

# Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 185 December 2023

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The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people who are unemployed and claiming benefits. From 1996 until the recent introduction of Universal Credit, this was based on the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. However, since its introduction some unemployment benefit claimants will be claiming Universal Credit instead. **To reflect this change, the Claimant Count has been expanded to include people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and who are searching for work.**

Gloucestershire is in the process of transitioning to full Universal Credit. This means a broader span of claimants will be required to look for work than previously under Jobseekers Allowance. As more people are brought within the coverage of Universal Credit, the Claimant Count is set to rise noticeably over time. This will happen irrespective of how the economy performs and is a feature of the design of Universal Credit which brings additional groups of people into 'Searching for Work' conditionality (and therefore the Claimant Count), to help encourage and support these claimants into work.

For more information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).

## 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 Team in the County Council's Planning, Performance and Change function. The data are sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis ([www.nomis.co.uk](http://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 was 2.5% in December 2023.** The South West rate increased to 2.6% while the UK rate increased to 3.7%. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.1% lower than the South West average of 2.6%, and 1.2% lower than the UK average of 3.7%.

**The claimant count in Gloucestershire in December 2023 increased by 115 people.** The amount of people claiming in December 2023 was 1.2% higher than the number in November 2023. This compares to a 1.4% increase in both the South West and the UK.

Produced by:

**Data & Analysis Team**  
Planning, Performance and Insight  
Gloucestershire County Council  
January 2024

## 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 December 2023

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

**Claimant rate:** The % of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in December 2023

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

### CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,005
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.5%
Claimant rate:	2.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Oakley (5.4%)

### GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	2,925
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.2%
Claimant rate:	3.5%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Westgate (7.1%)

### COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	960
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.1%
Claimant rate:	1.8%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (3.5%)

### STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,350
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.3%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Central (4.1%)

### FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,275
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.4%
Claimant rate:	2.5%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Lydney East (4.3%)

### TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,240
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.4%
Claimant rate:	2.2%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tewkesbury South (3.5%)

## 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

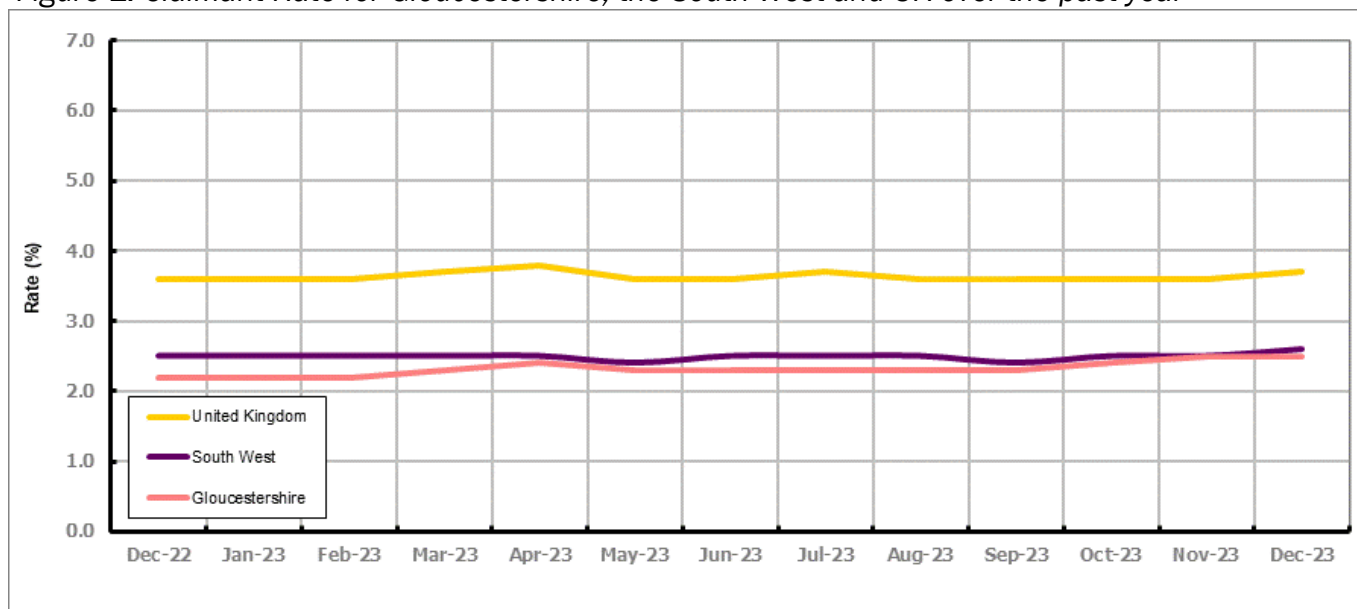


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.5% in December 2023. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since November 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 and, more recently, November 2023 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 1.3% 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 December 2023	% change on November 2023	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,556,660	1.4%	2
South West	89,435	1.4%	2
Gloucestershire	9,755	1.2%	3

Table 1 shows that in December 2023, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 1.2% higher than the number in November 2023.

## PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

### Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - December 2023

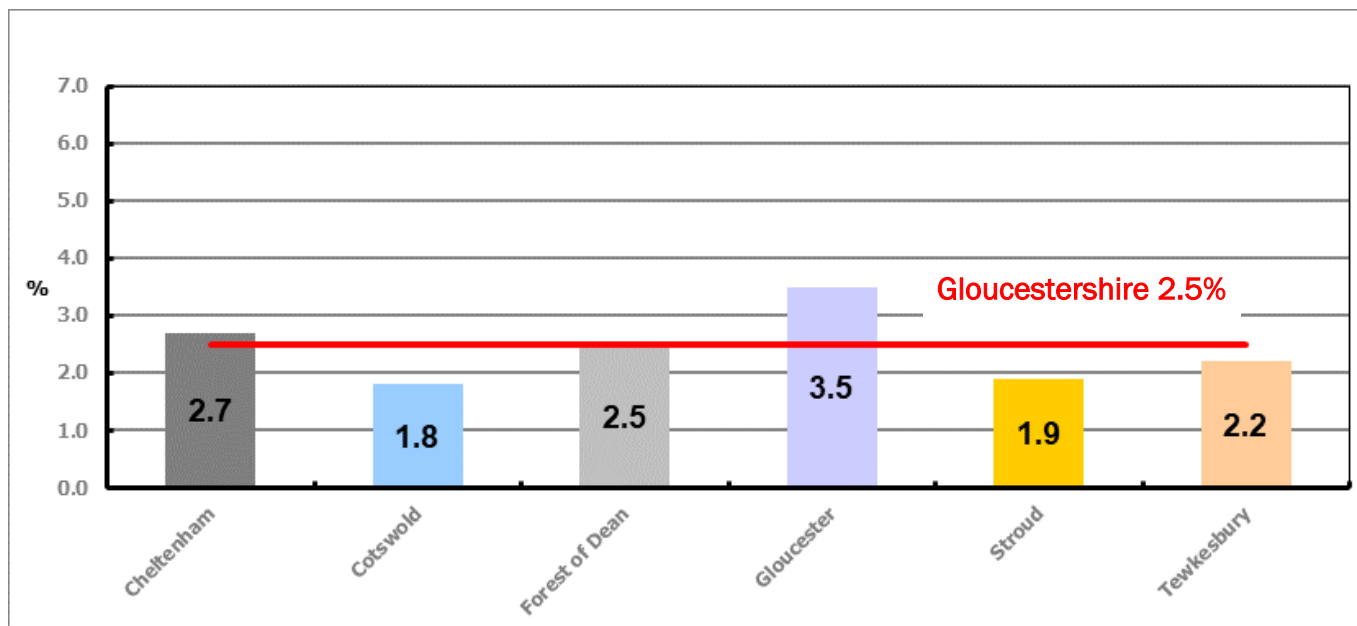


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for December 2023 in Gloucestershire. Between November and December 2023 the rate increased in all districts, except Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury where it stayed the same.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Dec 23 Number	Dec 23 Rate	Nov 23 Number	Nov 23 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	9,755	2.5	9,640	2.5	115	1.2%	0.0
Cheltenham	2,005	2.7	1,975	2.6	30	1.5%	0.1
Cotswold	960	1.8	940	1.8	20	2.1%	0.0
Forest of Dean	1,275	2.5	1,280	2.5	-5	-0.4%	0.0
Gloucester	2,925	3.5	2,890	3.4	35	1.2%	0.1
Stroud	1,350	1.9	1,320	1.8	30	2.3%	0.1
Tewkesbury	1,240	2.2	1,235	2.2	5	0.4%	0.0

