

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 189 April 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

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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.

Forest of Dean

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

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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). 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 7: Young People

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PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 2.6% in April 2024. The South West rate remained at 2.7% and the UK rate remained at 3.8%. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.1% lower than the South West average of 2.7%, and 1.2% lower than the UK average of 3.8%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in April 2024 increased by 90 people. The amount of people claiming in April was 0.9% higher than the number in March. This compares to a 0.9% decrease in the South West and a 0.4% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

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

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

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

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

CHEL滕HAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,040
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.0%
Claimant rate:	2.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Hesters Way (5.6%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	3,030
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.0%
Claimant rate:	3.6%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Westgate (7.7%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	985
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.5%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (3.8%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,470
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.0%
Claimant rate:	2.0%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Slade (4.0%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,510
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.4%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tidenham (5.9%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,315
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.4%
Claimant rate:	2.3%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tewkesbury South (4.3%)

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

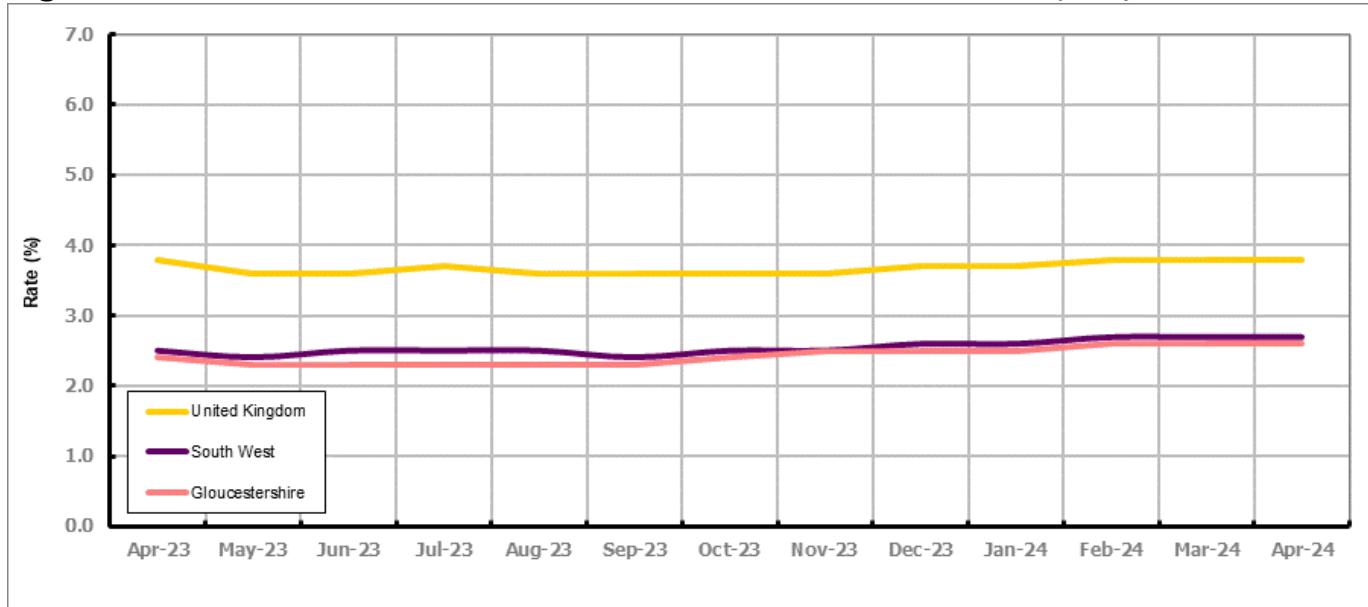


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.6% in April 2024. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since November 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 and, more recently, November 2023 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 1.3% 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 April 2024	% change on March 2024	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,614,410	0.4%	6
South West	93,785	-0.9%	0
Gloucestershire	10,350	0.9%	0

Table 1 shows that in April 2024, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 0.9% higher than the number in March 2024.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

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

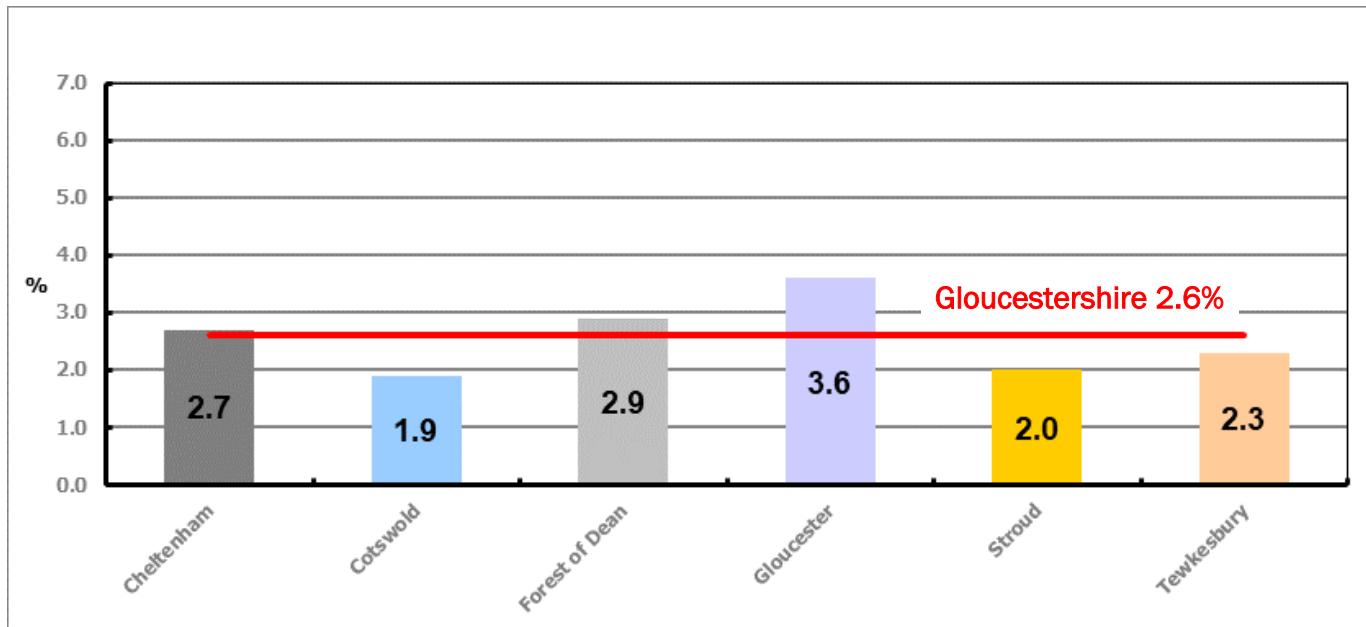


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for April 2024 in Gloucestershire. Between March and April 2024 the rate remained the same in all districts except Cotswold and Gloucester where there was an increase.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Apr 24 Number	Apr 24 Rate	Mar 24 Number	Mar 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	10,350	2.6	10,260	2.6	90	0.9%	0.0
Cheltenham	2,040	2.7	2,040	2.7	0	0.0%	0.0
Cotswold	985	1.9	970	1.8	15	1.5%	0.1
Forest of Dean	1,510	2.9	1,475	2.9	35	2.4%	0.0
Gloucester	3,030	3.6	3,000	3.5	30	1.0%	0.1
Stroud	1,470	2.0	1,455	2.0	15	1.0%	0.0
Tewkesbury	1,315	2.3	1,320	2.3	-5	-0.4%	0.0

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in April compared to March 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of claimants, except Tewkesbury which saw a decrease, and Cheltenham which stayed the same.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Apr 24 Number	Apr 24 Rate	Mar 24 Number	Mar 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	5,715	3.0	5,650	2.9	65	1.2%	0.1
Cheltenham	1,145	3.1	1,145	3.0	0	0.0%	0.1
Cotswold	515	2.0	495	1.9	20	4.0%	0.1
Forest of Dean	810	3.2	795	3.1	15	1.9%	0.1
Gloucester	1,800	4.3	1,780	4.2	20	1.1%	0.1
Stroud	760	2.1	745	2.1	15	2.0%	0.0
Tewkesbury	685	2.5	695	2.5	-10	-1.4%	0.0

