

# CLAIMANT COUNT DATA

## for June 2020

### July 16<sup>th</sup> 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 decreased by 555 persons to 18,120 a rate of 4.7%.**

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

Area	Jun'20	Jun'20	May'20	May'20	Monthly	%	Monthly
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	change	monthly	change of rate
<b>UK</b>	2,625,475	6.3	2,661,340	6.4	-35,865	-1.3	-0.1
<b>GB</b>	2,563,005	6.3	2,597,480	6.4	-34,475	-1.3	-0.1
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	2,347,830	6.4	2,382,930	6.4	-35,100	-1.5	0.0
<b>England</b>	2,231,740	6.4	2,264,855	6.5	-33,115	-1.5	-0.1
<b>South West</b>	176,105	5.2	183,160	5.4	-7,055	-3.9	-0.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	18,120	4.7	18,675	4.9	-555	-3.0	-0.2
Cheltenham	3,705	5.0	3,785	5.1	-80	-2.1	-0.1
Cotswold	2,065	4.0	2,235	4.3	-170	-7.6	-0.3
Forest of Dean	2,420	4.7	2,500	4.9	-80	-3.2	-0.2
Gloucester	4,785	5.9	4,815	5.9	-30	-0.6	0.0
Stroud	2,865	4.0	2,910	4.1	-45	-1.5	-0.1
Tewkesbury	2,280	4.2	2,425	4.4	-145	-6.0	-0.2

The Claimant Count\* in Great Britain **decreased** by 34,475 persons to **2,563,005** a rate of **6.3%**.

Gloucestershire's Claimant Count\* rate **decreased** from last month to **4.7%**.

All districts saw a **decrease** in the estimated number of unemployed claimants since last month.

The number of males unemployed in the County stands at **10,880 (5.7%)**, which represents a **decrease** on last month. The number of females unemployed stands at **7,240 (3.7%)**, which represents a **decrease** 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 **2.6 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 **2.6 million** at a rate of **6.3%**.

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

\* June 2020 claimant count. This includes both those working with low income or hours and those who are not working.

\*\* Three months to May 2020 unemployment rate.

#### **Notes on Claimant Count (Experimental Statistics):**

These Claimant Count Experimental Statistics relate to 11 June 2020. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) mean that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still in work. Consequently changes in the Claimant Count will not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who are not in work. We are not able to identify to what extent people who are employed or unemployed have affected the numbers.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/july2020#claimant-count-experimental-statistics>