

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in September 2021 by 295 to 14,155 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 70 to 2,500. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 5,850 or 70% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 905 or 57%. 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	2,100	3.6%	-10	935	80%
Malvern Hills	1,575	3.5%	-20	650	70%
Redditch	2,495	4.8%	-70	960	63%
Worcester	2,880	4.5%	-85	1,100	62%
Wychavon	2,525	3.3%	-65	1,205	91%
Wyre Forest	2,580	4.4%	-55	1,000	63%
Worcestershire	14,155	4.0%	-295	5,850	70%
West Midlands	223,045	6.1%	-3,875	78,695	55%
England	1,785,985	5.1%	-52,820	722,480	68%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	370	6.2%	-25	155	72%
Malvern Hills	285	6.5%	5	105	58%
Redditch	440	7.4%	-20	130	42%
Worcester	510	5.0%	-25	190	59%
Wychavon	435	5.5%	-5	175	67%
Wyre Forest	455	6.9%	-5	145	47%
Worcestershire	2,500	6.1%	-70	905	57%
West Midlands	40,780	7.8%	-1,145	12,875	46%
England	308,045	6.5%	-10,620	110,315	56%

## **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](mailto:research@worcestershire.gov.uk)*