

April 2023

Plymouth's Growth Board Economic Dashboard



Millions get pay rise as National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage increase

(Published by the Department for International Trade on 01 April 2023)

Millions of the lowest paid workers across the UK will receive a pay increase as the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rise comes into effect:

- The National Living Wage will see an increase of 9.7%, up to £10.42 for workers aged 23+, as well as an increase for younger workers on the National Minimum Wage,
- The uplift – worth £1,600 more for a full time worker – will benefit workers in industries like retail, hospitality and cleaning and maintenance, as well as women from ethnic minority backgrounds,
- This adds to other government support coming into effect today, including the Energy Price Guarantee, Household Support Fund and bus fare extension.

The 2023 National Minimum Wage for 21 and 22 years is 52% higher and the National Minimum Wage for apprentices is 60% higher than the 2015 rates; hence this increase is the largest ever cash increase to the National Living Wage, and highest increase in percentage terms since its introduction in 2016, helping to protect the incomes of millions of workers from high cost-of-living.

The Department for Work and Pensions have also announced £842 million to help the most vulnerable households across England. The extension of the Household Support Fund, which comes into effect on 01 April, gives councils additional cash to directly help the most in need with essential food and energy costs until the end of March 2024.

The Department for Transport have also announced a £2 fare cap for bus users which is being extended until the end of June. This cap will help save passengers money, encourage more people back on the bus and grow the economy.

A glimpse at the Spring Budget 2023

The Spring Budget 2023 sets out how the Government intends to deliver on three of the five key priorities set out by the Prime Minister in January 2023.

Three key elements of the budget were: halving inflation, growing the economy (through Employment, Education, Enterprise and Everywhere) and get debt falling.

Below are the budget announcements of relevance to Plymouth:

- The Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) will be maintained at £2,500 for a further three months, until the end of June.
- Funding of £63m will be made available to help leisure centres with rising swimming pool heating costs and invest to become more energy efficient.
- To help get people with health conditions and disabilities into work, the Government has published a white paper on disability benefits reform which includes abolishing the Work Capability Assessment.
- With the NHS being the UK's biggest employer, the Government will shortly publish the long-term workforce plan committed to at Autumn Statement 2022 and the pension tax reforms announced in the Spring Budget which will help remove incentives for doctors to work reduced hours or retire early due to pension tax concerns.
- The Government is providing an additional £8.1 million in each of the next 2 years to expand the Staying Close programme to around half of local authorities by March 2025.
- In working households, 30 hours of free childcare for children over 9 months will be introduced in stages. Funding paid to nurseries providing free childcare under the hours offer will be increased by £204m from September, rising to £288m next year.
- An additional £3m over the next 2 years to support young people into employment through piloting an expansion of the Supported Internships programme to young people entitled to Special Educational Needs support who do not have an Education Health and Care Plan.
- £200m announced in 2023-24 for local authorities to repair potholes and improve roads.
- A third round of the Levelling Up Fund will proceed as planned later in 2023 with a further £1bn to level up places across the UK.
- The Government will consult on transferring responsibilities from Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to local authorities from April 2024. The Government will publish an updated policy position to confirm next steps by the summer.
- The Government will seek to negotiate a new wave of devolution deals over the coming year, which will include local investment funding for areas that are committed to a mayor or directly elected leader.
- An additional £33m over the next 3 years to increase the service provided to veterans, including support for those with serious physical injury resulting from their service and increasing the availability of veteran housing.

Job Posting Analytics

There were **6,714** total job postings in March 2023, of which **3,279** were unique*.

