

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 196 November 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.**

Cotswolds

3

Since 2016 Gloucestershire has been 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 under Jobseekers Allowance. As more people are brought within the coverage of Universal Credit, the Claimant Count is set to rise. In addition, in May 2024 the DWP 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 around 6 months, increasing the Claimant Count over that time. More information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).

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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 & Insights Team in the County Council's Planning, Performance and Insight function. The data are sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis (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 remained at 2.7% in November 2024. The South West and UK rates remained at 2.8% and 4.2% respectively. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.1% lower than the South West average of 2.8%, and 1.5% lower than the UK average of 4.2%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in November 2024 decreased by 50 people. The amount of people claiming in November was 0.5% lower than the number in October. This compares to a 0.6% increase in the South West, and a 0.2% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

Data, Analysis & Insights Team
Planning, Performance and Insight
Gloucestershire County Council
December 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 November 2024

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

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

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

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,090
Claimant count change on previous month:	-3.0%
Claimant rate:	2.8%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Oakley (6.0%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	3,145
Claimant count change on previous month:	-1.1%
Claimant rate:	3.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Westgate (7.5%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,015
Claimant count change on previous month:	3.0%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (4.1%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,480
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.3%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Central (4.1%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,490
Claimant count change on previous month:	-1.3%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tidenham (5.5%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,365
Claimant count change on previous month:	3.4%
Claimant rate:	2.4%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tewkesbury South (4.2%)

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

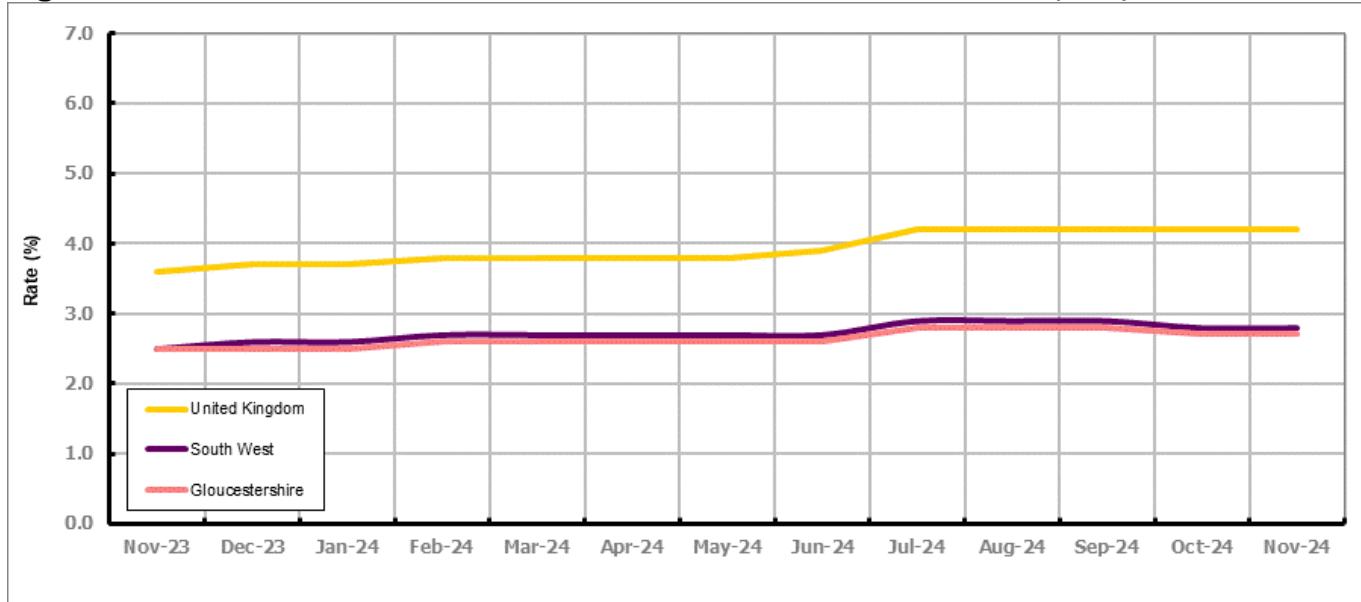


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.7% in November 2024. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since November 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 and, more recently, November 2023 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 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 November 2024	% change on October 2024	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,757,375	0.2%	0
South West	98,025	0.6%	0
Gloucestershire	10,590	-0.5%	0

Table 1 shows that in November 2024, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 0.5% lower than the number in October 2024.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

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

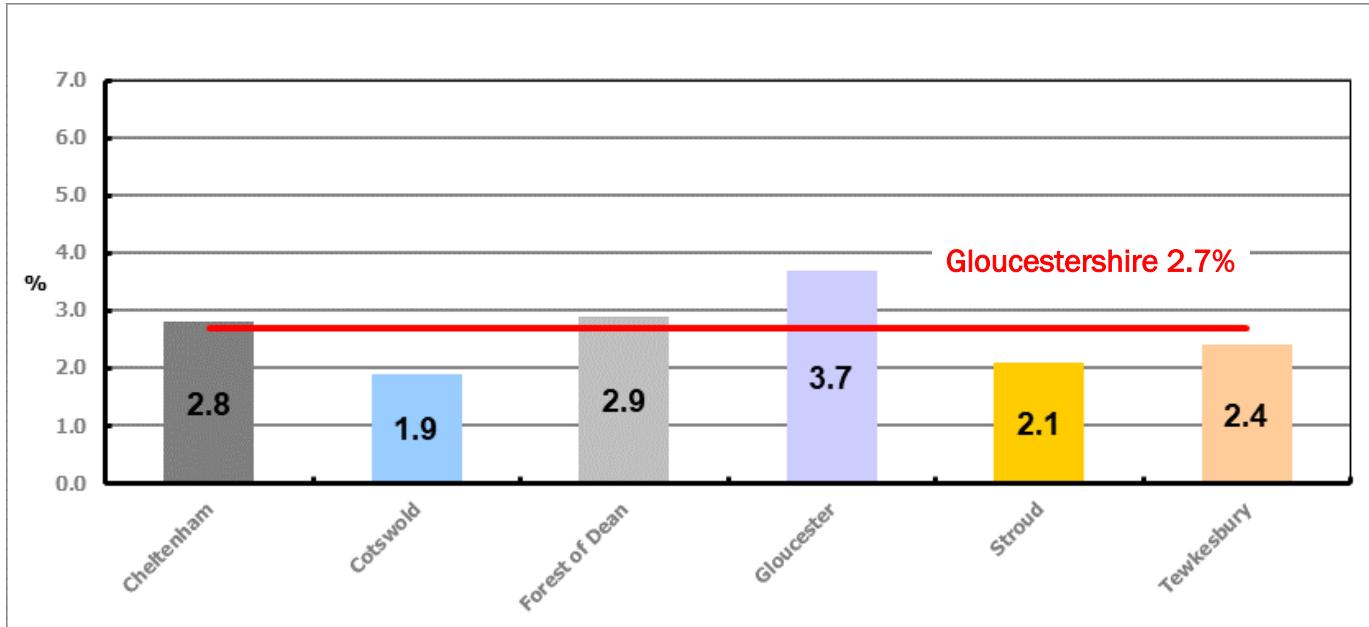


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for November 2024 in Gloucestershire. Between October and November 2024 the rate decreased in Cheltenham, but increased in Tewkesbury. All other districts remained the same.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Nov 24 Number	Nov 24 Rate	Oct 24 Number	Oct 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	10,590	2.7	10,640	2.7	-50	-0.5%	0.0
Cheltenham	2,090	2.8	2,155	2.9	-65	-3.0%	-0.1
Cotswold	1,015	1.9	985	1.9	30	3.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	1,490	2.9	1,510	2.9	-20	-1.3%	0.0
Gloucester	3,145	3.7	3,180	3.7	-35	-1.1%	0.0
Stroud	1,480	2.1	1,485	2.1	-5	-0.3%	0.0
Tewkesbury	1,365	2.4	1,320	2.3	45	3.4%	0.1

