

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in April 2021 by 485 to 18,080 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 65 to 3,490. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 9,775 or 118% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 1,895 or 119%. 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	2,590	4.4%	-65	1,425	122%
Malvern Hills	2,020	4.6%	-65	1,095	118%
Redditch	3,175	6.1%	-40	1,640	107%
Worcester	3,710	5.7%	-60	1,930	108%
Wychavon	3,240	4.3%	-115	1,920	145%
Wyre Forest	3,345	5.7%	-135	1,765	112%
Worcestershire	18,080	5.1%	-485	9,775	118%
West Midlands	266,435	7.3%	-3,050	122,085	85%
England	2,271,355	6.5%	-22,755	1,207,850	114%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	490	8.0%	0	275	128%
Malvern Hills	395	8.7%	-15	215	119%
Redditch	600	10.0%	0	290	94%
Worcester	745	7.1%	0	425	133%
Wychavon	650	8.3%	-25	390	150%
Wyre Forest	615	9.4%	-20	305	98%
Worcestershire	3,490	8.4%	-65	1,895	119%
West Midlands	52,530	9.9%	-660	24,625	88%
England	425,195	9.0%	-6,760	227,465	115%

## **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.

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