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in April compared to March 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of male claimants, except Tewkesbury which saw a decrease, and Cheltenham which stayed the same.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Apr 24 Number	Apr 24 Rate	Mar 24 Number	Mar 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	4,635	2.3	4,610	2.3	25	0.5%	0.0
Cheltenham	890	2.4	895	2.4	-5	-0.6%	0.0
Cotswold	470	1.7	475	1.7	-5	-1.1%	0.0
Forest of Dean	695	2.7	680	2.6	15	2.2%	0.1
Gloucester	1,230	2.9	1,220	2.9	10	0.8%	0.0
Stroud	715	1.9	710	1.9	5	0.7%	0.0
Tewkesbury	630	2.2	625	2.1	5	0.8%	0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in April compared to March 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of female claimants, except Cheltenham and Cotswold which 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

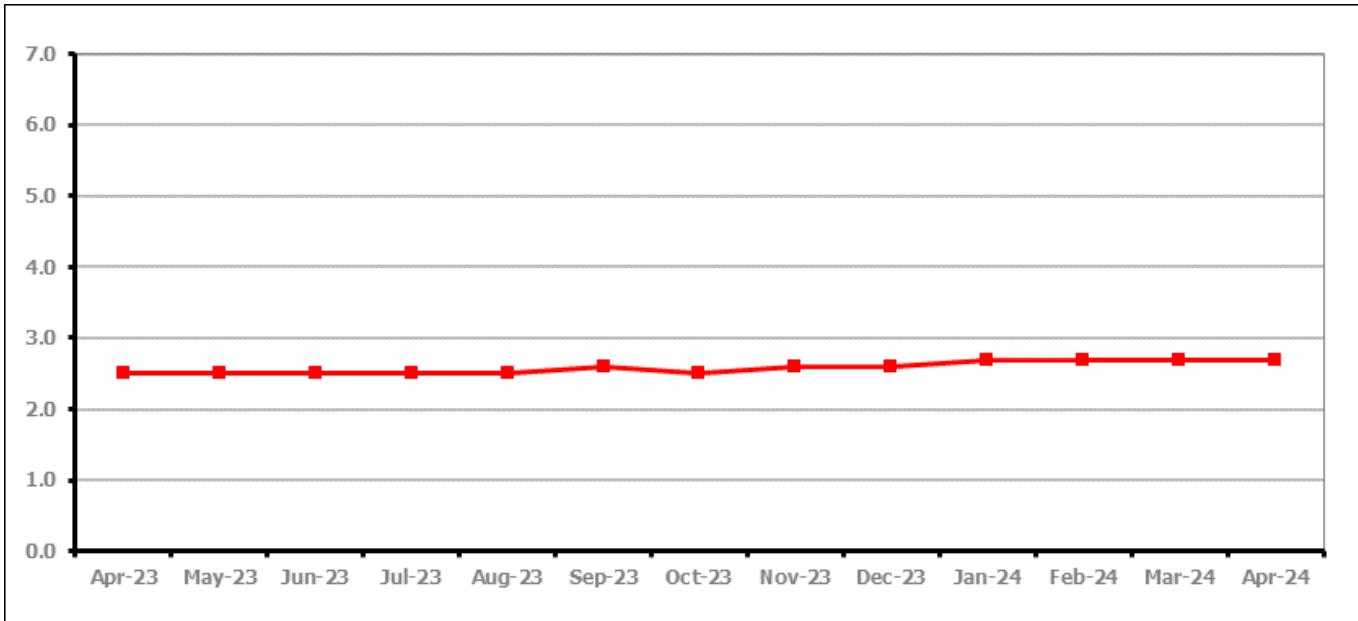


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham remained at 2.7% in April 2024.

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

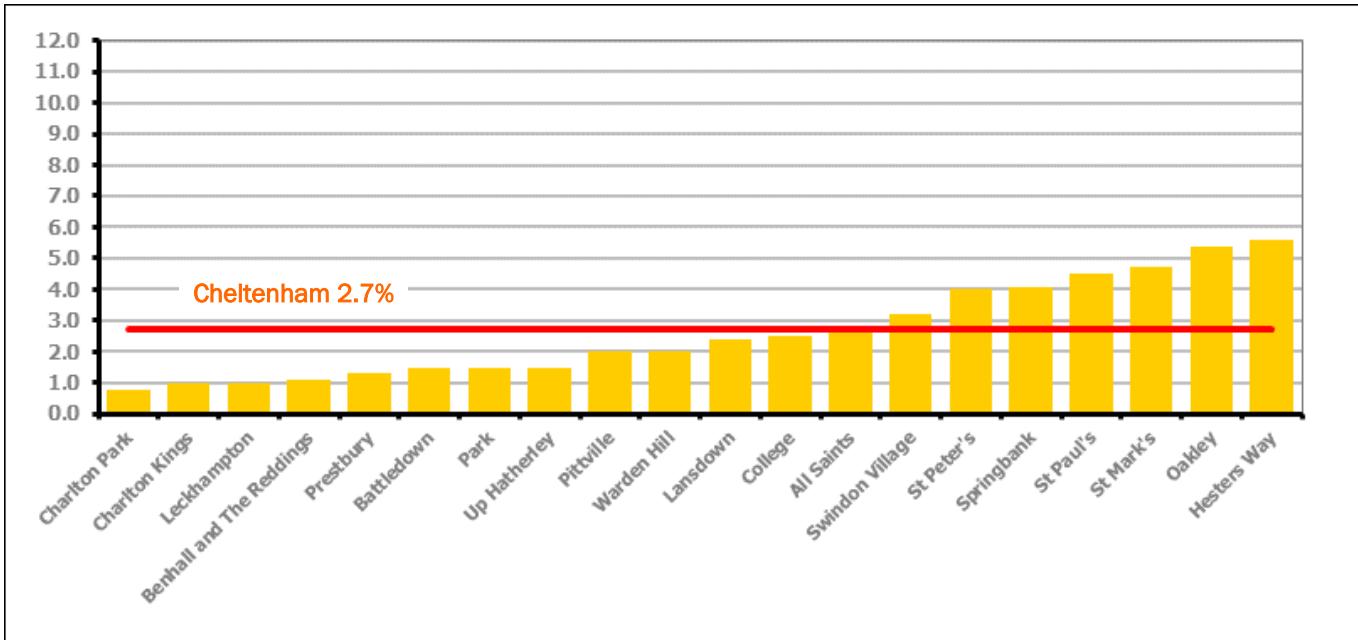


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.7%. Eight wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	0.8	1
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.0	2
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.0	2
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.1	5
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.3	11
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.5	22
Cheltenham	Park	1.5	22
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.5	22
Cheltenham	Pittville	2.0	58
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.0	58
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.4	76
Cheltenham	College	2.5	85
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.8	105
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.2	116
Cheltenham	St Peter's	4.0	122
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.1	125
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.5	129
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.7	130
Cheltenham	Oakley	5.4	134
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.6	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 5 shows overall claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