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in November compared to October 2024. Cotswold and Tewkesbury saw an increase in the number of claimants, whilst all other districts saw a decrease.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Nov 24 Number	Nov 24 Rate	Oct 24 Number	Oct 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	5,655	2.9	5,590	2.9	65	1.2%	0.0
Cheltenham	1,175	3.1	1,165	3.1	10	0.9%	0.0
Cotswold	500	2.0	475	1.9	25	5.3%	0.1
Forest of Dean	785	3.1	800	3.2	-15	-1.9%	-0.1
Gloucester	1,785	4.2	1,785	4.2	0	0.0%	0.0
Stroud	710	2.0	705	2.0	5	0.7%	0.0
Tewkesbury	695	2.5	660	2.4	35	5.3%	0.1

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in November compared to October 2024. Forest of Dean saw a decrease in the number of claimants, whilst Gloucester saw no change. All other districts saw an increase.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Nov 24 Number	Nov 24 Rate	Oct 24 Number	Oct 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	4,935	2.5	5,050	2.5	-115	-2.3%	0.0
Cheltenham	915	2.4	990	2.6	-75	-7.6%	-0.2
Cotswold	515	1.9	510	1.9	5	1.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	705	2.7	710	2.7	-5	-0.7%	0.0
Gloucester	1,360	3.2	1,390	3.3	-30	-2.2%	-0.1
Stroud	770	2.1	785	2.1	-15	-1.9%	0.0
Tewkesbury	670	2.3	660	2.3	10	1.5%	0.0

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in November compared to October 2024. Cotswold and Tewkesbury saw an increase in the number of claimants, whilst all other districts saw 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

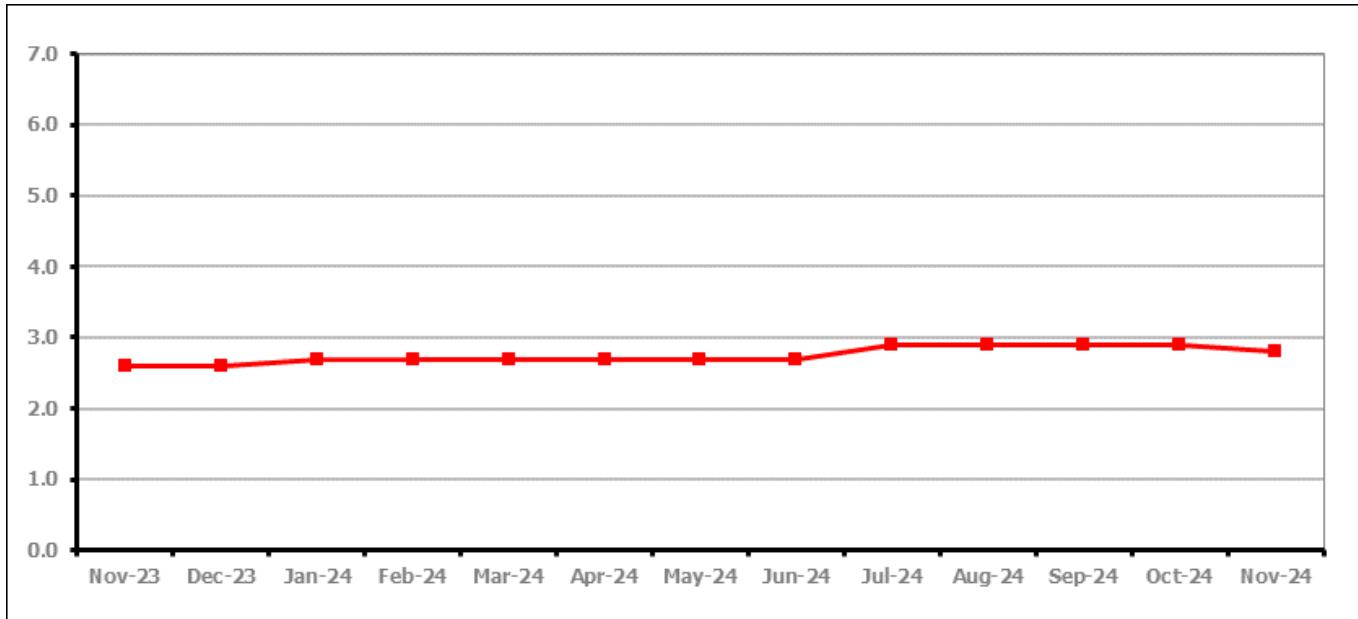


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham decreased to 2.8% in November 2024.

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

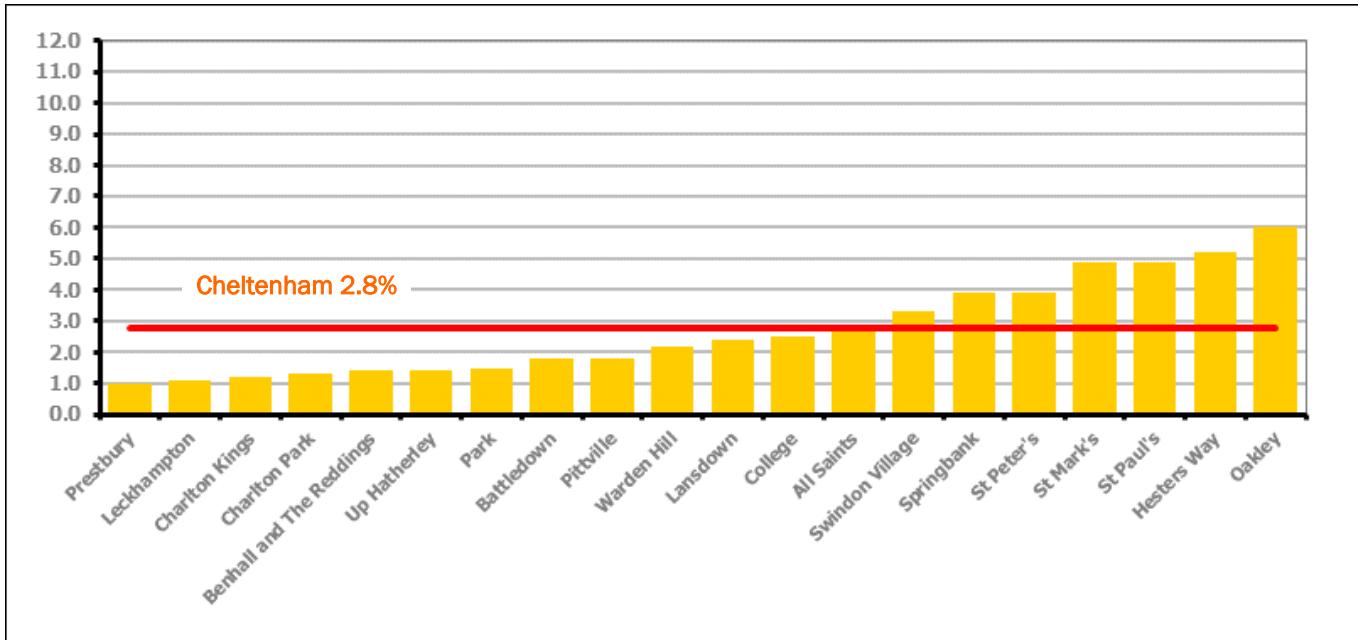


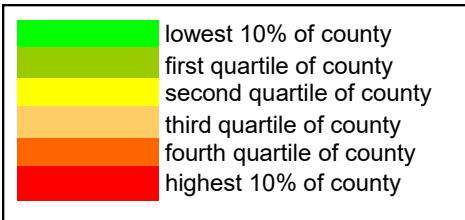
Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.8%. Eight wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.0	5
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.1	6
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.2	7
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.3	12
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.4	18
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.4	18
Cheltenham	Park	1.5	26
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.8	45
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.8	45
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.2	70
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.4	81
Cheltenham	College	2.5	89
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.9	105
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.3	114
Cheltenham	Springbank	3.9	118
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.9	118
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.9	128
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.9	128
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.2	131
Cheltenham	Oakley	6.0	136



