

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count decreased in May 2022 by 285 to 11,290 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 105 to 1,680. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,985 or 36% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 85 or 5%. 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	1,530	2.6%	-25	365	31%
Malvern Hills	1,155	2.6%	-55	230	25%
Redditch	2,050	3.9%	10	515	34%
Worcester	2,370	3.7%	-80	590	33%
Wychavon	2,020	2.7%	-60	700	53%
Wyre Forest	1,890	3.2%	0	310	20%
Worcestershire	11,015	3.1%	-210	2,710	33%
West Midlands	179,935	4.9%	-1,070	35,585	25%
England	1,349,920	3.8%	-14,895	286,415	27%

Area	Claimant Count	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	225	3.7%	0	10	5%
Malvern Hills	185	4.2%	10	5	3%
Redditch	350	5.9%	10	40	13%
Worcester	370	3.6%	-15	50	16%
Wychavon	295	3.8%	5	35	13%
Wyre Forest	270	4.1%	5	-40	-13%
Worcestershire	1,690	4.1%	10	95	6%
West Midlands	29,690	5.7%	-265	1,785	6%
England	208,415	4.4%	-1,605	10,685	5%

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.

Research Team: 01905 846800

research@worcestershire.gov.uk