

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 217 August 2026

Contents

Part 1: Summary	1
A summary of unemployment data at district, County, regional and national level	
Part 2: County	3
Unemployment figures for the County compared to the South West and the rest of the UK	
Part 3: Districts	4
A comparative break down of unemployment figures by district	
Part 4: Wards	
Further breakdown of unemployment figures by ward:	
Cheltenham	6
Cotswolds	8
Forest of Dean	10
Gloucester	12
Stroud	14
Tewkesbury	16
Part 5: Map	18
Distribution of claimant rate across Gloucestershire	
Part 6: Youth Unemployment	20
Unemployment data for the 18-24 year old age group	
Part 7: Young People	21
Data about Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	

Note on claimant count rates:

From Jan-26 data onwards, ONS have updated local authority, regional and national population estimates, used to calculate rates, to the most recent 2024 mid-year estimates.

Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits. It includes people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit claimants who are required to search for work. Claimant Count rates are expressed as a percentage of the resident population aged 16 to 64. The measure is based on administrative benefit data and should not be interpreted as a measure of unemployment.

Claimant Count is simply a count of people claiming relevant benefits, so it is subject to changes in benefit rules and welfare to work schemes

INTRODUCTION

The Unemployment Bulletin provides a monthly update on unemployment data for Gloucestershire, the South West region and the United Kingdom. It is produced by the Data, Analysis & Insights Team in the County Council's Planning, Performance and Insight function. The data are sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis (www.nomis.co.uk). All data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not precisely add to the sum of the number of people claiming JSA, and the number of people claiming Universal Credit required to seek work, due to independent rounding.

PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire increased to 2.7% in August 2026. The South West rate remained at 2.7% whilst the UK rate increased to 3.9%. Gloucestershire's rate was the same as the South West average of 2.7%, and 1.2% lower than the UK average of 3.9%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in August 2026 increased by 200 people. The amount of people claiming in August was 1.9% higher than the number in July. This compares to a 2.3% increase in both the South West and the UK.

Produced by:

Data, Analysis & Insights Team
Planning, Performance and Insight
Gloucestershire County Council
September 2026

DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

Claimant count: Total number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in August 2026

Claimant count change on previous month: How much larger/smaller August's claimant count is compared to July expressed as a %

Claimant rate: The % of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in August 2026

Highest claiming ward: The ward with the highest claim count in that district and the rate

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,095
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.2%
Claimant rate:	2.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Hesters Way (5.6%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	3,150
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.1%
Claimant rate:	3.5%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Barton and Tredworth (5.9%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,090
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.8%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (4.3%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,595
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.6%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Central (5.8%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,375
Claimant count change on previous month:	6.6%
Claimant rate:	2.6%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Cinderford West (4.6%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,425
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.0%
Claimant rate:	2.4%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tewkesbury South (4.4%)

PART 2: UK, SW AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE INDICATORS

The unemployment situation in Gloucestershire compared to the South West and the UK.

Claimant Rate

Figure 1: Claimant Rate for Gloucestershire, the South West and UK over the past year

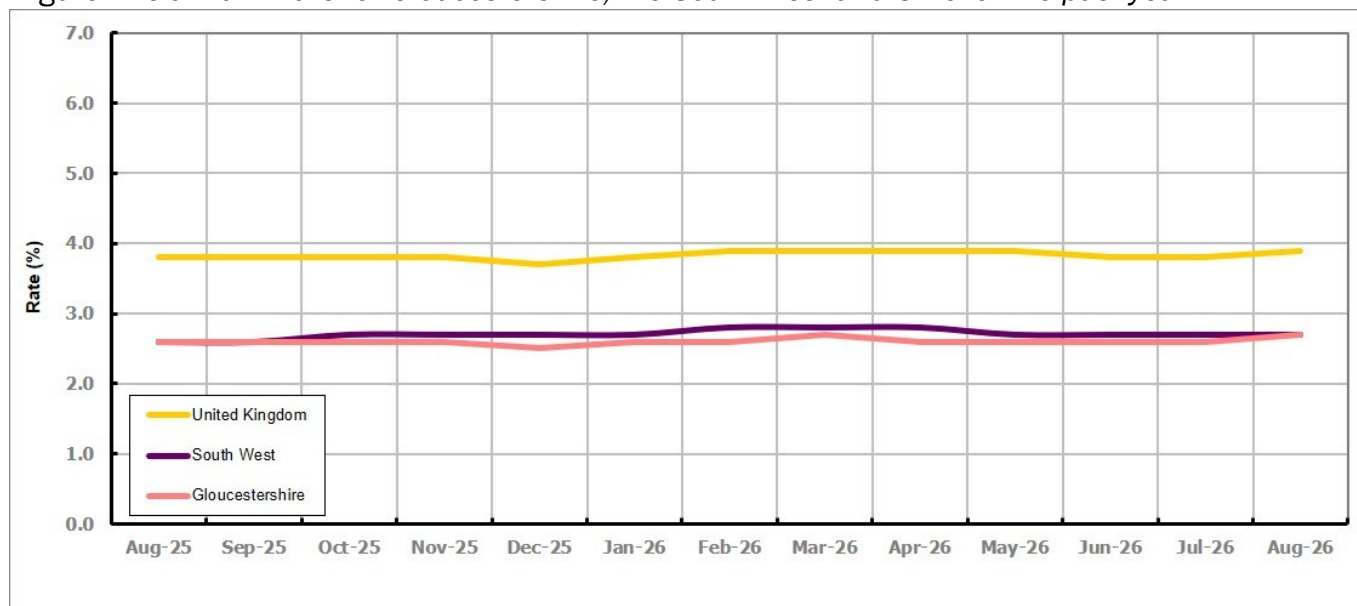


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.7% in August 2026. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since October 2025. On average, it has been approximately 1.2% lower than the UK average since the same month of the previous year.

Claimant Count

Table 1: Analysis of UK, South West and Gloucestershire Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in August 2026	% change on July 2026	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,698,450	2.3%	0
South West	97,825	2.3%	0
Gloucestershire	10,730	1.9%	0

Table 1 shows that in August 2026, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 1.9% higher than the number in July 2026.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - August 2026