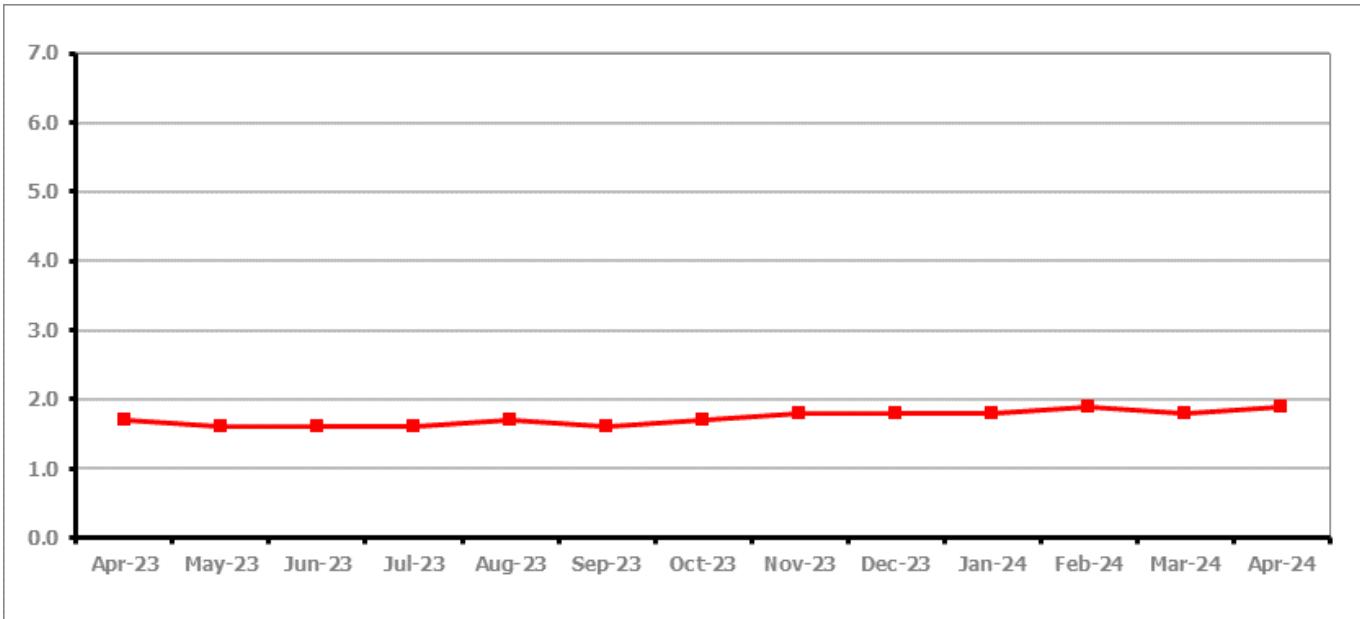
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.2 Cotswold District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District increased to 1.9% in April 2024.

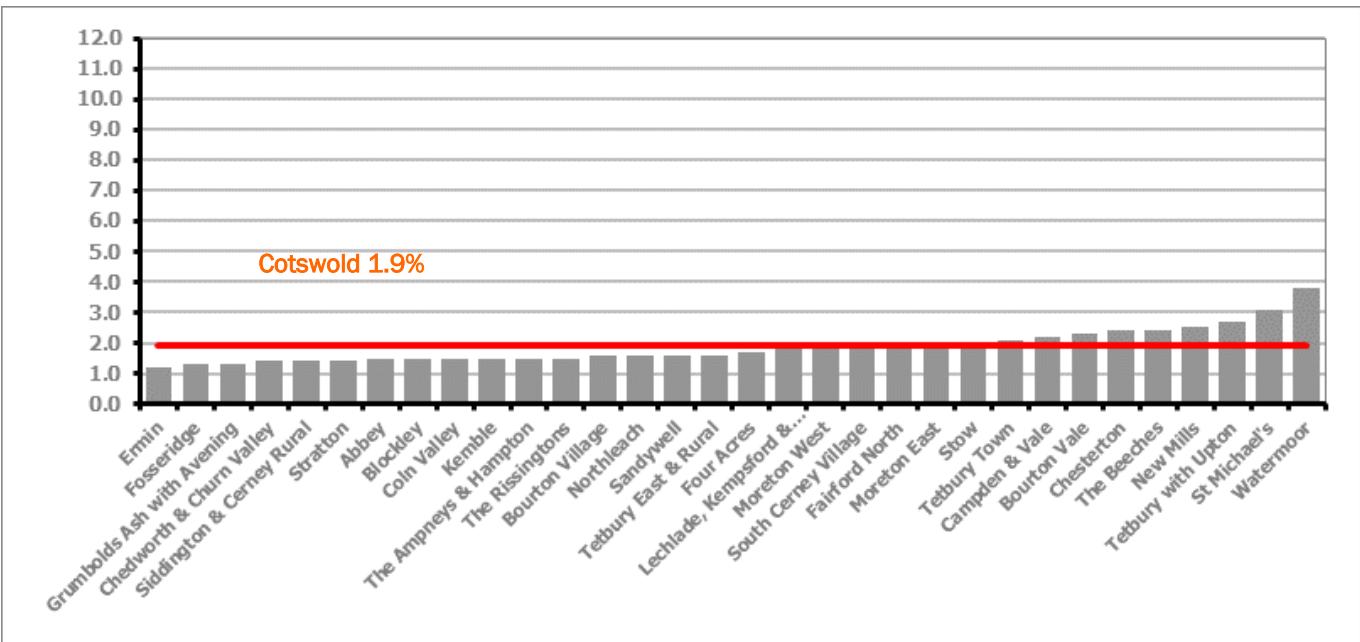
Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards – April 2024

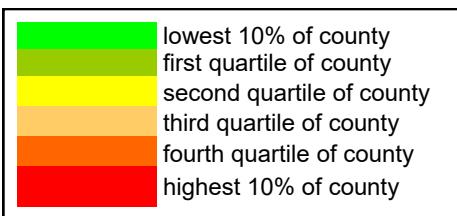
Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.9%. Twelve wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - April 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Ermin	1.2	9
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.3	11
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.3	11
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1.4	17
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	1.4	17
Cotswold	Stratton	1.4	17
Cotswold	Abbey	1.5	22
Cotswold	Blockley	1.5	22
Cotswold	Coln Valley	1.5	22
Cotswold	Kemble	1.5	22
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.5	22
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.5	22
Cotswold	Bourton Village	1.6	35
Cotswold	Northleach	1.6	35
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.6	35
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.6	35
Cotswold	Four Acres	1.7	43
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	1.9	52
Cotswold	Moreton West	1.9	52
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	1.9	52
Cotswold	Fairford North	2.0	58
Cotswold	Moreton East	2.0	58
Cotswold	Stow	2.0	58
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	2.1	66
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.2	69
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	2.3	72
Cotswold	Chesterton	2.4	76
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.4	76
Cotswold	New Mills	2.5	85
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.7	98
Cotswold	St Michael's	3.1	114
Cotswold	Watermoor	3.8	120



* 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

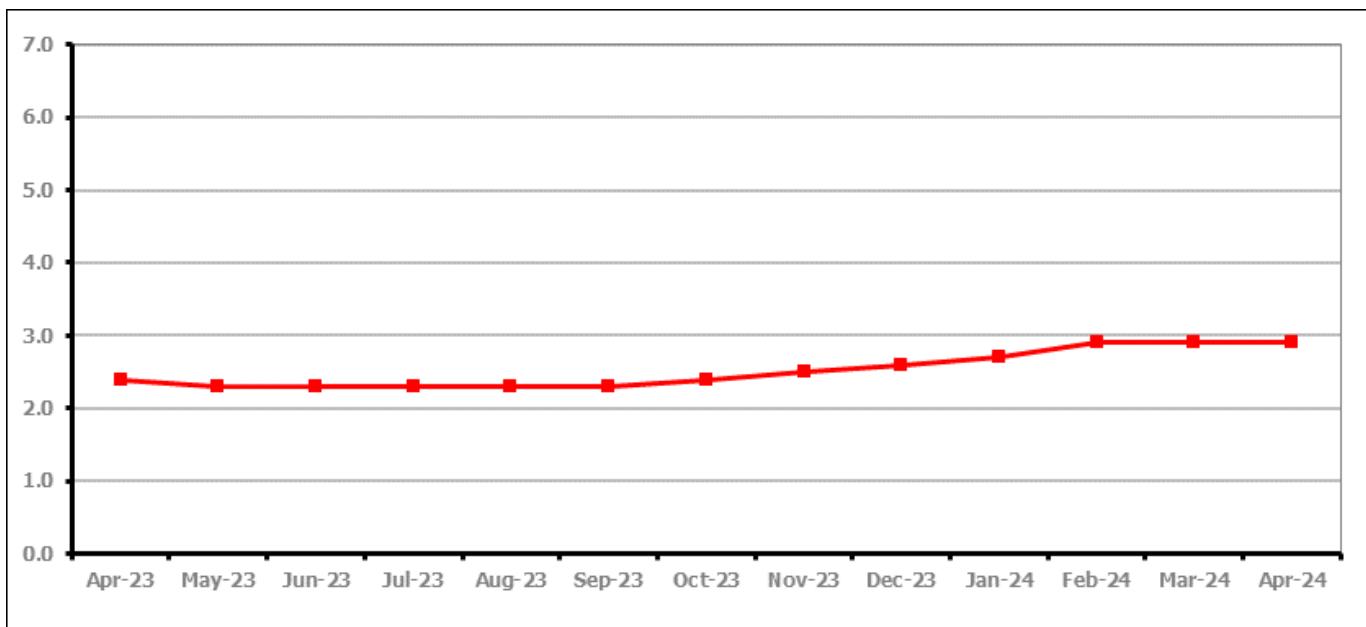


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean remained at 2.9% in April 2024.