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 5 shows overall claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

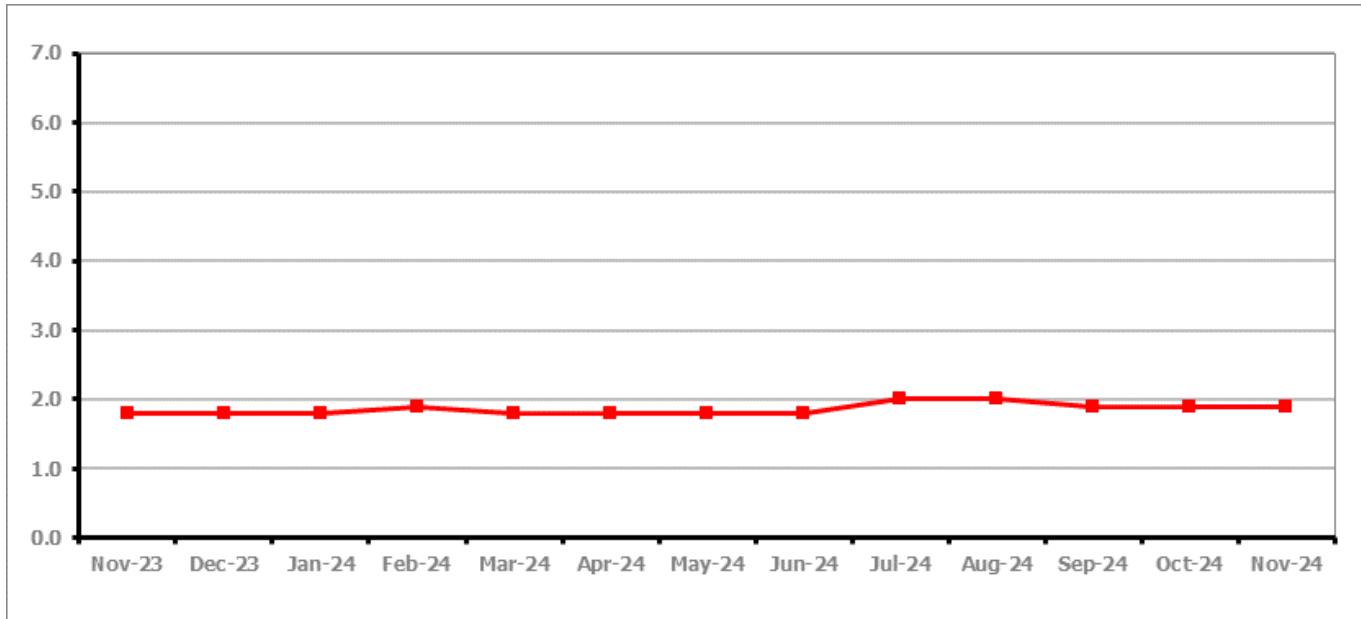
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.2 Cotswold District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year*

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

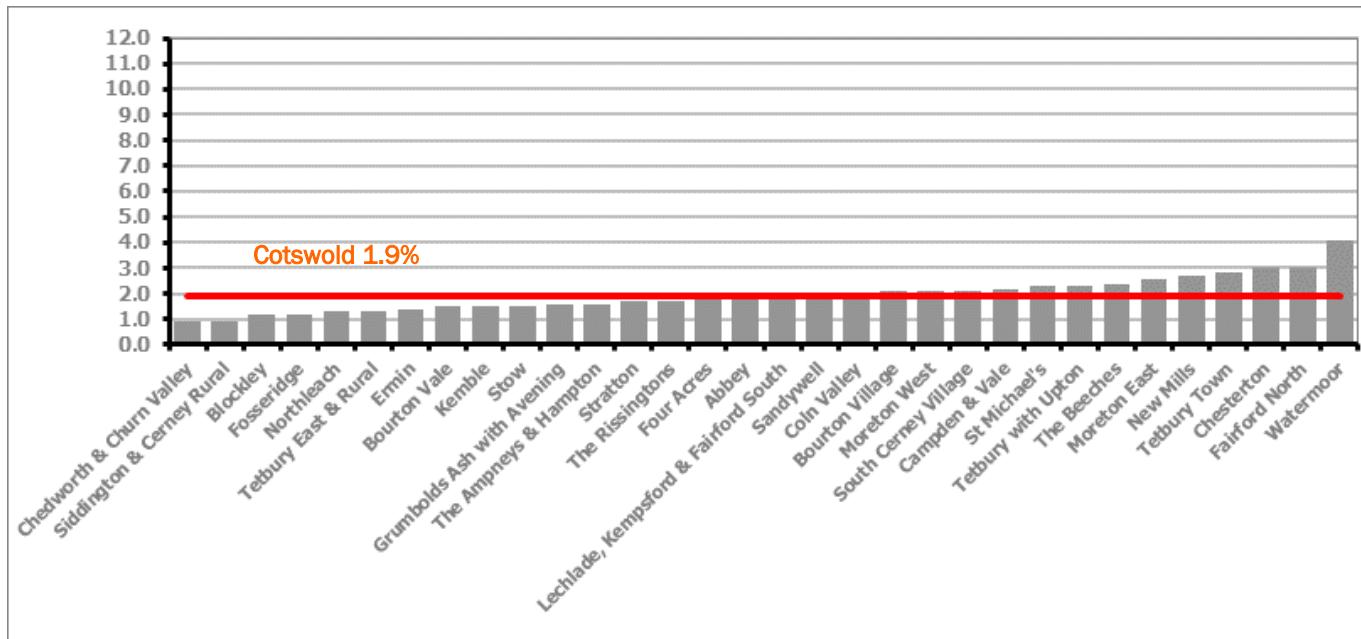
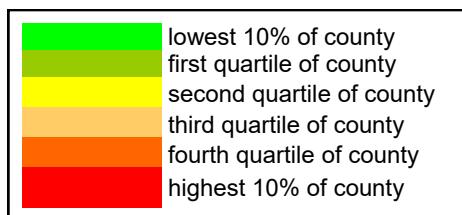
Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards – November 2024

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	0.9	3
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	0.9	3
Cotswold	Blockley	1.2	7
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.2	7
Cotswold	Northleach	1.3	12
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.3	12
Cotswold	Ermin	1.4	18
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	1.5	26
Cotswold	Kemble	1.5	26
Cotswold	Stow	1.5	26
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.6	33
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.6	33
Cotswold	Stratton	1.7	40
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.7	40
Cotswold	Four Acres	1.8	45
Cotswold	Abbey	1.9	53
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	1.9	53
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.9	53
Cotswold	Coln Valley	2.0	58
Cotswold	Bourton Village	2.1	62
Cotswold	Moreton West	2.1	62
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	2.1	62
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.2	70
Cotswold	St Michael's	2.3	76
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.3	76
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.4	81
Cotswold	Moreton East	2.6	92
Cotswold	New Mills	2.7	97
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	2.8	101
Cotswold	Chesterton	3.0	108
Cotswold	Fairford North	3.0	108
Cotswold	Watermoor	4.1	122



