

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count increased in February 2024 by 200 to 11,015 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 10 to 1,985. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.0% is lower than that of the West Midlands (5.0%) and England (3.9%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,710 or 33% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 390 or 24%.

## **February 2024**

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,445	2.5%	20	280	24%
Malvern Hills	1,130	2.5%	50	205	22%
Redditch	2,090	3.9%	55	555	36%
Worcester	2,345	3.5%	70	565	32%
Wychavon	2,110	2.7%	-45	790	60%
Wyre Forest	1,900	3.2%	55	320	20%
Worcestershire	11,015	3.0%	200	2,710	33%
West Midlands	184,500	5.0%	6,885	40,150	28%
England	1,405,485	3.9%	54,590	341,980	32%

## **February 2024**

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	240	3.9%	-15	25	12%
Malvern Hills	185	3.8%	5	5	3%
Redditch	395	6.5%	5	85	27%
Worcester	450	4.4%	5	130	41%
Wychavon	375	4.6%	15	115	44%
Wyre Forest	340	5.2%	0	30	10%
Worcestershire	1,985	4.7%	10	390	24%
West Midlands	35,650	7.1%	1,345	7,745	28%
England	246,545	5.3%	7,925	48,815	25%

## 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 out 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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