

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in June 2021 by 1,025 to 15,595 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 225 to 2,925. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 7,290 or 88% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 1,330 or 83%. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the coronavirus mean that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still in work. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count will not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who are not in work.

Area	Claimant Count	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	2,220	3.8%	-135	1,055	91%
Malvern Hills	1,720	3.9%	-160	795	86%
Redditch	2,760	5.3%	-180	1,225	80%
Worcester	3,235	5.0%	-165	1,455	82%
Wychavon	2,785	3.7%	-195	1,465	111%
Wyre Forest	2,870	4.9%	-190	1,290	82%
Worcestershire	15,595	4.4%	-1,025	7,290	88%
West Midlands	242,705	6.6%	-8,945	98,355	68%
England	1,995,710	5.7%	-117,460	932,205	88%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	430	7.2%	-20	215	100%
Malvern Hills	295	6.7%	-65	115	64%
Redditch	525	8.9%	-25	215	69%
Worcester	615	6.0%	-40	295	92%
Wychavon	530	6.7%	-35	270	104%
Wyre Forest	525	8.0%	-45	215	69%
Worcestershire	2,925	7.1%	-225	1,330	83%
West Midlands	46,540	8.9%	-2,290	18,635	67%
England	364,085	7.7%	-25,635	166,355	84%

## **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 mean that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count 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-2019 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.

*Research Team: 01905 846800*

*[research@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:research@worcestershire.gov.uk)*