* 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

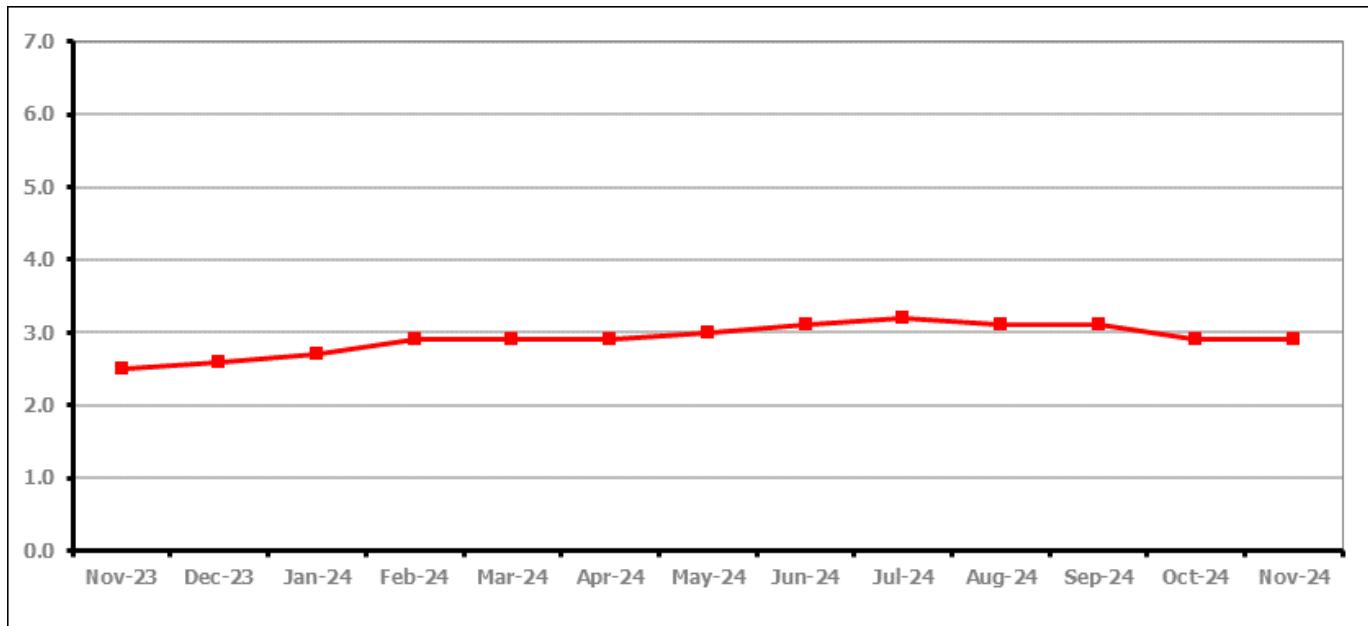


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean remained at 2.9% in November 2024.

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

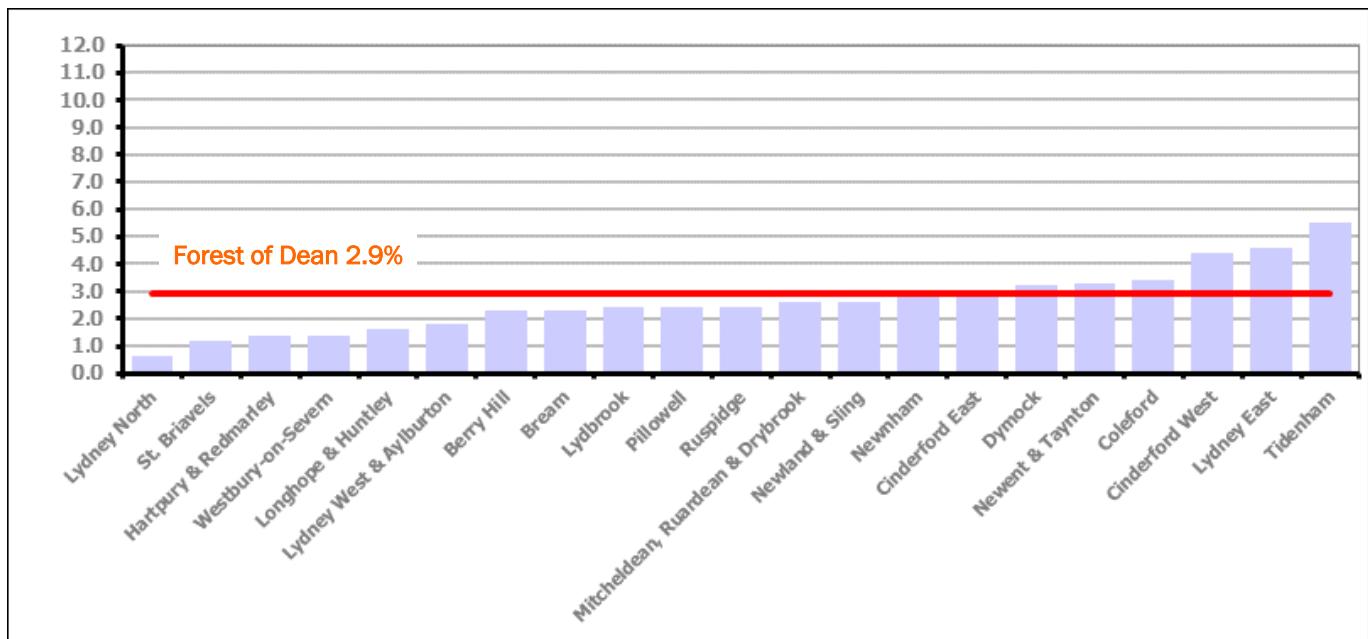


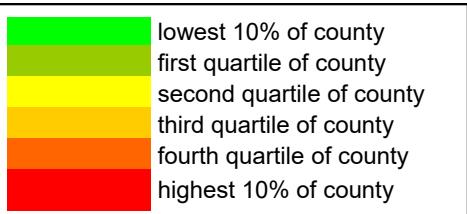
Figure 8 shows the claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.9%. Six wards lie above the average.

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 - November 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Lydney North	0.6	1
Forest	St. Briavels	1.2	7
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.4	18
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.4	18
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.6	33
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	1.8	45
Forest	Berry Hill	2.3	76
Forest	Bream	2.3	76
Forest	Lydbrook	2.4	81
Forest	Pillowell	2.4	81
Forest	Ruspidge	2.4	81
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.6	92
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.6	92
Forest	Newnham	2.8	101
Forest	Cinderford East	2.9	105
Forest	Dymock	3.2	112
Forest	Newent & Taynton	3.3	114
Forest	Coleford	3.4	116
Forest	Cinderford West	4.4	125
Forest	Lydney East	4.6	126
Forest	Tidenham	5.5	134



* 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.

