

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count decreased in May 2021 by 985 to 16,935 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 235 to 3,215. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 8,630 or 104% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 1,620 or 102%. 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	2,410	4.1%	-150	1,245	107%
Malvern Hills	1,900	4.3%	-105	975	105%
Redditch	2,985	5.7%	-170	1,450	94%
Worcester	3,475	5.3%	-200	1,695	95%
Wychavon	3,055	4.1%	-145	1,735	131%
Wyre Forest	3,110	5.3%	-215	1,530	97%
Worcestershire	16,395	4.8%	-985	8,630	104%
West Midlands	255,355	7.0%	-9,380	111,005	77%
England	2,148,130	6.1%	-107,695	1,084,625	102%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	460	7.6%	-20	245	114%
Malvern Hills	365	8.0%	-25	185	103%
Redditch	550	9.2%	-40	240	77%
Worcester	675	6.4%	-60	355	111%
Wychavon	585	7.5%	-55	325	125%
Wyre Forest	580	8.8%	-30	270	87%
Worcestershire	3,215	7.7%	-235	1,620	102%
West Midlands	49,570	9.4%	-2,585	21,665	78%
England	396,365	8.4%	-25,530	198,635	100%

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