

# Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 188 March 2024

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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 2.6% in March 2024. The South West rate remained at 2.7% while the UK rate increased to 3.9%. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.1% lower than the South West average of 2.7%, and 1.3% lower than the UK average of 3.9%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in March 2024 increased by **125 people**. The amount of people claiming in March was 1.2% higher than the number in February. This compares to a 0.6% increase in the South West and a 1.9% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

**Data, Analysis & Insights Team**  
Planning, Performance and Insight  
Gloucestershire County Council  
April 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 March 2024

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

**Claimant rate:** The % of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in March 2024

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

### CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,070
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.5%
Claimant rate:	2.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Oakley (5.2%)

### GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	3,060
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.3%
Claimant rate:	3.6%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Barton and Tredworth (7.6%)

### COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	980
Claimant count change on previous month:	-1.0%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (3.6%)

### STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,465
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.7%
Claimant rate:	2.0%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Slade (4.3%)

### FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,495
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.0%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tidenham (5.4%)

### TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,340
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.9%
Claimant rate:	2.4%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tewkesbury South (4.5%)

## 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

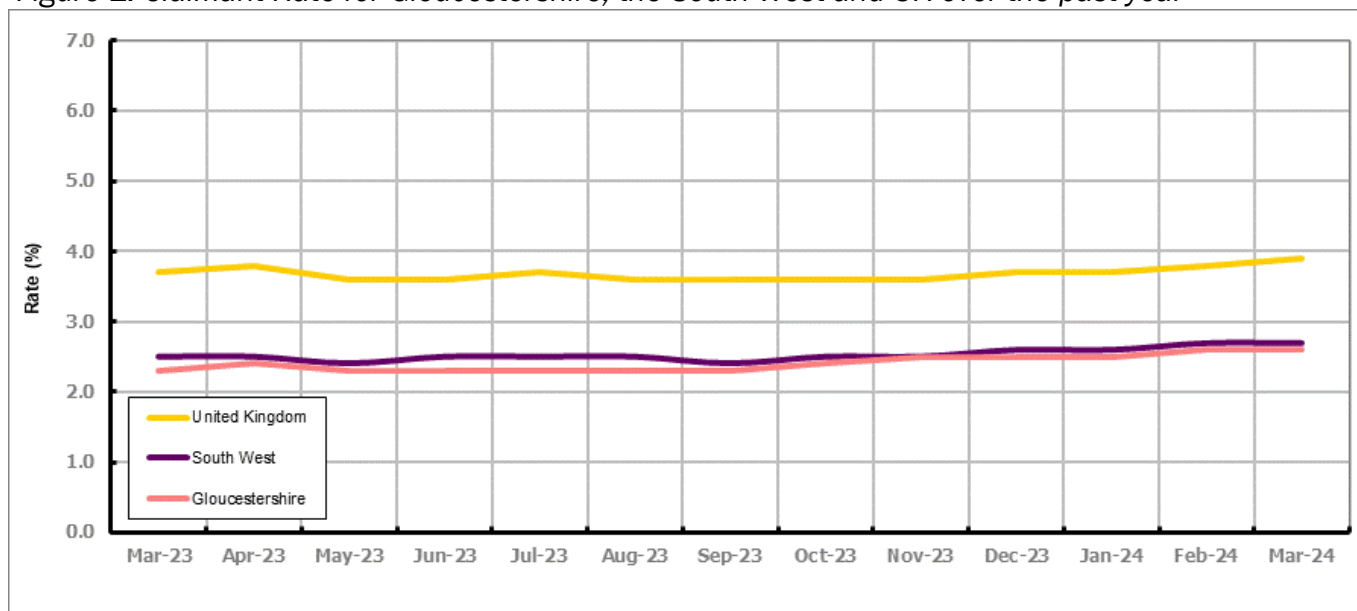


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.6% in March 2024. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since November 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 and, more recently, November 2023 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 1.3% 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 March 2024	% change on February 2024	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,626,235	1.9%	5
South West	95,145	0.6%	5
Gloucestershire	10,410	1.2%	6

Table 1 shows that in March 2024, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 1.2% higher than the number in February 2024.

## PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

### Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - March 2024

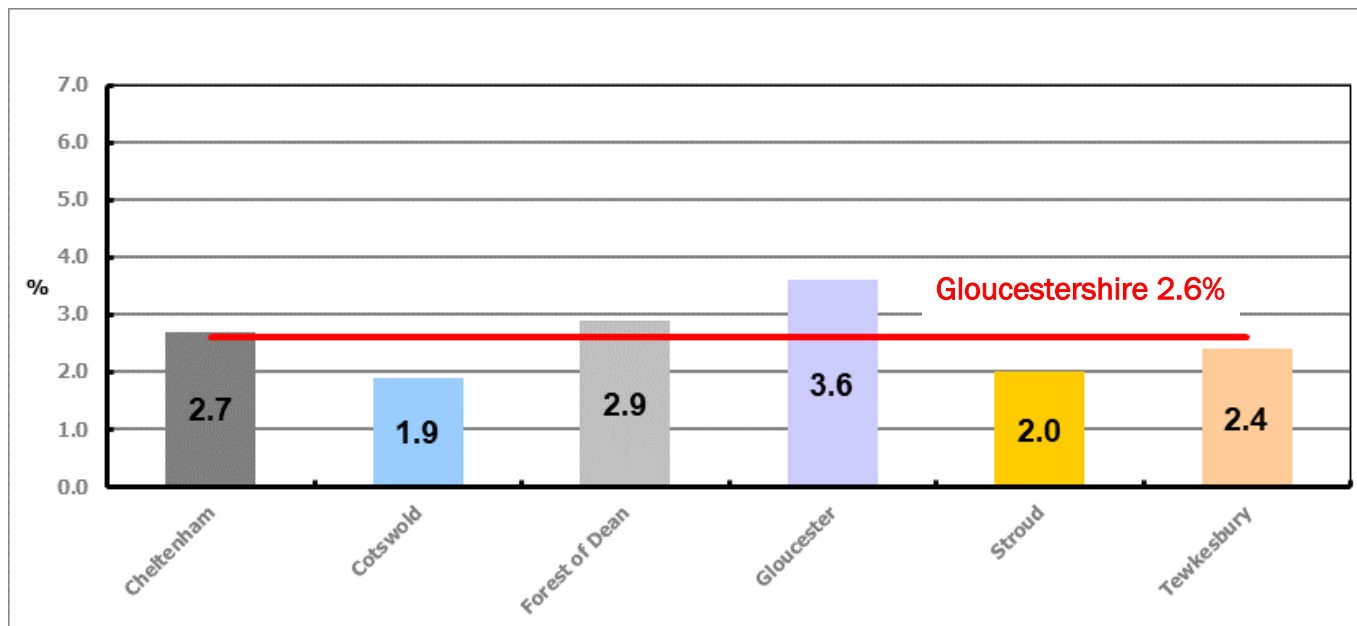


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for March 2024 in Gloucestershire. Between February and March 2024 the rate remained the same in all districts except Tewkesbury where there was an increase.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Mar 24 Number	Mar 24 Rate	Feb 24 Number	Feb 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	10,410	2.6	10,285	2.6	125	1.2%	0.0
Cheltenham	2,070	2.7	2,060	2.7	10	0.5%	0.0
Cotswold	980	1.9	990	1.9	-10	-1.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	1,495	2.9	1,465	2.9	30	2.0%	0.0
Gloucester	3,060	3.6	3,020	3.6	40	1.3%	0.0
Stroud	1,465	2.0	1,440	2.0	25	1.7%	0.0
Tewkesbury	1,340	2.4	1,315	2.3	25	1.9%	0.1