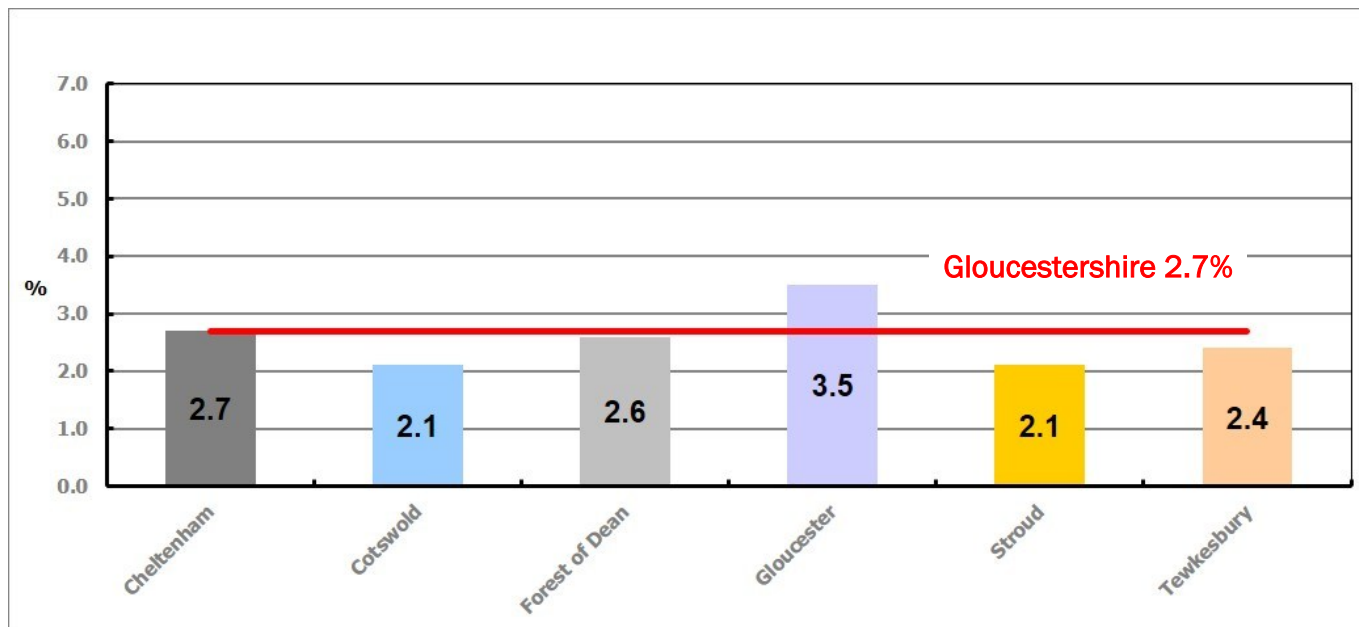


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for August 2026 in Gloucestershire. Between July and August 2026 the rate remained unchanged in all districts, except Cotswold and Forest of Dean where there was an increase.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Aug 26 Number	Aug 26 Rate	Jul 26 Number	Jul 26 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	10,730	2.7	10,530	2.6	200	1.9%	0.1
Cheltenham	2,095	2.7	2,100	2.7	-5	-0.2%	0.0
Cotswold	1,090	2.1	1,060	2.0	30	2.8%	0.1
Forest of Dean	1,375	2.6	1,290	2.5	85	6.6%	0.1
Gloucester	3,150	3.5	3,085	3.5	65	2.1%	0.0
Stroud	1,595	2.1	1,570	2.1	25	1.6%	0.0
Tewkesbury	1,425	2.4	1,425	2.4	0	0.0%	0.0

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in August compared to July 2026. All districts saw an increase in the number of claimants, except Cheltenham which saw a decrease and Tewkesbury which saw no change.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Aug 26 Number	Aug 26 Rate	Jul 26 Number	Jul 26 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	5,860	2.9	5,830	2.9	30	0.5%	0.0
Cheltenham	1,195	3.1	1,205	3.2	-10	-0.8%	-0.1
Cotswold	535	2.1	540	2.2	-5	-0.9%	-0.1
Forest of Dean	745	2.9	710	2.8	35	4.9%	0.1
Gloucester	1,845	4.1	1,810	4.1	35	1.9%	0.0
Stroud	810	2.2	815	2.2	-5	-0.6%	0.0
Tewkesbury	730	2.5	750	2.6	-20	-2.7%	-0.1

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in August compared to July 2026. All districts saw a decrease in the number of male claimants, except Forest of Dean and Gloucester which saw an increase.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Aug 26 Number	Aug 26 Rate	Jul 26 Number	Jul 26 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	4,865	2.4	4,700	2.3	165	3.5%	0.1
Cheltenham	895	2.3	895	2.3	0	0.0%	0.0
Cotswold	555	2.1	520	1.9	35	6.7%	0.2
Forest of Dean	630	2.4	580	2.2	50	8.6%	0.2
Gloucester	1,305	2.9	1,280	2.9	25	2.0%	0.0
Stroud	785	2.1	755	2.0	30	4.0%	0.1
Tewkesbury	695	2.2	670	2.2	25	3.7%	0.0

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in August compared to July 2026. All districts saw an increase in the number of female claimants, except Cheltenham which saw no change.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

This section covers the six districts and a comparison of their constituent wards.

4.1 Cheltenham Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 3: Cheltenham Borough claimant rate over the last year

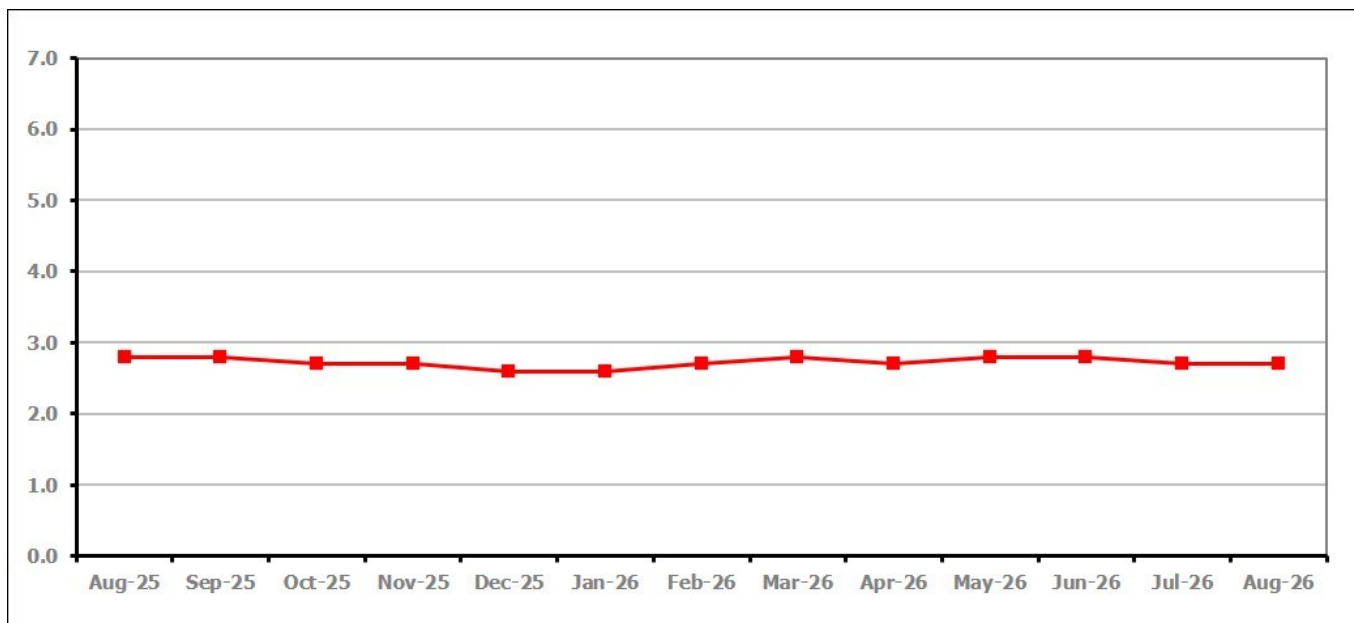


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham remained at 2.7% in August 2026.

Figure 4: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - August 2026

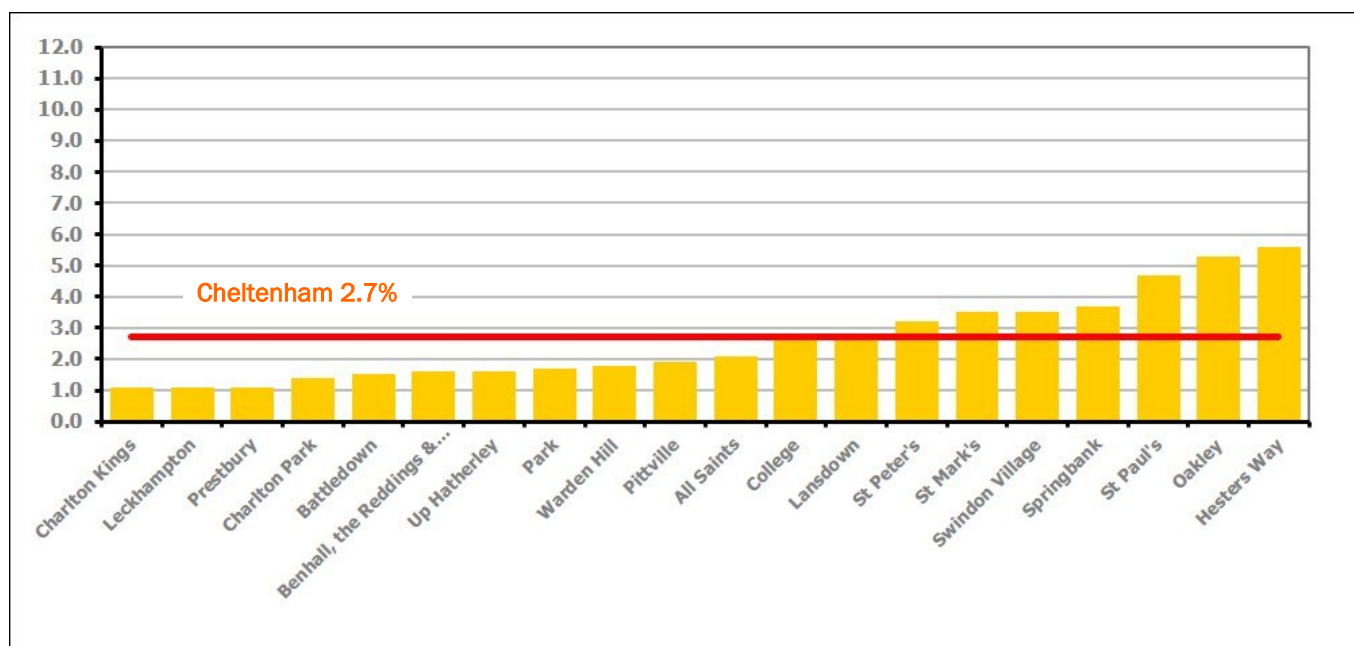


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.7%. Eight wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - August 2026

