Monthly Labour Market Report November 2021

8.1% Unemployment Rate
-2.2%

11.6% Youth Unemployment Rate
-6.1%

15.1% Alexandra — Highest Unemployed Ward

2.2% Saddleworth North — Lowest Unemployed Ward

17.2% Hollinwood — Highest Youth Unemployed Ward

3.7% Saddleworth North — Lowest Youth Unemployed Ward

Insight and Intelligence Team

Oldham Council

Key Findings this Month

These Statistics are for a month period to early October 2021, therefore the 19th month impact of the COVID-19 lockdown/re-opening/public health policy is within this report.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate stands at **8.1%**, a fall of 2.2% in the last month. This continues the pattern of month-on-month falls, which now appear to be relatively consistent. We might expect falls to increase in the next month, as Christmas working begins, but then perhaps level out somewhat post-December.

As of October 2021, there were **11770** claimants in Oldham (5070 claimants more than in Jan 2020 due to the COVID-19 economic shock). While Oldham continues to have the highest claimant rate in GM, and higher than the England average, there is now a pattern of decrease which might if continued return to pre-Covid levels early in 2023.

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment in Oldham has decreased this month by **6.1%**, with 2310 young people (aged 18-24) in Oldham claiming. This represents a youth unemployment rate of **11.6%**, the highest rate across Greater Manchester and higher than the national rate.

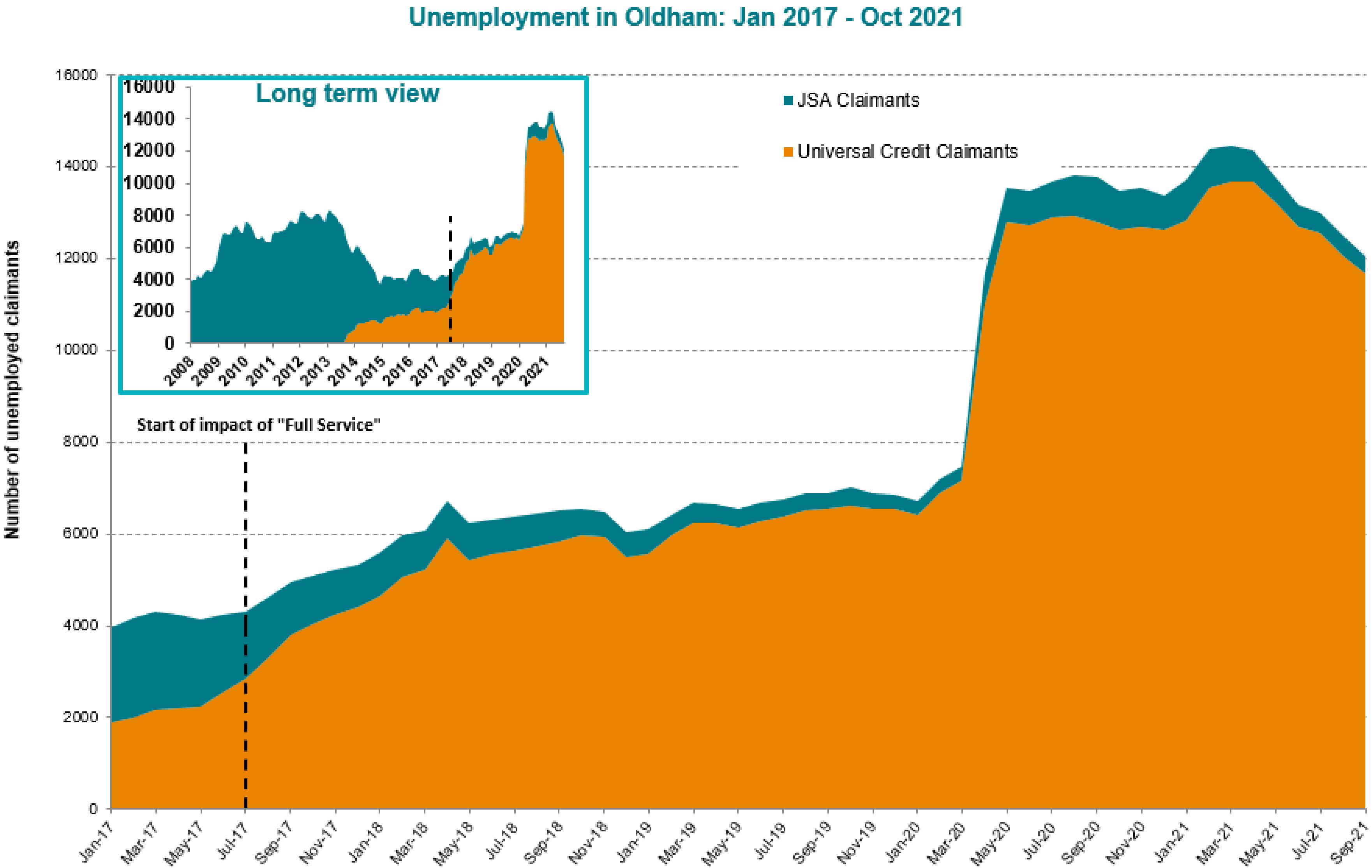
As with all-age unemployment, rates remain high across GM. However, we are seeing consistent month-on-month falls. There are still some areas over 30%, a level which has been associated with civil disturbances in other areas in the past. This month, there continues to be an unusual clustering of the worst performing areas, concentrated immediately North and South of the town centre.

