

# Worcestershire County Economic Summary

**Comment:** The Claimant Count increased in February 2026 by 535 to 11,380 and the number of claimants aged 18-24 increased by 85 compared to previous month reaching 2,280 in February 2026. The Worcestershire rate (Ages 16-64) of 3.1% is lower than that of the West Midlands (5.3%) and England (4.1%).

## **February 2026 (Claimants aged 16-64)**

Area	Claimant Count 16-64	Rate	change on last month	change on last year
Bromsgrove	1,590	2.7%	65	50
Malvern Hills	1,110	2.4%	45	-55
Redditch	2,105	3.9%	115	-100
Worcester	2,435	3.5%	140	-65
Wychavon	2,190	2.7%	115	-55
Wyre Forest	1,950	3.2%	55	-85
Worcestershire	11,380	3.1%	535	-305
West Midlands	203,440	5.3%	9,220	-5,005
England	1,506,680	4.1%	70,940	-27,535

## **February 2026 (Claimants aged 18-24)**

Area	Claimant Count 18-24	Rate	change on last month	change on last year
Bromsgrove	310	5.1%	10	10
Malvern Hills	215	4.6%	20	15
Redditch	475	8.1%	10	55
Worcester	490	4.9%	35	30
Wychavon	420	5.3%	5	40
Wyre Forest	365	5.6%	0	5
Worcestershire	2,280	5.6%	85	165
West Midlands	42,095	8.2%	1,565	3,780
England	288,965	6.0%	11,975	24,865

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. In May 2024, the Department for Work and Pensions increased the administrative earnings threshold for full work search conditionality. This change affected around 180,000 claimants nationally, increasing the Claimant Count at the time of the change. This policy change, along with two previous increases to the administrative earnings threshold in February 2022 and February 2023, represents discontinuities in the Claimant Count series.
3. Claimant Count rates or proportions express the number of claimants in an area/group as a percentage of the mid-2023 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 calculated on a monthly basis and is released in the first half of the following month. The data release shows the provisional figures for the latest full month's data and revised figures for the previous month. For example: the data release for August would show provisional Claimant Count figures for July and revised figures for June.
6. 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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