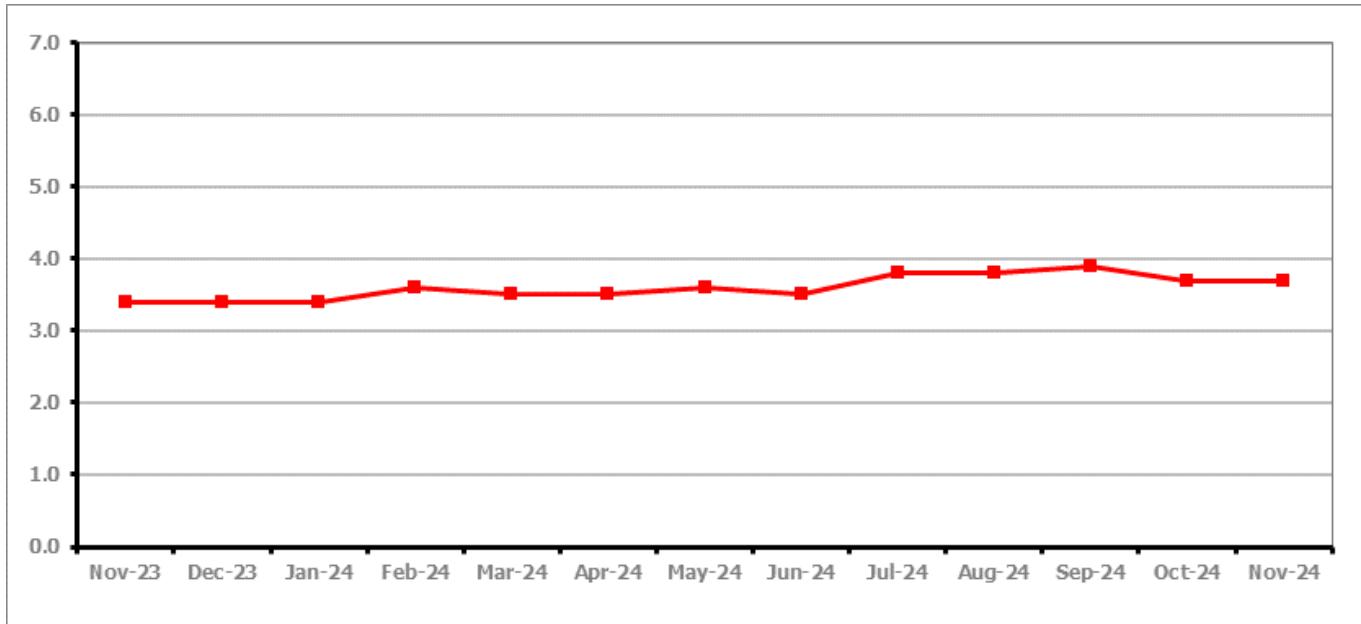
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City remained at 3.7% in November 2024.

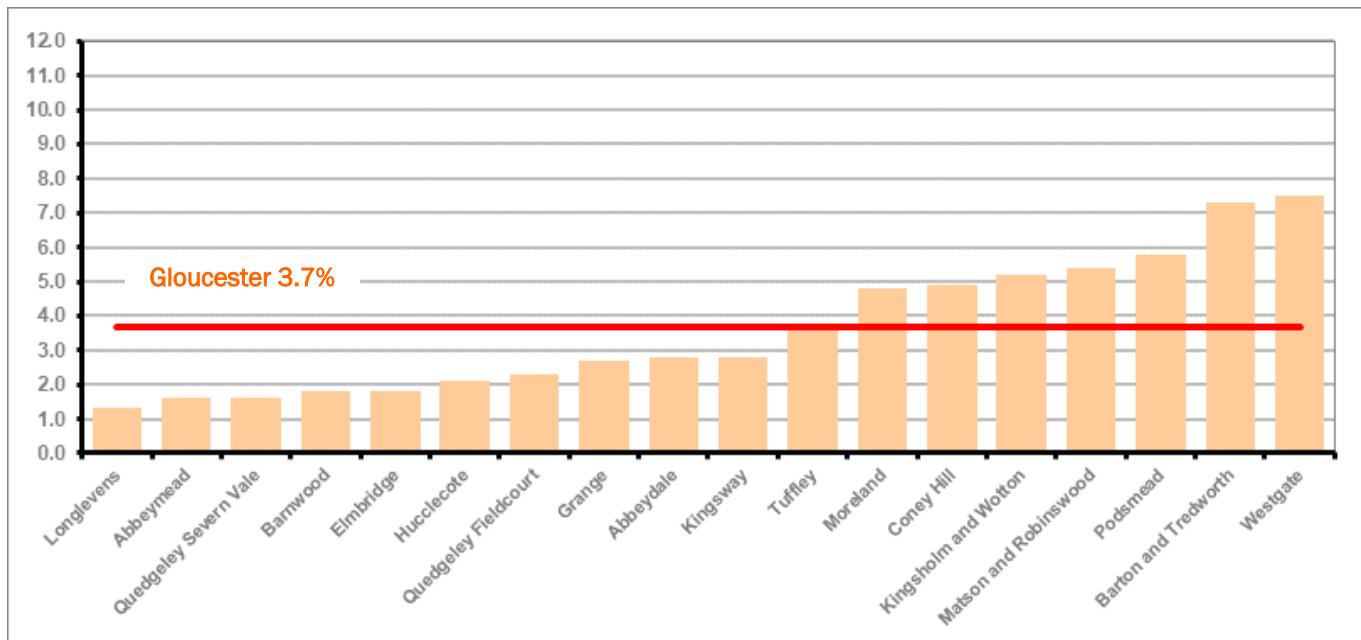
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - November 2024

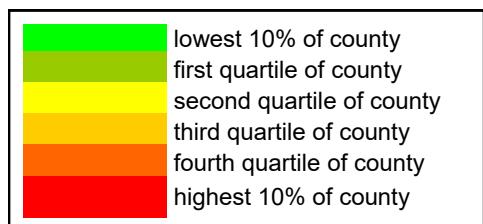
Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 3.7%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - November 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.3	12
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.6	33
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.6	33
Gloucester	Barnwood	1.8	45
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.8	45
Gloucester	Hucclecote	2.1	62
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.3	76
Gloucester	Grange	2.7	97
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.8	101
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.8	101
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.7	117
Gloucester	Moreland	4.8	127
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.9	128
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	5.2	131
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.4	133
Gloucester	Podsmead	5.8	135
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.3	137
Gloucester	Westgate	7.5	138



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 8 shows overall claimant rates for Gloucester City wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

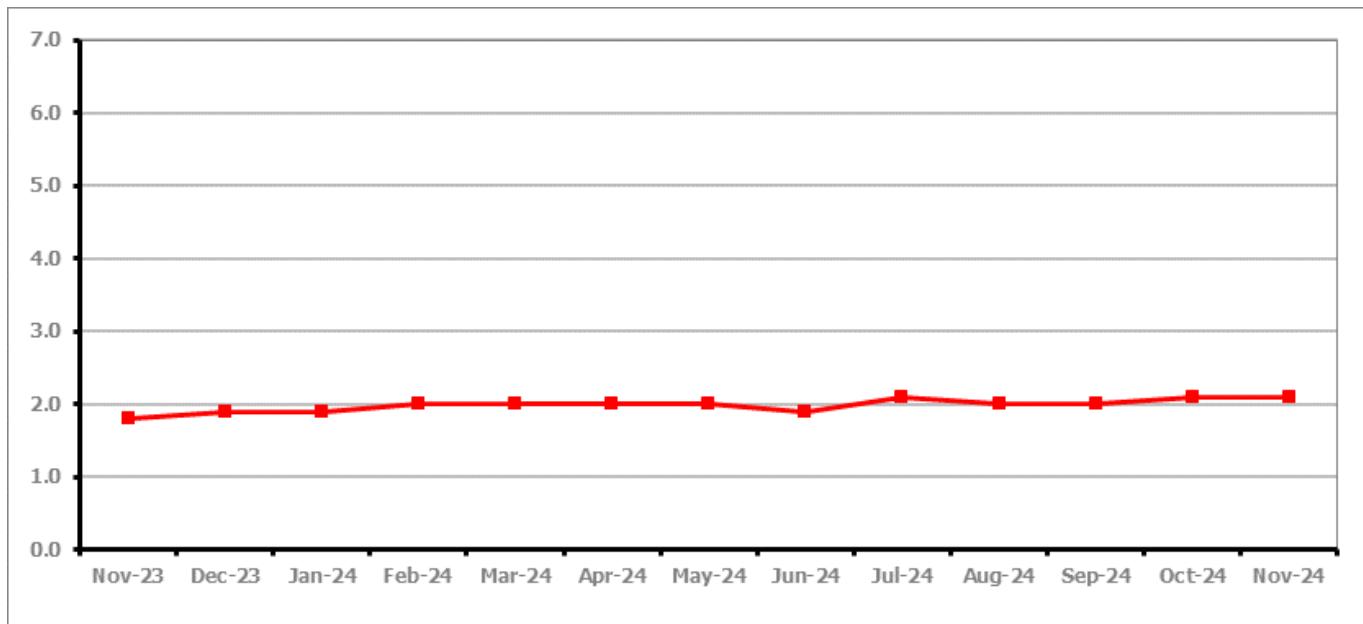
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud remained at 2.1% in November 2024.