Sanctions

New sanction data is available this month. The sanctions regime has now resumed, and August 2021 (latest available) saw the highest single month increase on record. At a time of still unprecedented unemployment levels, this will be a further economic stress.
Next reporting will be in the January 2022 monthly report.

NEETs

Full figures are not yet available for September, however, the headline figure of 2.5% NEET is in line with the previous year.



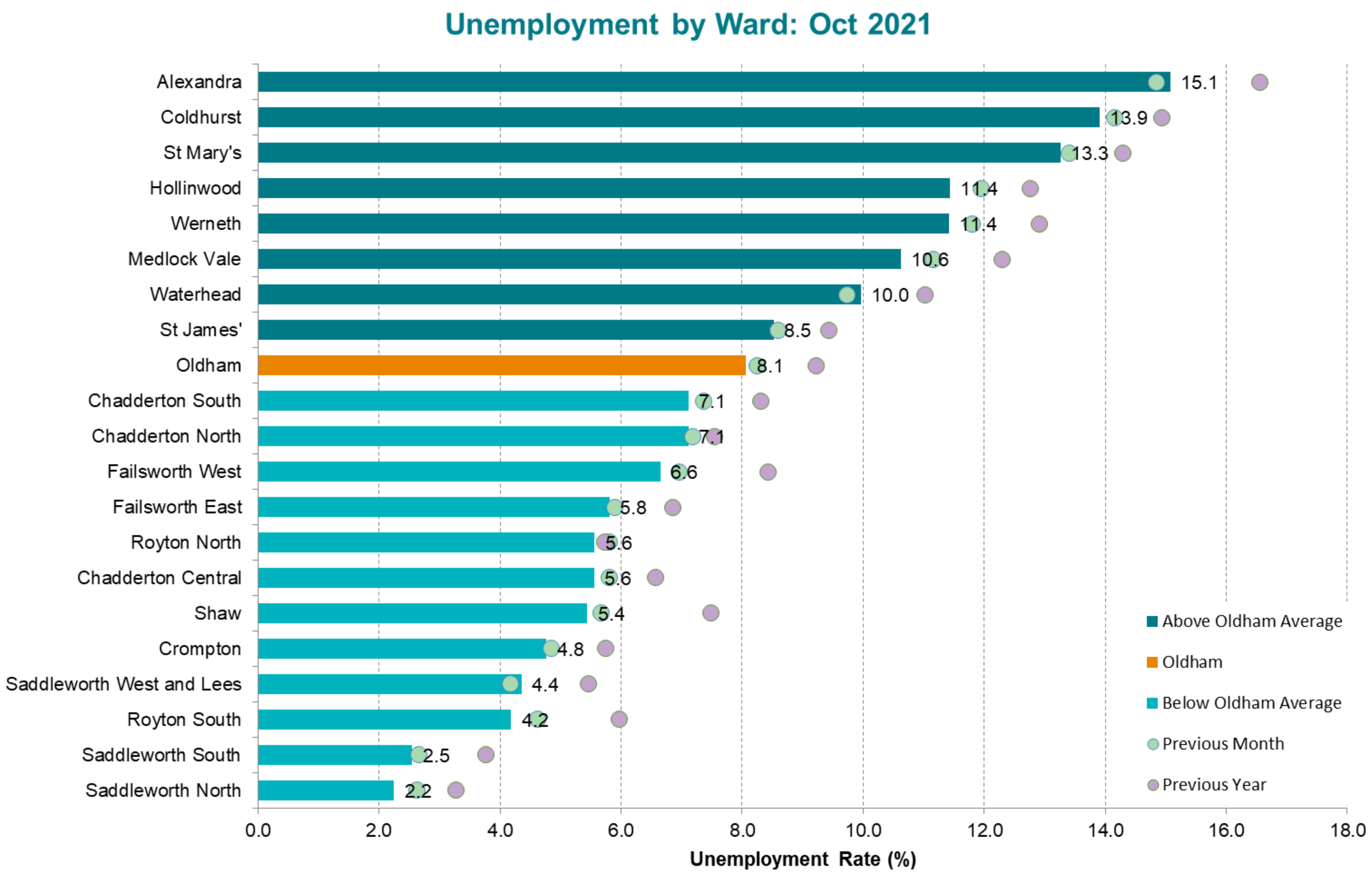
The downward trend of previous months continues this month.
Note the increase in JSA claimants during Covid- this seems to be "New Style" JSA, which appears to be being implemented in Oldham faster or more often than in other LAs.

