

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count increased in April 2023 by 60 to 11,265 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 5 to 1,975. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.1% is lower than that of the West Midlands (5.1%) and England (3.9%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,960 or 36% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 380 or 24%.

## April 2023

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,515	2.6%	30	350	30%
Malvern Hills	1,230	2.7%	35	305	33%
Redditch	2,115	3.9%	75	580	38%
Worcester	2,455	3.7%	5	675	38%
Wychavon	1,970	2.5%	-125	650	49%
Wyre Forest	1,975	3.3%	35	395	25%
Worcestershire	11,265	3.1%	60	2,960	36%
West Midlands	187,025	5.1%	6,390	42,675	30%
England	1,379,705	3.9%	36,060	316,200	30%

## April 2023

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	250	4.1%	-5	35	16%
Malvern Hills	190	3.9%	10	10	6%
Redditch	415	6.8%	5	105	34%
Worcester	425	4.2%	0	105	33%
Wychavon	330	4.1%	-10	70	27%
Wyre Forest	370	5.6%	-5	60	19%
Worcestershire	1,975	4.7%	-5	380	24%
West Midlands	33,595	6.7%	555	5,690	20%
England	232,755	5.0%	2,070	35,025	18%

## 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.
2. The Universal Credit Full Service is now fully rolled in most areas of the UK for the majority of **new** claims. The pilot programme to accommodate existing tax credit and other legacy benefit claimants (those claiming housing benefit, income support, income-related Jobseeker's Allowance and income related employment and support allowance) was begun in July 2019 but was suspended due to pandemic. The pilot programme recommenced in May 2022.
3. Claimant count rates or proportions express the number of claimants in an area/group as a percentage of the mid-2021 resident population estimates 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. The claimant count data is calculated on a monthly basis and is released in the first half of the following month. The data release shows the provisional figures for the latest full month's data and revised figures for the previous month. For example: the data release for August would show provisional claimant count figures for July and revised figures for June.
6. 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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