	115		158	177	182		205	218	229		233			
Cohort Size	6169	6168	6335		6322	6319	6321		6316	6318	6319		6,336			
Numbers 12 months ago																

Source: Positive Steps Oldham, April 2022 MI Report and previous

The NEET rate has risen again from 3.6% to 3.7 %, this figure is above the NEET rate (3.5%) for the previous year.