Regional Unemployment Statistics (aged 16-64): Oct 2021

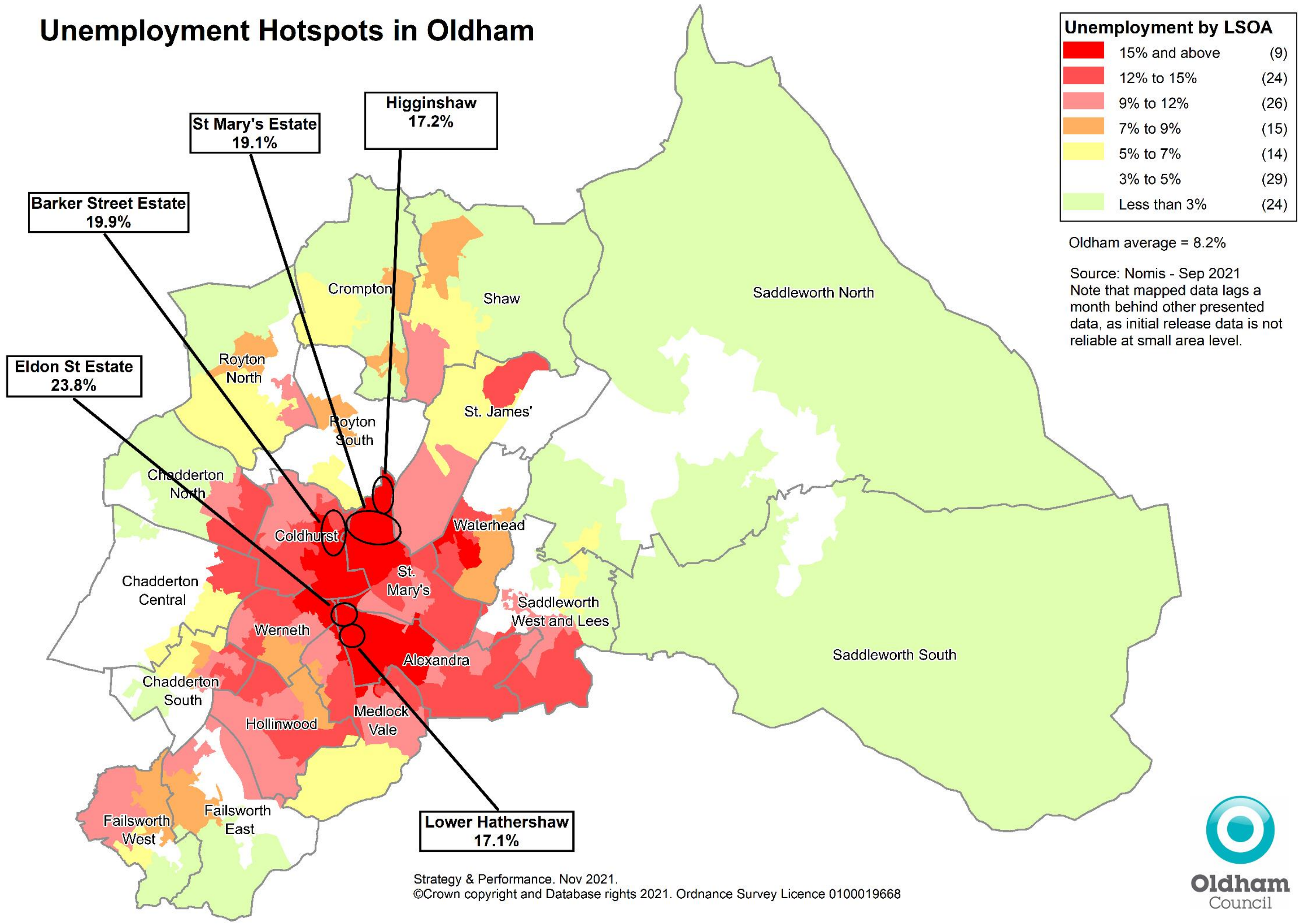
Local Authority	Unemployed	% Unemployed	% Monthly change	% Annual change	GM Rank (1 = highest)
Bolton	12,260	7.0	-1.0	-17.0	4
Bury	6,335	5.4	-1.9	-21.0	7
Manchester	28,370	7.2	-0.6	-16.3	2
Oldham	11,770	8.1	-2.2	-12.6	1
Rochdale	9,995	7.2	-1.0	-13.7	3
Salford	11,330	6.6	-1.4	-18.7	5
Stockport	7,825	4.4	-2.4	-24.5	9
Tameside	8,440	6.0	-1.3	-22.2	6
Trafford	5,550	3.8	-3.6	-27.0	10
Wigan	10,245	5.0	-1.4	-24.3	8
GM	112,110	6.2	-1.4	-18.8	-
England	1,717,165	4.9	-1.6	-21.5	-

The **unemployment rate** in Oldham currently stands at **8.1%**, a decrease of 2.2**%** from the previous month. This month, Oldham has the third largest fall within GM, but remains the highest figure in GM and higher than the England rate.