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in March compared to February 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of claimants, except Cotswold where there was a decrease.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Mar 24 Number	Mar 24 Rate	Feb 24 Number	Feb 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	5,735	3.0	5,645	2.9	90	1.6%	0.1
Cheltenham	1,165	3.1	1,170	3.1	-5	-0.4%	0.0
Cotswold	500	2.0	505	2.0	-5	-1.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	810	3.2	785	3.1	25	3.2%	0.1
Gloucester	1,810	4.3	1,775	4.2	35	2.0%	0.1
Stroud	750	2.1	720	2.0	30	4.2%	0.1
Tewkesbury	705	2.6	690	2.5	15	2.2%	0.1

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in March compared to February 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of male claimants, except Cheltenham and Cotswold where there was a decrease.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Mar 24 Number	Mar 24 Rate	Feb 24 Number	Feb 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	4,675	2.3	4,645	2.3	30	0.6%	0.0
Cheltenham	905	2.4	890	2.4	15	1.7%	0.0
Cotswold	480	1.8	485	1.8	-5	-1.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	685	2.6	680	2.6	5	0.7%	0.0
Gloucester	1,250	2.9	1,245	2.9	5	0.4%	0.0
Stroud	720	2.0	720	2.0	0	0.0%	0.0
Tewkesbury	635	2.2	625	2.1	10	1.6%	0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in March compared to February 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of female claimants, except Cotswold where there was 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

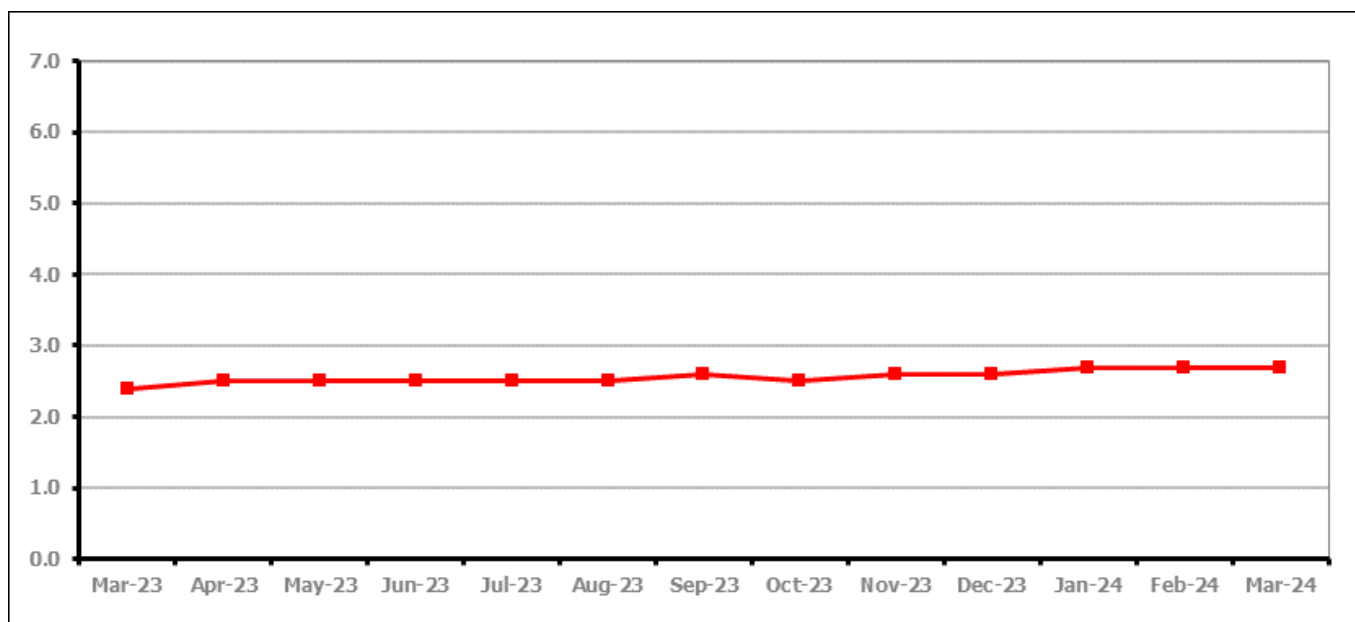


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham remained at 2.7% in March 2024.

Figure 4: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - March 2024

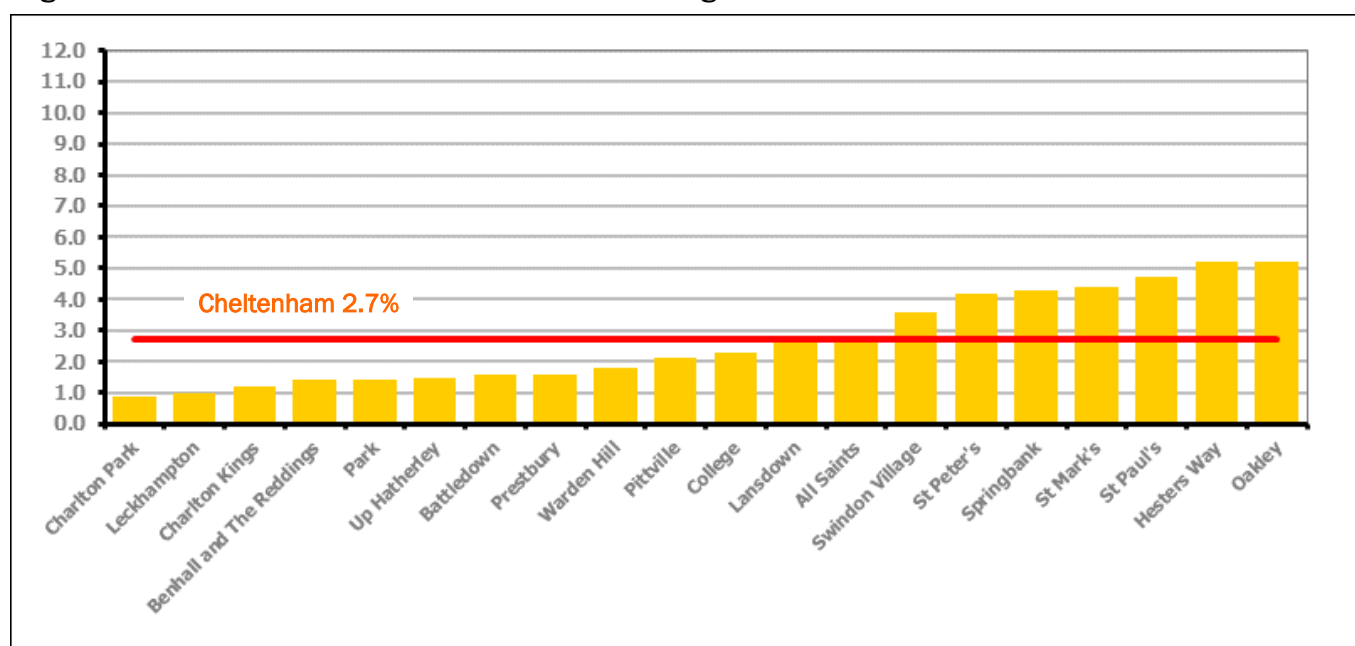


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.7%. Eight wards lie above the average.

## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

### 4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - March 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	0.9	2
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.0	5
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.2	8
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.4	14
Cheltenham	Park	1.4	14
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.5	22
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.6	28
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.6	28
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	1.8	45
Cheltenham	Pittville	2.1	65
Cheltenham	College	2.3	77
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.7	99
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.8	104
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.6	118
Cheltenham	St Peter's	4.2	123
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.3	124
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.4	128
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.7	131
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.2	132
Cheltenham	Oakley	5.2	132

	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.