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

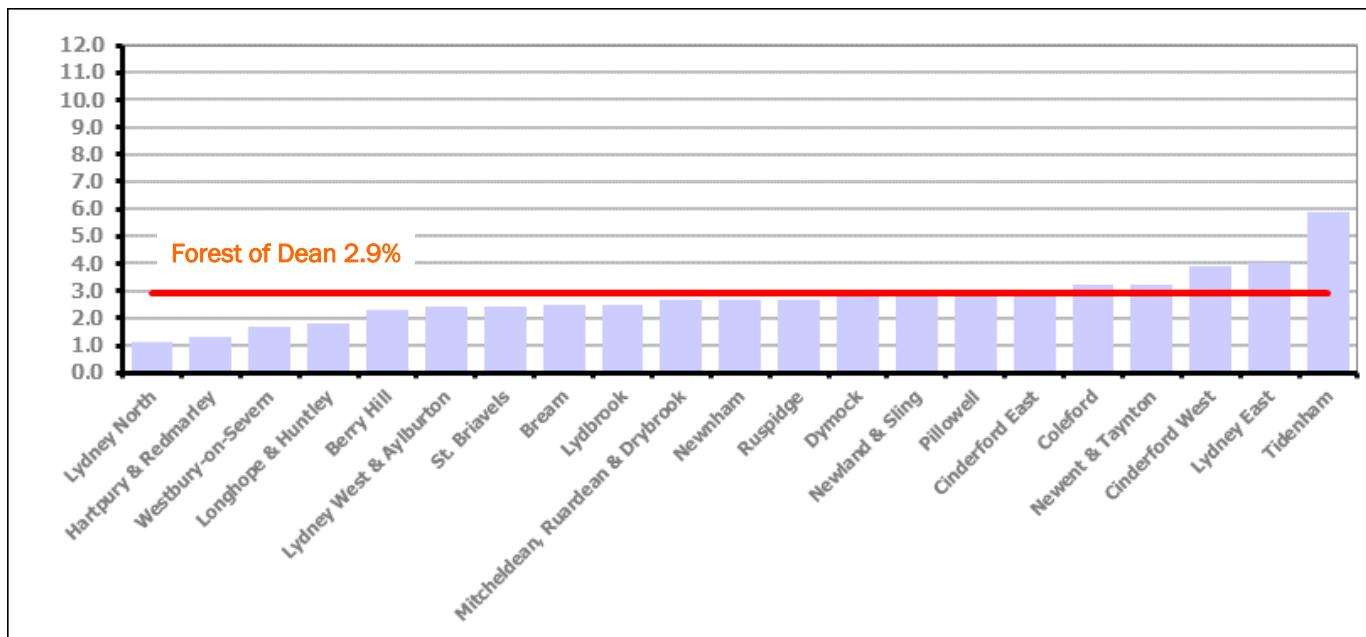


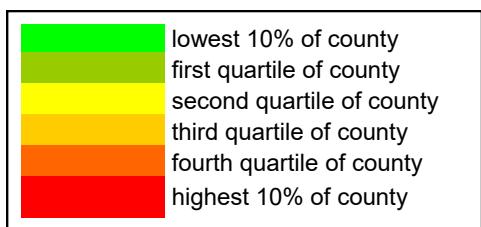
Figure 8 shows the claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.9%. Six wards lie above the average.

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 - April 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Lydney North	1.1	5
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.3	11
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.7	43
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.8	49
Forest	Berry Hill	2.3	72
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	2.4	76
Forest	St. Briavels	2.4	76
Forest	Bream	2.5	85
Forest	Lydbrook	2.5	85
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.7	98
Forest	Newnham	2.7	98
Forest	Ruspidge	2.7	98
Forest	Dymock	2.8	105
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.8	105
Forest	Pillowell	2.8	105
Forest	Cinderford East	3.0	110
Forest	Coleford	3.2	116
Forest	Newent & Taynton	3.2	116
Forest	Cinderford West	3.9	121
Forest	Lydney East	4.0	122
Forest	Tidenham	5.9	136



* 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.

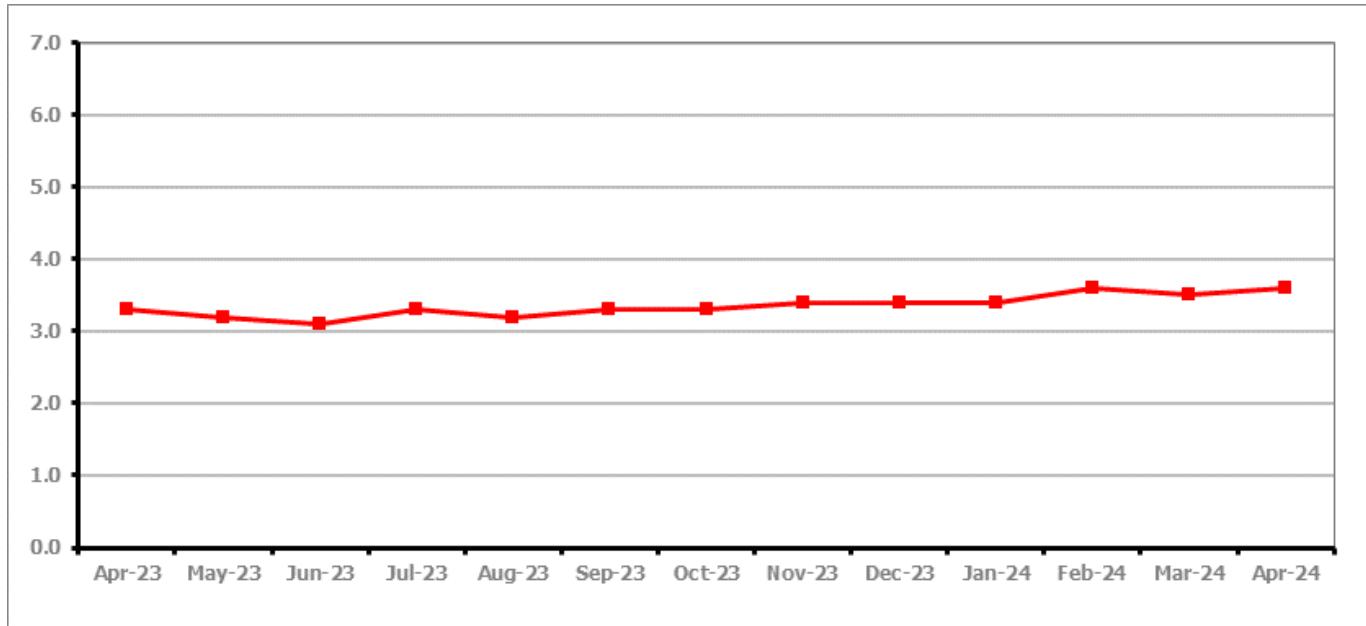
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City increased to 3.6% in April 2024.