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.1	5
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.1	5
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.1	5
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.4	20
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.5	22
Cheltenham	Benhall, the Reddings & Fiddler's Green	1.6	28
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.6	28
Cheltenham	Park	1.7	34
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	1.8	40
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.9	44
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.1	60
Cheltenham	College	2.7	90
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.8	99
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.2	110
Cheltenham	St Mark's	3.5	119
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.5	119
Cheltenham	Springbank	3.7	123
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.7	130
Cheltenham	Oakley	5.3	134
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.6	136

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 5 shows overall claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year

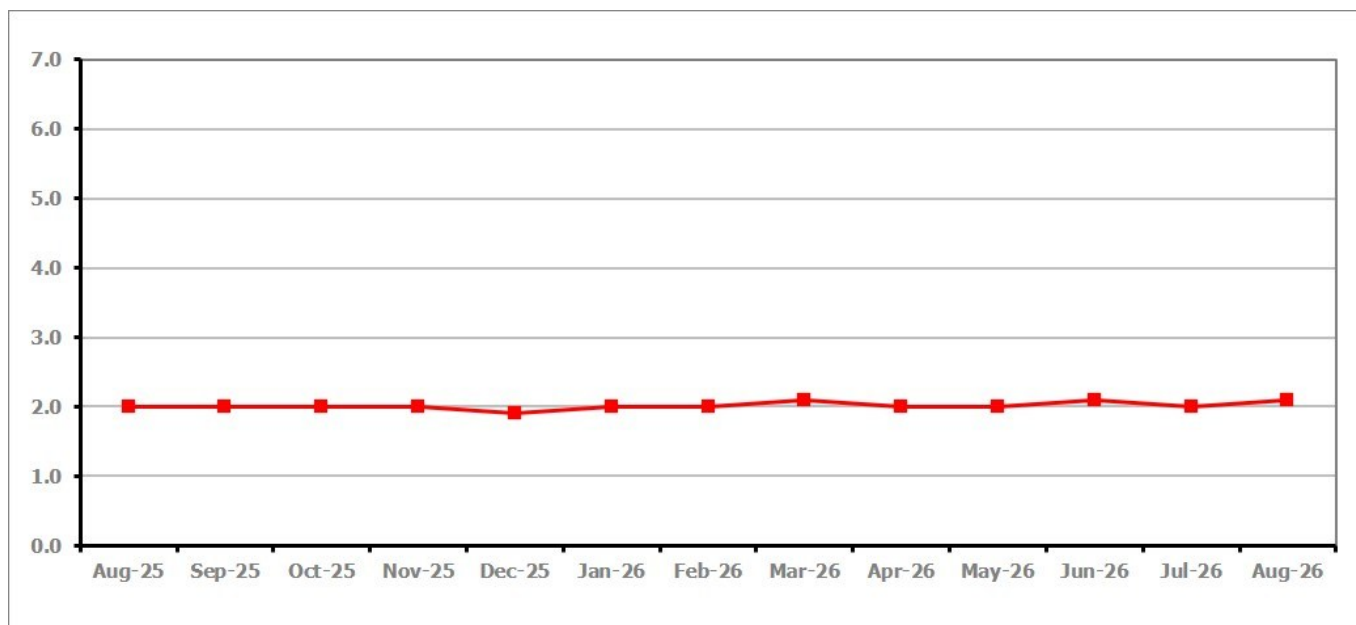


Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District increased to 2.1% in August 2026.

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards – August 2026

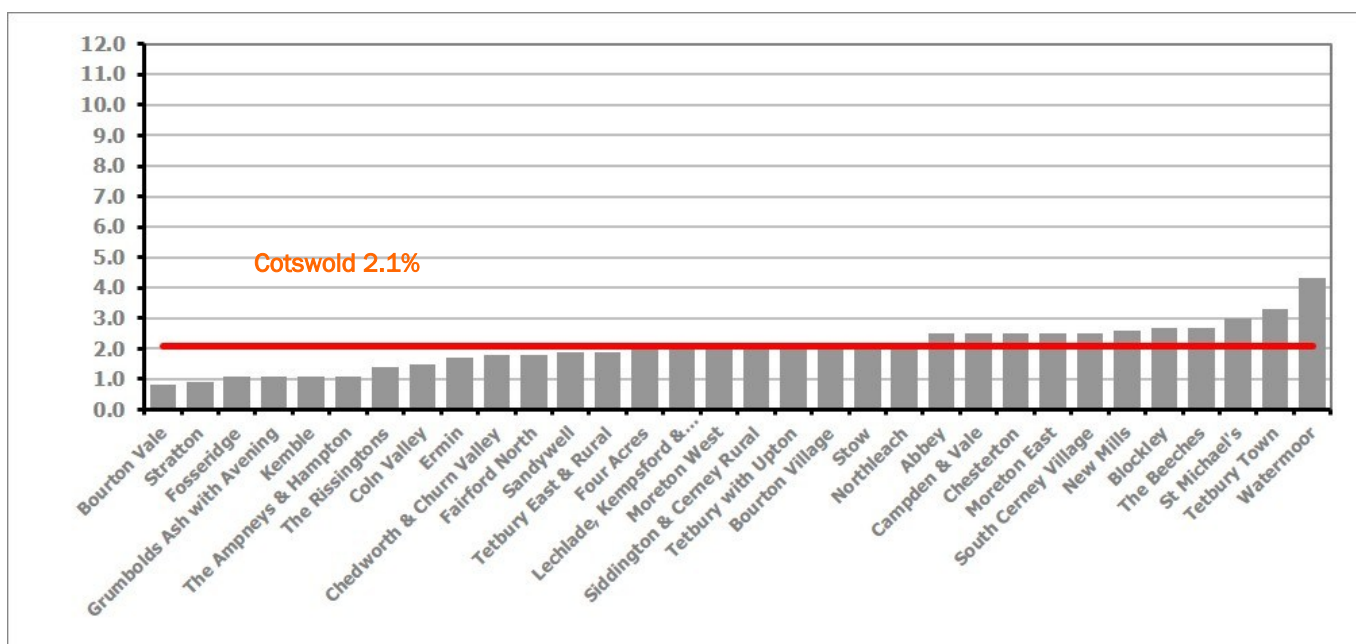


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.1%. Twelve wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - August 2026

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	0.8	1
Cotswold	Stratton	0.9	3
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.1	5
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.1	5
Cotswold	Kemble	1.1	5
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.1	5
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.4	20
Cotswold	Coln Valley	1.5	22
Cotswold	Ermin	1.7	34
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1.8	40
Cotswold	Fairford North	1.8	40
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.9	44
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.9	44
Cotswold	Four Acres	2.0	53
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	2.0	53
Cotswold	Moreton West	2.0	53
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	2.0	53
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.0	53
Cotswold	Bourton Village	2.1	60
Cotswold	Stow	2.1	60
Cotswold	Northleach	2.2	70
Cotswold	Abbey	2.5	80
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.5	80
Cotswold	Chesterton	2.5	80
Cotswold	Moreton East	2.5	80
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	2.5	80
Cotswold	New Mills	2.6	89
Cotswold	Blockley	2.7	90
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.7	90
Cotswold	St Michael's	3.0	108
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	3.3	114
Cotswold	Watermoor	4.3	127

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 6 shows overall claimant rates for Cotswold District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