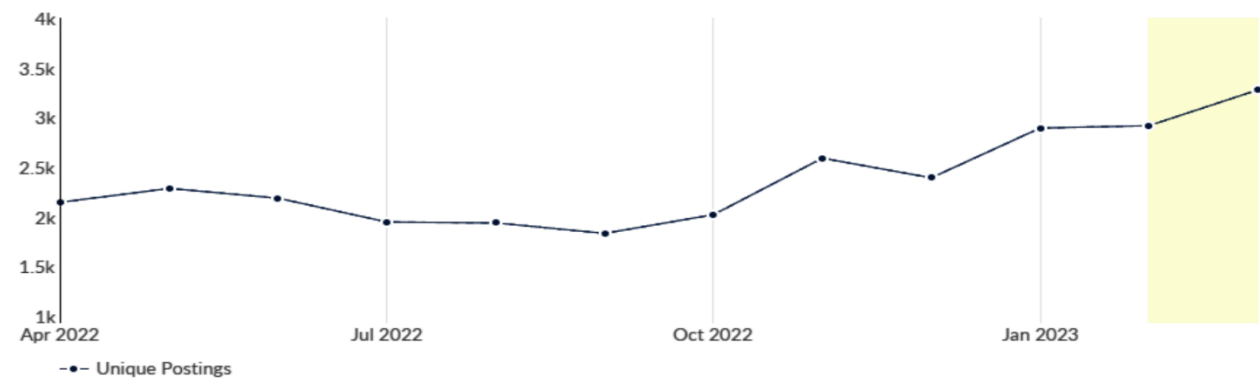
 **+12%**

change in unique job
postings between
February and
March 2023.

There was a Posting Intensity of **2-to-1**, meaning that for every 2 postings there is 1 unique job posting.

* Unique job posting is the number of “deduplicated” advertised jobs where duplicate job postings are advertised and only one of those duplicates is counted.

Unique Postings Trend



Top Posted Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	Total/Unique (Mar 2023)	Posting Intensity	Median Posting Duration
 Nurses	628 / 126	5 : 1 	21 days
 Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.	187 / 115	2 : 1 	21 days
 Care Workers and Home Carers	184 / 107	2 : 1 	19 days
 Sales Related Occupations n.e.c.	140 / 90	2 : 1 	22 days
 Cleaners and Domestics	130 / 73	2 : 1 	18 days
 Teaching and Other Educational Professionals n.e.c.	100 / 72	1 : 1 	19 days
 Teaching Assistants	146 / 72	2 : 1 	23 days
 Managers and Proprietors in Other Services n.e.c.	135 / 61	2 : 1 	16 days
 Customer Service Occupations n.e.c.	130 / 61	2 : 1 	22 days
 Kitchen and Catering Assistants	89 / 57	2 : 1 	19 days

Overview

Unemployment

5,500

UC/JSA
claimants in
February 2023

The **total number of UC/JSA claimants** was **5,500** in February 2023 in Plymouth – a rate of **3.2%** - of which **1,150** individuals **under 25**; **1,135** over 50; **3,275** males and **2,230** females.

The total number of claimants in February (5,500) is slightly up from January (5,400).

The claimant count rate looks to be stabilising in Plymouth at the near-full employment position.

The claimants' rate in Plymouth in February 2022 is (3.2%) which is **lower than the national average** for Great Britain (3.7%). Plymouth's claimant count rate has **remained lower than the national average since August 2021** when it was higher (Plymouth: 6.6% UK: 6.5%).

It is important to note the above UC/JSA claimant number is only representative of the unemployed population or those classified as 'searching for work', while claiming universal credit. The **total number of people on universal credit** in Plymouth was **27,621** in March 2023 - slightly up from February 2023 (27,346).

27,621

People on
Universal Credit
March 2023

Output & Productivity



£5.03bn real GVA in 2020 (-12.6% from 2019, UK has seen -9.8% from 2019 to 2020)

Productivity - nominal GVA per hour worked at 82.8% of UK average (2020), down from 83.5% in 2019

£988m exports (goods & services) in 2020 (19.6% of GVA, v. UK 32.5% of GVA)

Business



6,300 enterprises in 2022 (ONS Business Count)

Active Enterprises - ONS BRES, 2021 (411 per 10,000 working age population v. 697 UK-wide)

Business Growth: +26.8% since 2012 (v. +28.8% UK-wide)

Enterprise birth rate, 2021: 61.4 births per 10,000 working age residents (v. UK 86.3)

Survival rate, 2021 (after 5 years): 39.4% of businesses still active (v. UK 38.4%)

Skills & Attainment



34.2% of working-age residents NVQ4+ qualified (v. 43.0% UK)

GCSE Attainment-8 Score: 43.7 (v. UK 46.7) in 2019

A level APS per entry: 30.8 (v. UK 33.1) in 2019

27% in HE after 16-18 study (v. UK 35%) in 2019

16% in app'ship after 16-18 study (v. UK 10%) in 2019.