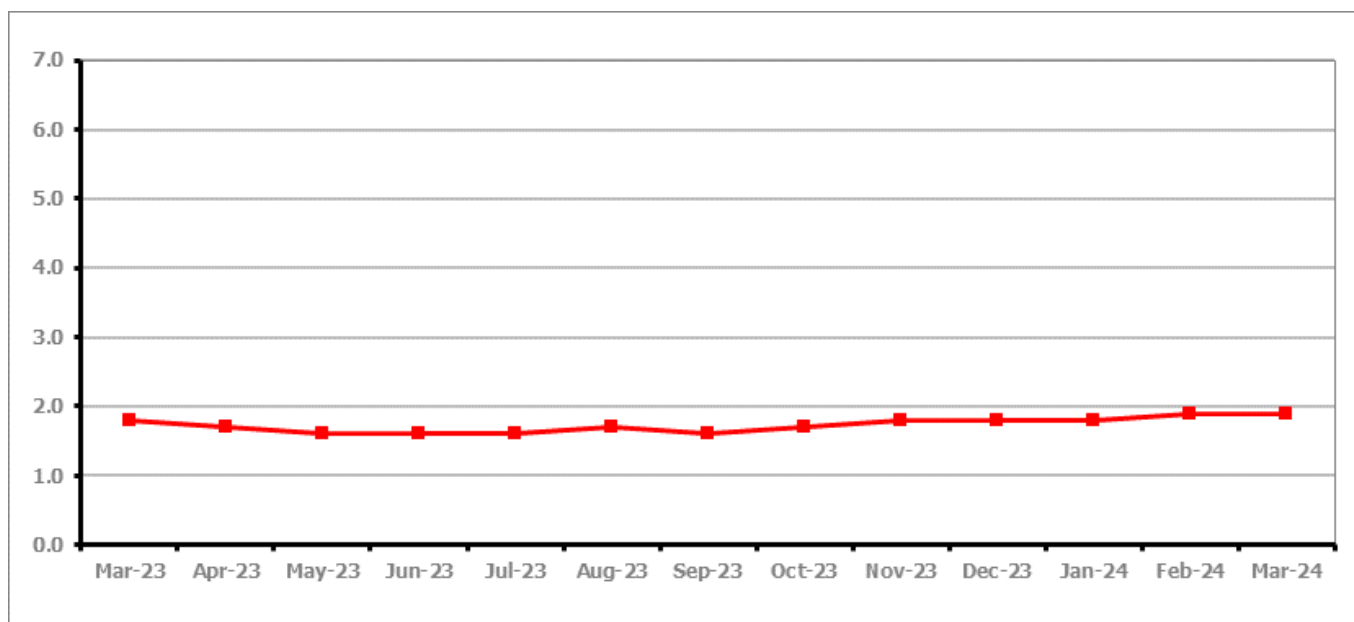
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.2 Cotswold District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District remained at 1.9% in March 2024.

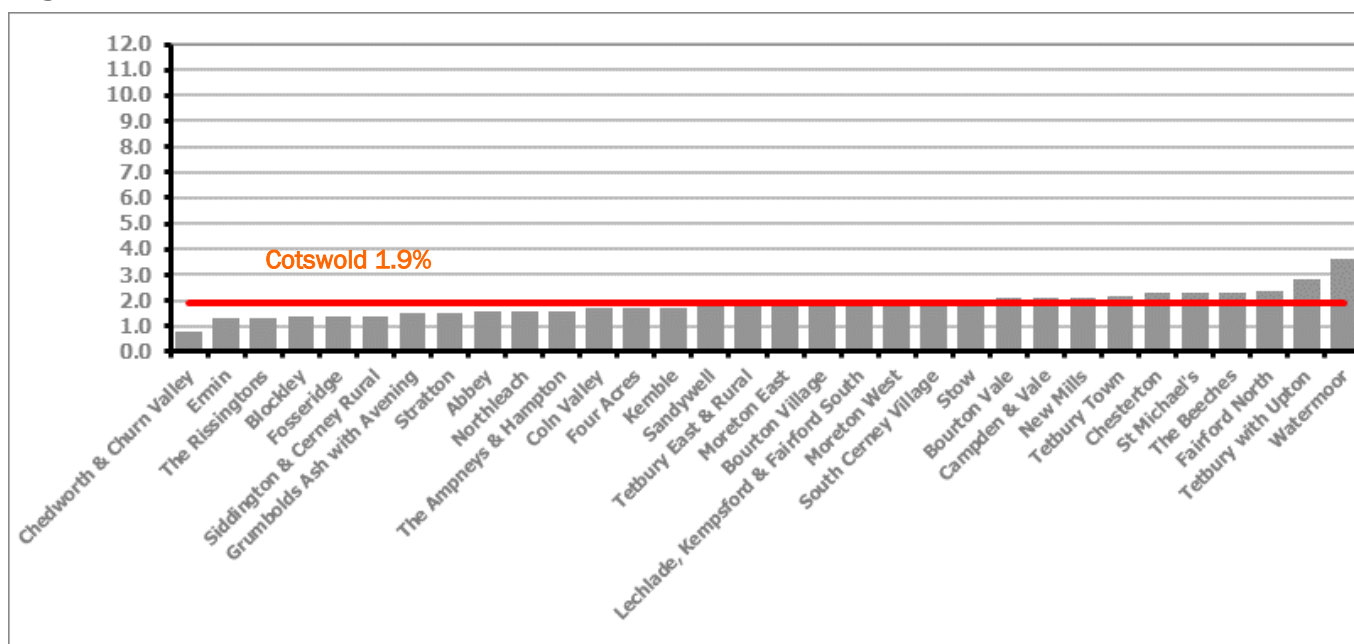
*Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards – March 2024*

Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.9%. 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 - March 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	0.8	1
Cotswold	Ermin	1.3	10
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.3	10
Cotswold	Blockley	1.4	14
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.4	14
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	1.4	14
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.5	22
Cotswold	Stratton	1.5	22
Cotswold	Abbey	1.6	28
Cotswold	Northleach	1.6	28
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.6	28
Cotswold	Coln Valley	1.7	38
Cotswold	Four Acres	1.7	38
Cotswold	Kemble	1.7	38
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.8	45
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.8	45
Cotswold	Moreton East	1.9	51
Cotswold	Bourton Village	2.0	54
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	2.0	54
Cotswold	Moreton West	2.0	54
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	2.0	54
Cotswold	Stow	2.0	54
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	2.1	65
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.1	65
Cotswold	New Mills	2.1	65
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	2.2	72
Cotswold	Chesterton	2.3	77
Cotswold	St Michael's	2.3	77
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.3	77
Cotswold	Fairford North	2.4	82
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.8	104
Cotswold	Watermoor	3.6	118

	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.

