

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The claimant count increased in February to 18,930 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 190. 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 in work. Consequently changes in the Claimant Count will not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who are not in work.

Unemployment Indicator	February 2021		Change on last month		Change on last year	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Claimants aged 16-64	18,930	5.4%	1,220	0.4%	10,775	3.1%
Claimants aged 18-24	3,605	8.7%	190	0.5%	1,980	4.8%

## 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 resident population 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. 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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