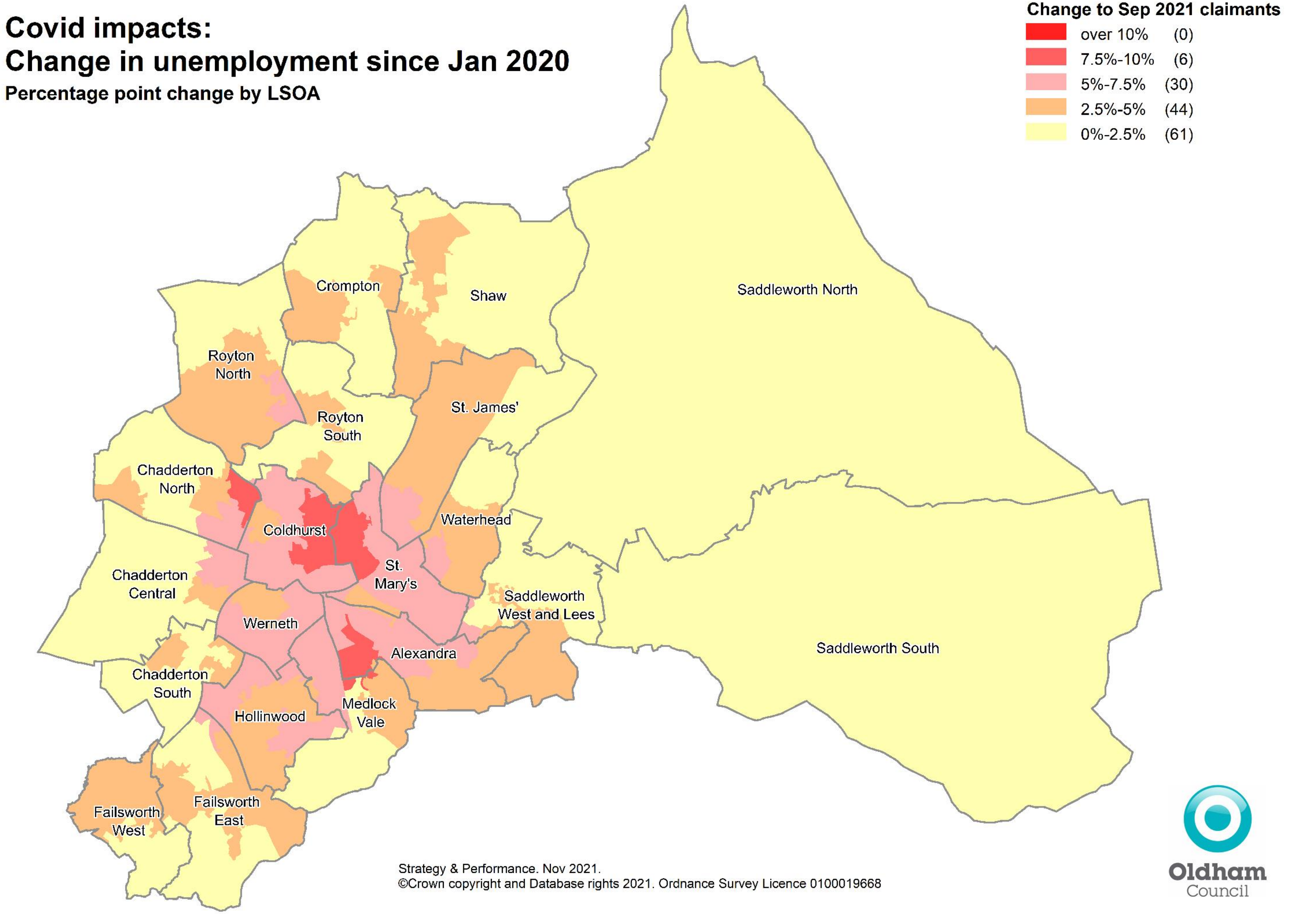
We remain on track for a return to pre-Covid levels in early 2023, should the current trend continue. However, it is likely that the shape of decrease will be more of a bell curve, implying that a longer time period might be necessary.



Little change to the overall pattern by ward this month. However, a worsening in Alexandra ward widens the inequalities between most and least affluent. 1 person in 7 in Alexandra is unemployed, compared to 1 person in 45 in Saddleworth South.



This map shows the extent to which unemployment has had a major impact on many areas across Oldham. While rates are now falling overall, there are still substantial issues, and the highest rates are geographically concentrated, particularly around Ashton Rd and North of the town centre. Such concentrations are unusual.
Eldon St Estate is still far more challenged than other areas, with no improvement this month.