Labour Market



115,000 jobs in 2021 (+4.5% on 2020)

77.7% employment rate (v. UK 75.5%)

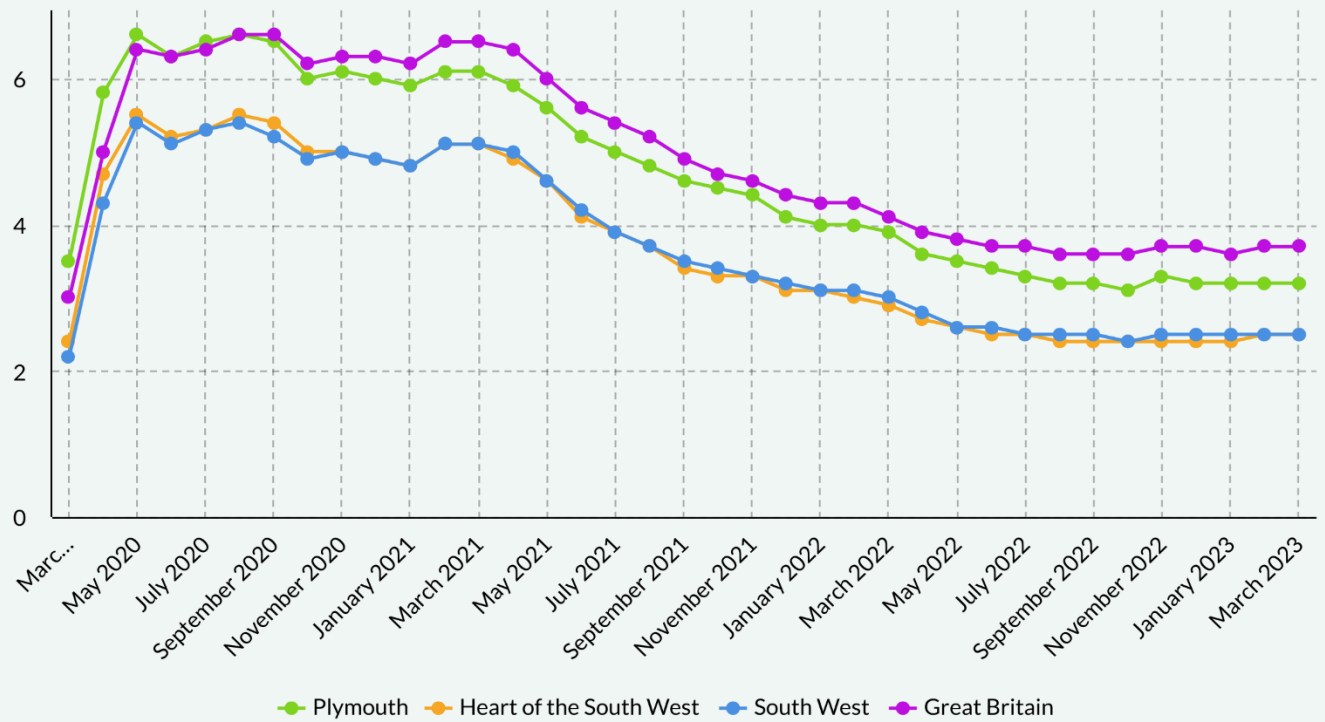
Median Gross weekly pay -workplace 2022

Full time - £593.2 (92.7% of UK average)

Part time - £251.2 (110.2% of UK average)

Highlights

Claimant Unemployment(%age of residents aged 16-64)

