Claimant Count Data
for September 2026
October 20th Release

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



The Claimant Count* in the County increased by 240 persons to 10,750 a rate of 2.7%.

Claimant Count* for GB, England & Wales, SW, Gloucestershire and Districts

Area	Sep'26 Number	Sep'26 Rate	Aug'26 Number	Aug'26 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly Change of rate %
UK	1,702,905	3.9	1,667,095	3.8	35,810	2.1	0.1
GB	1,668,680	3.9	1,633,575	3.9	35,105	2.1	0.0
England & Wales	1,559,915	4.0	1,523,510	3.9	36,405	2.4	0.1
England	1,493,875	4.1	1,459,205	4.0	34,670	2.4	0.1
South West	97,965	2.7	95,960	2.7	2,005	2.1	0.0
Gloucestershire	10,750	2.7	10,510	2.6	240	2.3	0.1
Cheltenham	2,125	2.8	2,060	2.7	65	3.2	0.1
Cotswold	1,070	2.1	1,075	2.1	-5	-0.5	0.0
Forest of Dean	1,380	2.6	1,340	2.6	40	3.0	0.0
Gloucester	3,170	3.6	3,080	3.5	90	2.9	0.1
Stroud	1,555	2.1	1,560	2.1	-5	-0.3	0.0
Tewkesbury	1,450	2.4	1,390	2.3	60	4.3	0.1

The Claimant Count* in Great Britain **increased** by 35,105 persons to **1,668,680** a rate of **3.9%.**

Gloucestershire's Claimant Count* rate **increased to 2.7%**.

All districts saw an **increase** in the estimated number of unemployed claimants, except Cotswold and Stroud which saw a decrease.

The number of males unemployed in the County stands at **5,860 (2.9%)**, which represents an **increase** on last month. The number of females unemployed stands at **4,890 (2.4%)**, which also represents an **increase** on last month.

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Produced by: Data, Analysis & Insights Team, Corporate Resources, Gloucestershire County Council

* Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and may be revised.

The previously quoted figures cannot be compared with:

1) the UK figure of **1.7 million** unemployed at a rate of **4.7%**.** This is based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment. It is obtained from an ongoing national household survey and updated on a quarterly basis.
2) the seasonally adjusted unemployment claimant count (which includes claimants of Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit) for the UK of **1.7 million** at a rate of **3.9%.**

NB: These figures cannot be replicated at a local level

** **Jun 2026 - Aug 2026 unemployment rate:**

From 17 December 2024, ONS has reweighted Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates. The figures in this section come from the LFS, which gathers information from a sample of households across the UK, rather than from the whole population. The sample is designed to be as accurate as possible, given practical limitations. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. As part of work to address quality concerns with the LFS, there have been improvements in response levels and rates, with responses now close to their pre-pandemic level. Estimates may be subject to the effect of further ongoing improvements.

In December 2024, LFS estimates were reweighted to incorporate information on the size and composition of the UK population, based on 2022 mid-year estimates. For England, Wales and Northern Ireland they are projected forward using scaling factors from 2021-based National Population projections, published in January 2024.

The ONS recommend using LFS estimates as part of a suite of labour market indicators, alongside Workforce Jobs, Claimant Count, and Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (PAYE RTI) estimates.

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