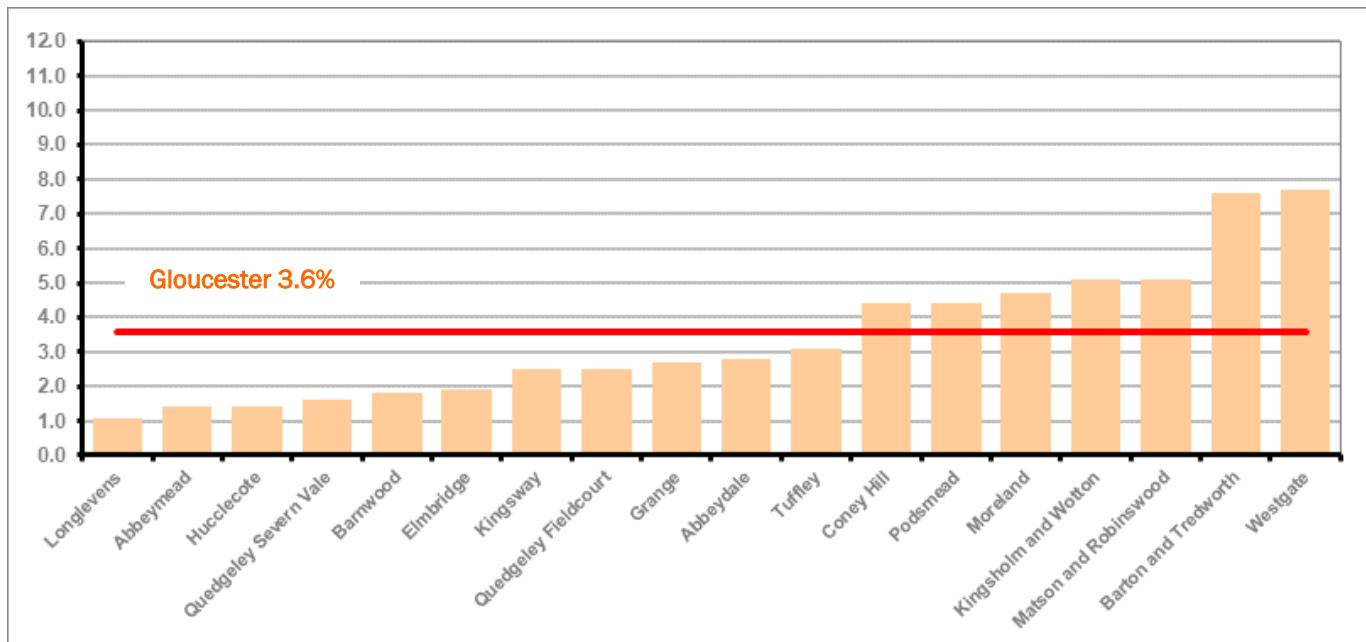
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - April 2024

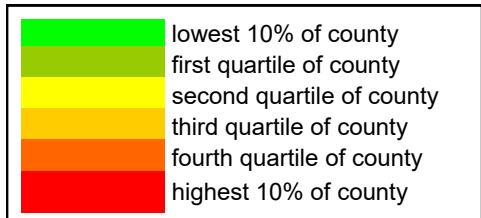
Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 3.6%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.1	5
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.4	17
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.4	17
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.6	35
Gloucester	Barnwood	1.8	49
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.9	52
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.5	85
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.5	85
Gloucester	Grange	2.7	98
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.8	105
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.1	114
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.4	127
Gloucester	Podsmead	4.4	127
Gloucester	Moreland	4.7	130
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	5.1	132
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.1	132
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.6	137
Gloucester	Westgate	7.7	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.

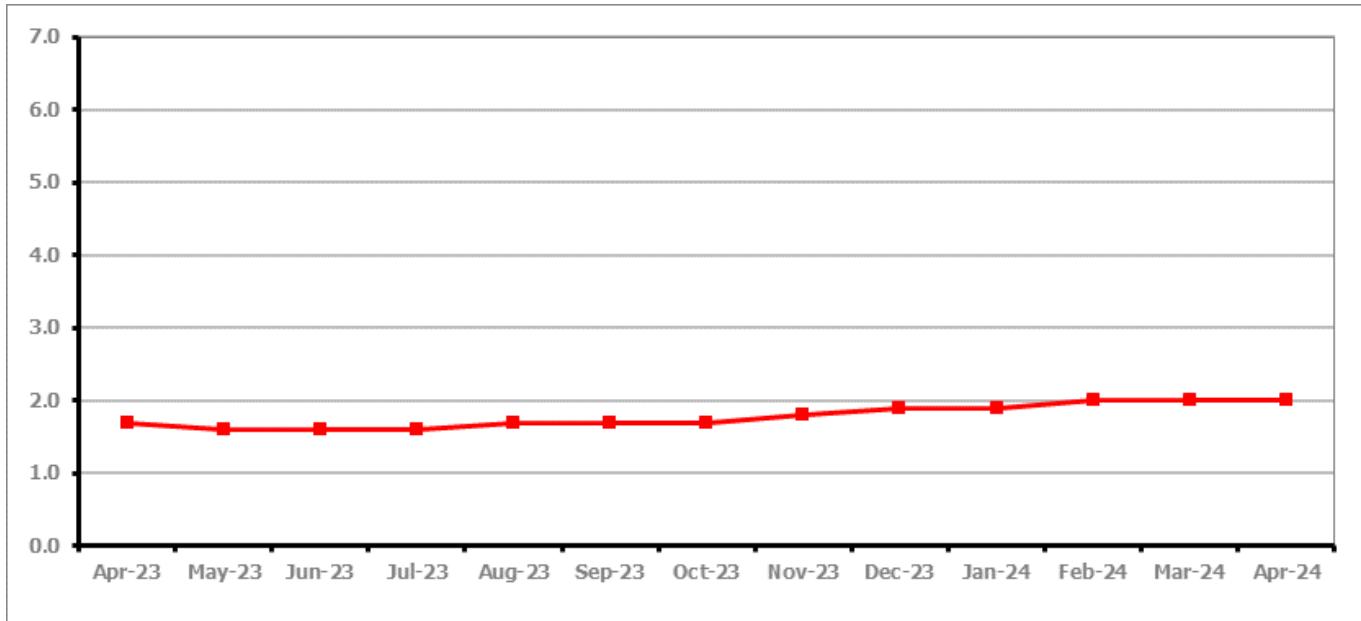
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

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

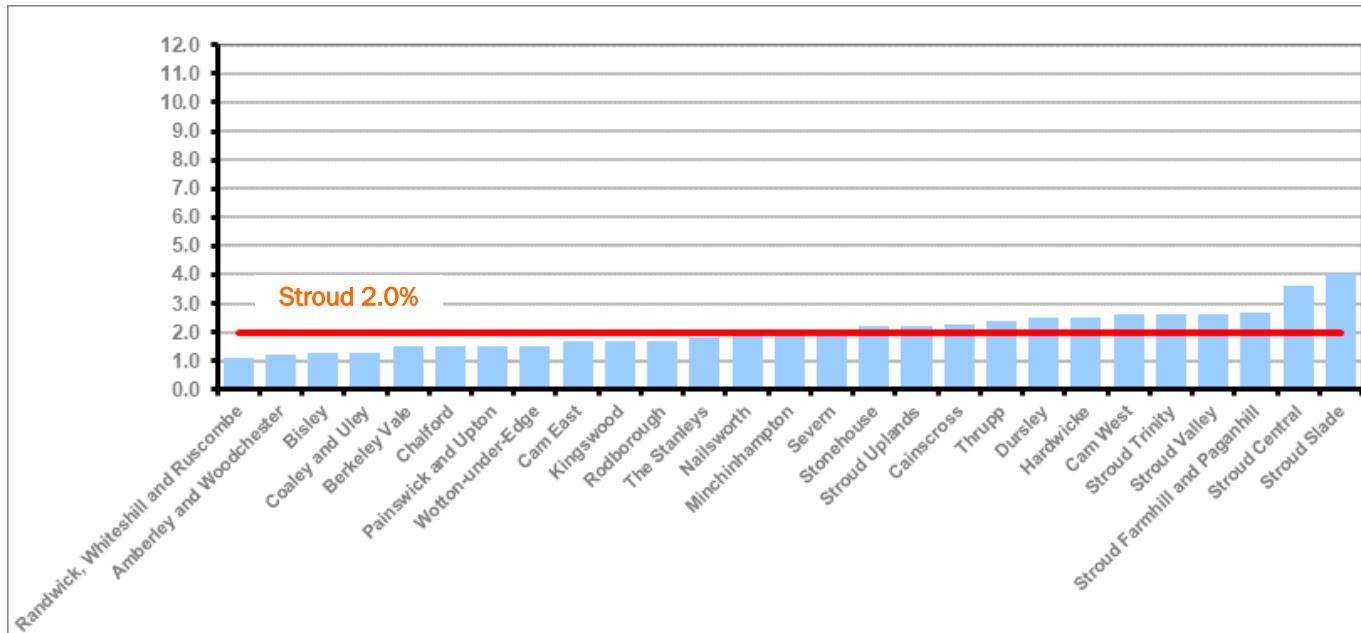
Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - April 2024

