



A contextual indicator of the area's employment. Employment structure continues to change, reflecting the decline of coal mining and a vastly improved environment that is helping to attract new investment. Jobs have grown in construction, transport/storage/distribution, real estate, education and tourism<sup>1</sup>. However, the effects of the economic downturn are evident in more recent datasets.

## Employment Rates by District

- Employment data is only available for whole District/Borough Council areas. This makes analysis of rates within The National Forest difficult to determine, as only parts of these administrative areas are within the Forest.
- Employment rates across all six districts (see below) have fallen since 2006, with the exception of North West Leicestershire and Lichfield. This is broadly comparable with regional and national averages, suggesting that these falls are linked to macro-economic trends rather than issues specific to The National Forest<sup>1,2</sup>.

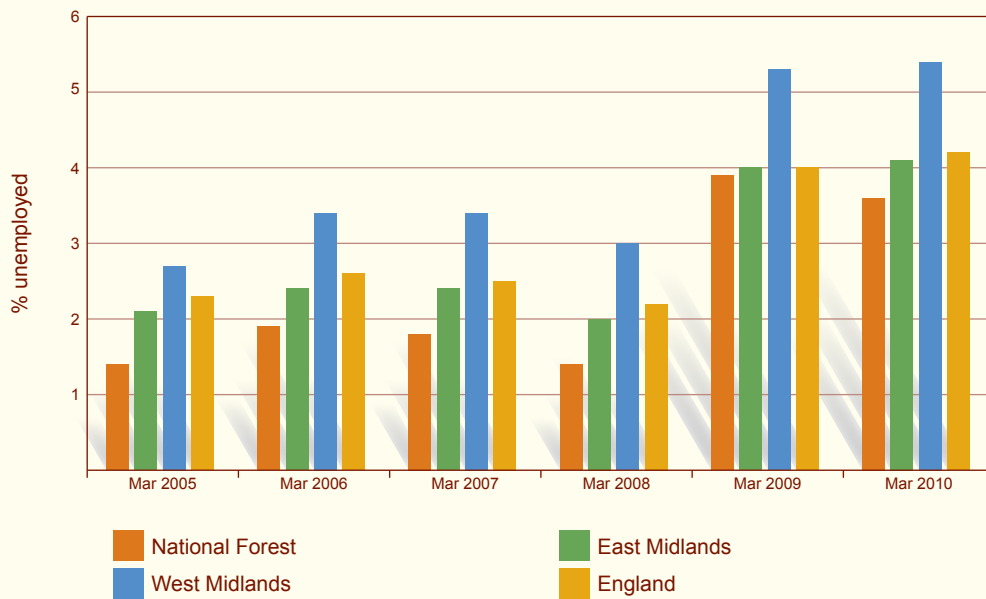
District/Borough	2005/6	2008/9	Change
<b>Charnwood</b>	81.1%	78.1%	-3.0
<b>East Staffordshire</b>	78.6%	76.7%	-1.9
<b>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth</b>	81.7%	78.1%	-3.6
<b>Lichfield</b>	76.8%	84.9%	+8.1
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	81.0%	81.7%	+0.7
<b>South Derbyshire</b>	82.7%	77.8%	-4.9
<b>England</b>	74.3%	73.4%	-0.9
<b>East Midlands</b>	76.2%	75.2%	-1.0
<b>West Midlands</b>	72.7%	70.5%	-2.2

- Despite the decrease in employment rates, the Forest Districts continue to exceed national and regional averages. This suggests that the Forest area is holding its own and maintaining its position relative to wider trends<sup>1</sup>.

## Claimant Count Unemployment

- Claimant count unemployment for all districts across the Forest was at 3.6% in March 2010 – a rise of 2.2% from 2005 to 2010<sup>1,3</sup>. This rate is below the West Midlands (5.4%), East Midlands (4.1%) and the national average (4.2%). These figures highlight the impact of the economic downturn and show that the Forest has developed into a more robust and diverse economy, maintaining its relative position despite the recession.

## Claimant Count Unemployment 2005-10



### \* ACTION:

- 1) Monitor employment levels and changing characteristics every 3-5 years.

### DATA SOURCES:

- 1) Much More Than Trees 3: The socio-economic impact of The National Forest - DC Research for the National Forest Company [2010].
- 2) ONS Annual Population Survey accessed via NOMIS – April [2010].
- 3) DC Research analysis of local authority district and Lower Super Output level data from ONS Crown Copyright Reserved, accessed via NOMIS April [2010].