

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count decreased in October 2023 by 95 to 10,320 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 5 to 1,915. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 2.9% is lower than that of the West Midlands (4.8%) and England (3.8%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,015 or 24% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 320 or 20%.

October 2023

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,405	2.4%	-15	240	21%
Malvern Hills	1,095	2.4%	10	170	18%
Redditch	1,905	3.5%	20	370	24%
Worcester	2,215	3.3%	-80	435	24%
Wychavon	1,915	2.5%	-25	595	45%
Wyre Forest	1,785	3.0%	-5	205	13%
Worcestershire	10,320	2.9%	-95	2,015	24%
West Midlands	177,940	4.8%	1,230	33,590	23%
England	1,338,285	3.8%	16,980	274,780	26%

October 2023

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	275	4.5%	-5	60	28%
Malvern Hills	185	3.8%	0	5	3%
Redditch	365	6.0%	15	55	18%
Worcester	420	4.1%	-5	100	31%
Wychavon	325	4.0%	-10	65	25%
Wyre Forest	350	5.3%	10	40	13%
Worcestershire	1,915	4.6%	-5	320	20%
West Midlands	34,180	6.8%	450	6,275	22%
England	237,080	5.1%	4,795	39,350	20%

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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