

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count decreased in October 2021 by 205 to 13,555 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 105 to 2,300. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 5,250 or 63% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 705 or 44%. 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	1,995	3.4%	-40	830	71%
Malvern Hills	1,495	3.4%	-45	570	62%
Redditch	2,370	4.5%	-50	835	54%
Worcester	2,770	4.3%	-10	990	56%
Wychavon	2,450	3.2%	-30	1,130	86%
Wyre Forest	2,470	4.2%	-35	890	56%
Worcestershire	13,555	3.8%	-205	5,250	63%
West Midlands	215,265	5.9%	-3,075	70,915	49%
England	1,717,165	4.9%	-28,485	653,660	61%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	355	5.9%	5	140	65%
Malvern Hills	240	5.4%	-35	60	33%
Redditch	405	6.8%	-20	95	31%
Worcester	490	4.8%	0	170	53%
Wychavon	405	5.2%	-20	145	56%
Wyre Forest	405	6.2%	-30	95	31%
Worcestershire	2,300	5.6%	-105	705	44%
West Midlands	38,300	7.3%	-1,370	10,395	37%
England	286,460	6.1%	-12,545	88,730	45%

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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