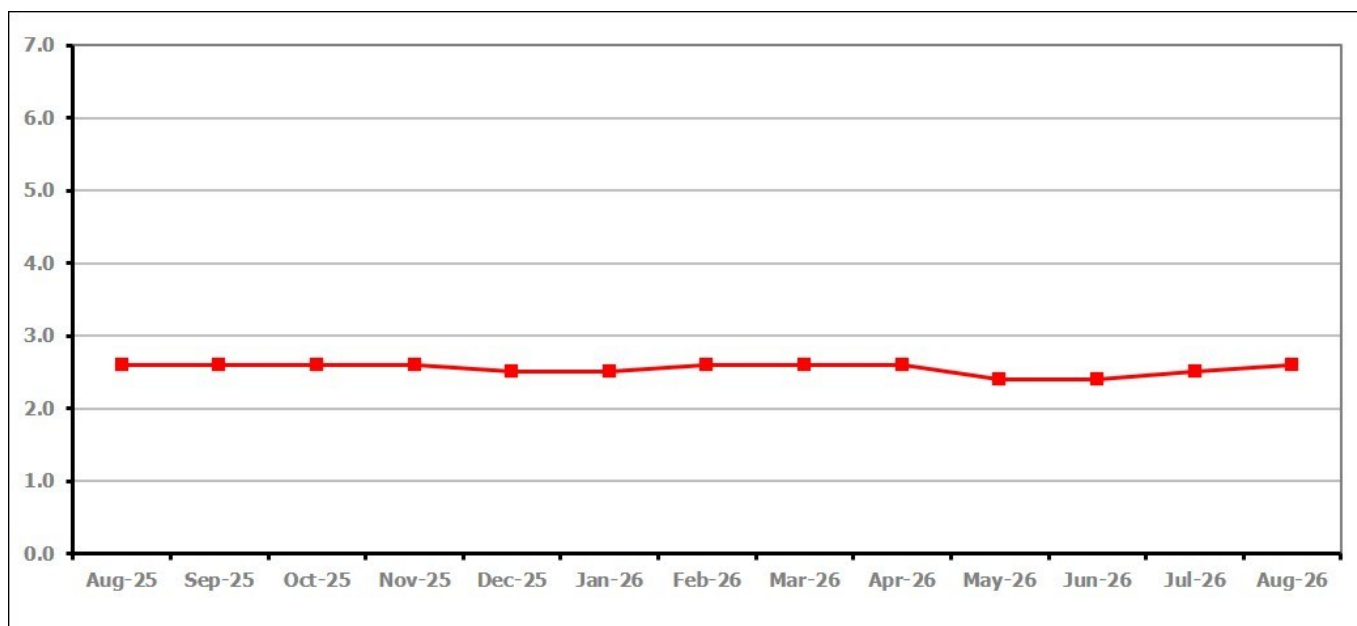
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.3 Forest of Dean District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 7: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean increased to 2.6% in August 2026.

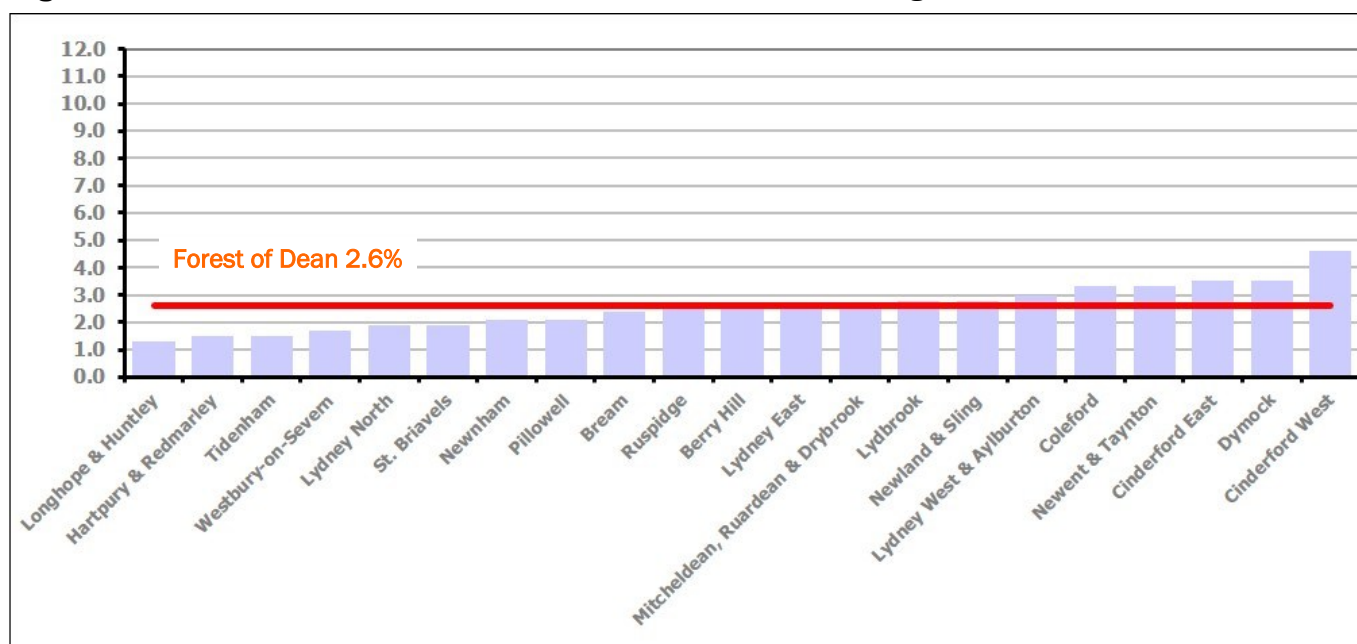
Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards – August 2026

Figure 8 shows the claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.6%. Eleven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.3 Forest of Dean District continued...***Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - August 2026*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.3	16
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.5	22
Forest	Tidenham	1.5	22
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.7	34
Forest	Lydney North	1.9	44
Forest	St. Briavels	1.9	44
Forest	Newnham	2.1	60
Forest	Pillowell	2.1	60
Forest	Bream	2.4	78
Forest	Ruspidge	2.5	80
Forest	Berry Hill	2.7	90
Forest	Lydney East	2.7	90
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.7	90
Forest	Lydbrook	2.8	99
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.8	99
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	3.0	108
Forest	Coleford	3.3	114
Forest	Newent & Taynton	3.3	114
Forest	Cinderford East	3.5	119
Forest	Dymock	3.5	119
Forest	Cinderford West	4.6	129

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 7 shows overall claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

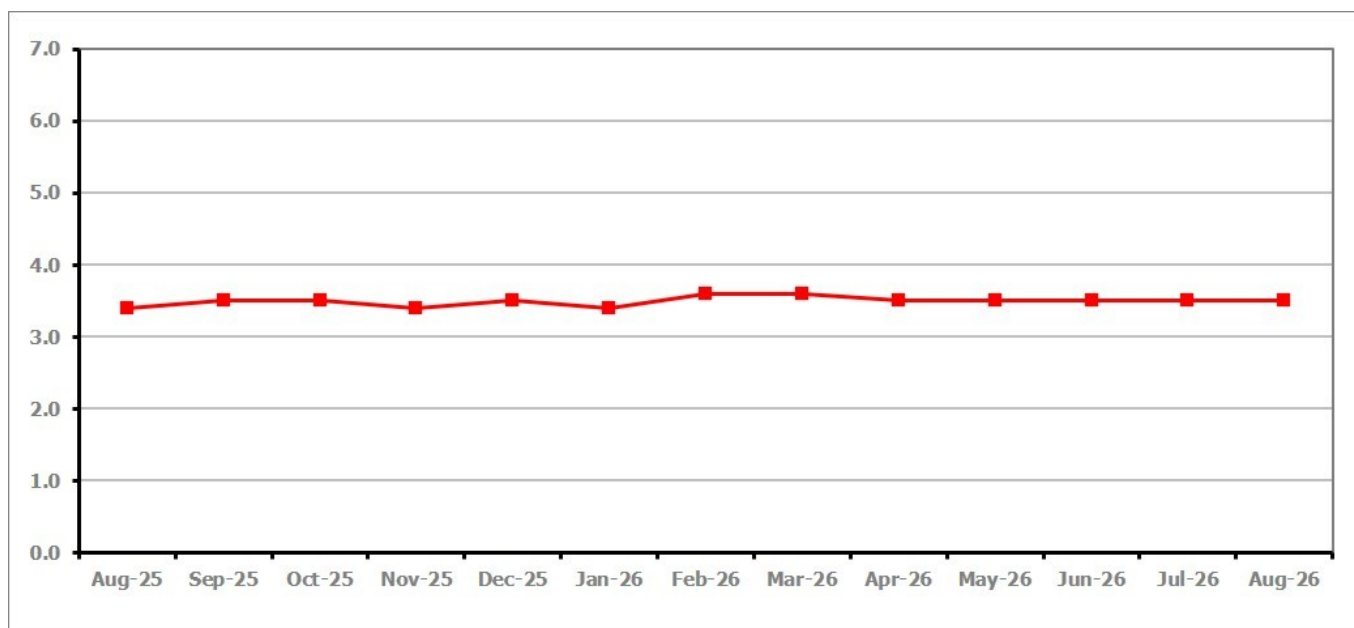
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City remained at 3.5% in August 2026.