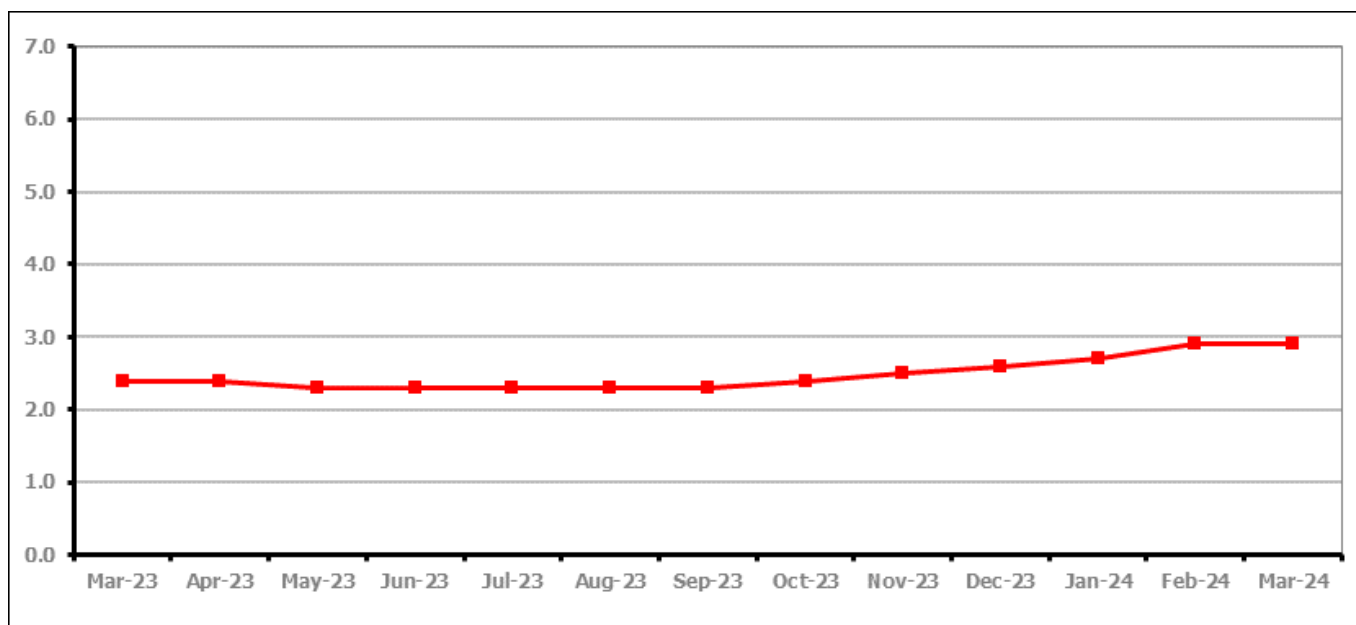
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.3 Forest of Dean District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 7: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean remained at 2.9% in March 2024.

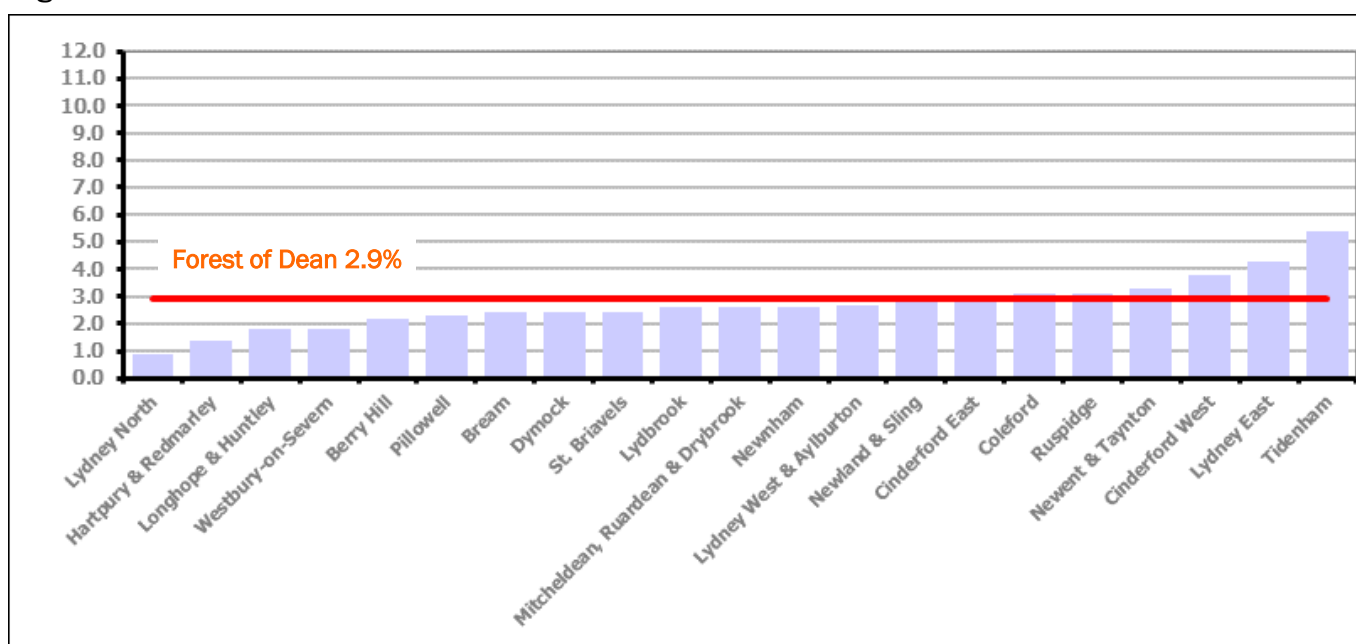
*Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards – March 2024*

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 2.9%. Six 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 - March 2024*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Lydney North	0.9	2
Forest	Hartpur & Redmarley	1.4	14
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.8	45
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.8	45
Forest	Berry Hill	2.2	72
Forest	Pillowell	2.3	77
Forest	Bream	2.4	82
Forest	Dymock	2.4	82
Forest	St. Briavels	2.4	82
Forest	Lydbrook	2.6	96
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.6	96
Forest	Newnham	2.6	96
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	2.7	99
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.8	104
Forest	Cinderford East	2.9	109
Forest	Coleford	3.1	113
Forest	Ruspidge	3.1	113
Forest	Newent & Taynton	3.3	115
Forest	Cinderford West	3.8	120
Forest	Lydney East	4.3	124
Forest	Tidenham	5.4	135

	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.

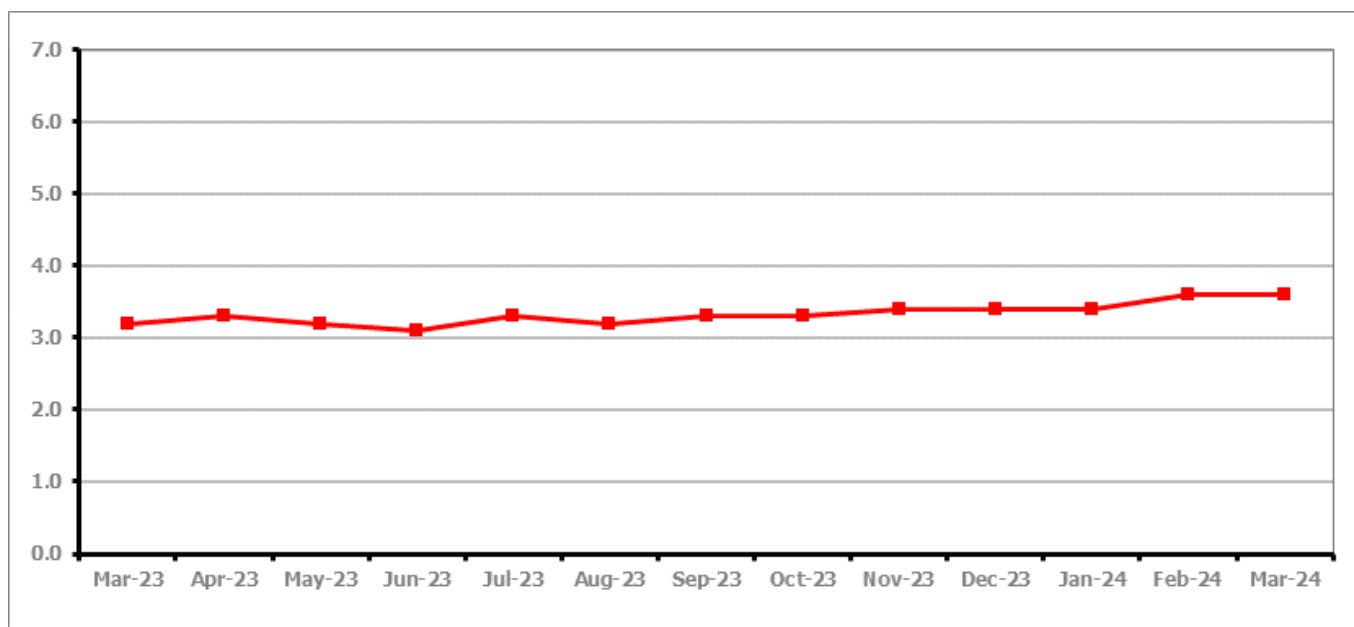
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City remained at 3.6% in March 2024.