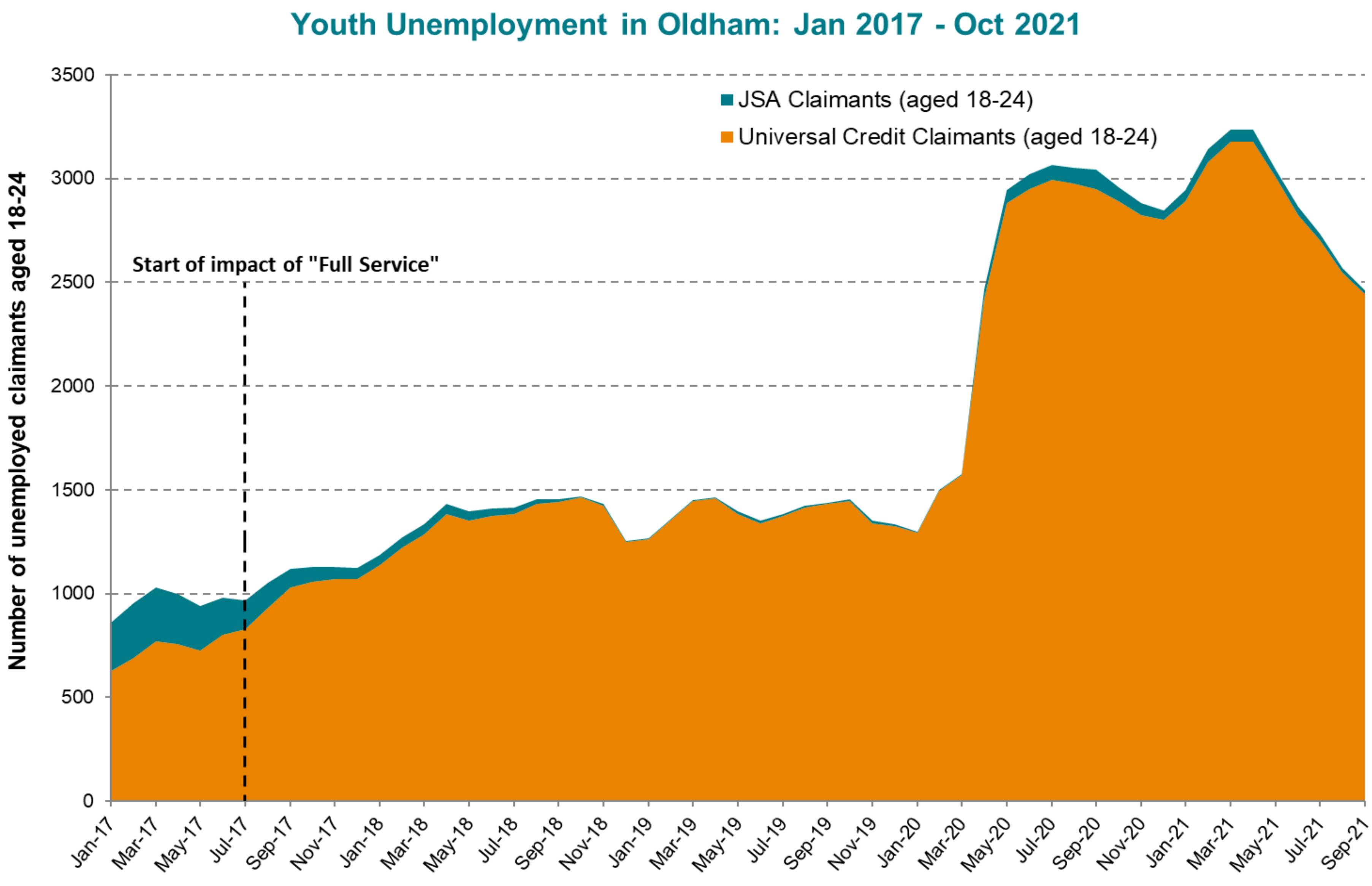
The map above shows that since the beginning of COVID-19 the usual areas of highest unemployment from previous months have seen the largest increases in unemployment, ie deprived areas have suffered even greater hardship on top of their existing poverty.
As rates start to fall, few areas are now more than 7.5 percentage points above pre-Covid levels. Rural fringes continue to be less impacted, although to date no area is below pre-Covid levels.

Youth Unemployment (aged 18-24): Oct 2021

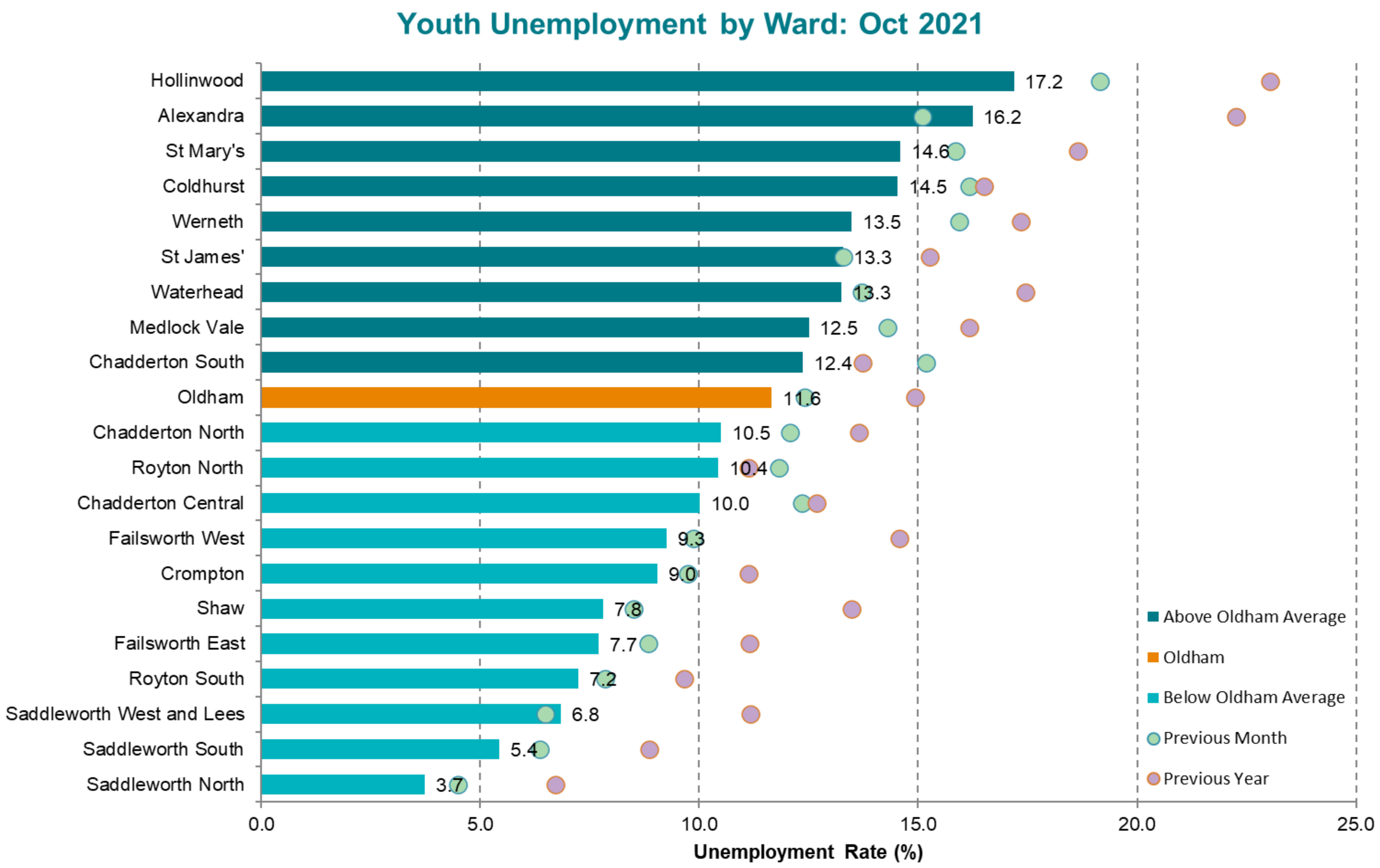
Local Authority	Youth Unemployed	% Youth Unemployed	% Monthly change	% Annual change	GM Rank (1 = highest)
Bolton	2,115	9.5	-4.7	-29.9	3
Bury	1,205	8.9	-4.0	-28.5	5
Manchester	4,910	5.7	-2.9	-28.0	10
Oldham	2,310	11.6	-6.1	-22.0	1
Rochdale	1,740	10.0	-4.9	-24.5	2
Salford	1,825	6.8	-6.4	-32.5	8
Stockport	1,385	7.4	-6.1	-33.7	7
Tameside	1,545	9.2	-5.2	-31.9	4
Trafford	940	6.2	-7.8	-38.4	9
Wigan	1,865	7.9	-2.4	-32.2	6
GM	19,830	7.6	-4.7	-29.5	-
England	286,460	6.1	-4.2	-33.2	-