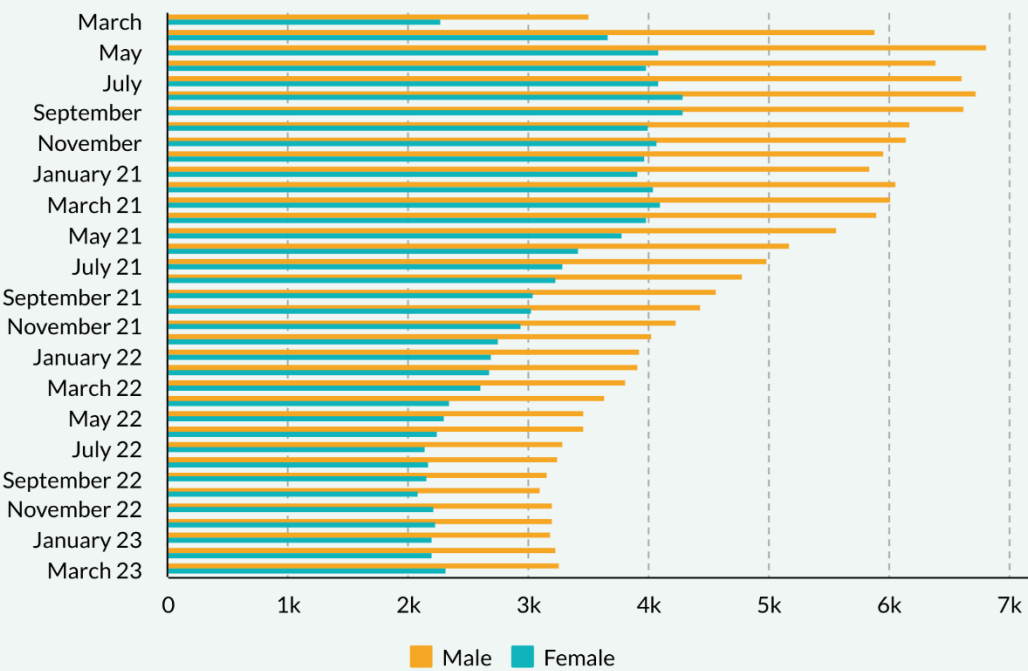


Source: Claimants Count, NOMIS, April 2023

We can see that HotSW is very closely tracking the South West, while Plymouth has been more closely tracking Great Britain but has achieved a lower rate since mid-2020.

Plymouths JSA/UC unemployment rate is now below the pre-pandemic level seen in March 2020.

Numbers of male and female UC claimants in Plymouth

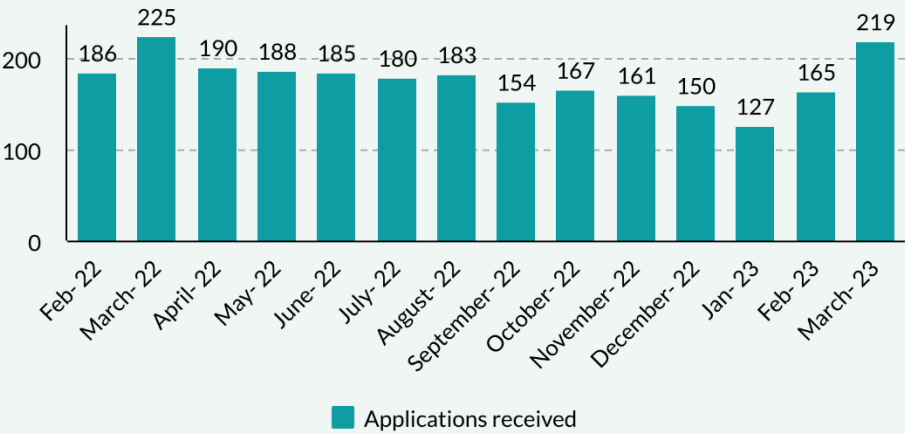


JSA/UC claimant numbers for both males and females is now below the numbers seen pre-pandemic in March 2022. (Sept. 2022 vs March 2020)

Source: Claimants Count, NOMIS, February 2023

Economy

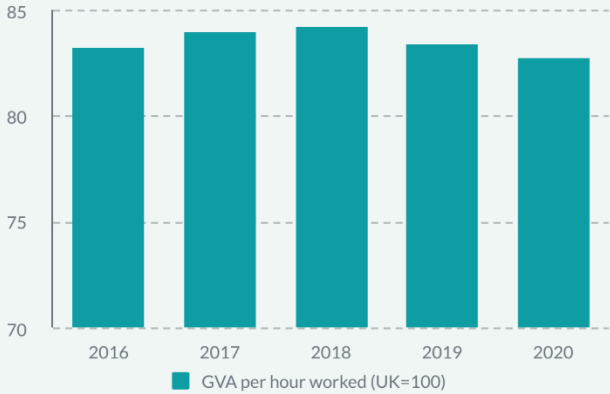
No. of Planning Applications Received by PCC



In March 2023, PCC received 219 planning applications, while 165 were received in February.

Comparing the number of applications to those of the same month last year, March 2023 had 6 planning applications less than those of March 2022- i.e. 2.6% variation between the two months.