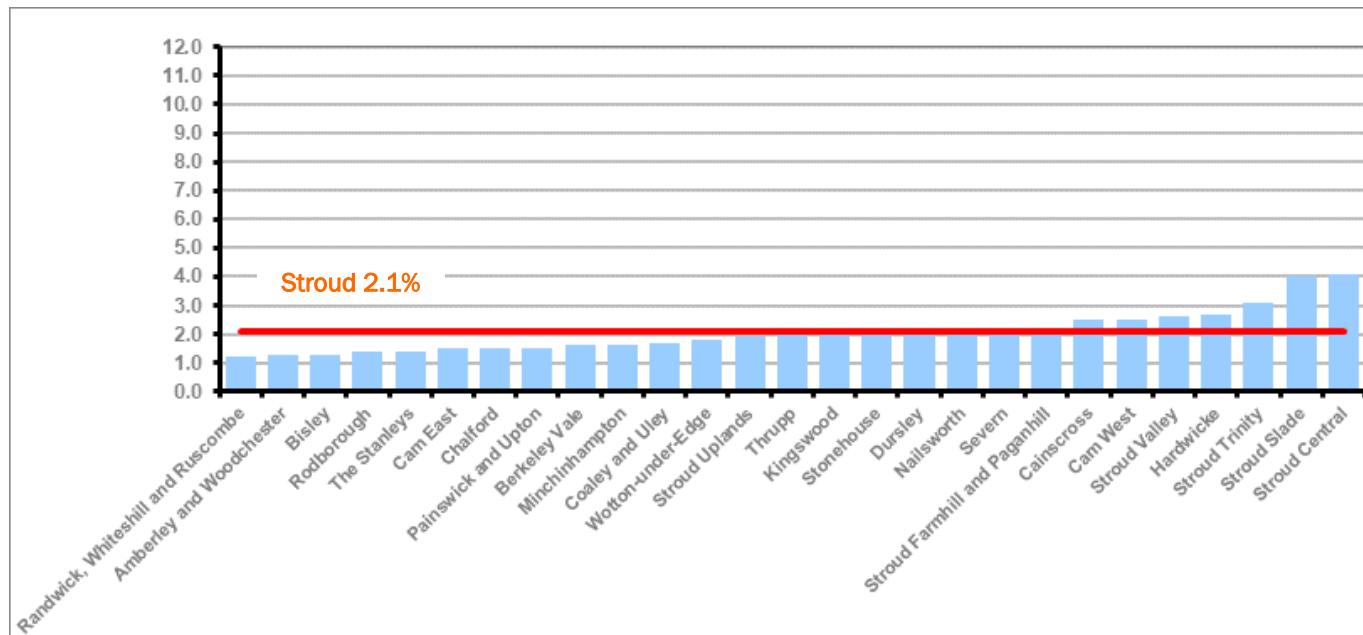
Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - November 2024

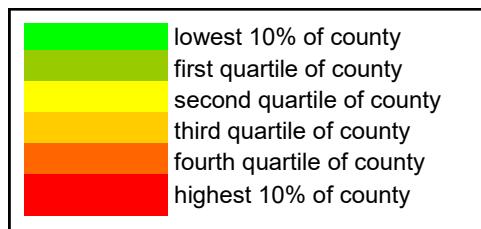
Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.1%. Eleven wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - November 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.2	7
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.3	12
Stroud	Bisley	1.3	12
Stroud	Rodborough	1.4	18
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.4	18
Stroud	Cam East	1.5	26
Stroud	Chalford	1.5	26
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.5	26
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.6	33
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.6	33
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.7	40
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.8	45
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	1.9	53
Stroud	Thrupp	2.0	58
Stroud	Kingswood	2.1	62
Stroud	Stonehouse	2.1	62
Stroud	Dursley	2.2	70
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.2	70
Stroud	Severn	2.2	70
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.2	70
Stroud	Cainscross	2.5	89
Stroud	Cam West	2.5	89
Stroud	Stroud Valley	2.6	92
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.7	97
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	3.1	111
Stroud	Stroud Slade	4.0	121
Stroud	Stroud Central	4.1	122



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 9 shows overall claimant rates for Stroud District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

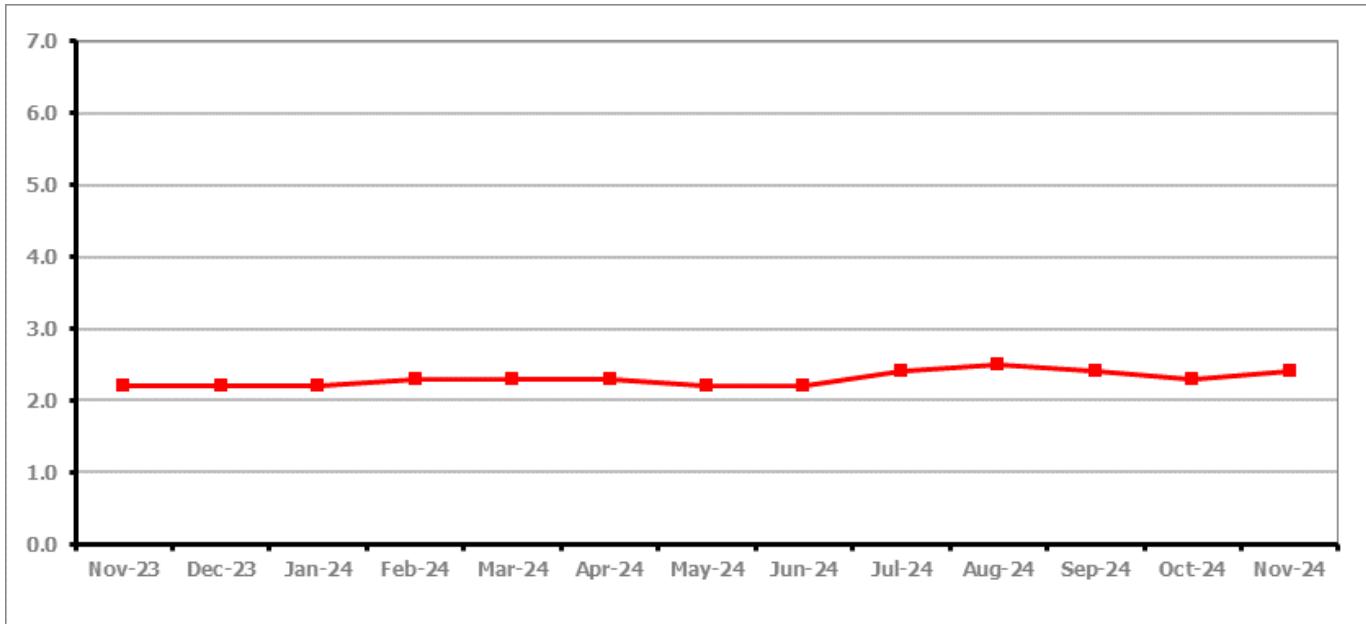
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

