

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count decreased in April 2022 by 600 to 11,670 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 100 to 1,805. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 3,365 or 41% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 210 or 13%. 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	1,705	2.9%	-80	540	46%
Malvern Hills	1,230	2.8%	-50	305	33%
Redditch	2,090	4.0%	-55	555	36%
Worcester	2,520	3.9%	-70	740	42%
Wychavon	2,085	2.8%	-210	765	58%
Wyre Forest	2,040	3.5%	-135	460	29%
Worcestershire	11,670	3.3%	-600	3,365	41%
West Midlands	188,295	5.1%	-4,090	43,945	30%
England	1,425,955	4.0%	-51,490	362,450	34%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	250	4.2%	-15	35	16%
Malvern Hills	195	4.4%	-15	15	8%
Redditch	355	6.0%	5	45	15%
Worcester	400	3.9%	-20	80	25%
Wychavon	295	3.8%	-35	35	13%
Wyre Forest	305	4.7%	-25	-5	-2%
Worcestershire	1,805	4.4%	-100	210	13%
West Midlands	31,420	6.0%	-785	3,515	13%
England	221,350	4.7%	-10,240	23,620	12%

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