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in December 2023 compared to November 2023. All districts saw an increase in the number of claimants, except Forest of Dean which saw a decrease.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Dec 23 Number	Dec 23 Rate	Nov 23 Number	Nov 23 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	5,215	2.7	5,130	2.6	85	1.7%	0.1
Cheltenham	1,125	3.0	1,105	2.9	20	1.8%	0.1
Cotswold	475	1.9	465	1.8	10	2.2%	0.1
Forest of Dean	665	2.6	655	2.6	10	1.5%	0.0
Gloucester	1,685	4.0	1,640	3.9	45	2.7%	0.1
Stroud	650	1.8	635	1.8	15	2.4%	0.0
Tewkesbury	615	2.2	625	2.3	-10	-1.6%	-0.1

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in December 2023 compared to November 2023. All districts saw an increase in the number of male claimants, except Tewkesbury which saw a decrease.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Dec 23 Number	Dec 23 Rate	Nov 23 Number	Nov 23 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	4,540	2.3	4,510	2.3	30	0.7%	0.0
Cheltenham	880	2.3	865	2.3	15	1.7%	0.0
Cotswold	485	1.8	475	1.7	10	2.1%	0.1
Forest of Dean	610	2.3	625	2.4	-15	-2.4%	-0.1
Gloucester	1,245	2.9	1,250	2.9	-5	-0.4%	0.0
Stroud	695	1.9	690	1.9	5	0.7%	0.0
Tewkesbury	625	2.1	610	2.1	15	2.5%	0.0

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in December 2023 compared to November 2023. All districts saw an increase in the number of female claimants, except Forest of Dean and Gloucester which saw a decrease.

## 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

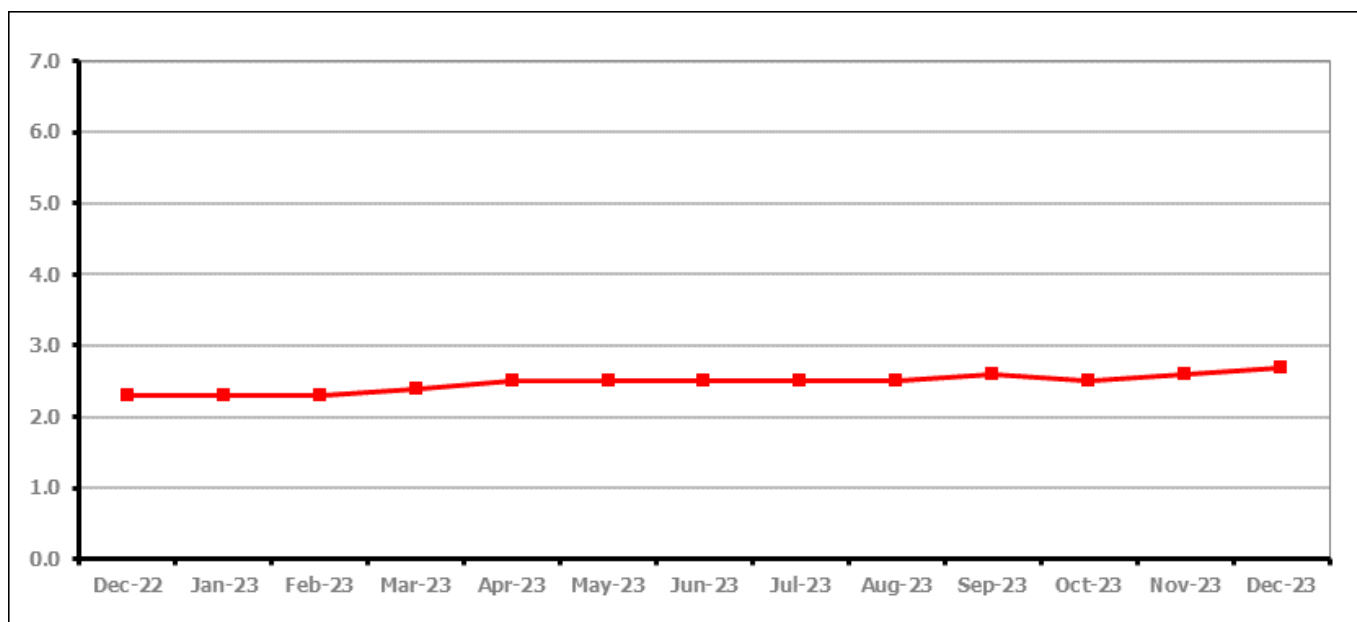


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham increased to 2.7% in December 2023.

Figure 4: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - December 2023

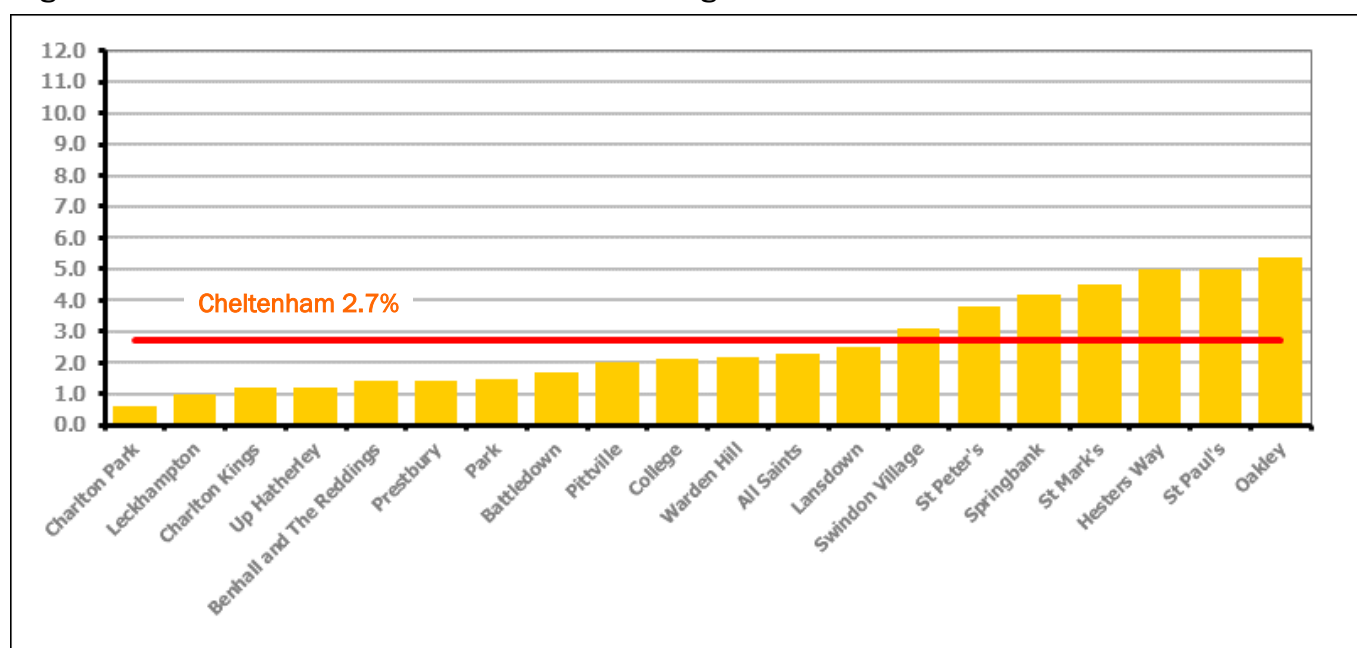


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.7%. Seven wards lie above the average.

## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

### 4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - December 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	0.6	1
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.0	7
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.2	12
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.2	12
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.4	20
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.4	20
Cheltenham	Park	1.5	26
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.7	43
Cheltenham	Pittville	2.0	61
Cheltenham	College	2.1	70
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.2	79
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.3	86
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.5	99
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.1	116
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.8	122
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.2	126
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.5	129
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.0	133
Cheltenham	St Paul's	5.0	133
Cheltenham	Oakley	5.4	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

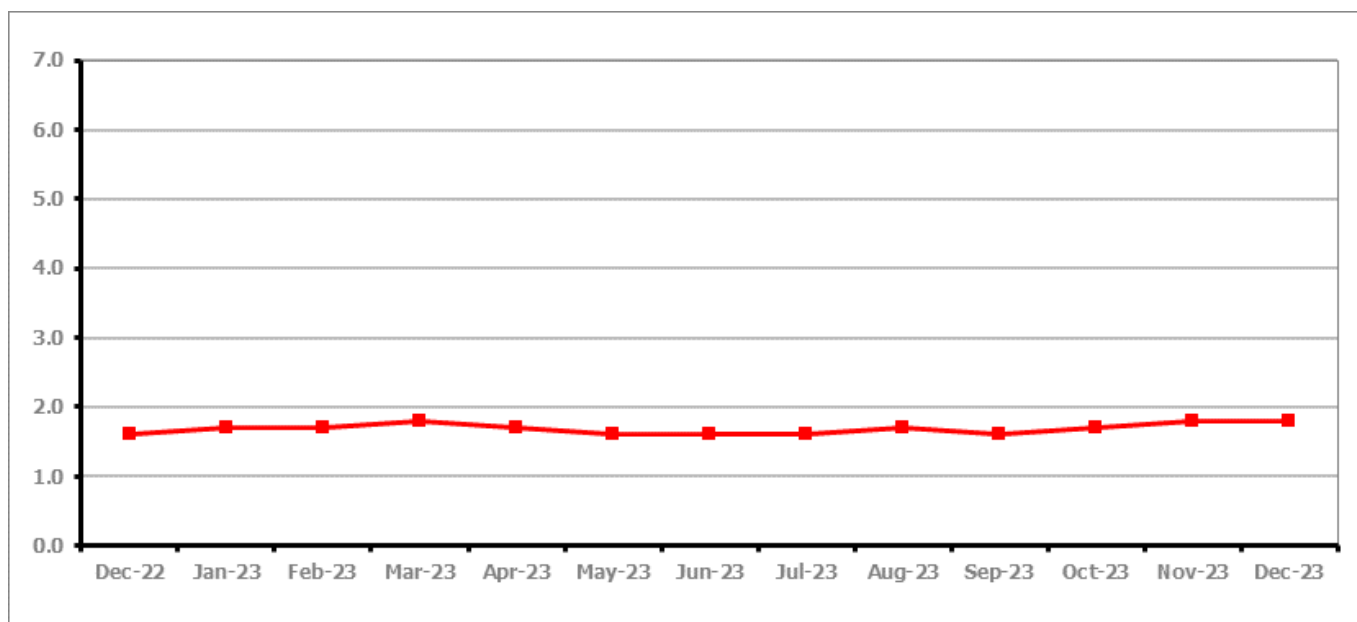


Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District remained at 1.8% in December 2023.

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards –December 2023

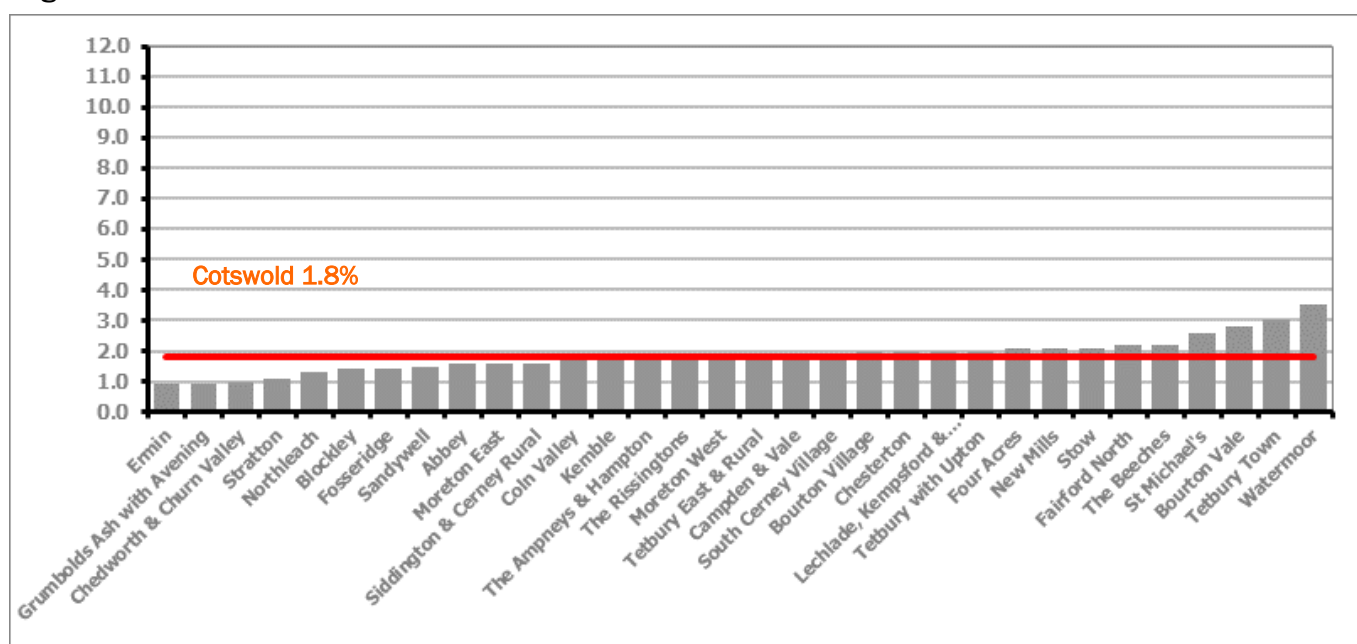


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.8%. Fifteen wards lie above the average.



## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

### 4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - December 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Ermin	0.9	2
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	0.9	2
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1.0	7
Cotswold	Stratton	1.1	10
Cotswold	Northleach	1.3	16
Cotswold	Blockley	1.4	20
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.4	20
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.5	26
Cotswold	Abbey	1.6	34
Cotswold	Moreton East	1.6	34
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	1.6	34
Cotswold	Coln Valley	1.7	43
Cotswold	Kemble	1.7	43
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.7	43
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.7	43
Cotswold	Moreton West	1.8	51
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.8	51
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	1.9	56
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	1.9	56
Cotswold	Bourton Village	2.0	61
Cotswold	Chesterton	2.0	61
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	2.0	61
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.0	61
Cotswold	Four Acres	2.1	70
Cotswold	New Mills	2.1	70
Cotswold	Stow	2.1	70
Cotswold	Fairford North	2.2	79
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.2	79
Cotswold	St Michael's	2.6	105
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	2.8	110
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	3.0	113
Cotswold	Watermoor	3.5	119