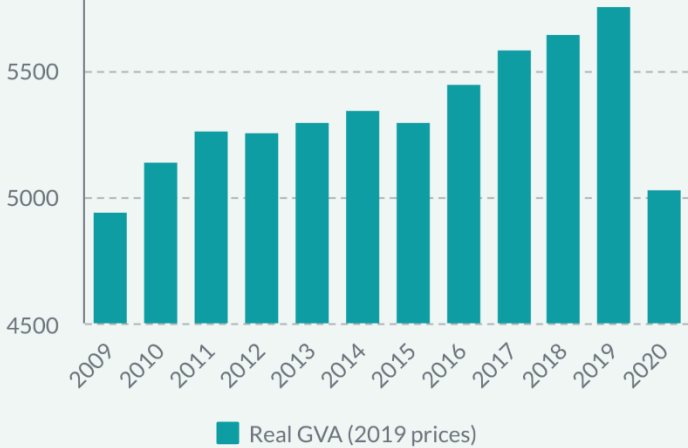
Plymouth Productivity, GVA per hour worked (UK=100)



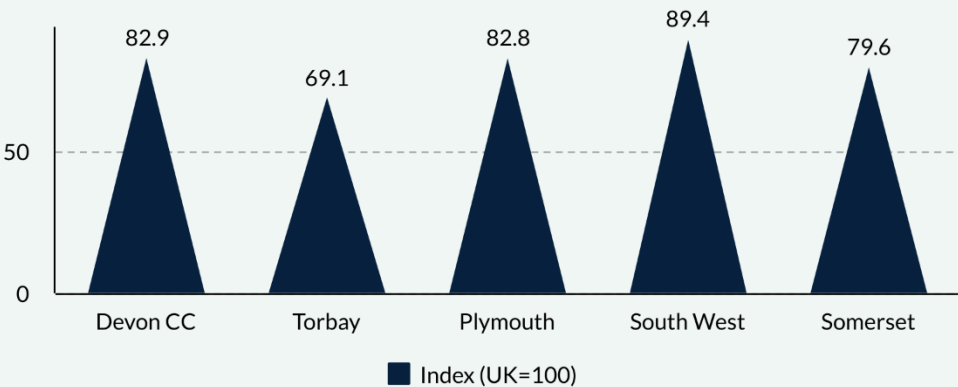
- Plymouth's productivity gap with the national average had been narrowing to 2018 but has since widened again. For 2019 to 2020, it is likely this is in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Real GVA, however, had seen stronger growth up until 2019 but the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is clearly visible in 2020 with a significant decline of over 12%.

Real GVA, Plymouth (2019 Prices), £m



Productivity - GVA per hour worked, 2020



Sources: Regional GVA (Balanced) - ONS, 2020; Sub-regional Productivity - ONS, 2020

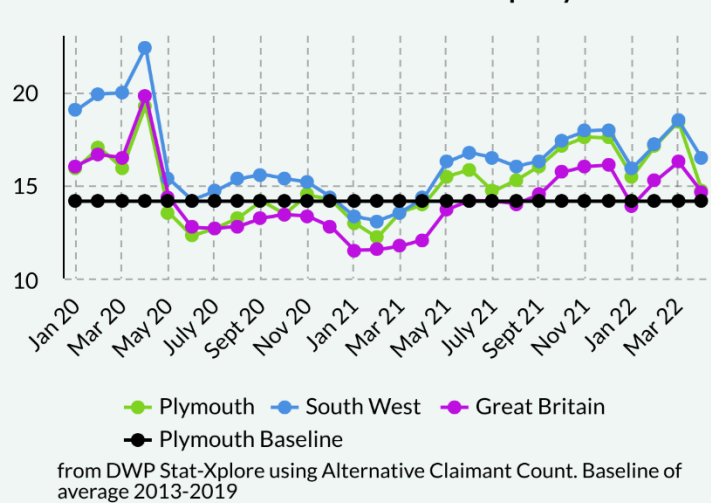
Inclusive Growth

Employment Rate (% of those aged 20-64)



