

Worcestershire County Economic Summary

Comment: The claimant count increased in August 2024 by 155 to 12,305 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 65 to 2,040. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.4% is lower than that of the West Midlands (5.8%) and England (4.4%).

Commencing in May 2024, the Department for Work and Pensions are rolling out an increase in the administrative earnings threshold for full work search conditionality. This change is likely to increase the claimant count over a period of around 6 months.

August 2024 (Claimants aged 16-64)

| Area | Claimant Count 16-64 | Rate | change on last month | change since March 2020 | % change since March 2020 |
|----------------|----------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bromsgrove | 1,635 | 2.8% | 20 | 470 | 40% |
| Malvern Hills | 1,270 | 2.8% | 25 | 345 | 37% |
| Redditch | 2,240 | 4.2% | 25 | 705 | 46% |
| Worcester | 2,815 | 4.2% | 65 | 1,035 | 58% |
| Wychavon | 2,280 | 2.9% | -35 | 960 | 73% |
| Wyre Forest | 2,055 | 3.5% | 50 | 475 | 30% |
| Worcestershire | 12,305 | 3.4% | 155 | 4,000 | 48% |
| West Midlands | 213,625 | 5.8% | 3,760 | 69,275 | 48% |
| England | 1,565,940 | 4.4% | 13,685 | 502,435 | 47% |

August 2024 (Claimants aged 18-24)

| Area | Claimant Count 18-24 | Rate | change on last month | change since March 2020 | % change since March 2020 |
|----------------|----------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bromsgrove | 270 | 4.4% | 10 | 55 | 26% |
| Malvern Hills | 220 | 4.5% | 10 | 40 | 22% |
| Redditch | 385 | 6.4% | 10 | 75 | 24% |
| Worcester | 465 | 4.6% | 30 | 145 | 45% |
| Wychavon | 365 | 4.5% | 0 | 105 | 40% |
| Wyre Forest | 340 | 5.2% | 10 | 30 | 10% |
| Worcestershire | 2,040 | 4.9% | 65 | 445 | 28% |
| West Midlands | 37,285 | 7.4% | 1,295 | 9,380 | 34% |
| England | 252,380 | 5.4% | 5,745 | 54,650 | 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.
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. Commencing in May 2024, the Department for Work and Pensions are rolling out an increase in the administrative earnings threshold for full work search conditionality. This change is likely to affect around 180,000 claimants nationally over a period of around 6 months, increasing the Claimant Count over that time.
4. 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.
5. Individual figures are rounded to the nearest 5, and as a result may not sum to the rounded totals.
6. 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.
7. 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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