	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

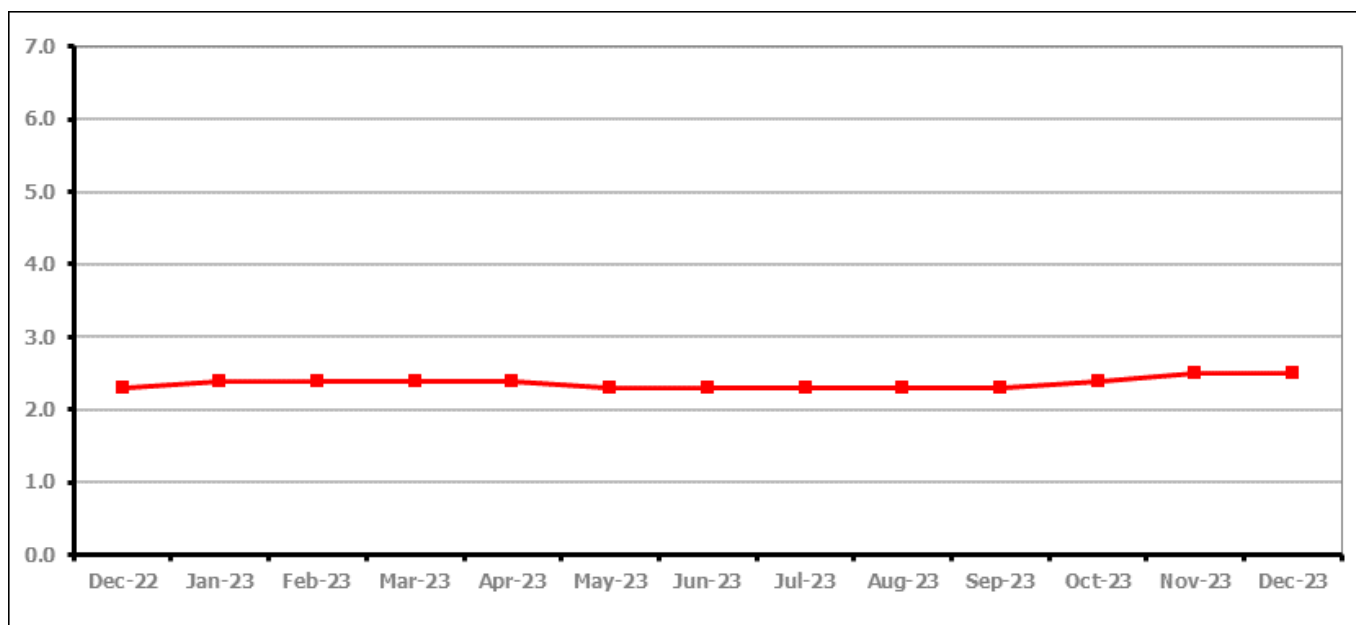


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean remained at 2.5% in December 2023.

Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards –December 2023

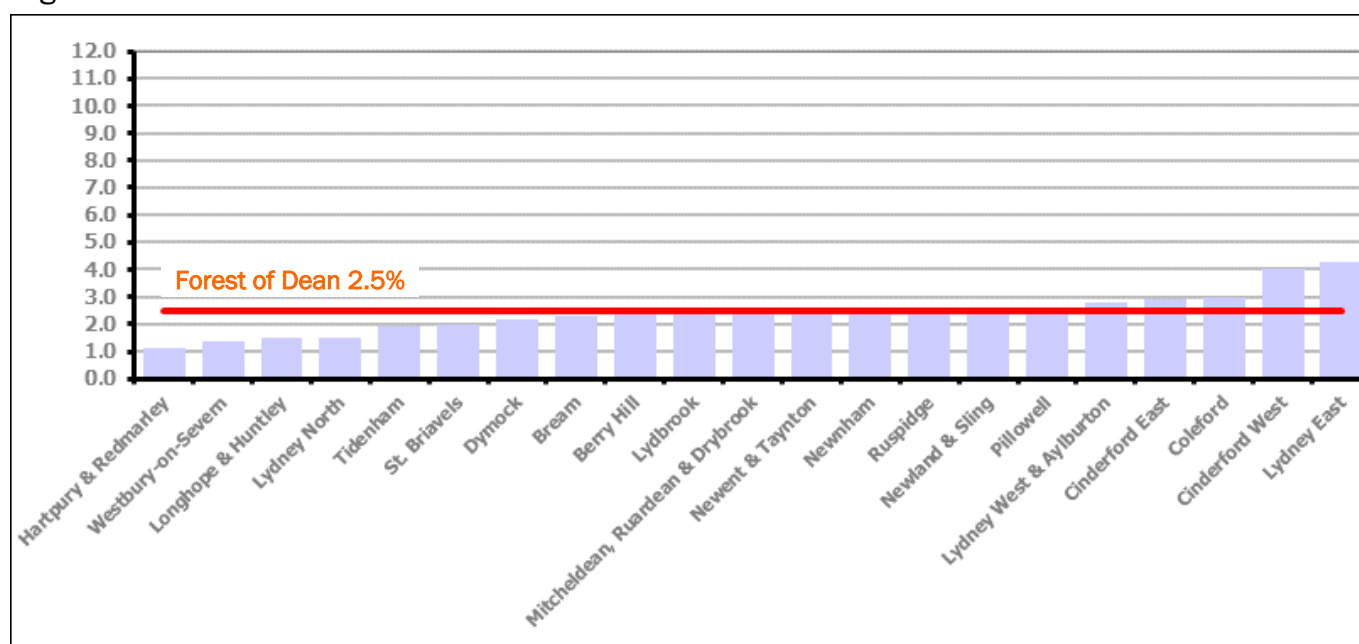


Figure 8 shows the claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.5%. Seven wards lie above the average.

**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 - December 2023*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.1	10
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.4	20
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.5	26
Forest	Lydney North	1.5	26
Forest	Tidenham	1.9	56
Forest	St. Briavels	2.0	61
Forest	Dymock	2.2	79
Forest	Bream	2.3	86
Forest	Berry Hill	2.4	94
Forest	Lydbrook	2.4	94
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.4	94
Forest	Newent & Taynton	2.5	99
Forest	Newnham	2.5	99
Forest	Ruspidge	2.5	99
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.6	105
Forest	Pillowell	2.6	105
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	2.8	110
Forest	Cinderford East	2.9	112
Forest	Coleford	3.0	113
Forest	Cinderford West	4.0	124
Forest	Lydney East	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 7 shows overall claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

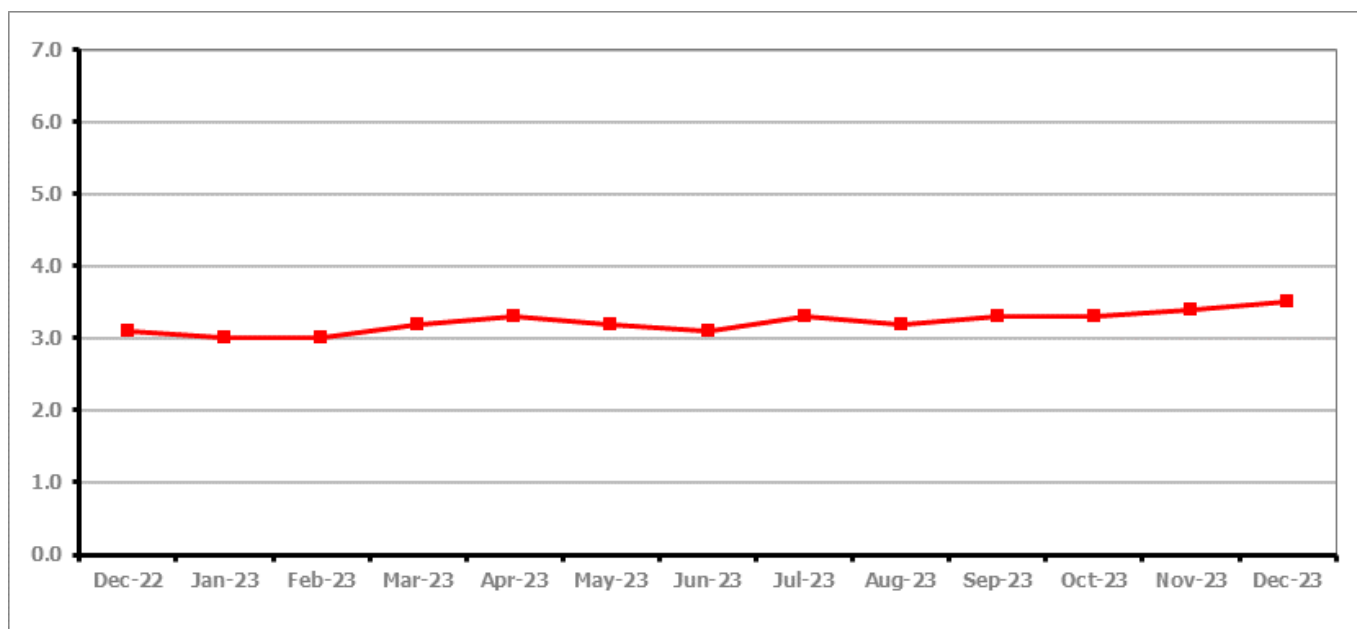
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City increased to 3.5% in December 2023.