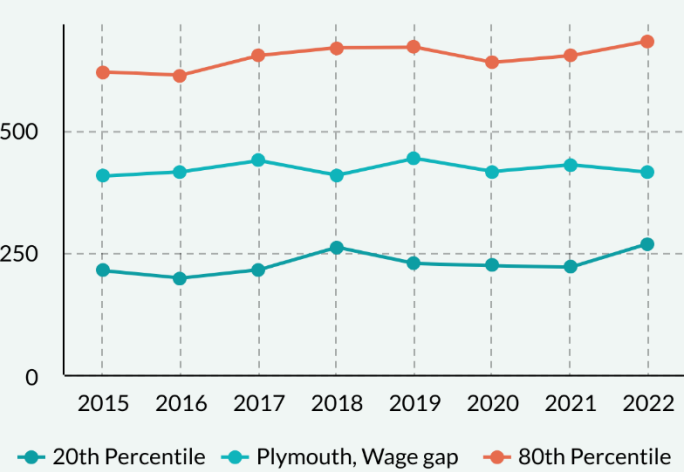
The Employment rate for ages 20-64 in Plymouth for 2020 is roughly in line with the rate for Great Britain. The rate for Plymouth in 2020 is 78.55%, the South West is 80.76% and GB is 78.40%.

% of Claimant Count In Employment

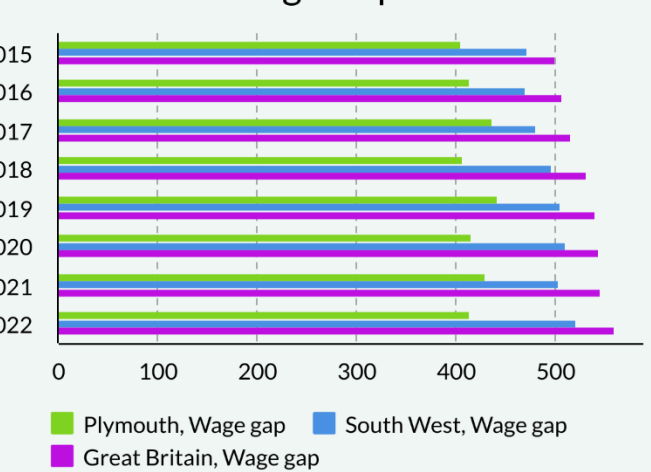


When reviewing the % of claimants' count who are in employment you should read this in conjunction with both the employment rate and claimants' count rate. These have both fluctuated considerably since March 2020. Notably, the in-work claimant rate has dropped as the overall number of claimants have risen. The rate in Plymouth closely tracked the GB rate up to October 2020. Since then, Plymouth has more closely tracked the South West rate with Great Britain having a lower rate. We can see however that all three areas have seen a fall in the % of claimants' who are in employment at the end of 2020 and into 2021. The data for 2021 has shown the proportion of individuals claiming whilst also in work has increased from the low of February 2021. The latest data is showing a steady increase in the % of claimant count in employment across all three areas.

Inclusive Growth - Plymouth Gross Weekly Pay; 20th & 80th Percentile



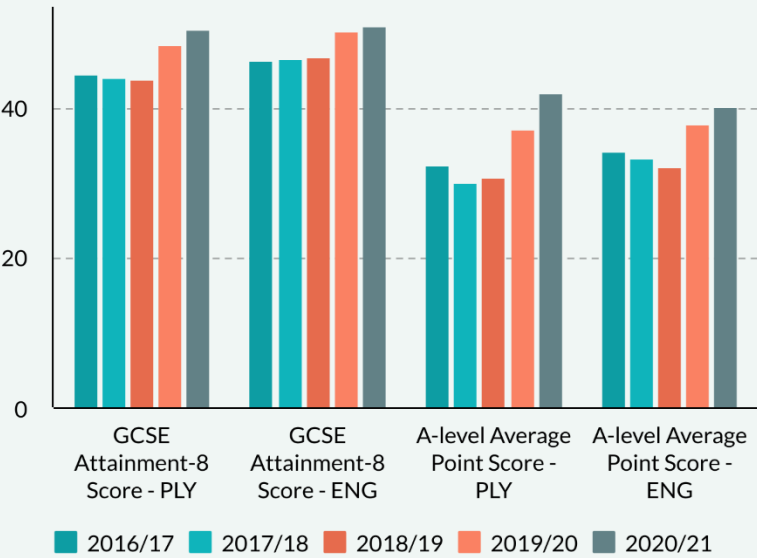
Inclusive Growth - Gross weekly pay; Wage Gap



