

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count increased in February 2022 by 510 to 12,795 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 110 to 2,000. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 4,490 or 54% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 405 or 25%. 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	1,870	3.2%	85	705	61%
Malvern Hills	1,365	3.1%	60	440	48%
Redditch	2,255	4.3%	35	720	47%
Worcester	2,655	4.1%	150	875	49%
Wychavon	2,380	3.1%	125	1,060	80%
Wyre Forest	2,275	3.9%	60	695	44%
Worcestershire	12,795	3.6%	510	4,490	54%
West Midlands	199,220	5.4%	4,700	54,870	38%
England	1,556,140	4.4%	29,835	492,635	46%

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	220	5.0%	20	40	22%
Redditch	370	6.2%	25	60	19%
Worcester	440	4.3%	35	120	38%
Wychavon	360	4.6%	25	100	38%
Wyre Forest	335	5.1%	0	25	8%
Worcestershire	2,000	4.9%	110	405	25%
West Midlands	33,295	6.3%	1,145	5,390	19%
England	242,750	5.2%	5,970	45,020	23%

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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