

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in October 2021 by 205 to 13,555 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by 105 to 2,300. Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 5,250 or 63% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 705 or 44%. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK

### **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 mean that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Consequently, changes in the Claimant Count 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-2019