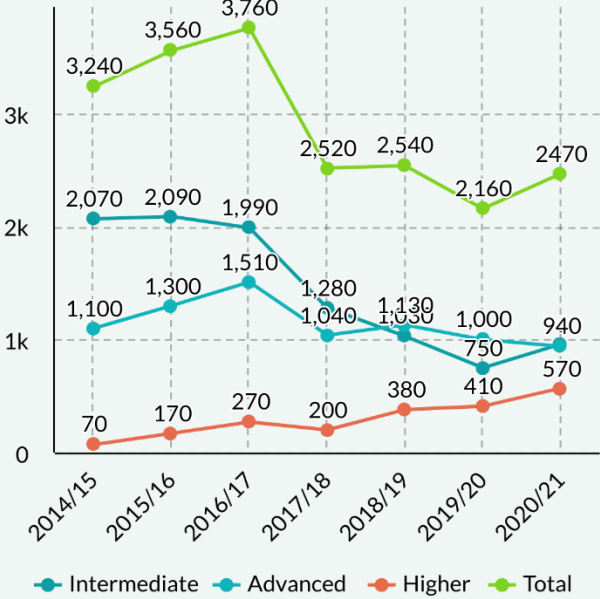
Inequality of wages is an indicator for many underlying causes of inequality. Gross Weekly Pay for Plymouth residents is published annually in increments for each decile of workers. We are monitoring the 20th percentile and the 80th percentile. This shows the maximum wages of the lowest paid 20% of workers and the lowest wage for the highest paid 20% of workers. In 2022, the 20th percentile saw a significant increase of 22% to £286.20 and the 80th percentile saw an increase of 4.6% to £682.2. As a result, the wage gap shrunk from 2021 to 2022. The gap between the 20th and 80th percentile is lower in Plymouth than the South West and Great Britain although that is largely due to Plymouth having a lower 80th percentile wage.

Skills

GCSE and A-level Attainment

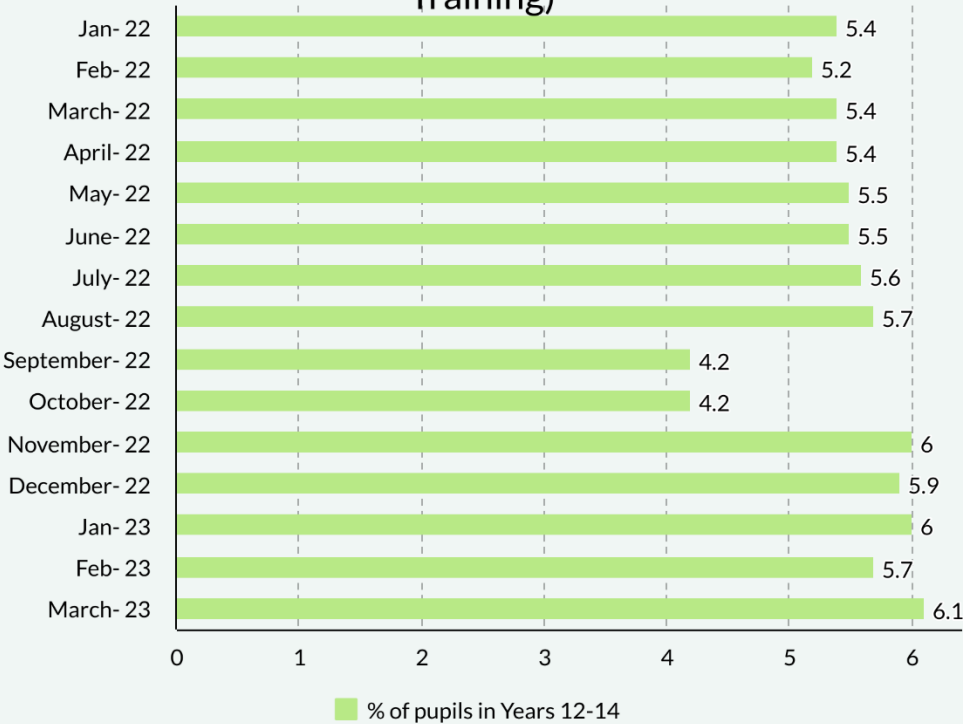


Apprenticeship Starts by Level



- Plymouth's GCSE and A-level attainment have increased in recent years, with both measures catching up with the average for England.
- Apprenticeship starts has seen an overall downward trend from previous years, however, 2020/21 has seen a reversal in this trend.
- There was an increase in higher level apprenticeship starts over the period.

NEETs (Pupils Not in Employment, Education or Training)



The absolute NEET figure for **March 2023** was **508** with a rate of **6.1%**, while in **February** it was **481**- a rate of **5.7%**.