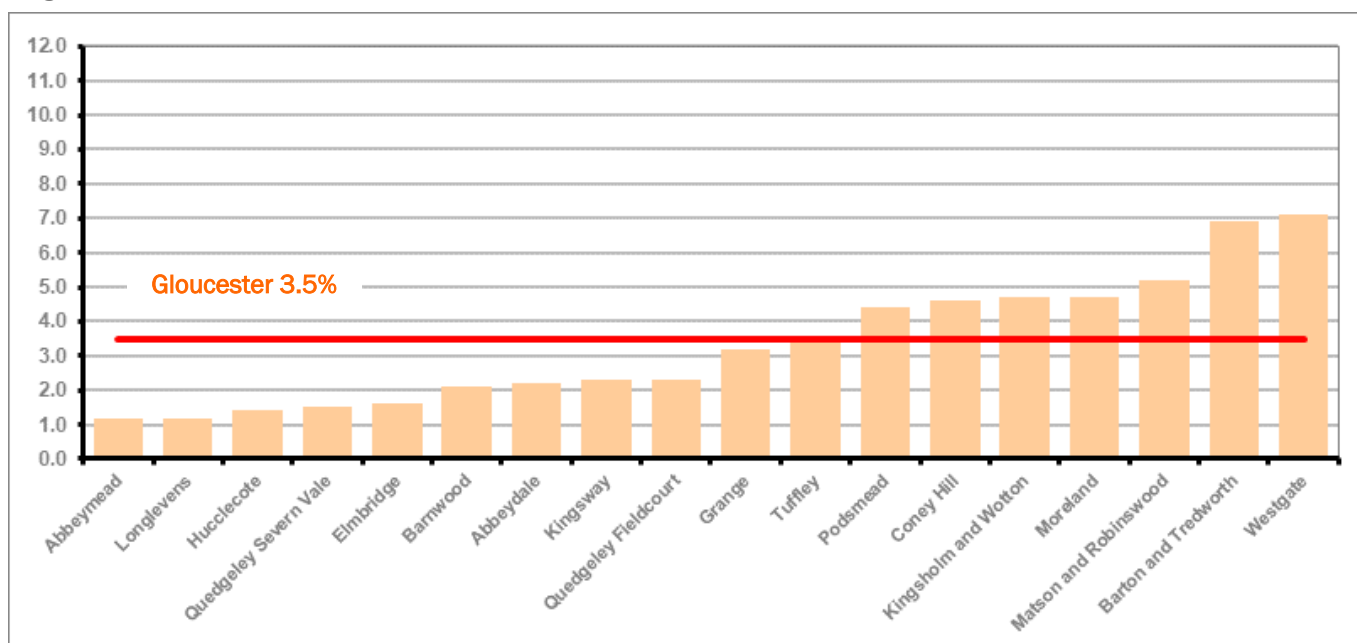
*Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - December 2023*

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 - December 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.2	12
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.2	12
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.4	20
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.5	26
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.6	34
Gloucester	Barnwood	2.1	70
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.2	79
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.3	86
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.3	86
Gloucester	Grange	3.2	117
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.5	119
Gloucester	Podsmead	4.4	128
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.6	130
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.7	131
Gloucester	Moreland	4.7	131
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.2	135
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	6.9	137
Gloucester	Westgate	7.1	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.

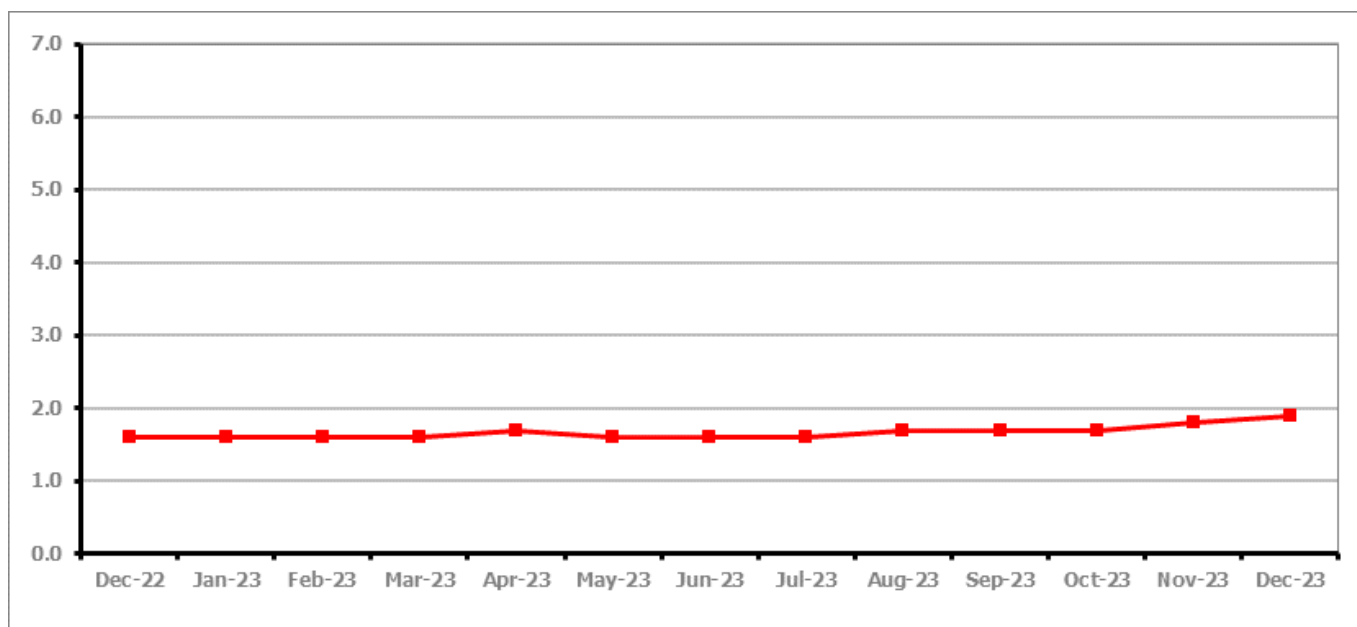
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud increased to 1.9% in December 2023.