Youth unemployment in Oldham stands this month at **11.6%**, an encouraging monthly decrease of **-6.1%.**

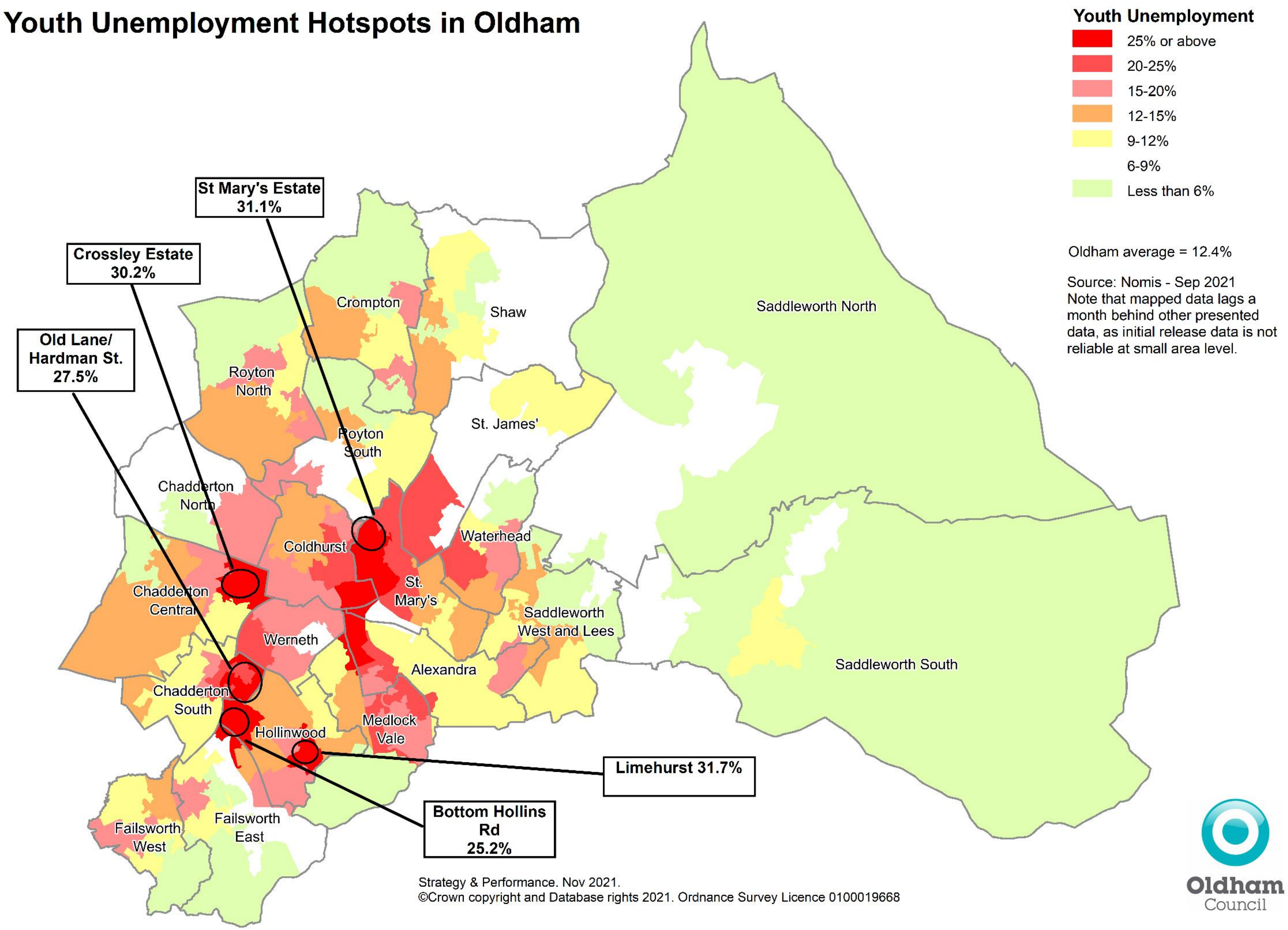
Despite a competitive rate of decrease this month, Oldham still has the highest youth unemployment rate in GM, and is significantly higher than the national rate.



