

CLAIMANT COUNT DATA

for April 2020

May 19th 2020 Release

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](#).



The Claimant Count* in the County increased by 6,295 persons to 14,150 a rate of 3.7%.

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

Area	Apr'20 Number	Apr'20 Rate	Mar'20 Number	Mar'20 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate %
UK	2,117,360	5.1	1,268,620	3.0	848,740	66.9	2.1
GB	2,061,030	5.1	1,238,420	3.1	822,610	66.4	2.0
England & Wales	1,872,845	5.1	1,123,770	3.0	749,075	66.7	2.1
England	1,768,540	5.0	1,063,505	3.0	705,035	66.3	2.0
South West	146,225	4.3	75,690	2.2	70,535	93.2	2.1
Gloucestershire	14,150	3.7	7,855	2.0	6,295	80.1	1.7
Cheltenham	2,660	3.6	1,645	2.2	1,015	61.7	1.4
Cotswold	1,570	3.0	710	1.4	860	121.1	1.6
Forest of Dean	2,150	4.2	1,140	2.2	1,010	88.6	2.0
Gloucester	3,920	4.8	2,325	2.8	1,595	68.6	2.0
Stroud	1,930	2.7	1,055	1.5	875	82.9	1.2
Tewkesbury	1,915	3.5	980	1.8	935	95.4	1.7

The Claimant Count* in Great Britain **increased** by 822,610 persons to **2,061,030** a rate of **5.1%**.

Gloucestershire's Claimant Count* rate **increased** from last month to **3.7%**.

All districts saw an **increase** in the estimated number of unemployed claimants since last month.

The number of males unemployed in the County stands at **8,400 (4.4%)**, which represents an **increase** on last month. The number of females unemployed stands at **5,750 (3.0%)**, which represents an **increase** on last month.

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

The figures quoted above cannot be compared with:

- 1) the UK figure of **1.35 million** unemployed at a rate of **3.9%**. 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 **2.1 million** at a rate of **5.0%**.

NB: These figures cannot be replicated at a local level

* Note (from ONS website):

Coronavirus and the Labour Market Labour Force Survey estimates

Labour Force Survey estimates ... are based on interviews that took place throughout the period from the start of January to the end of March 2020. Consequently, most interviews relate to the period prior to the implementation of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures. Interviews in the final week of March relate to the period following the government closure of schools, introduction of lockdown and announcement of measures aimed at protecting businesses and jobs.