

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count increased in February 2023 by 115 to 11,045 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 40 to 1,950. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.1% is lower than that of the West Midlands (4.8%) and England (3.7%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,740 or 33% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 355 or 22%.

February 2023

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,525	2.6%	20	360	31%
Malvern Hills	1,165	2.6%	50	240	26%
Redditch	2,035	3.8%	55	500	33%
Worcester	2,365	3.5%	30	585	33%
Wychavon	2,025	2.6%	-45	705	53%
Wyre Forest	1,930	3.3%	15	350	22%
Worcestershire	11,045	3.1%	115	2,740	33%
West Midlands	178,355	4.8%	4,525	34,005	24%
England	1,331,680	3.7%	35,055	268,175	25%

February 2023

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	260	4.2%	-5	45	21%
Malvern Hills	195	4.0%	15	15	8%
Redditch	390	6.4%	10	80	26%
Worcester	415	4.1%	20	95	30%
Wychavon	320	4.0%	-10	60	23%
Wyre Forest	370	5.6%	5	60	19%
Worcestershire	1,950	4.7%	40	355	22%
West Midlands	32,470	6.4%	1,230	4,565	16%
England	227,075	4.8%	7,740	29,345	15%

About these statistics

1. The Claimant Count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under JSA.
2. The Universal Credit Full Service is now fully rolled in most areas of the UK for the majority of **new** claims. The pilot programme to accommodate existing tax credit and other legacy benefit claimants (those claiming housing benefit, income support, income-related Jobseeker's Allowance and income related employment and support allowance) was begun in July 2019 but was suspended due to pandemic. The pilot programme recommenced in May 2022.
3. Claimant count rates or proportions express the number of claimants in an area/group as a percentage of the mid-2021 resident population estimates in that area/group.
4. Individual figures are rounded to the nearest 5, and as a result may not sum to the rounded totals.
5. The claimant count data is calculated on a monthly basis and is released in the first half of the following month. The data release shows the provisional figures for the latest full month's data and revised figures for the previous month. For example: the data release for August would show provisional claimant count figures for July and revised figures for June.
6. All data has been downloaded from [NOMIS](#). Links to other economic indicators can be found on the [Information on the Worcestershire Economy page](#) on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Research Team: 01905 846800

research@worcestershire.gov.uk