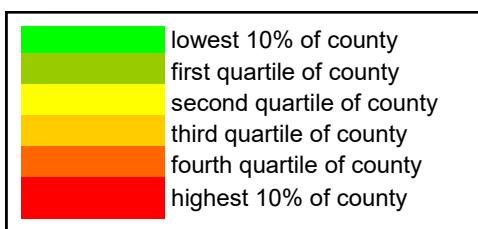
Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.0%. Twelve wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.1	5
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.2	9
Stroud	Bisley	1.3	11
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.3	11
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.5	22
Stroud	Chalford	1.5	22
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.5	22
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.5	22
Stroud	Cam East	1.7	43
Stroud	Kingswood	1.7	43
Stroud	Rodborough	1.7	43
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.8	49
Stroud	Nailsworth	1.9	52
Stroud	Minchinhampton	2.0	58
Stroud	Severn	2.0	58
Stroud	Stonehouse	2.2	69
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	2.2	69
Stroud	Cainscross	2.3	72
Stroud	Thrupp	2.4	76
Stroud	Dursley	2.5	85
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.5	85
Stroud	Cam West	2.6	94
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.6	94
Stroud	Stroud Valley	2.6	94
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.7	98
Stroud	Stroud Central	3.6	119
Stroud	Stroud Slade	4.0	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

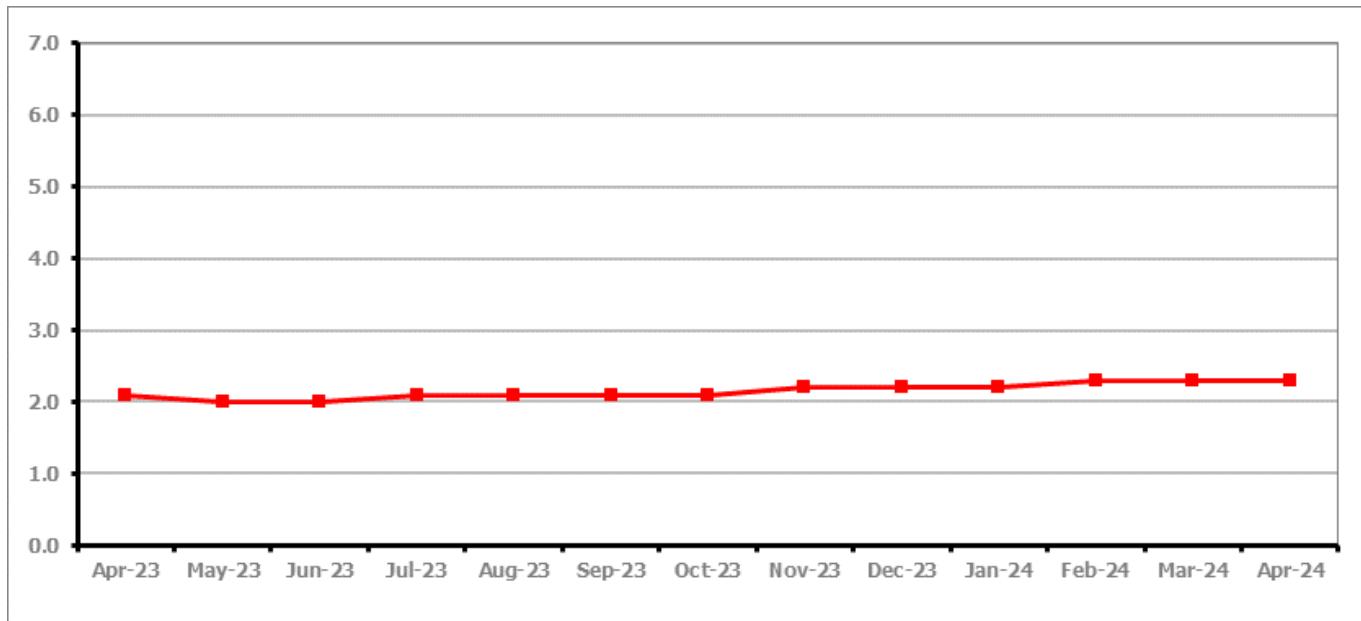


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough remained at 2.3% in April 2024.

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

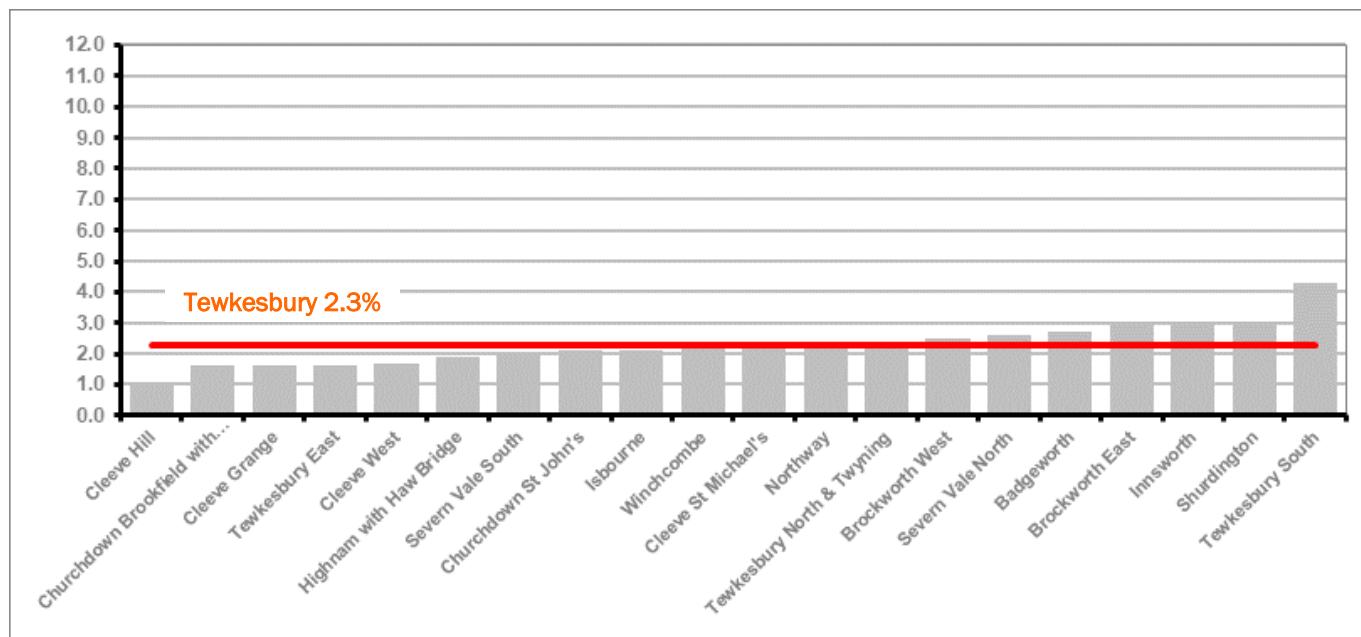


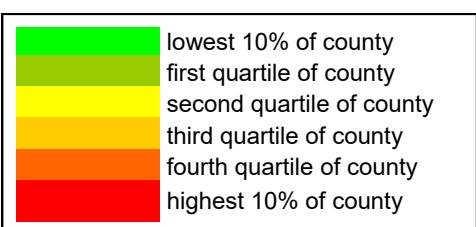
Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.3%. Ten wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury Borough continued...