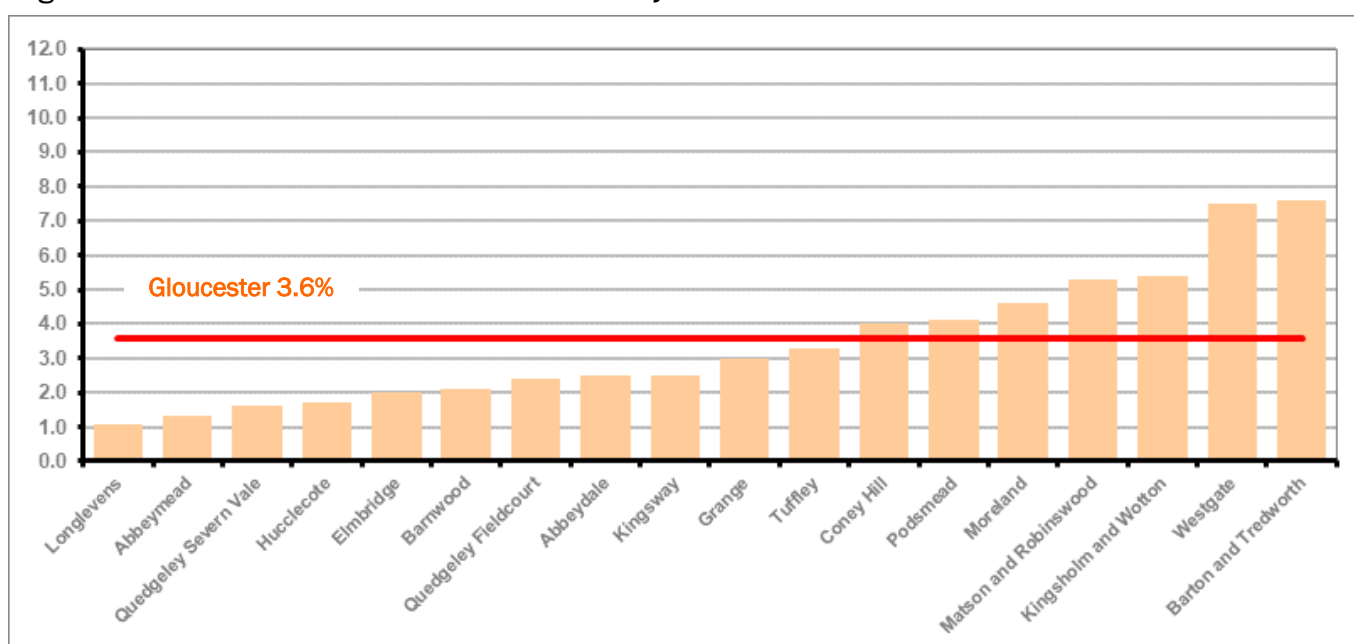
*Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - March 2024*

Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 3.6%. 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 - March 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.1	6
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.3	10
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.6	28
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.7	38
Gloucester	Elmbridge	2.0	54
Gloucester	Barnwood	2.1	65
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.4	82
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.5	89
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.5	89
Gloucester	Grange	3.0	110
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.3	115
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.0	121
Gloucester	Podsmead	4.1	122
Gloucester	Moreland	4.6	130
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.3	134
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	5.4	135
Gloucester	Westgate	7.5	137
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.6	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.

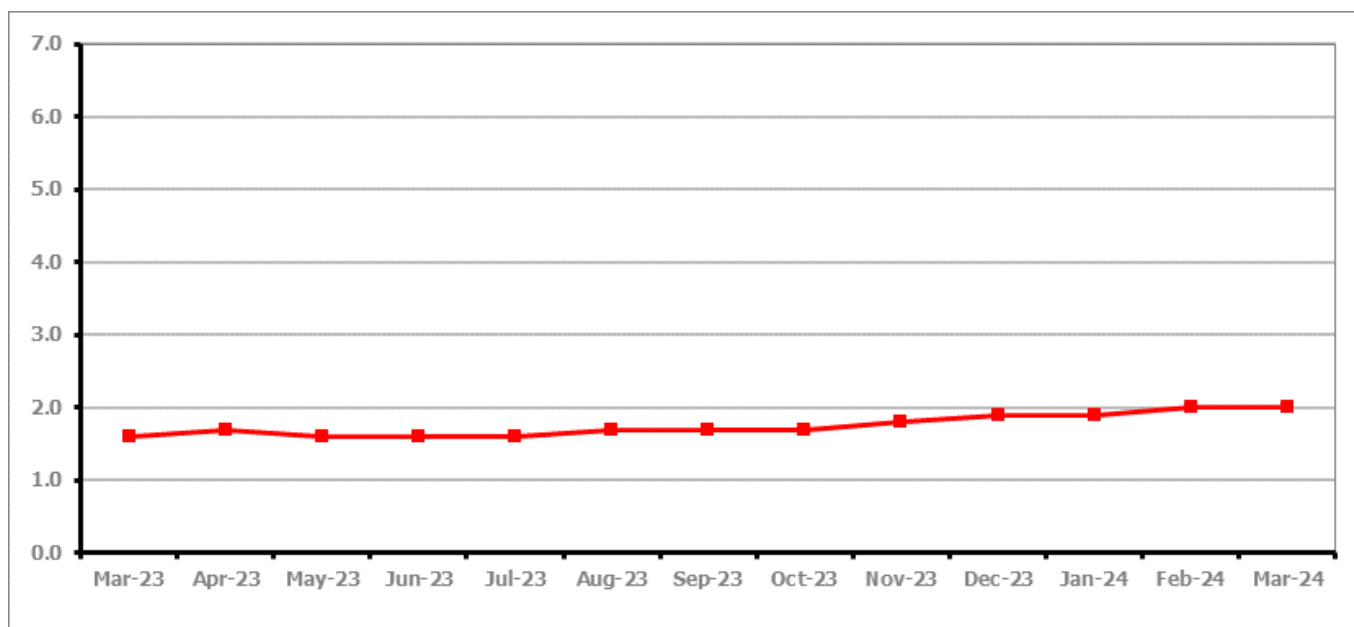
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud remained at 2.0% in March 2024.