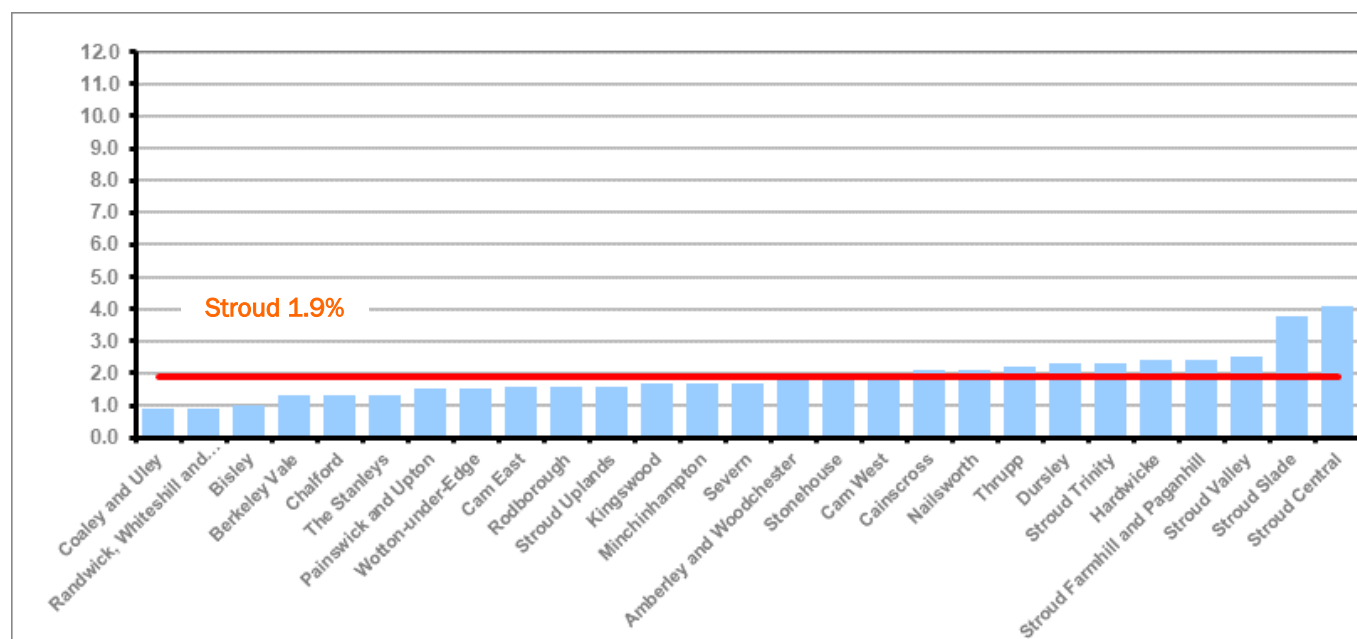
*Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - December 2023*

Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.9%. Ten 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 - December 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	0.9	2
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	0.9	2
Stroud	Bisley	1.0	7
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.3	16
Stroud	Chalford	1.3	16
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.3	16
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.5	26
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.5	26
Stroud	Cam East	1.6	34
Stroud	Rodborough	1.6	34
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	1.6	34
Stroud	Kingswood	1.7	43
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.7	43
Stroud	Severn	1.7	43
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.8	51
Stroud	Stonehouse	1.8	51
Stroud	Cam West	1.9	56
Stroud	Cainscross	2.1	70
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.1	70
Stroud	Thrupp	2.2	79
Stroud	Dursley	2.3	86
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.3	86
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.4	94
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.4	94
Stroud	Stroud Valley	2.5	99
Stroud	Stroud Slade	3.8	122
Stroud	Stroud Central	4.1	125

	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.

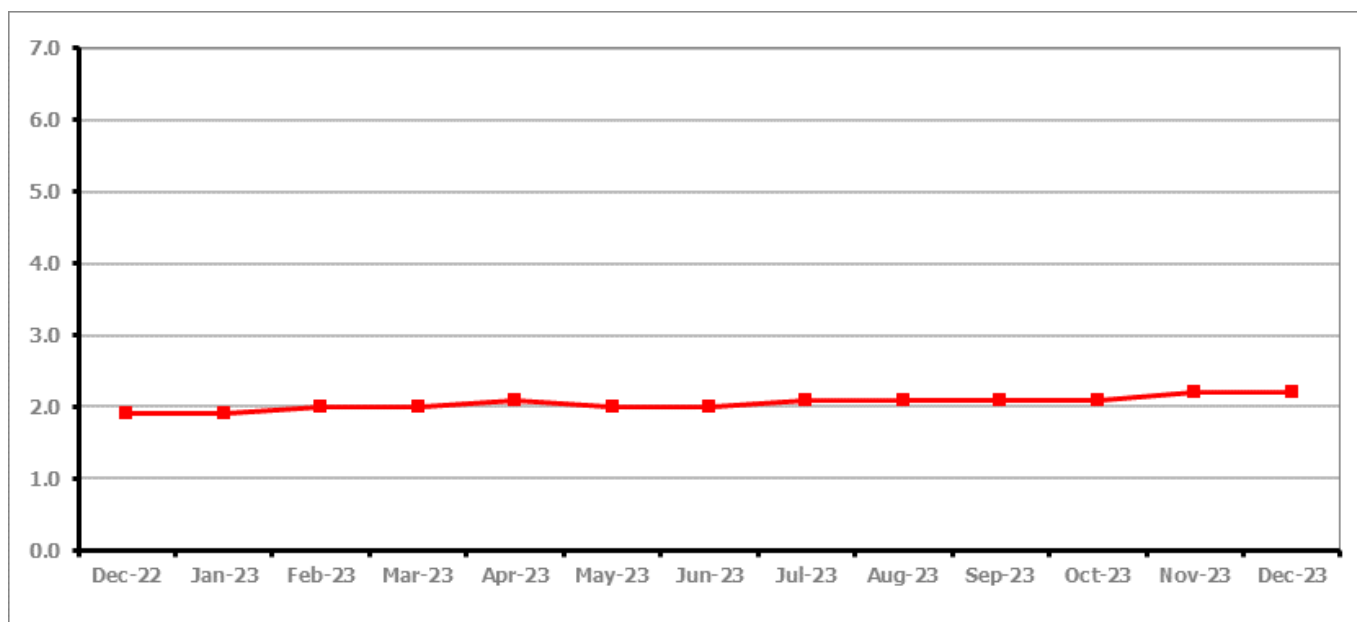
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough remained at 2.2% in December 2023.

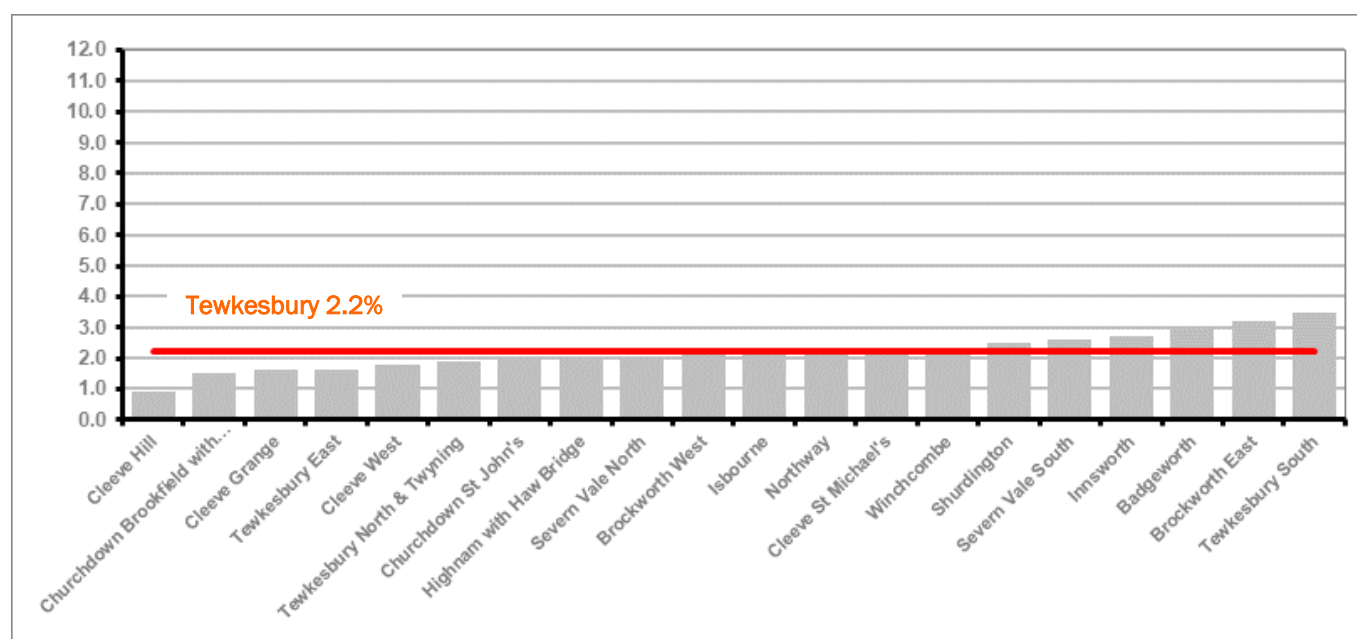
*Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - December 2023*

Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.2%. 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 - December 2023

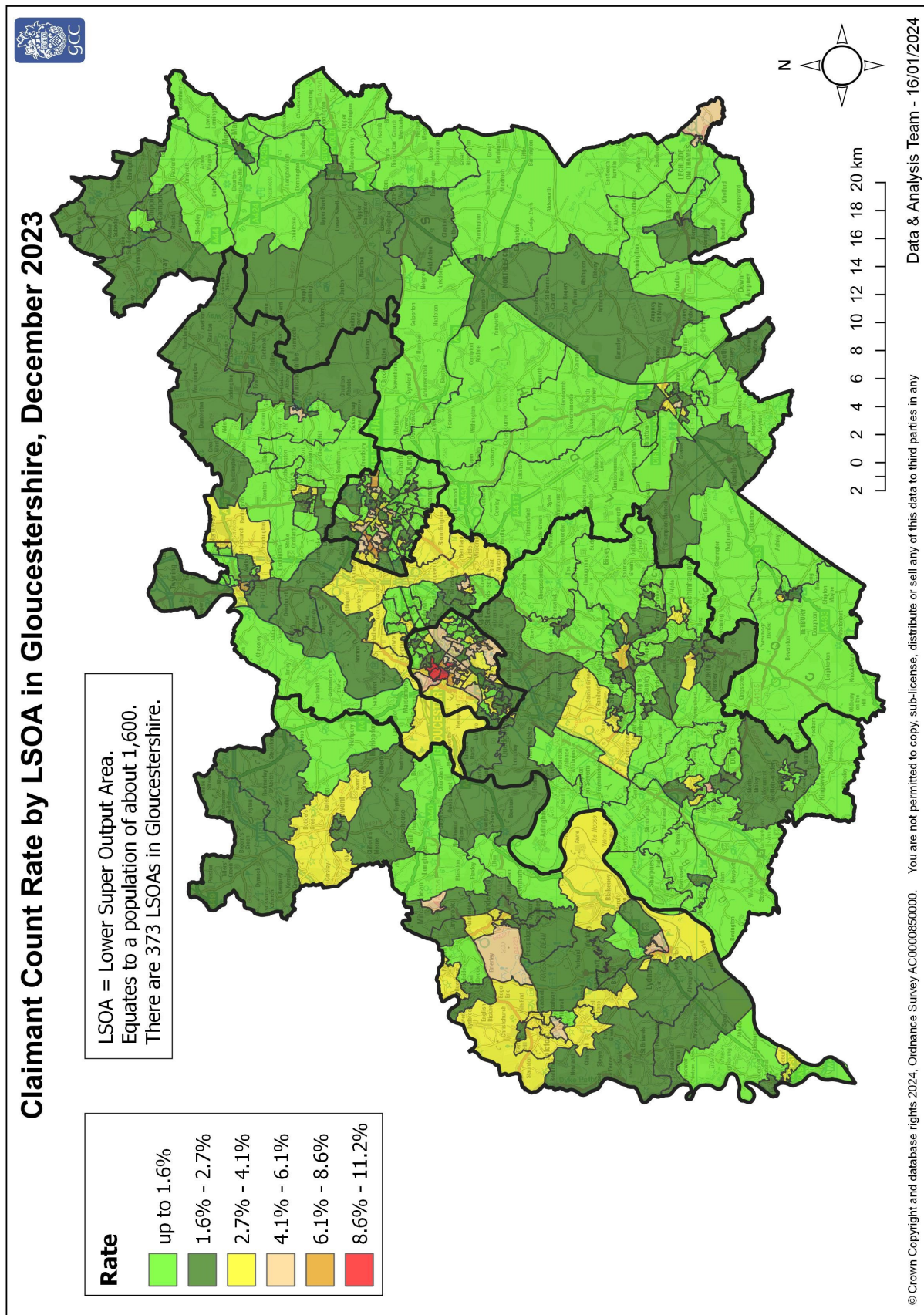
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.9	2
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.5	26
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	1.6	34
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.6	34
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.8	51
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twynning	1.9	56
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.0	61
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.0	61
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.0	61
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.1	70
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.1	70
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.2	79
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.3	86
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.3	86
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.5	99
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	2.6	105
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	2.7	109
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	3.0	113
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	3.2	117
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	3.5	119

	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



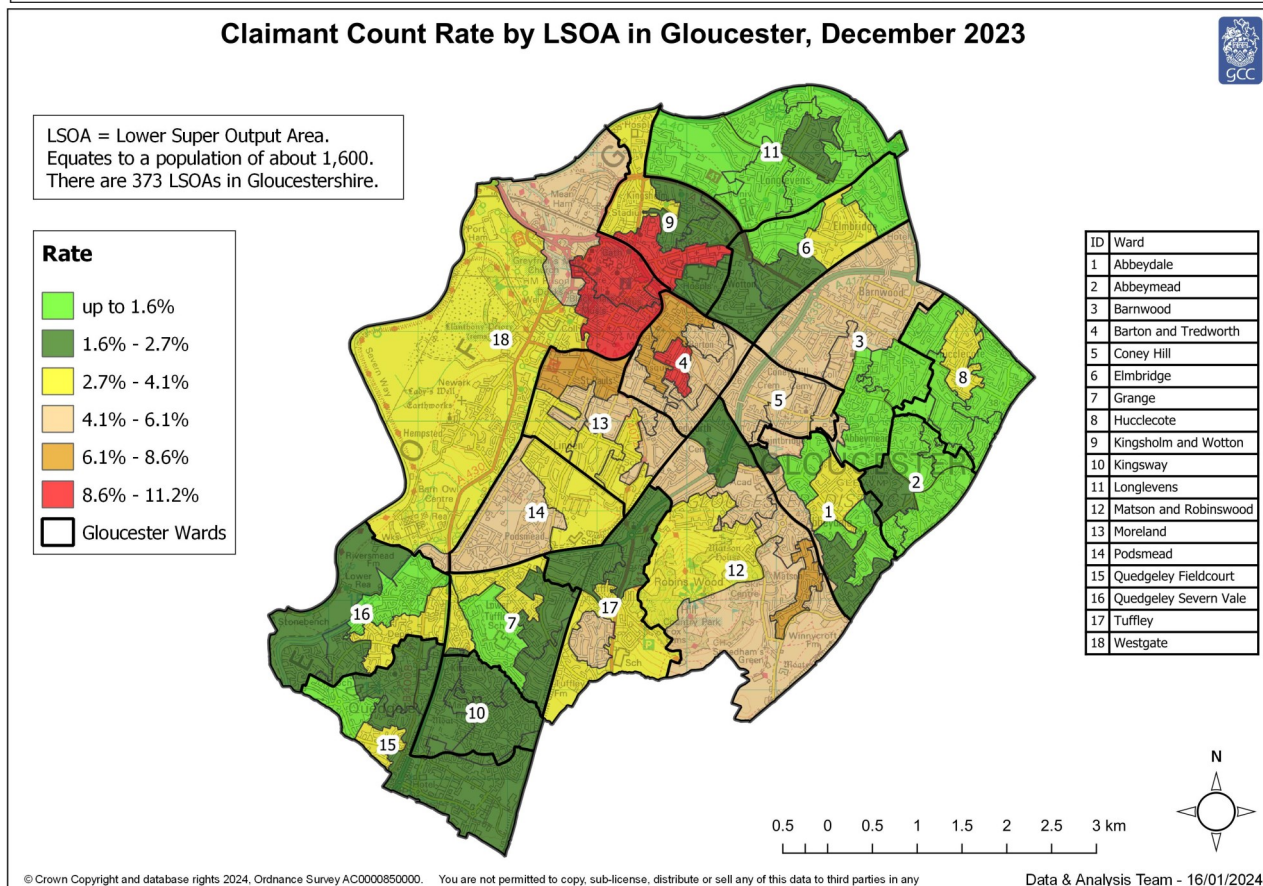
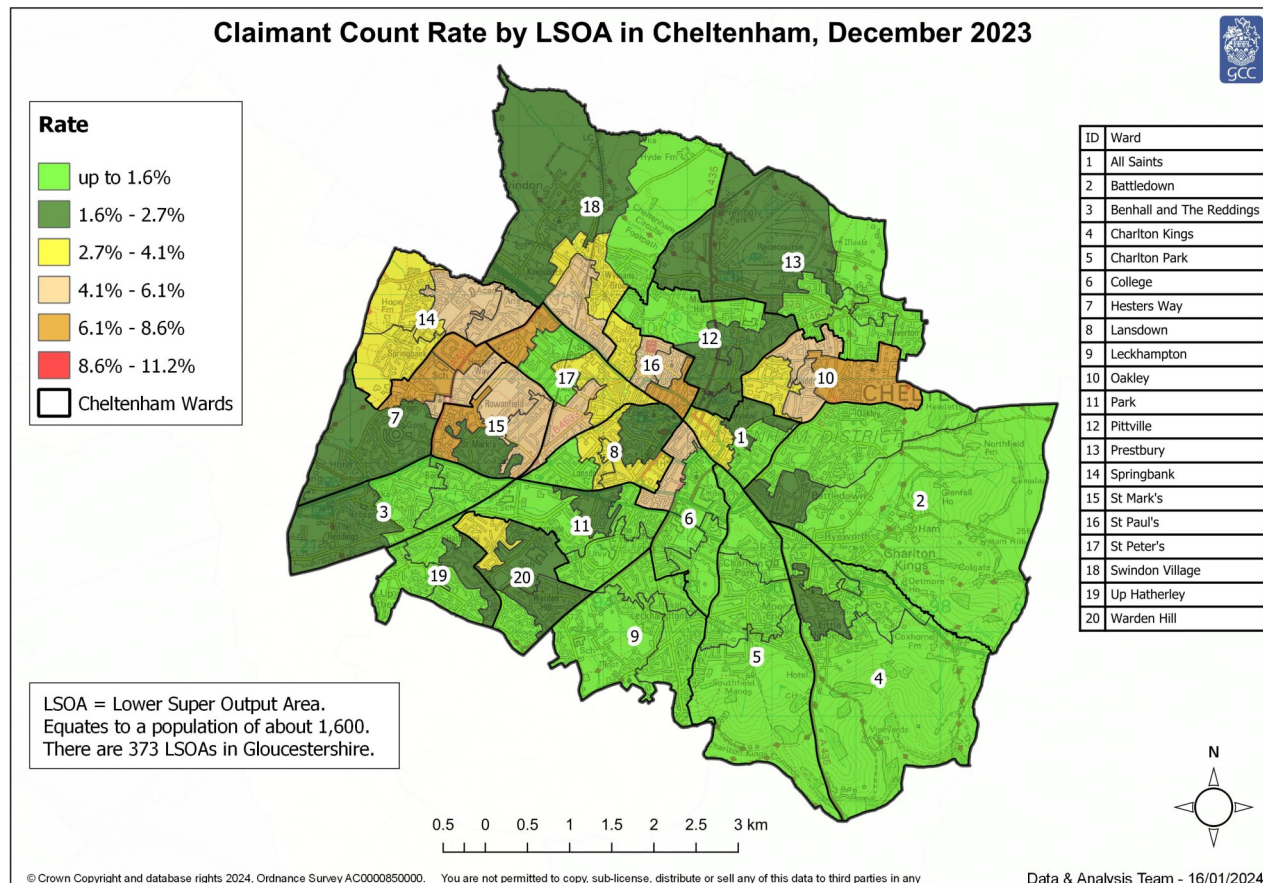
These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