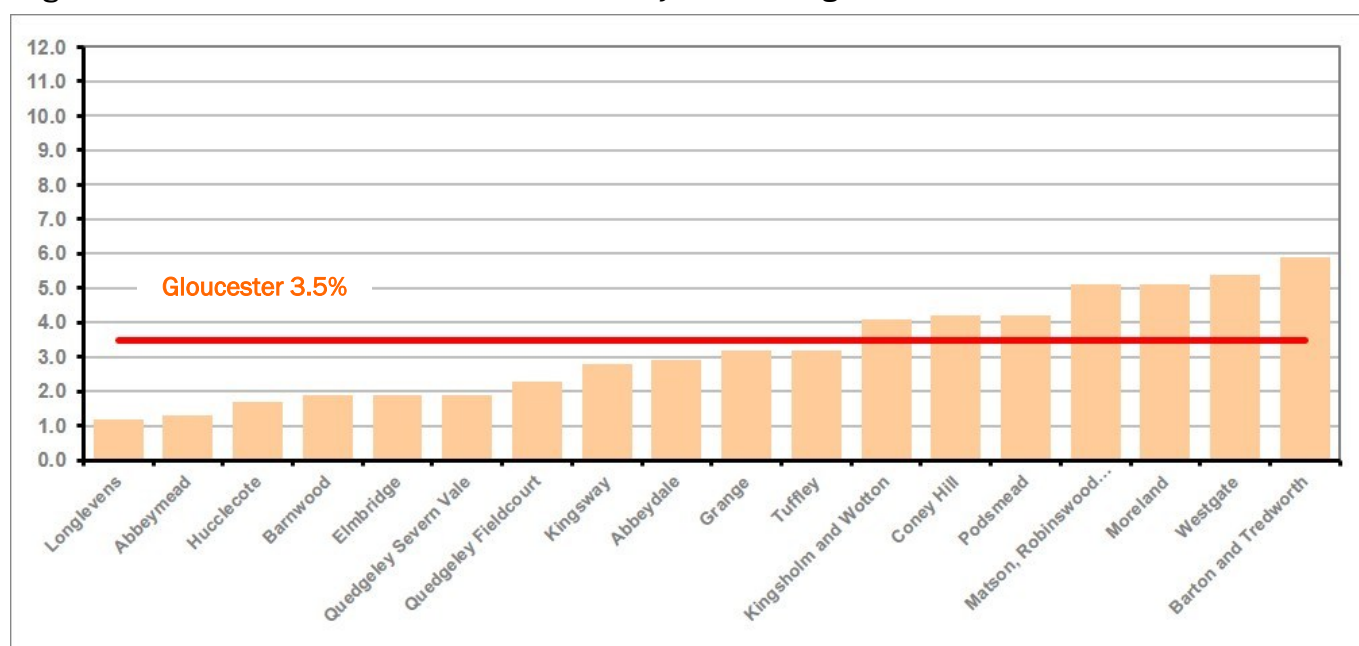
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - August 2026

Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 3.5%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - August 2026

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.2	14
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.3	16
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.7	34
Gloucester	Barnwood	1.9	44
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.9	44
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.9	44
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.3	74
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.8	99
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.9	107
Gloucester	Grange	3.2	110
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.2	110
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.1	124
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.2	125
Gloucester	Podsmead	4.2	125
Gloucester	Matson, Robinswood and White City	5.1	131
Gloucester	Moreland	5.1	131
Gloucester	Westgate	5.4	135
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	5.9	138

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 8 shows overall claimant rates for Gloucester City wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year

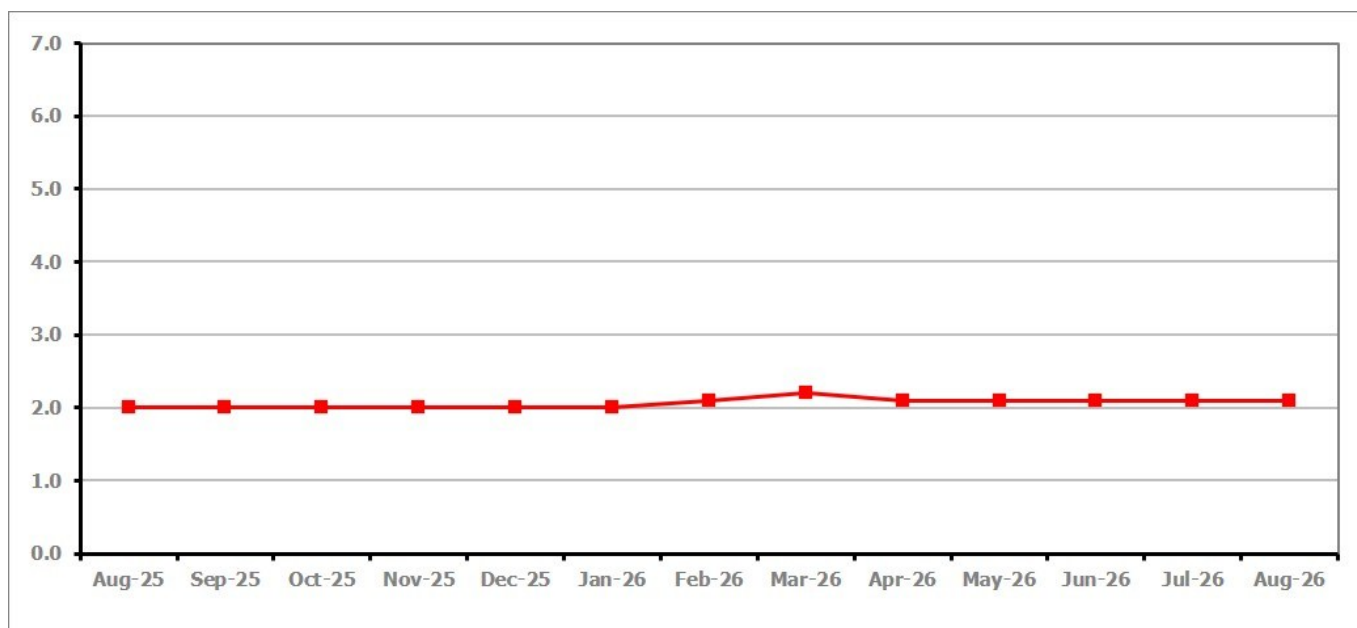


Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud remained at 2.1% in August 2026.

Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - August 2026

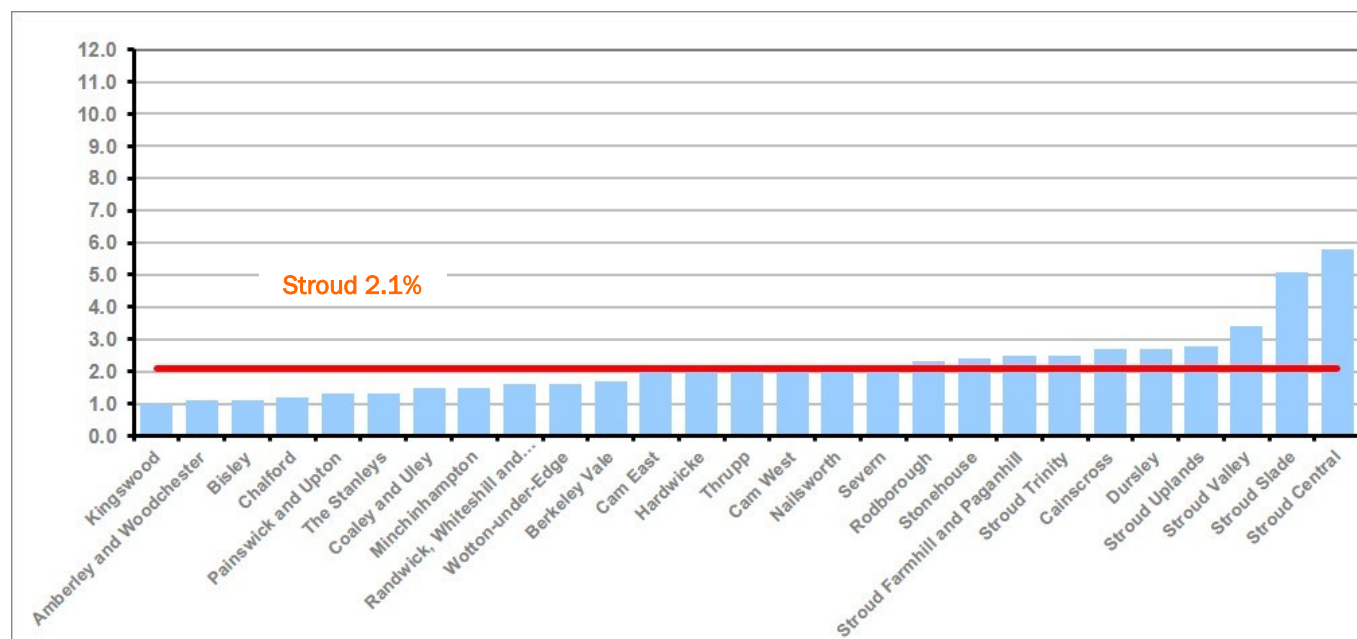


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.1%. Thirteen wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - August 2026

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Kingswood	1.0	4
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.1	5
Stroud	Bisley	1.1	5
Stroud	Chalford	1.2	14
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.3	16
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.3	16
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.5	22
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.5	22
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.6	28
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.6	28
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.7	34
Stroud	Cam East	2.0	53
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.1	60
Stroud	Thrupp	2.1	60
Stroud	Cam West	2.2	70
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.2	70
Stroud	Severn	2.2	70
Stroud	Rodborough	2.3	74
Stroud	Stonehouse	2.4	78
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.5	80
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.5	80
Stroud	Cainscross	2.7	90
Stroud	Dursley	2.7	90
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	2.8	99
Stroud	Stroud Valley	3.4	117
Stroud	Stroud Slade	5.1	131
Stroud	Stroud Central	5.8	137

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 9 shows overall claimant rates for Stroud District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

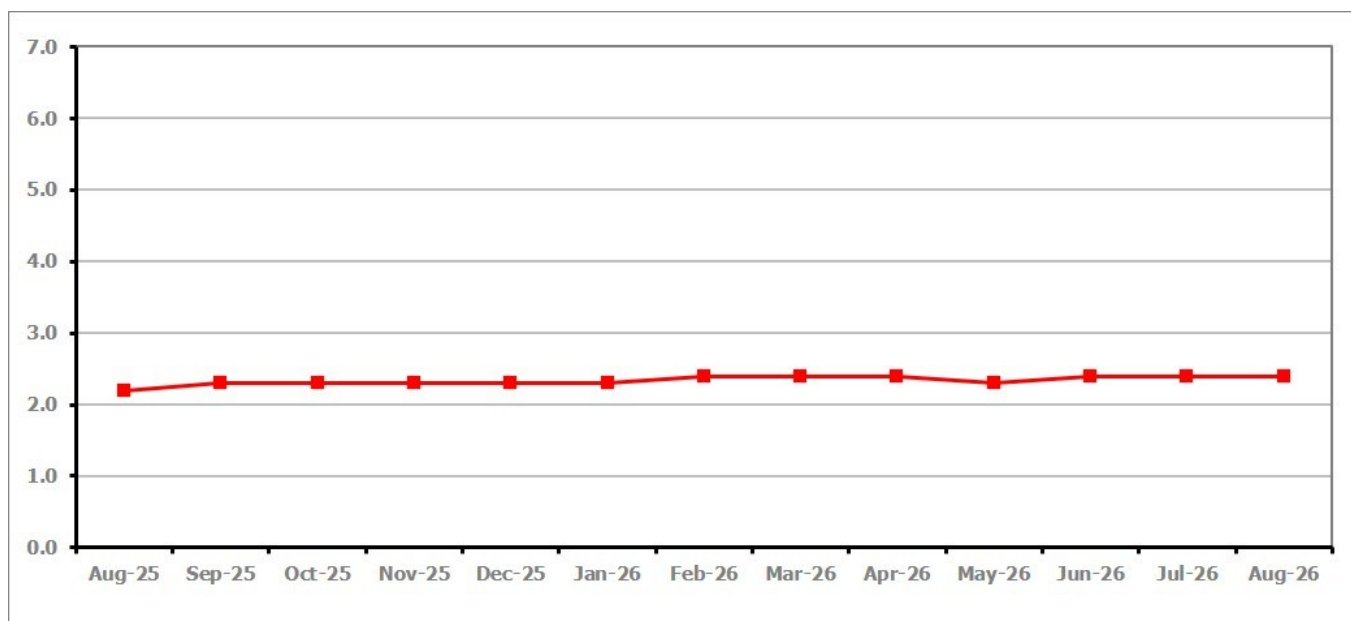
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough remained at 2.4% in August 2026.

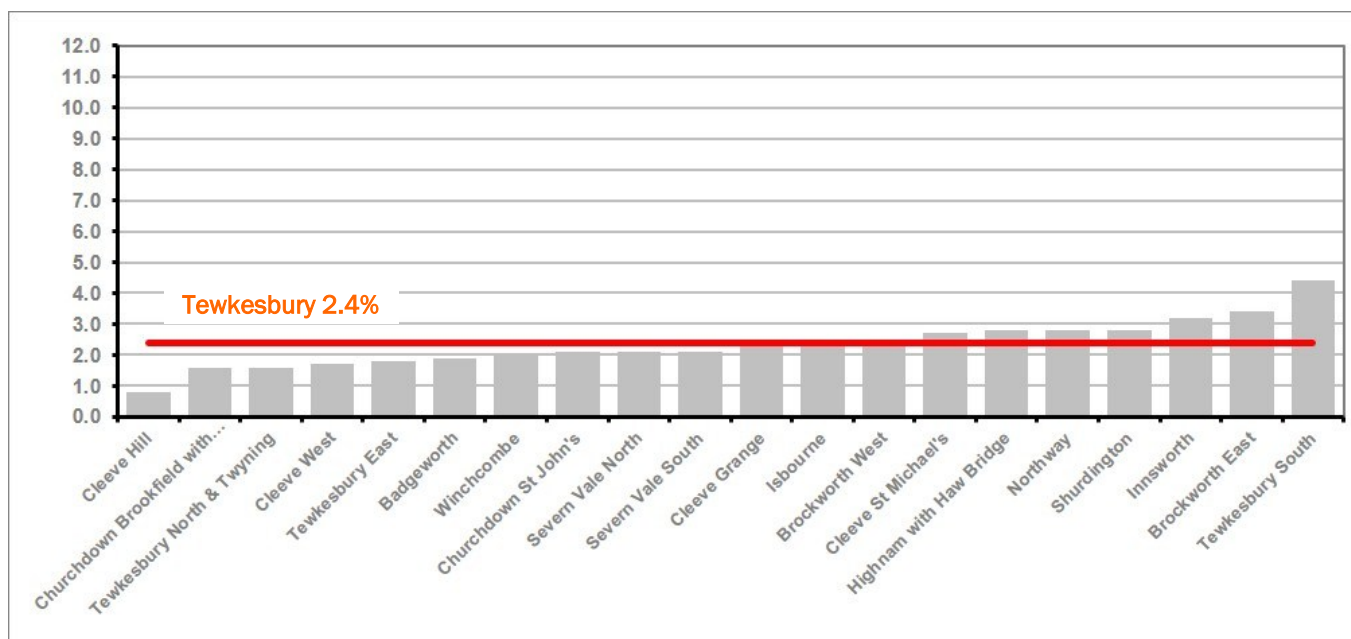
Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - August 2026

Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.4%. Eight wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury Borough continued...

