

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count decreased in December 2021 by 175 to 12,625 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 110 to 1,965. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 4,320 or 52% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 370 or 23%. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the Coronavirus meant that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still in work. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count from April 2020 until October 2021 would not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who were not in work.

Area	Claimant Count	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,845	3.1%	-20	680	58%
Malvern Hills	1,400	3.2%	-35	475	51%
Redditch	2,265	4.3%	-15	730	48%
Worcester	2,575	4.0%	-50	795	45%
Wychavon	2,300	3.0%	-5	980	74%
Wyre Forest	2,230	3.8%	-60	650	41%
Worcestershire	12,625	3.6%	-175	4,320	52%
West Midlands	200,965	5.5%	-3,350	56,615	39%
England	1,589,200	4.5%	-28,605	525,695	49%

Area	Claimant Count (18-24)	Rate (18-24)	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	290	5.2%	-25	75	35%
Malvern Hills	190	4.5%	-10	10	6%
Redditch	370	6.2%	5	60	19%
Worcester	420	4.4%	-25	100	31%
Wychavon	335	4.7%	-35	75	29%
Wyre Forest	355	5.7%	-20	45	15%
Worcestershire	1,965	5.1%	-110	370	23%
West Midlands	34,025	6.8%	-1,625	6,120	22%
England	252,965	5.6%	-11,395	55,235	28%

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 meant that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count between April 2020 and October 2021 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-2020 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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