

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count increased in January 2024 by 65 to 10,770 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 did not change, remaining at 1,960. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.0% is lower than that of the West Midlands (4.9%) and England (3.8%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by

					26%
Wychavon	2,100	2.7%	-50	780	59%
Wyre Forest	1,870	3.2%	35	290	18%
Worcestershire	10,770	3.0%	65	2,465	30%
West Midlands	179,825	4.9%	2,845	35,475	25%
England	1,367,420	3.8%	26,270	303,915	29%

Bromsgrove	260	4.2%	10	45	21%
Malvern Hills	175	3.6%	-5	-5	-3%
Redditch	390	6.4%	0	80	26%
Worcester	435	4.3%	-5	115	36%
Wychavon	355	4.4%	-15	95	37%
Wyre Forest	340	5.2%	10	30	10%
Worcestershire	1,960	4.7%	0	365	23%
West Midlands	34,560	6.9%	410		

## 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 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-