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

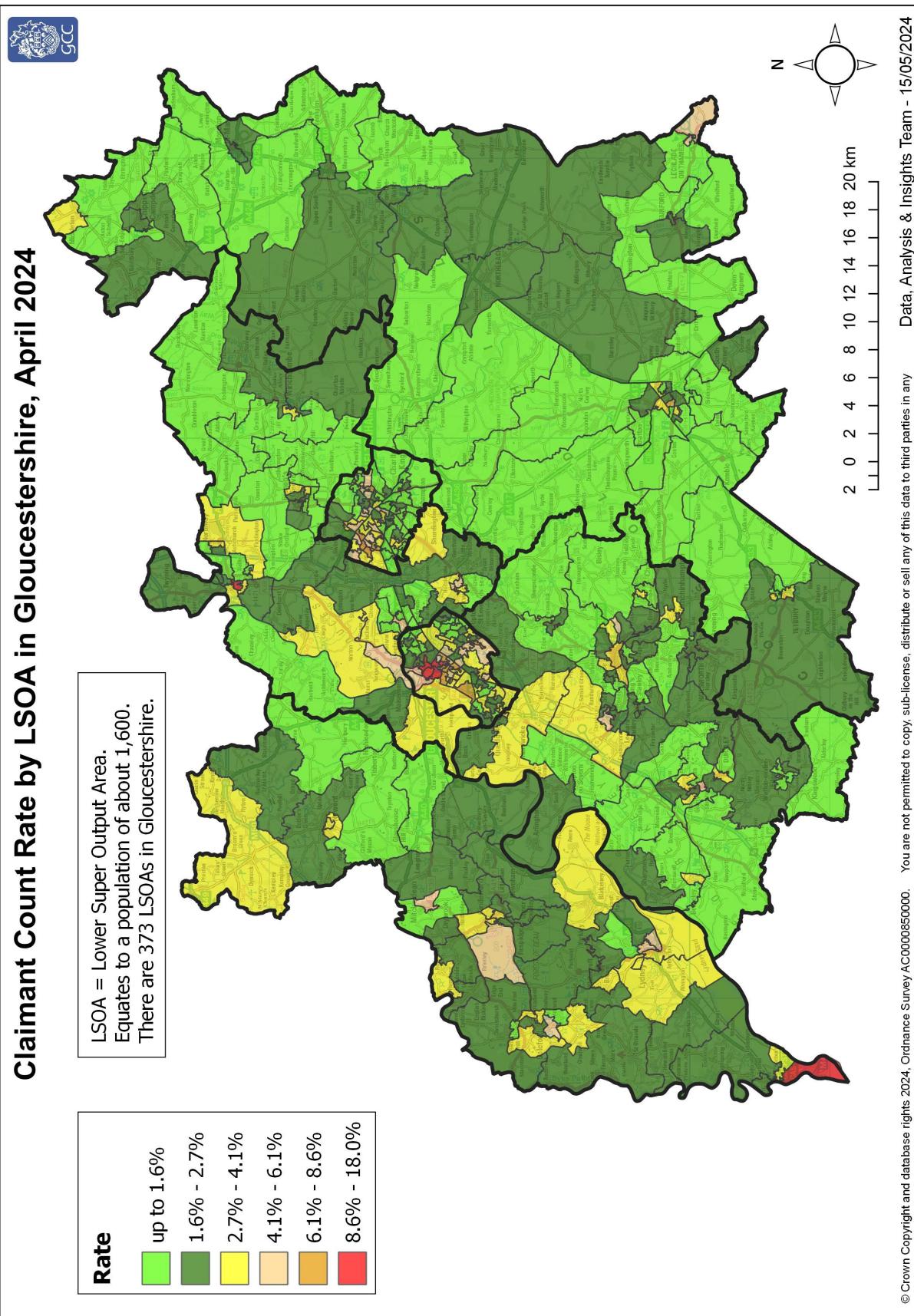
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	1.0	2
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.6	35
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	1.6	35
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.6	35
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.7	43
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	1.9	52
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	2.0	58
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.1	66
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.1	66
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.3	72
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.4	76
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.4	76
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twyning	2.4	76
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.5	85
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.6	94
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.7	98
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	3.0	110
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	3.0	110
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.0	110
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	4.3	126