Table 10: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough level - August 2026

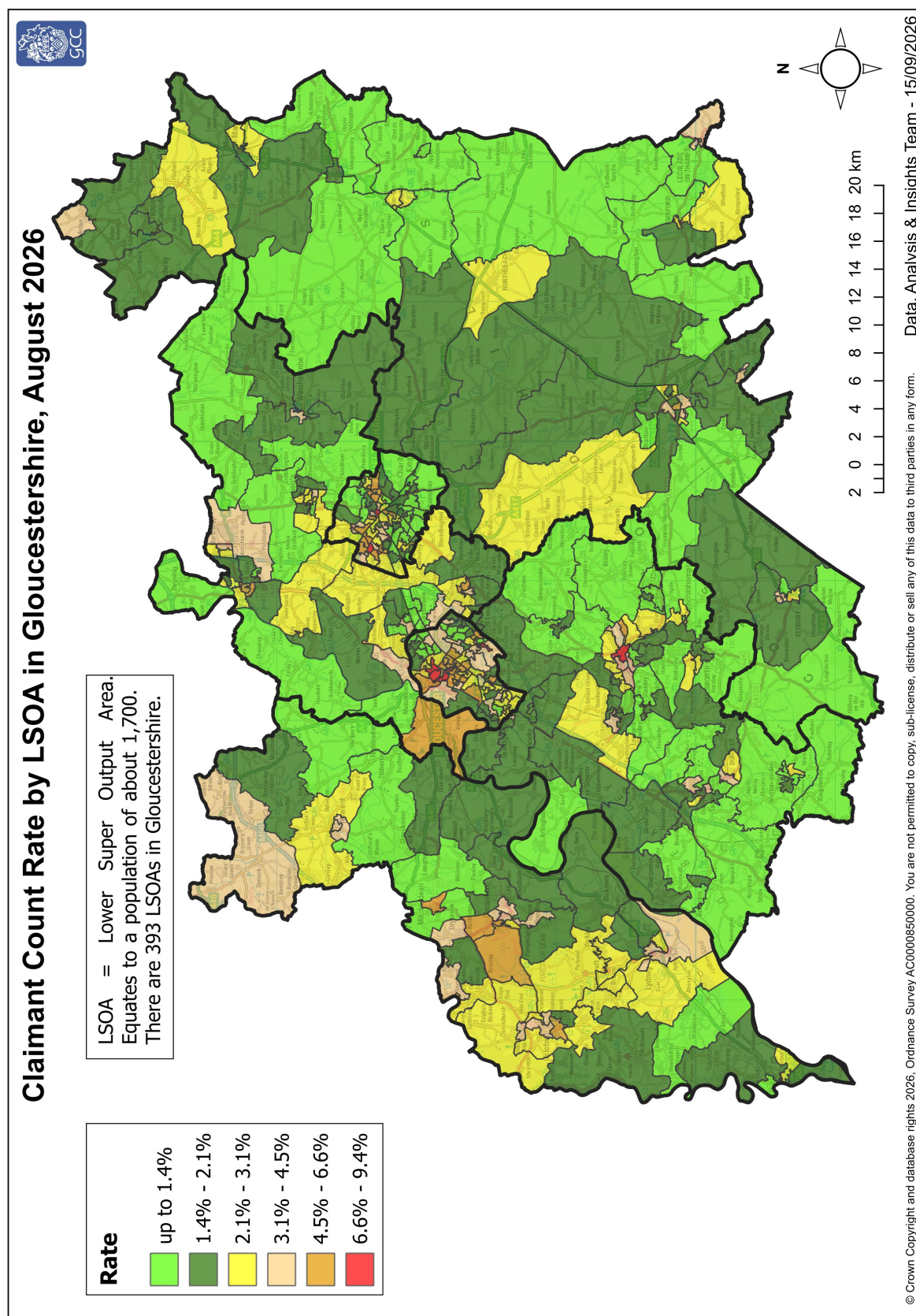
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.8	1
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.6	28
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twynning	1.6	28
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.7	34
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.8	40
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	1.9	44
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.0	53
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.1	60
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.1	60
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	2.1	60
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.3	74
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.3	74
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.5	80
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.7	90
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.8	99
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.8	99
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.8	99
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	3.2	110
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	3.4	117
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	4.4	128

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 10 shows overall claimant rates for Tewkesbury Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

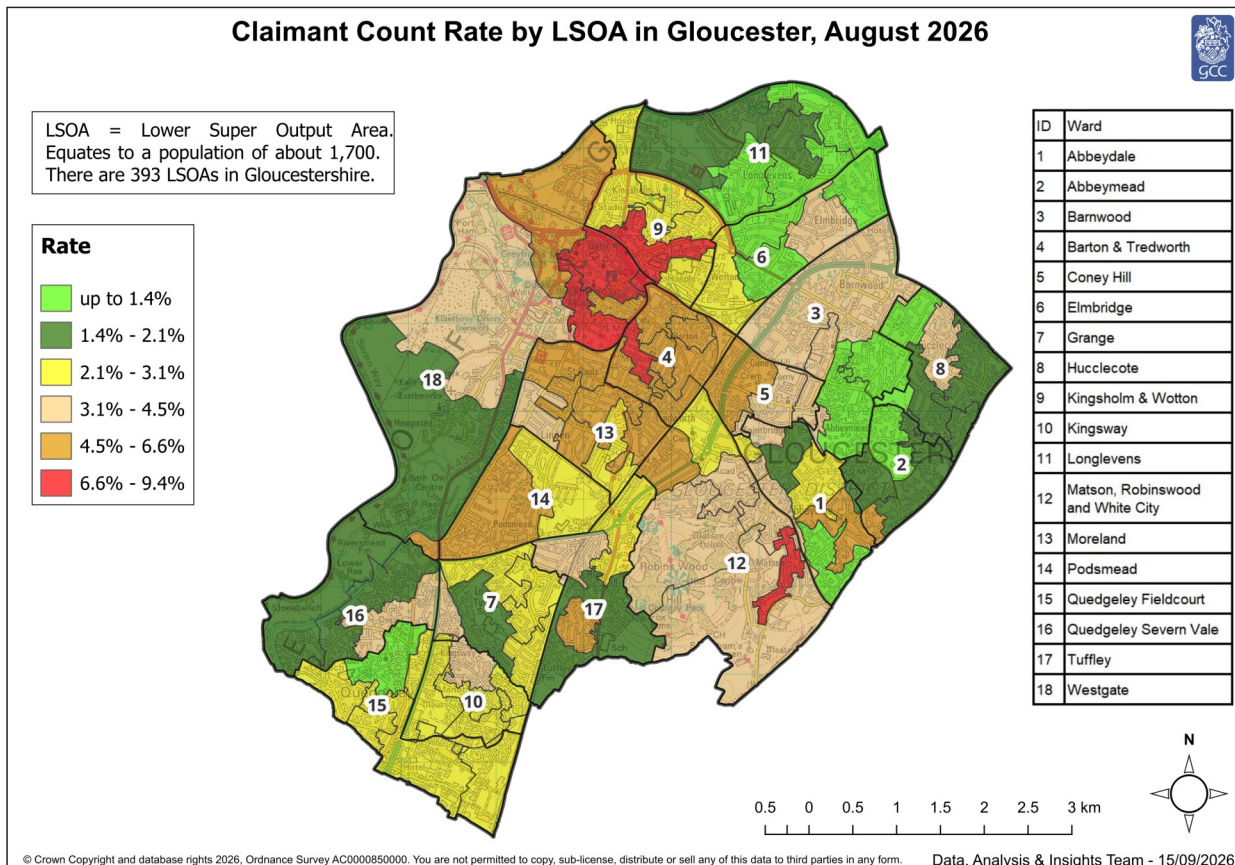
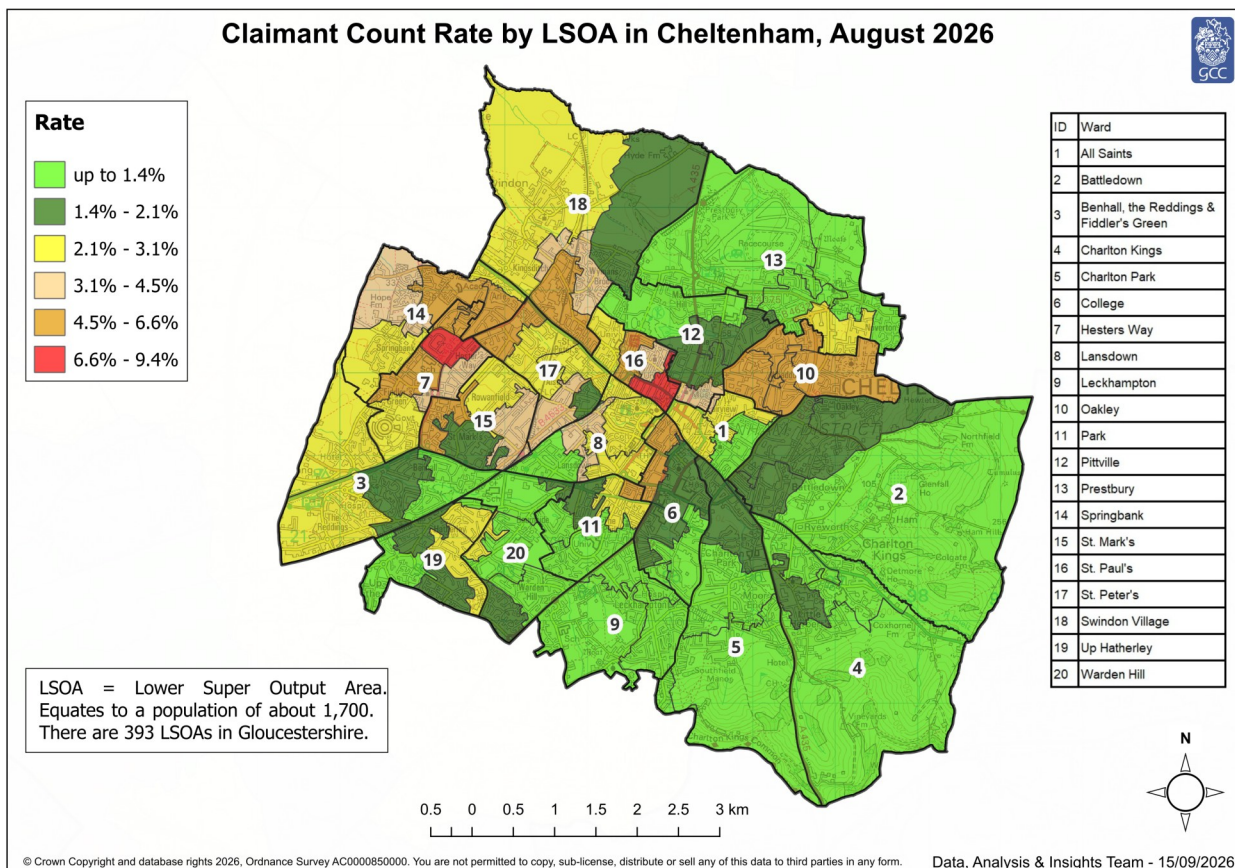
PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



