

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in March 2022 by 80 to 12,500 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 15 to 1,945. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 4,195 or 51% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 350 or 22%. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the Coronavirus meant that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still in work. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count from April 2020 until October 2021 would not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who were not in work.

Area	Claimant Count	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,820	3.1%	-5	655	56%
Malvern Hills	1,300	2.9%	-50	375	41%
Redditch	2,185	4.2%	-30	650	42%
Worcester	2,630	4.1%	0	850	48%
Wychavon	2,335	3.1%	-5	1,015	77%
Wyre Forest	2,230	3.8%	5	650	41%
Worcestershire	12,500	3.5%	-80	4,195	51%
West Midlands	195,850	5.3%	-50	51,500	36%
England	1,508,410	4.3%	-18,550	444,905	42%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	275	4.6%	0	60	28%
Malvern Hills	210	4.8%	0	30	17%
Redditch	360	6.1%	-5	50	16%
Worcester	420	4.1%	-15	100	31%
Wychavon	340	4.3%	-10	80	31%
Wyre Forest	345	5.3%	15	35	11%
Worcestershire	1,945	4.8%	-15	350	22%
West Midlands	32,865	6.3%	170	4,960	18%
England	236,770	5.0%	-1,260	39,040	20%

## **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. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.
2. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the Coronavirus meant that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count between April 2020 and October 2021 will not be due wholly to changes in the number of people who are unemployed. It is not possible to identify to what extent people who are employed or unemployed have affected the numbers.
3. Claimant count rates or proportions express the number of claimants in an area/group as a percentage of the mid-2020 resident population 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. 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.

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