

# CLAIMANT COUNT DATA

## for August 2024

### September 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

The 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. Since 2016 Gloucestershire has been in the process of transitioning to full Universal Credit with the process due to be completed in 2025. 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. In addition in May 2024 the Department for Work and Pensions rolled out an increase in the administrative earnings threshold (AET) for full work search conditionality. This means a cohort of claimants who are in work but on an income below the AET will now be required to search for work. This change is likely to affect around 180,000 claimants across the country over a period of around 6 months, increasing the Claimant Count over that time.

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



**The Claimant Count\* in the County increased by 35 persons to 11,015 a rate of 2.8%.**

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

Area	Aug'24 Number	Aug'24 Rate	Jul'24 Number	Jul'24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate %
<b>UK</b>	1,794,405	4.3	1,777,620	4.2	16,785	0.9	0.1
<b>GB</b>	1,751,740	4.3	1,736,525	4.2	15,215	0.9	0.1
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	1,634,550	4.4	1,621,015	4.3	13,535	0.8	0.1
<b>England</b>	1,565,940	4.4	1,552,255	4.4	13,685	0.9	0.0
<b>South West</b>	100,150	2.9	99,935	2.9	215	0.2	0.0
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	11,015	2.8	10,980	2.8	35	0.3	0.0
Cheltenham	2,240	3.0	2,200	2.9	40	1.8	0.1
Cotswold	1,040	2.0	1,040	2.0	0	0.0	0.0
Forest of Dean	1,610	3.1	1,650	3.2	-40	-2.4	-0.1
Gloucester	3,235	3.8	3,220	3.8	15	0.5	0.0
Stroud	1,490	2.1	1,500	2.1	-10	-0.7	0.0
Tewkesbury	1,395	2.5	1,370	2.4	25	1.8	0.1

The Claimant Count\* in Great Britain **increased** by 15,215 persons to **1,751,740** a rate of **4.3%**.

Gloucestershire's Claimant Count\* rate remained at **2.8%**.

Forest of Dean and Stroud saw a **decrease** in the estimated number of unemployed claimants, whilst Cotswold remained the same. All other districts saw an **increase**.

The number of males unemployed in the County stands at **5,730 (3.0%)**, which represents an **increase** on last month. The number of females unemployed stands at **5,285 (2.7%)**, which also 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 **1.4 million** unemployed at a rate of **4.1%**\*. 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 **1.8 million** at a rate of **4.2%**.

**NB: These figures cannot be replicated at a local level**

\* **May - Jul 2024 unemployment rate:**

From 13 February 2024, ONS has reinstated reweighted Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates.

Notes from ONS:

- The new reweighted LFS estimates incorporate our latest estimates of the size and composition of the UK population, improving the representativeness of our LFS estimates - these will replace the experimental estimates we have been publishing since October 2023.
- We show the indicative impacts of this reweighting from the period July to September 2022 onwards for the headline levels and rates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity; the publication on 13 February will include revised historical estimates back to 2011 for these measures.

For further information, please see the ONS' Impact of reweighting on Labour Force Survey key indicators article:

[Impact of reweighting on Labour Force Survey key indicators - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/imp/impact-of-reweighting-on-labour-force-survey-key-indicators)