

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in April 2022 by 600 to 11,670 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 100 to 1,805. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 3,365 or 41% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 210 or 13%. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the Coronavirus meant that an increasing number of people

### **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