From January 2026, these maps show the 2021 LSOA boundaries. Rate category ranges have been reset in January 2026, and will remain fixed for subsequent months to allow month on month claimant count rate comparisons.

Rates calculated by applying Lower Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates Mid-2024, Office for National Statistics

PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



From January 2026, these maps show the 2021 LSOA boundaries. Rate category ranges have been reset in January 2026, and will remain fixed for subsequent months to allow month on month claimant count rate comparisons.

Rates calculated by applying Lower Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates Mid-2024, Office for National Statistics

PART 6: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT(18-24 year olds)

Youth Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 15: Claimant Count for Gloucestershire over the past year

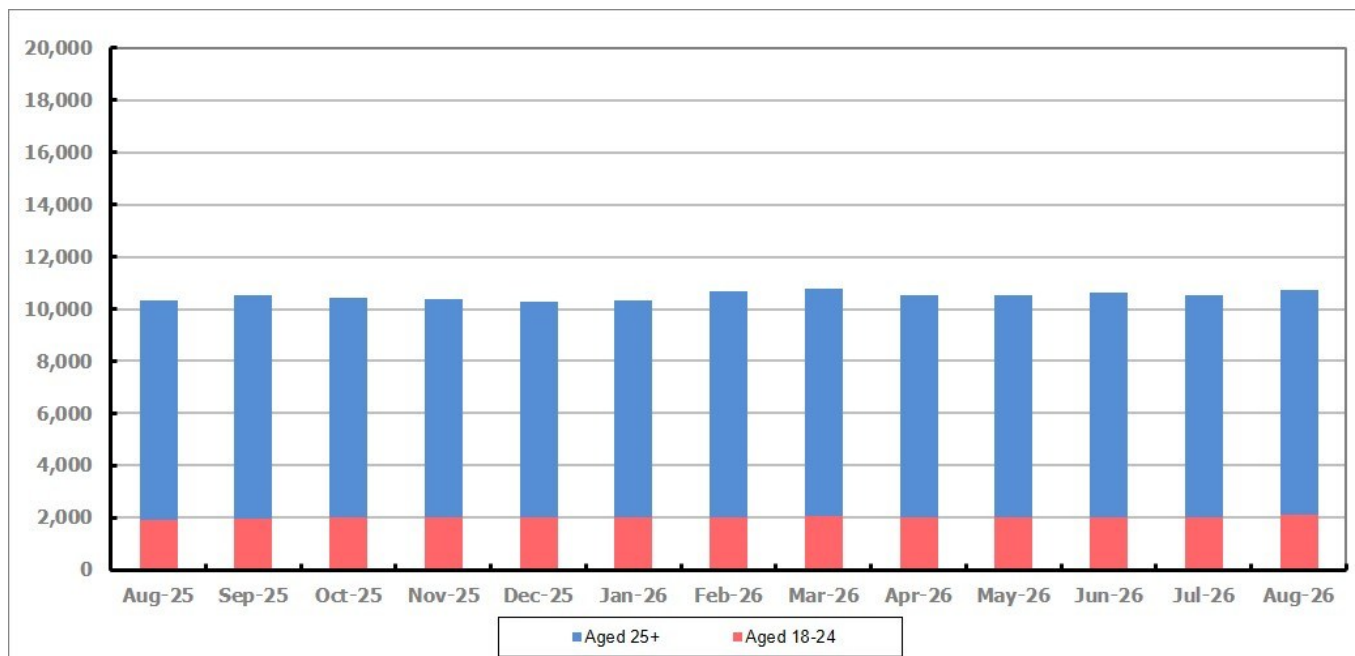


Figure 15 shows that in August 2026, 2,130 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 19.9% of total working age claimants.

PART 7: YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Data provided by Gloucestershire Youth Support Team on the situation of young people (16-18) in Gloucestershire who are not in education, employment or formal training.

Gloucestershire Youth Support Team is required to report performance on the Academic Year 12 and 13 (16/17 age) against nationally defined criteria for counting the NEET group to the Department for Education (DfE) on a monthly basis. The NEET group includes young people actively seeking education, employment or training as well as those young people who are either not yet ready or who are unable to access these opportunities because of their personal circumstances. The figures quoted below include young people in both of these categories.

(End of) August 2026

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	82	2540	3.23%
Cotswold	43	1793	2.40%
Forest	64	1781	3.59%
Gloucester	206	3705	5.56%
Stroud	73	2889	2.53%
Tewkesbury	74	2277	3.25%
Total	542	14985	3.62%

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	82	2540	3.23%
Cotswold	43	1793	2.40%
Forest	64	1781	3.59%
Gloucester	206	3705	5.56%
Stroud	73	2889	2.53%
Tewkesbury	74	2277	3.25%
Total	542	14985	3.62%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	3.67%
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Monthly Change **	0	0	0.00%
Previous Month	542	14985	3.62%

Monthly Change **	-36	-688	-0.07%
Previous Month	578	15673	3.69%

The academic year 12-13 group contains a proportion of young people who turn 18 in the academic year but were 17 on the 31st August the previous academic year so are entitled to learning through RPA (raising participation age).

Please note all figures quoted above are subject to change before the submission date to the DfE which usually happens in the second or third week of the month for the previous month.

If you would like to receive any further information on Gloucestershire's NEET strategy, then please contact lynne.speak@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

(*) Adjustment includes a proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose outcomes are not-known to Gloucestershire Youth Support Team.

(**) Change in monthly rate.