Note: We have made changes to the way in which the rates illustrated on the maps are calculated - this means they are not comparable with those shown in previous bulletins.

Rates calculated using Lower Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates Mid-2020, Office for National Statistics



## PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

Note: We have made changes to the way in which the rates illustrated on the maps are calculated - this means they are not comparable with those shown in previous bulletins.

Rates calculated using Lower Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates Mid-2020, 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

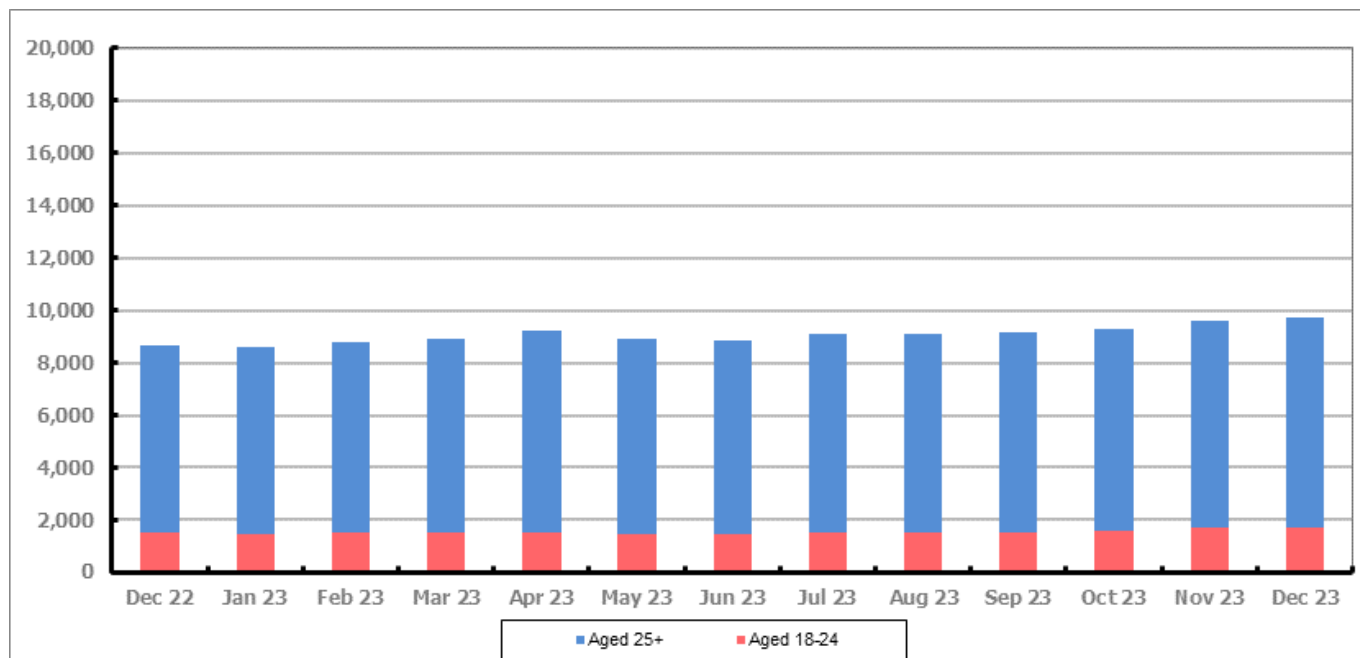


Figure 15 shows that in December 2023, 1,710 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.5% of total working age claimants.

## 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) December 2023

### Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	76	2325	3.27%
Cotswold	33	1760	1.88%
Forest	54	1726	3.13%
Gloucester	150	3345	4.48%
Stroud	46	2748	1.67%
Tewkesbury	59	2030	2.91%
Total	418	13934	3.00%

### 16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	99	3025	3.27%
Cotswold	38	2337	1.63%
Forest	80	2301	3.48%
Gloucester	215	4381	4.91%
Stroud	61	3581	1.70%
Tewkesbury	72	2685	2.68%
Total	565	18310	3.09%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	5.90%
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Monthly Change	9	2	0.06%
Previous month	409	13932	2.94%

Monthly Change	-10	-568	0.04%
Previous month	575	18878	3.05%

The academic year 12-13 group contains a proportion of young people who turn 18 in the academic year but were 17 on the 31<sup>st</sup> 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@Prospects.co.uk](mailto:Lynne.Speak@Prospects.co.uk) or telephone 07900 391182.

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