

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count increased in May 2024 by 195 to 11,005 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by -55 to 1,880. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.0% is lower than that of the West Midlands (5.1%) and England (4.0%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,700 or 33% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 285 or 18%.

## May 2024

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,400	2.4%	10	235	20%
Malvern Hills	1,105	2.4%	-5	180	19%
Redditch	2,085	3.9%	70	550	36%
Worcester	2,515	3.8%	115	735	41%
Wychavon	2,070	2.7%	-30	750	57%
Wyre Forest	1,830	3.1%	35	250	16%
Worcestershire	11,005	3.0%	195	2,700	33%
West Midlands	187,475	5.1%	5,345	43,125	30%
England	1,420,670	4.0%	33,280	357,165	34%

## May 2024

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	220	3.6%	-10	5	2%
Malvern Hills	190	3.9%	-5	10	6%
Redditch	355	5.9%	-5	45	15%
Worcester	455	4.5%	-5	135	42%
Wychavon	350	4.3%	-20	90	35%
Wyre Forest	310	4.7%	-10	0	0%
Worcestershire	1,880	4.5%	-55	285	18%
West Midlands	35,430	7.0%	100	7,525	27%
England	243,430	5.2%	130	45,700	23%

## 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.

*Economy Business Intelligence Team: [EcBI@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:EcBI@worcestershire.gov.uk)*