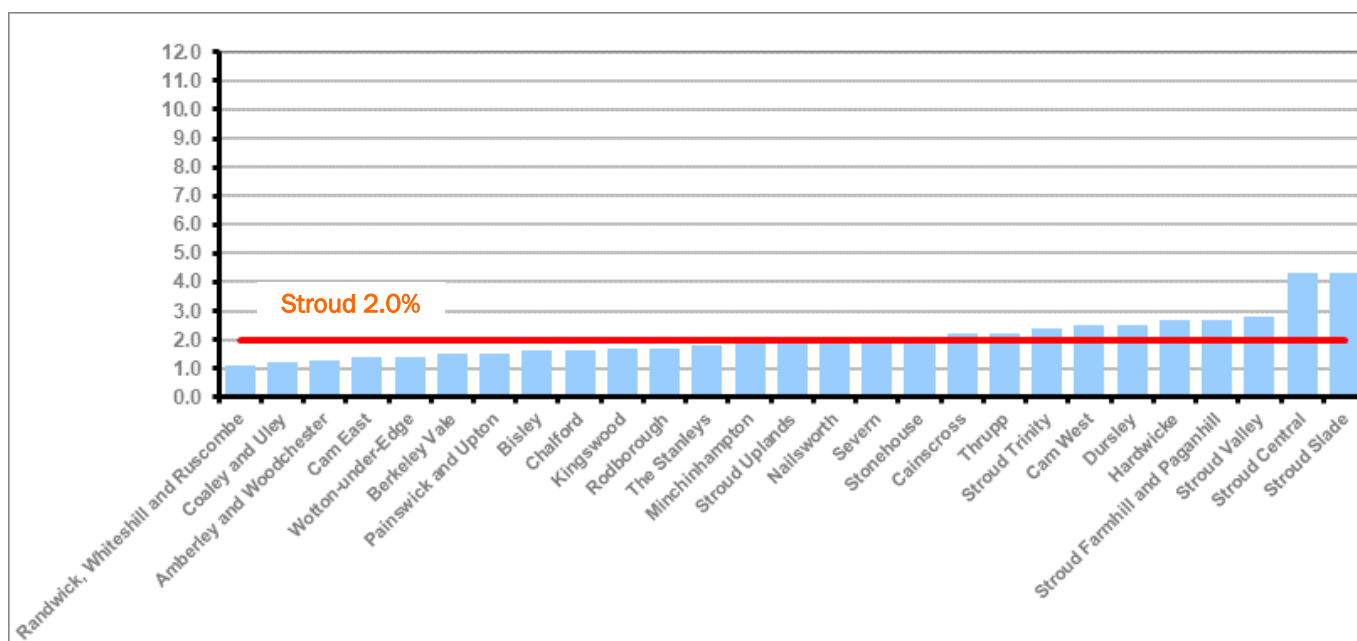
*Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - March 2024*

Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.0%. 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 - March 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.1	6
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.2	8
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.3	10
Stroud	Cam East	1.4	14
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.4	14
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.5	22
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.5	22
Stroud	Bisley	1.6	28
Stroud	Chalford	1.6	28
Stroud	Kingswood	1.7	38
Stroud	Rodborough	1.7	38
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.8	45
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.9	51
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	1.9	51
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.0	54
Stroud	Severn	2.0	54
Stroud	Stonehouse	2.0	54
Stroud	Cainscross	2.2	72
Stroud	Thrupp	2.2	72
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.4	82
Stroud	Cam West	2.5	89
Stroud	Dursley	2.5	89
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.7	99
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.7	99
Stroud	Stroud Valley	2.8	104
Stroud	Stroud Central	4.3	124
Stroud	Stroud Slade	4.3	124

	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.

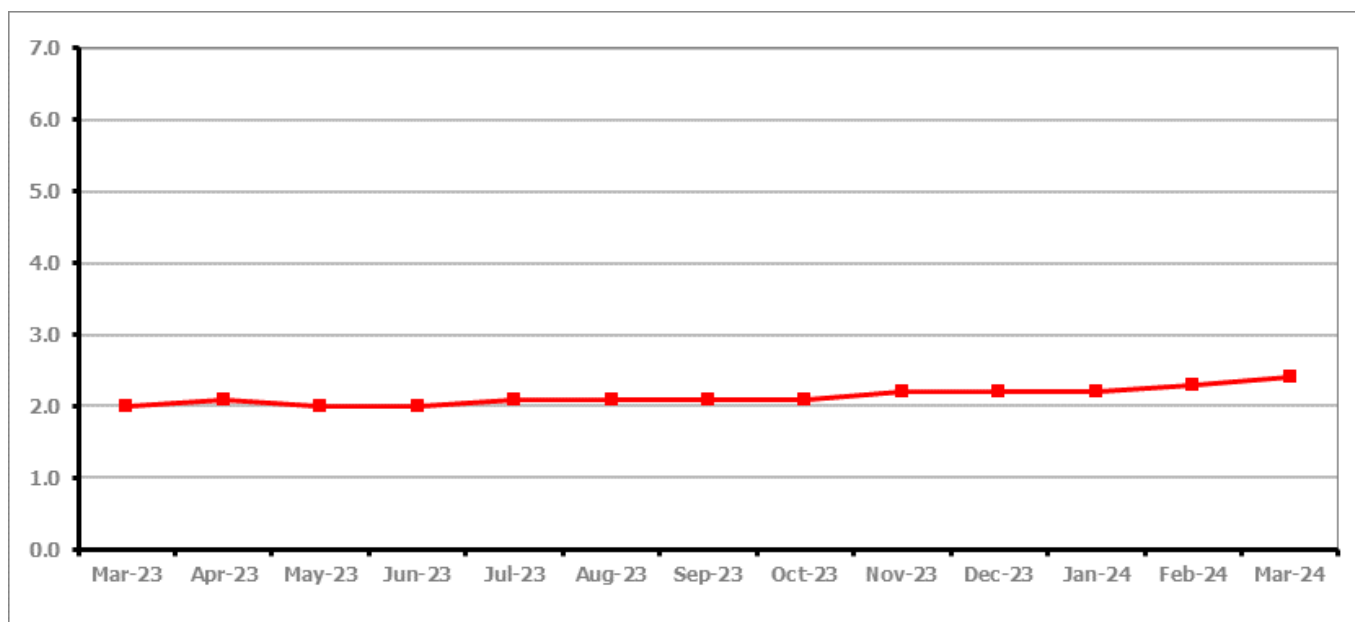
**PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS****4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough increased to 2.4% in March 2024.

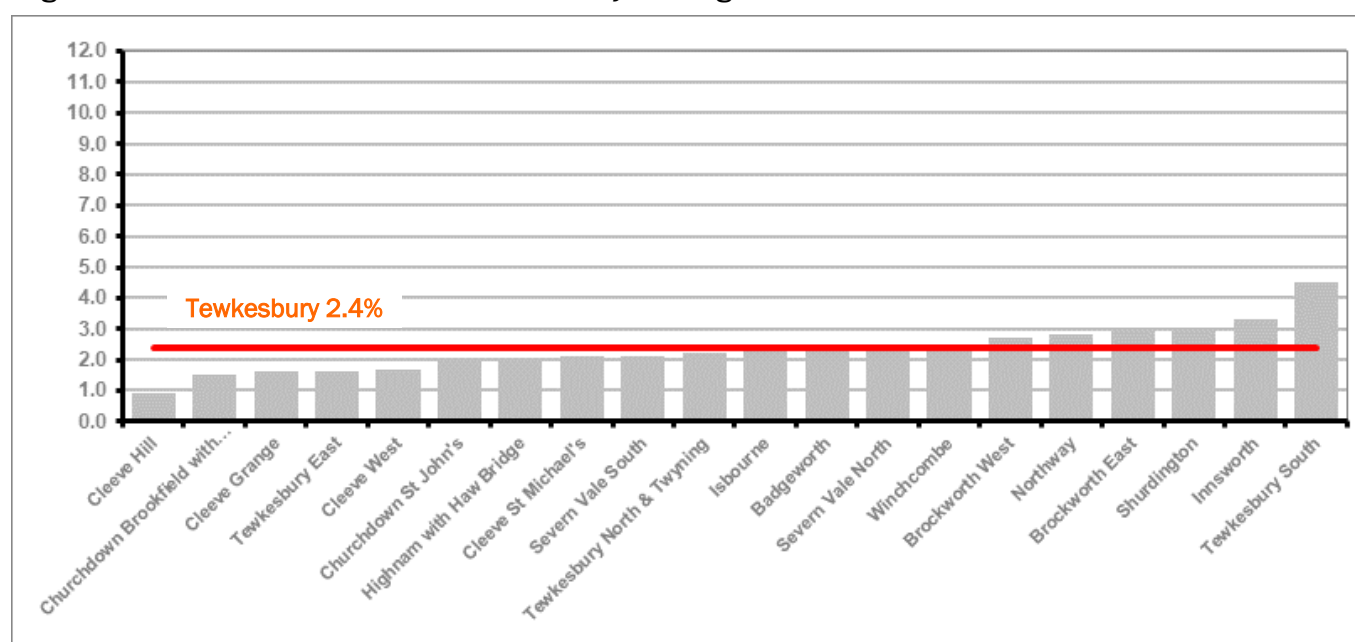
*Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - March 2024*

Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.4%. Nine 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 - March 2024

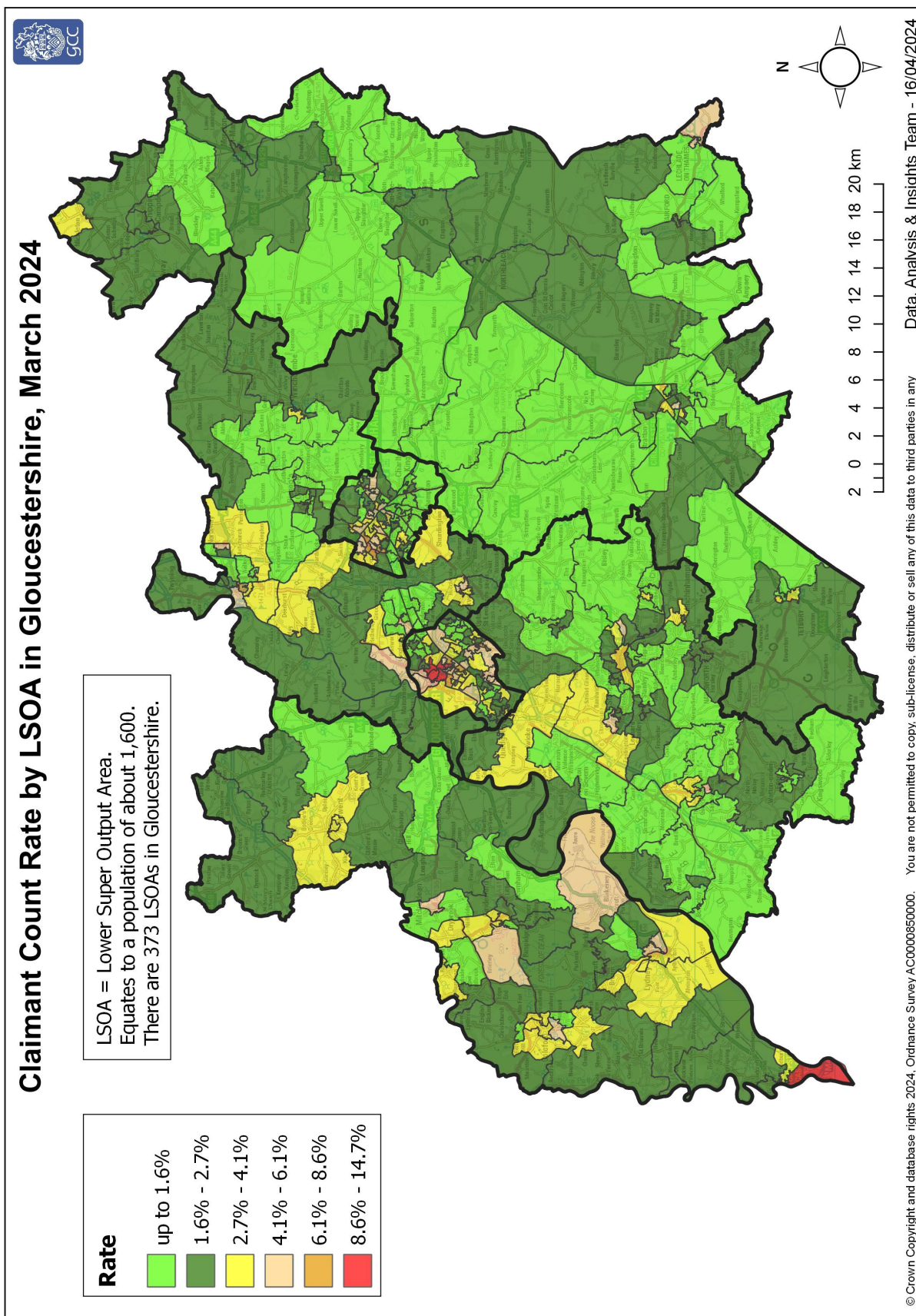
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.9	2
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.5	22
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	1.6	28
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.6	28
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.7	38
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.0	54
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.0	54
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.1	65
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	2.1	65
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twyning	2.2	72
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.4	82
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.5	89
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.5	89
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.5	89
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.7	99
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.8	104
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	3.0	110
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.0	110
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	3.3	115
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	4.5	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 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