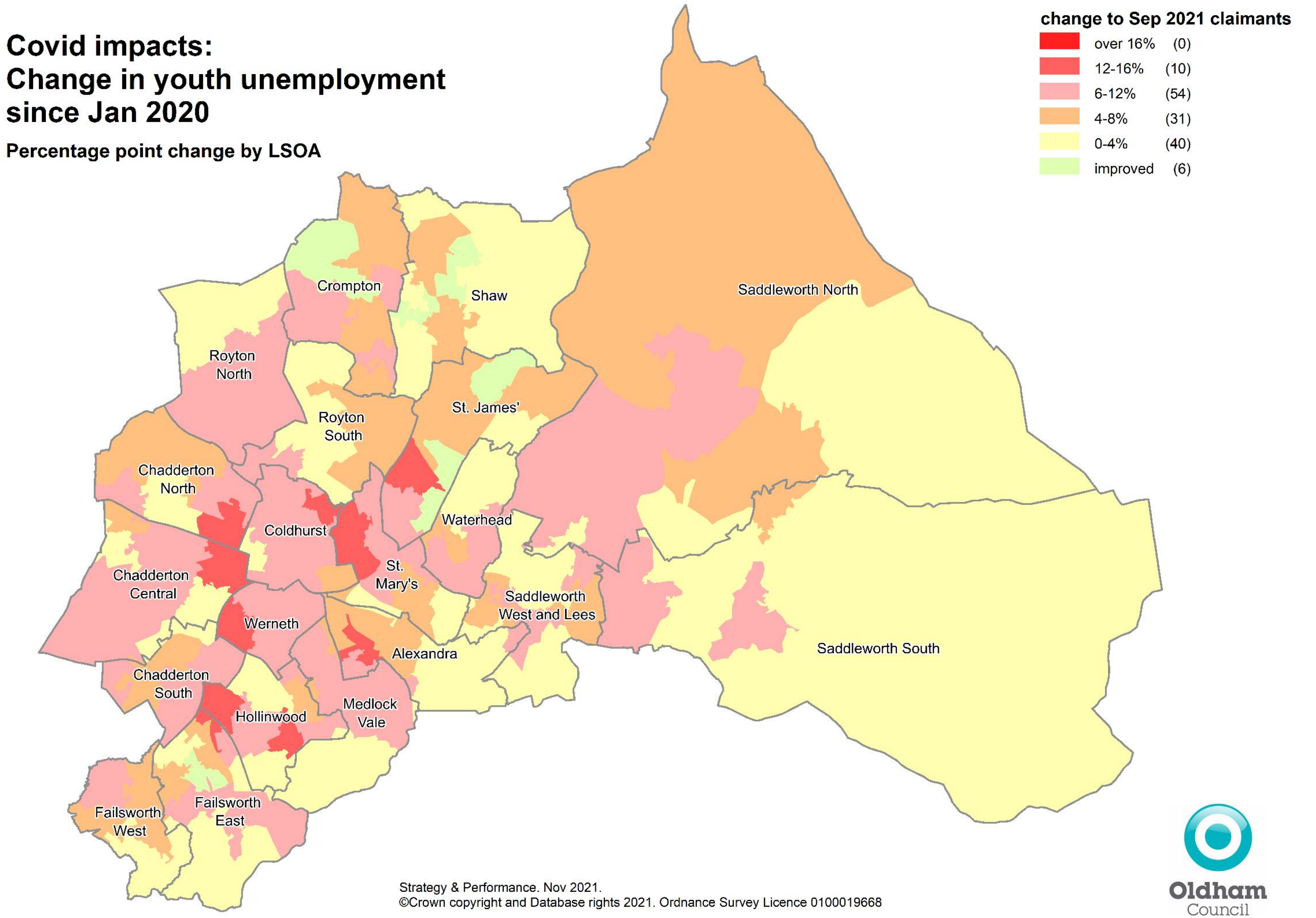
The encouraging falls of recent months have continued, which begins to reduce the inequalities currently faced by young people in the labour market. However, there is still a significant distance to go to return to pre-covid levels.



We can now see significant falls in almost every ward compared to Oct 2020. As with all-age claimants, Alexandra sees a substantial rise this month, while large falls are seen in Chadderton and Werneth (cancelling out rises last month).



We are still seeing areas of Oldham with youth claimant rates of over 30%, which may be seen as at a level where over time there may be social fracturing. Areas of East Chadderton and Hollins saw rises, in an unusual pattern. However, given that this data is one month in arrears, and this months ward-level figures show significant falls in Chadderton, it may be that this is a temporary phenomenom.