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

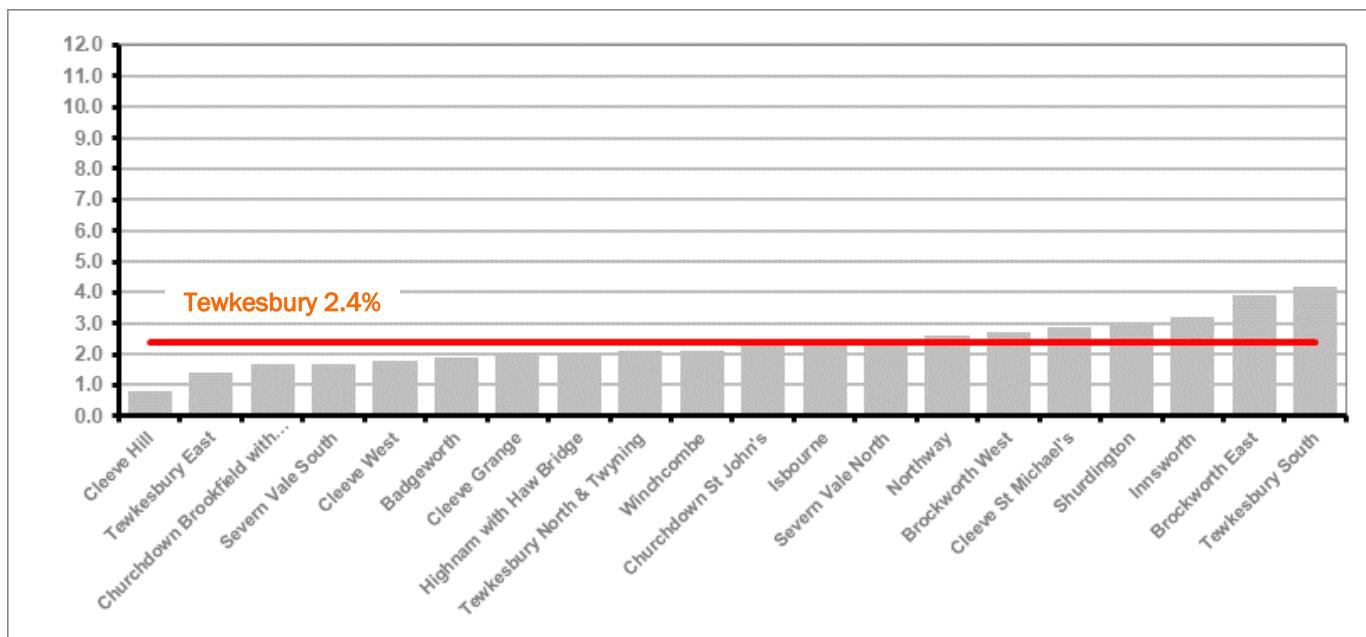
Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - November 2024

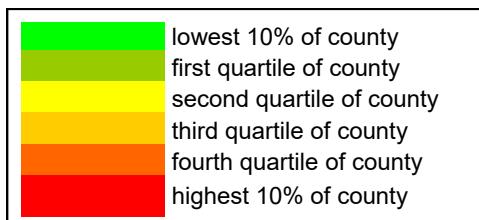
Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.4%. Seven wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury Borough continued...

Table 10: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough level - November 2024

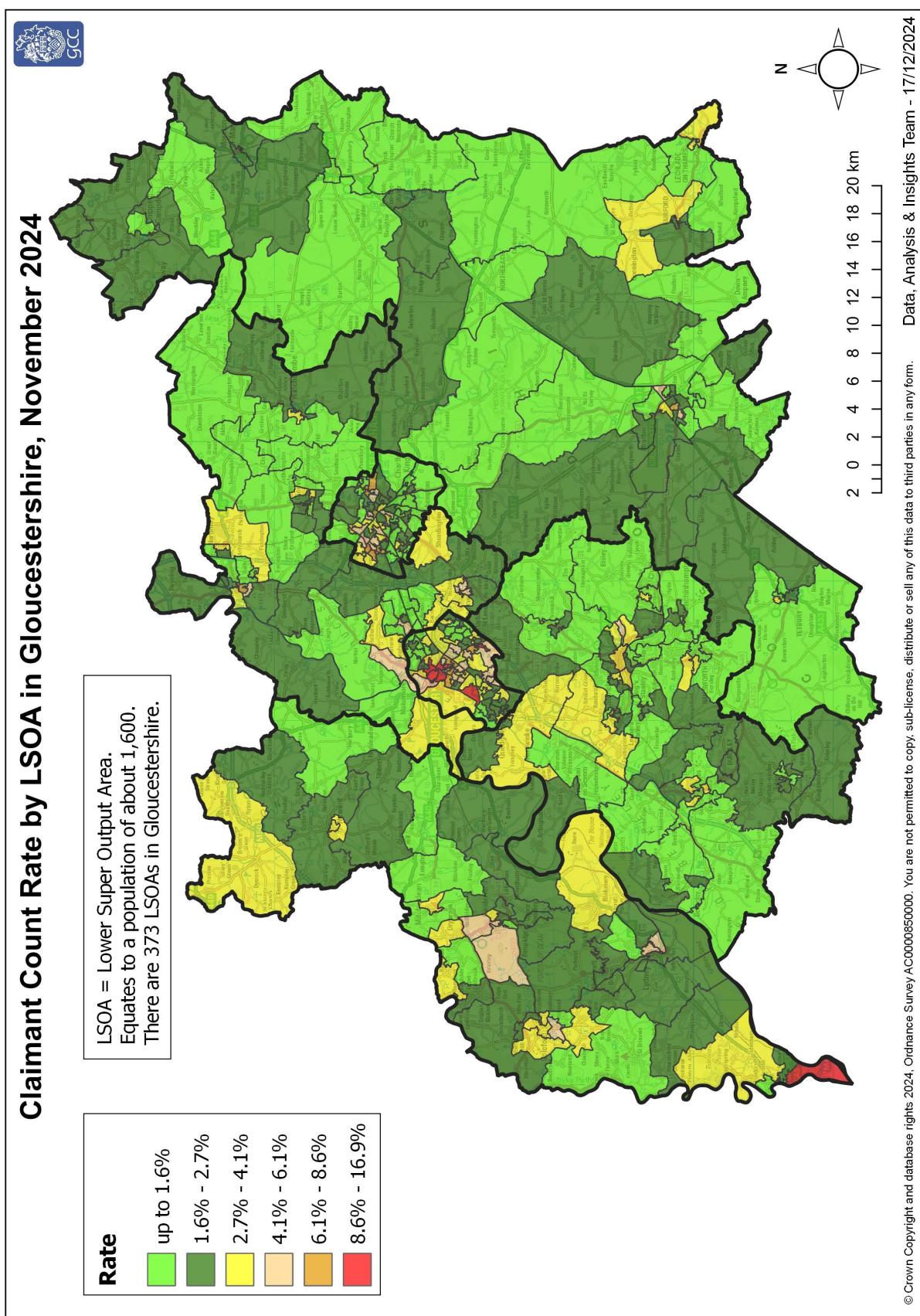
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.8	2
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.4	18
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.7	40
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	1.7	40
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.8	45
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	1.9	53
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.0	58
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.0	58
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twyning	2.1	62
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.1	62
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.4	81
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.4	81
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.4	81
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.6	92
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.7	97
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.9	105
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.0	108
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	3.2	112
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	3.9	118
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	4.2	124



