

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count decreased in April 2024 by -110 to 10,925 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 decreased by -65 to 1,950. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.0% is lower than that of the West Midlands (5.0%) and England (3.9%).

Comparisons with March 2020, prior to the impact of the pandemic, show that the claimant count has increased by 2,620 or 32% and the number of claimants aged 18-24 has increased by 355 or 22%.

## April 2024

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	1,425	2.4%	-25	260	22%
Malvern Hills	1,120	2.5%	30	195	21%
Redditch	2,045	3.8%	-25	510	33%
Worcester	2,430	3.6%	15	650	37%
Wychavon	2,090	2.7%	-70	770	58%
Wyre Forest	1,805	3.1%	-45	225	14%
Worcestershire	10,925	3.0%	-110	2,620	32%
West Midlands	184,890	5.0%	550	40,540	28%
England	1,405,905	3.9%	6,820	342,400	32%

## April 2024

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change since March 2020	% change since March 2020
Bromsgrove	240	3.9%	-20	25	12%
Malvern Hills	195	4.0%	5	15	8%
Redditch	360	5.9%	-10	50	16%
Worcester	465	4.6%	0	145	45%
Wychavon	370	4.6%	-20	110	

## 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