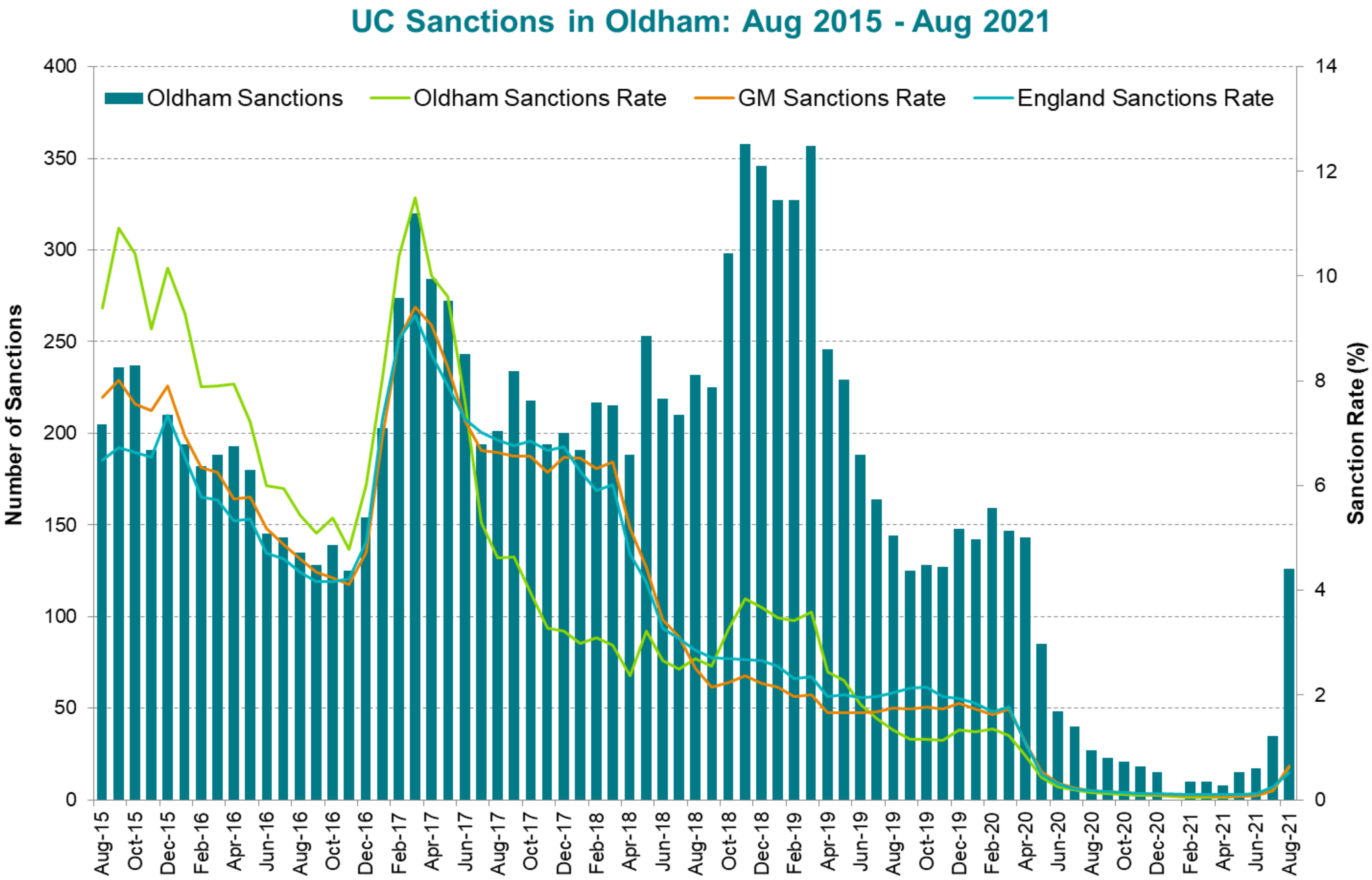


Covid impacts on youth unemployment are evident over much of inner Oldham, but also in more deprived parts of other areas. Some areas on the periphery of urban areas are now returning to pre-covid levels, although it is difficult to understand why this phenomena might be occurring.
Higher values in Saddleworth should be interpreted with caution as denominators can be small.

Universal Credit Sanction Rates: August 2021

Local Authority	UC Claimants eligible for sanctions	Number of UC Sanctions	Sanction Rate (%)	GM Rank (1 = highest)
Bolton	19,572	105	0.5	8
Bury	10,465	69	0.7	6
Manchester	47,254	321	0.7	4
Oldham	19,995	126	0.6	7
Rochdale	16,230	50	0.3	10
Salford	18,467	170	0.9	1
Stockport	12,397	57	0.5	9
Tameside	14,451	107	0.7	3
Trafford	9,304	62	0.7	5
Wigan	16,611	138	0.8	2
GM	184,746	1,205	0.7	-
England	2,889,110	15,029	0.5	-

Due to Covid, new sanctions were not applied between April 2020 and April 2021, although some historic sanctions appear to have been continued. With the re-imposition of sanctions, August sees the highest single month increase in sanctions on record, in a pattern that appears common across at least Greater Manchester.



Note figures for Jan 2021 not currently available.

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

NEET as % of cohort (Years 12 & 13)	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Q2	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Q3	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Q4	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Q1
Target																
Actual (Year 12 & 13)					**2.5%**											
Last Year's Performance	3.7%	3.6%	1.7%	*3.0%*	2.5%	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	
Actual Numbers																
Cohort Size																
Numbers 12 months ago																

Source: Positive Steps Oldham, June 2021 MI Report and previous

October report has not yet been received: however, headline figure is understood to be 2.5%, in line with the previous year.