* 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

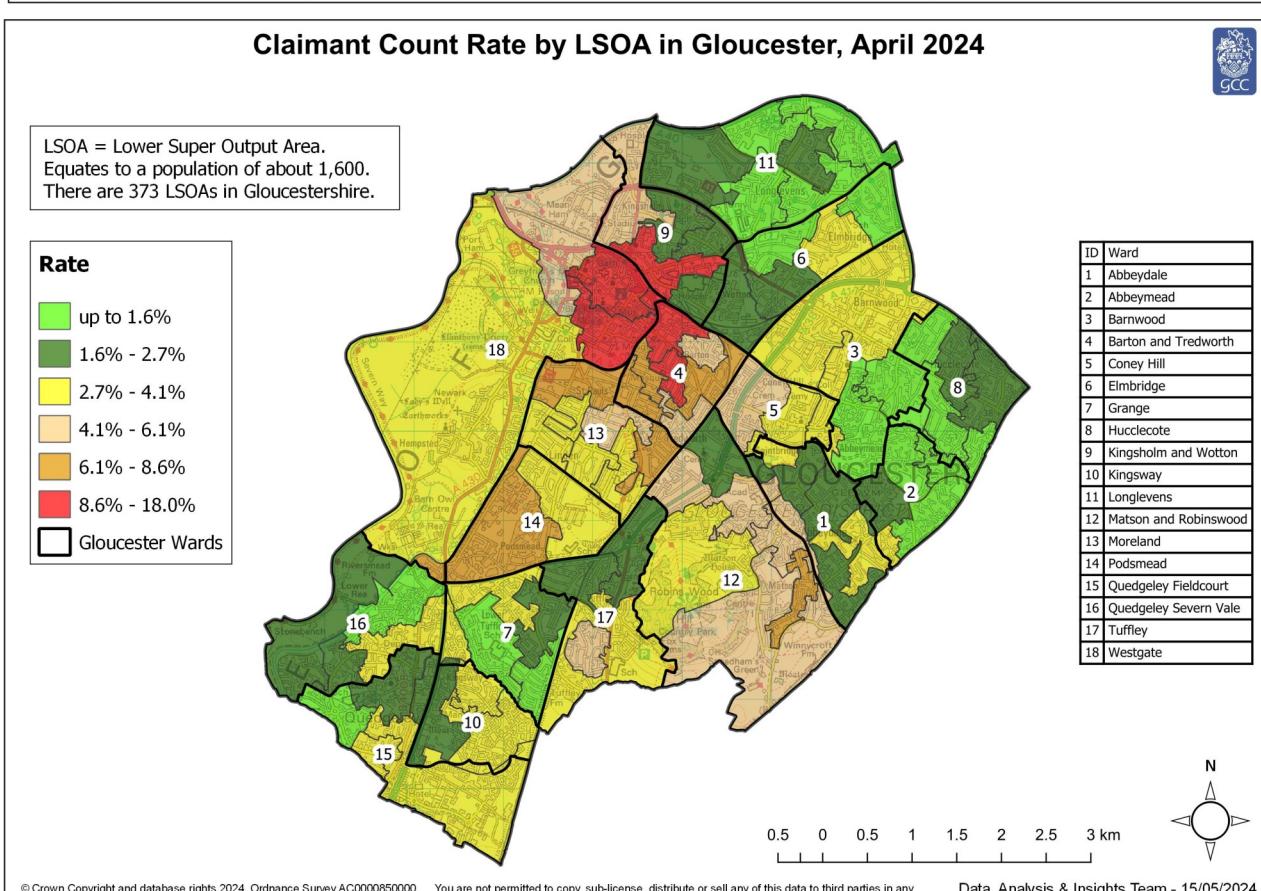
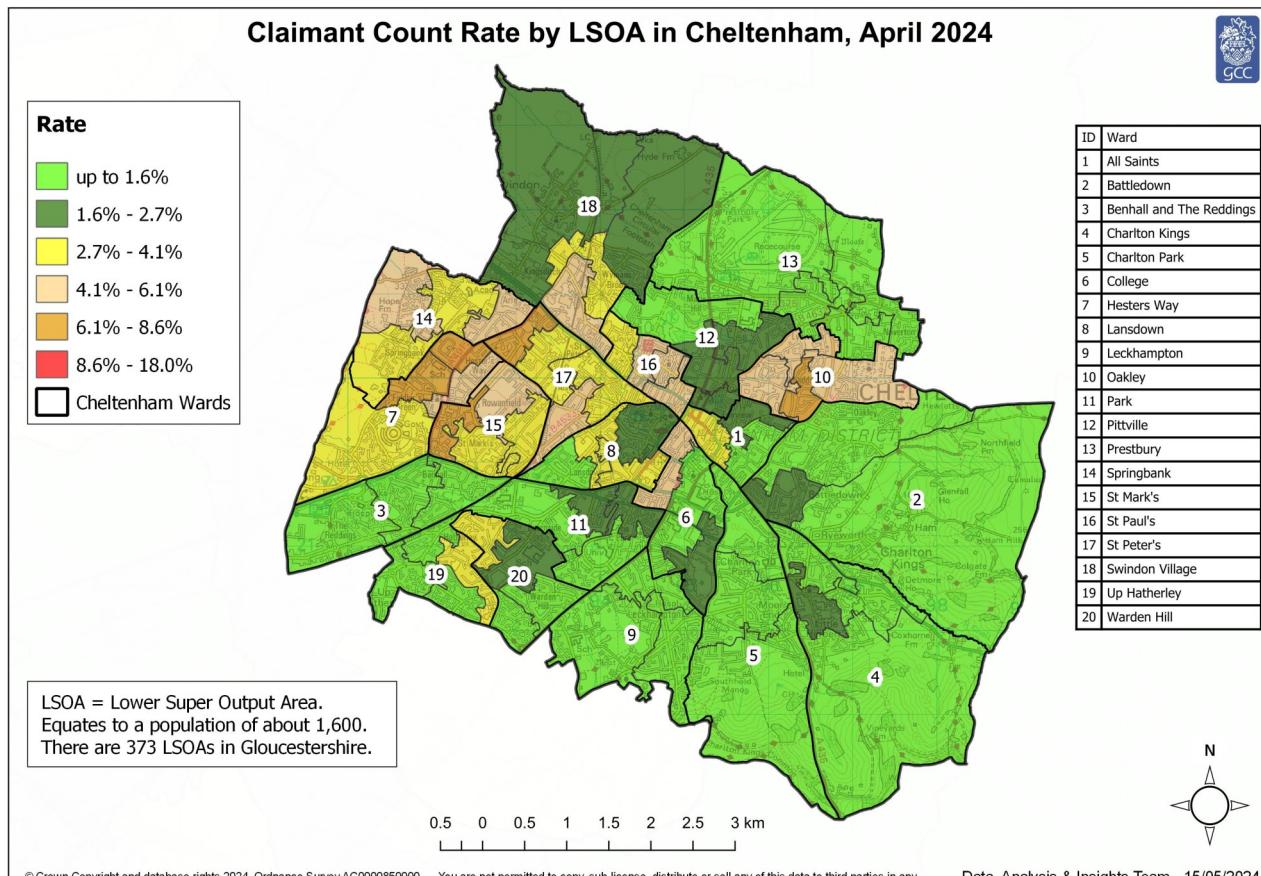


These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

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

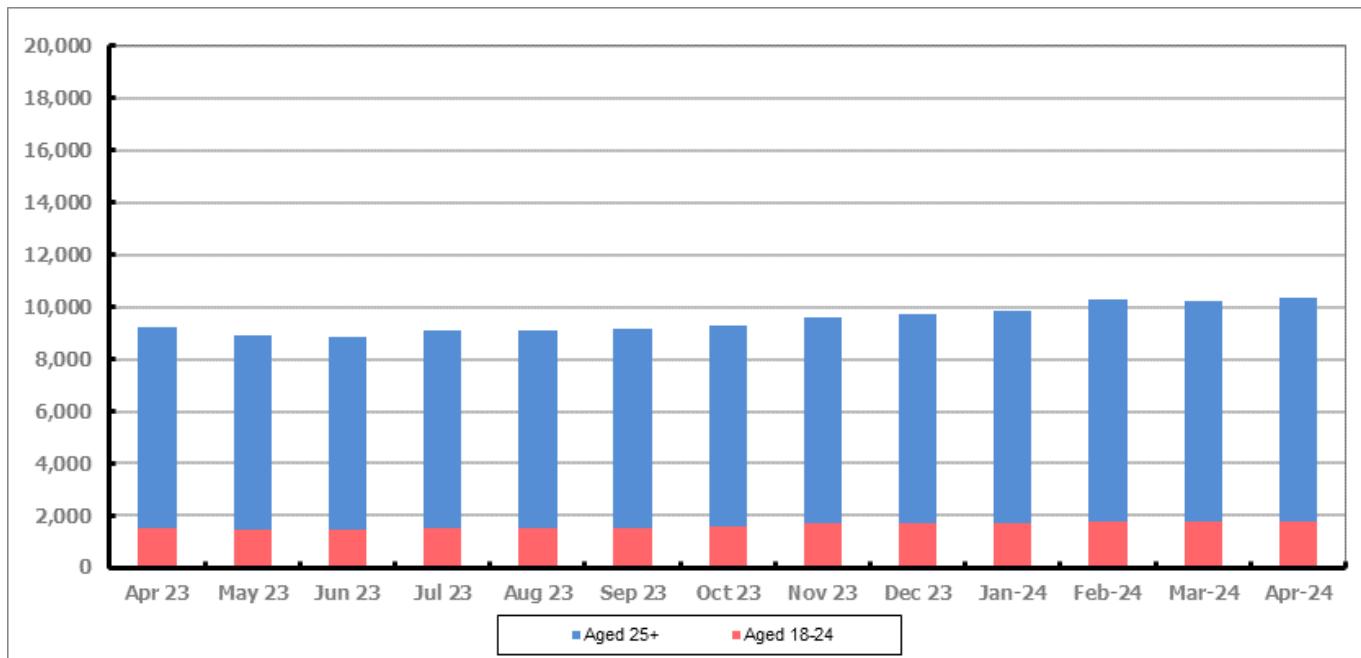


Figure 15 shows that in April 2024, 1,770 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.1% of total working age claimants.

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) April 2024

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	82	2334	3.51%
Cotswold	31	1772	1.75%
Forest	44	1734	2.54%
Gloucester	157	3371	4.66%
Stroud	37	2734	1.35%
Tewkesbury	56	2049	2.73%
Total	407	13994	2.91%

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	97	2712	3.58%
Cotswold	33	2061	1.60%
Forest	57	2015	2.83%
Gloucester	191	3889	4.91%
Stroud	47	3182	1.48%
Tewkesbury	63	2392	2.63%
Total	488	16251	3.00%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	3.16%
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Monthly Change	41	17	0.29%
Previous month	366	13977	2.62%

Monthly Change	28	-523	0.26%
Previous month	460	16774	2.74%

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@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.