

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count increased in January 2024 by 65 to 10,770 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 did not change, remaining at 1,960. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.0% is lower than that of the West Midlands (4.9%) and England (3.8%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,465 or 30% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 365 or 23%.

## January 2024

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,440	2.5%	45	275	24%
Malvern Hills	1,075	2.4%	-5	150	16%
Redditch	2,030	3.8%	55	495	32%
Worcester	2,250	3.4%	-20	470	26%
Wychavon	2,100	2.7%	-50	780	59%
Wyre Forest	1,870	3.2%	35	290	18%
Worcestershire	10,770	3.0%	65	2,465	30%
West Midlands	179,825	4.9%	2,845	35,475	25%
England	1,367,420	3.8%	26,270	303,915	29%

## January 2024

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	260	4.2%	10	45	21%
Malvern Hills	175	3.6%	-5	-5	-3%
Redditch	390	6.4%	0	80	26%
Worcester	435	4.3%	-5	115	36%
Wychavon	355	4.4%	-15	95	37%
Wyre Forest	340	5.2%	10	30	10%
Worcestershire	1,960	4.7%	0	365	23%
West Midlands	34,560	6.9%	410	6,655	24%
England	240,330	5.1%	2,910	42,600	22%

## 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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