* 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

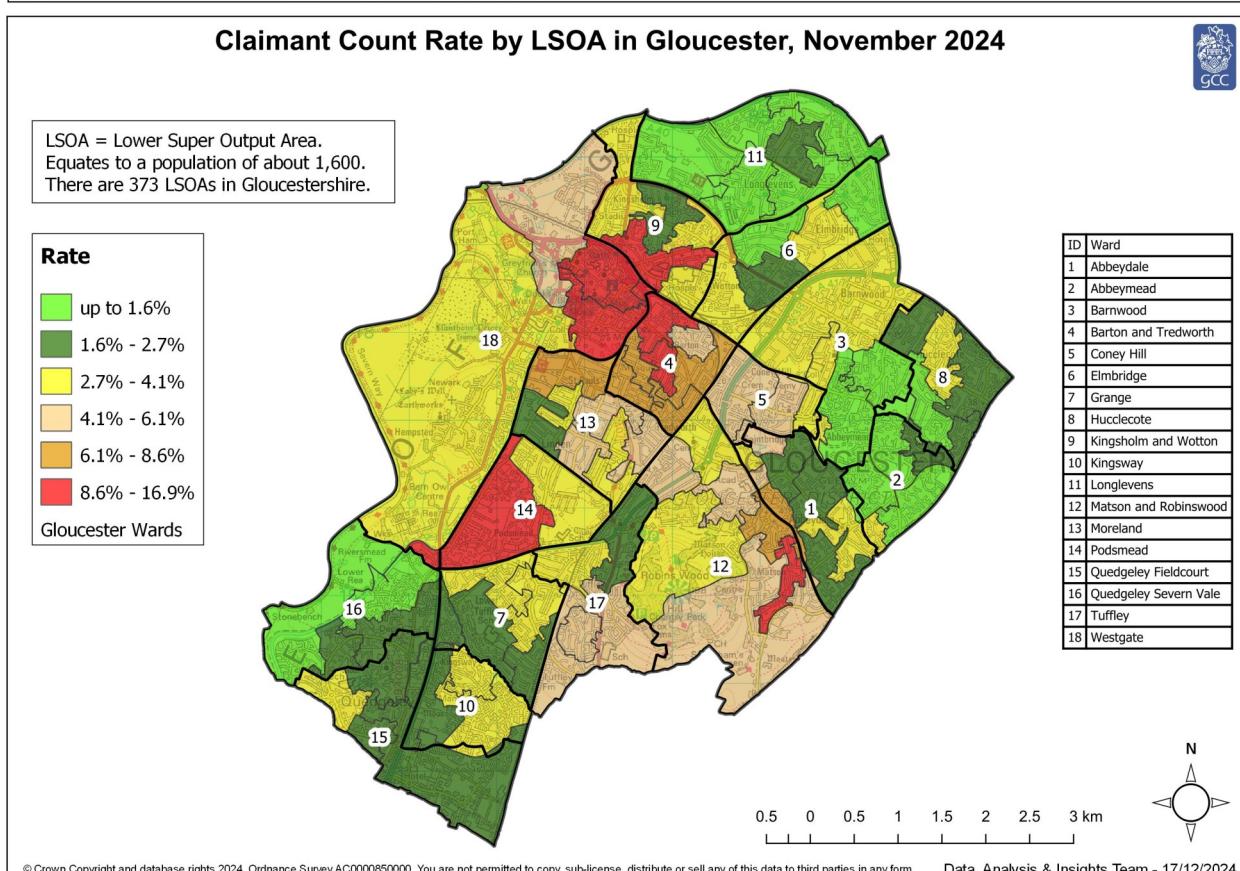
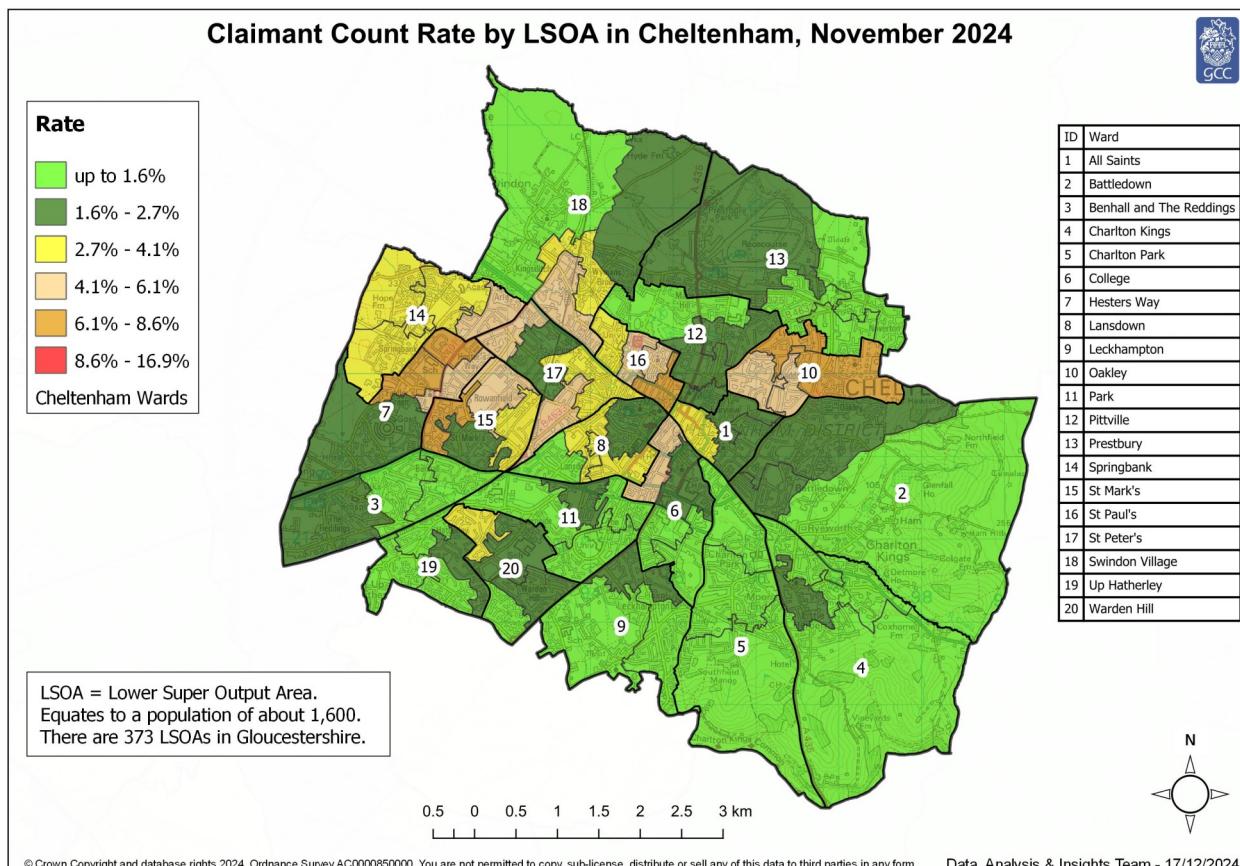


These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

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

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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 November 2024, 1,815 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.1% 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) November 2024

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	76	2476	3.07%
Cotswold	53	1826	2.90%
Forest	66	1749	3.77%
Gloucester	190	3539	5.37%
Stroud	80	2840	2.82%
Tewkesbury	64	2145	2.98%
Total	529	14575	3.63%

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	103	3331	3.09%
Cotswold	64	2482	2.58%
Forest	84	2428	3.46%
Gloucester	252	4801	5.25%
Stroud	101	3888	2.60%
Tewkesbury	87	2933	2.97%
Total	691	19863	3.48%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	3.67%
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Monthly Change	-10	-34	-0.06%
Previous month	539	14609	3.69%

Monthly Change	-33	-538	-0.07%
Previous month	724	20401	3.55%

The academic year 12-13 group contains a proportion of young people who turn 18 in the academic year but were 17 on the 31st 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@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

(*) Adjustment includes a proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose outcomes are not known to Gloucestershire Youth Support Team.