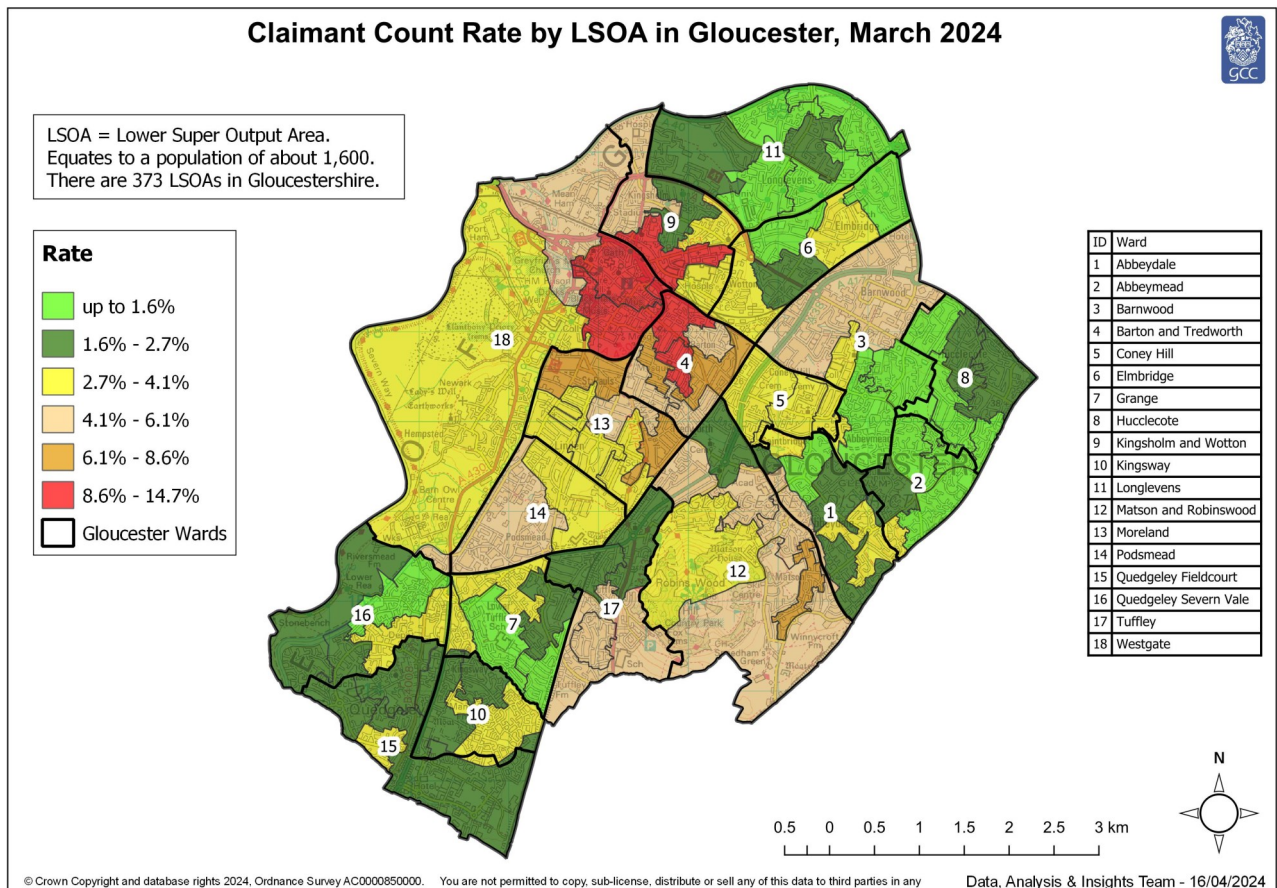
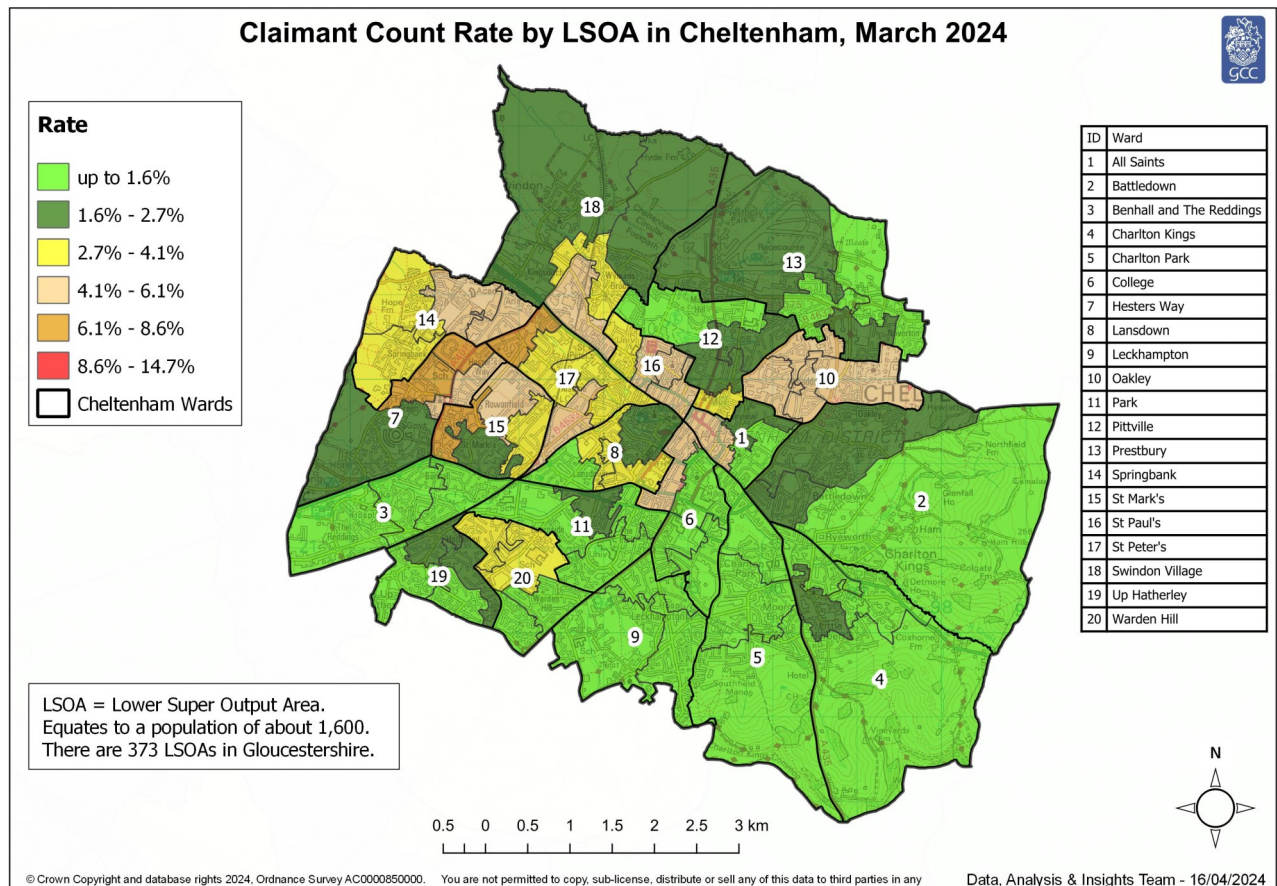
These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

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

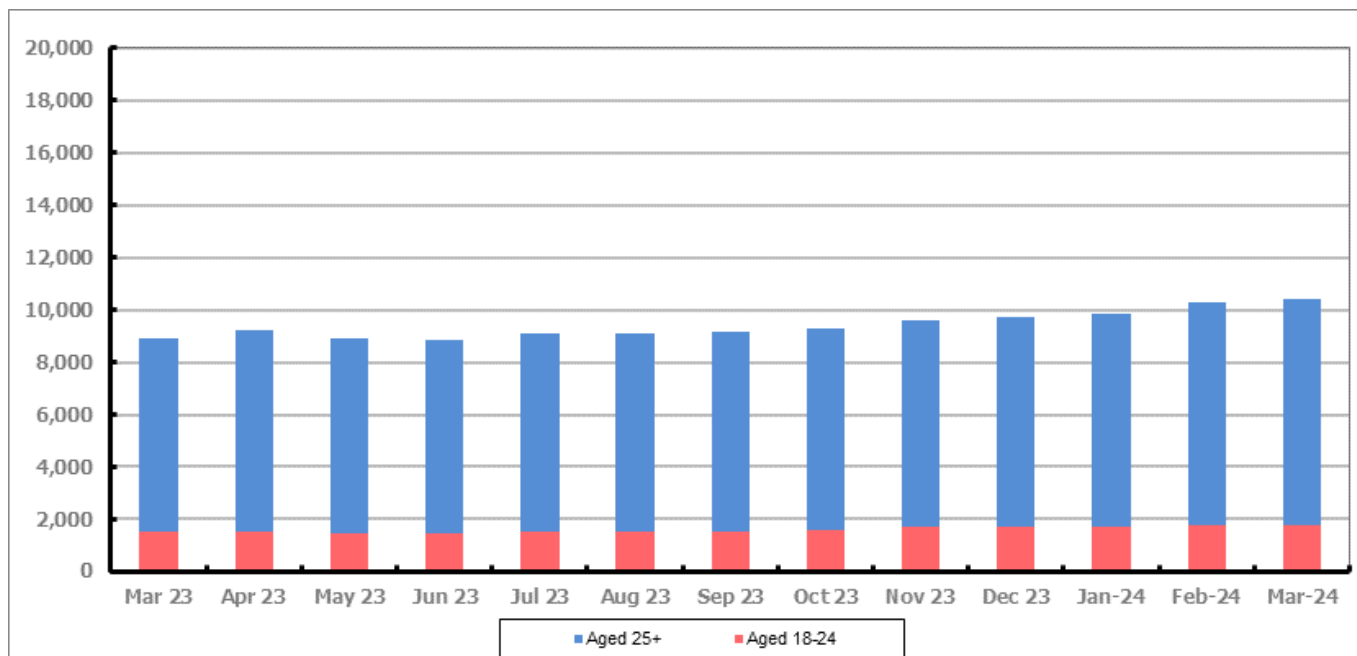


Figure 15 shows that in March 2024, 1,790 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.2% of total working age claimants.

## 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) March 2024

### Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	68	2333	2.91%
Cotswold	25	1765	1.42%
Forest	42	1734	2.42%
Gloucester	146	3364	4.34%
Stroud	38	2735	1.39%
Tewkesbury	47	2046	2.30%
Total	366	13977	2.62%

### 16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	85	2803	3.03%
Cotswold	27	2129	1.27%
Forest	57	2084	2.74%
Gloucester	186	4005	4.64%
Stroud	51	3287	1.55%
Tewkesbury	54	2466	2.19%
Total	460	16774	2.74%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	4.97%
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Monthly Change	28	43	0.19%
Previous month	338	13934	2.43%

Monthly Change	14	-477	0.16%
Previous month	446	17251	2.59%

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.