

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 187 February 2024

Contents

Part 1: Summary A summary of unemployment data at district, County, regional and national level	1
Part 2: County Unemployment figures for the County compared to the South West and the rest of the UK	3
Part 3: Districts A comparative break down of unemployment figures by district	4
Part 4: Wards Further breakdown of unemployment figures by ward:	
Cheltenham	6
Cotswolds	8
Forest of Dean	10
Gloucester	12
Stroud	14
Tewkesbury	16
Part 5: Map Distribution of claimant rate across Gloucestershire	18
Part 6: Youth Unemployment Unemployment data for the 18-24 year old age group	20
Part 7: Young People Data about Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	21

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). 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 February 2024. The South West rate increased to 2.7% while the UK rate increased to 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 February 2024 increased by 545 people. The amount of people claiming in February was 5.5% higher than the number in January. This compares to a 4.2% increase in the South West and a 4.0% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

Data & Analysis Team
Planning, Performance and Insight
Gloucestershire County Council
March 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 February 2024

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

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

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

CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,105
Claimant count change on previous month:	4.0%
Claimant rate:	2.8%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Hesters Way (5.5%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	3,050
Claimant count change on previous month:	5.0%
Claimant rate:	3.6%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Westgate (7.6%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,000
Claimant count change on previous month:	5.8%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (3.7%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,450
Claimant count change on previous month:	8.2%
Claimant rate:	2.0%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Slade (4.4%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,470
Claimant count change on previous month:	6.9%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tidenham (4.6%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,325
Claimant count change on previous month:	4.3%
Claimant rate:	2.3%
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

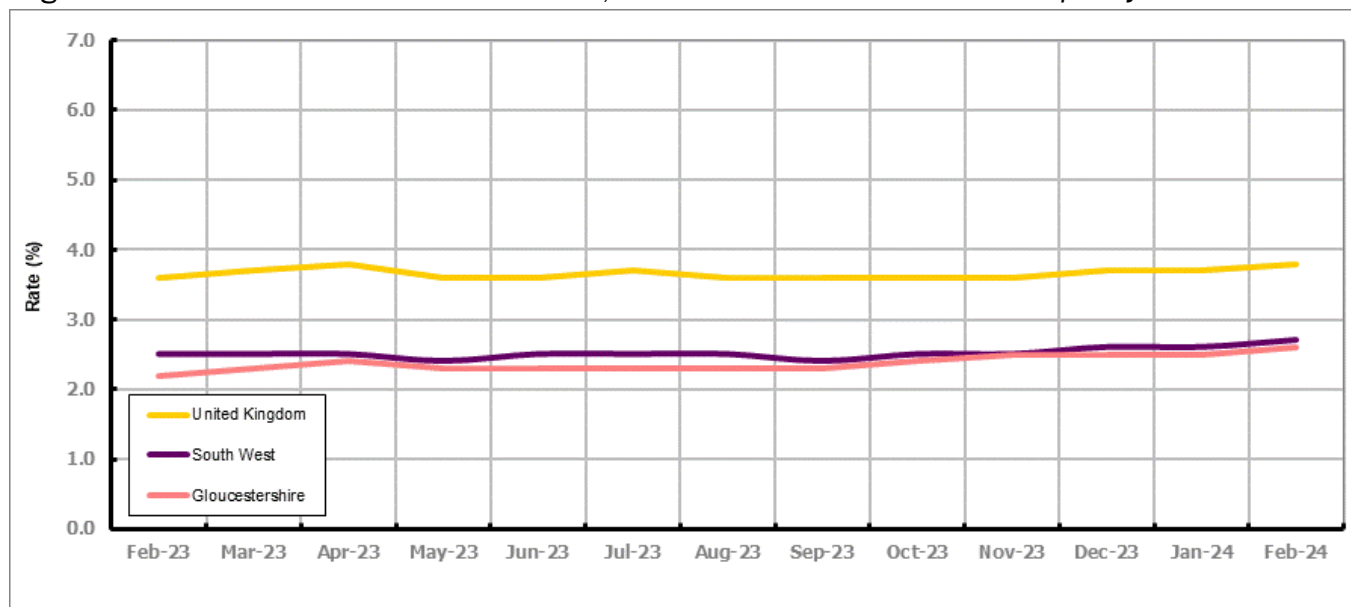


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.6% in February 2024. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since November 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 and, more recently, November 2023 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 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 February 2024	% change on January 2024	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,614,130	4.0%	4
South West	94,885	4.2%	4
Gloucestershire	10,405	5.5%	5

Table 1 shows that in February 2024, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 5.5% higher than the number in January 2024.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

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

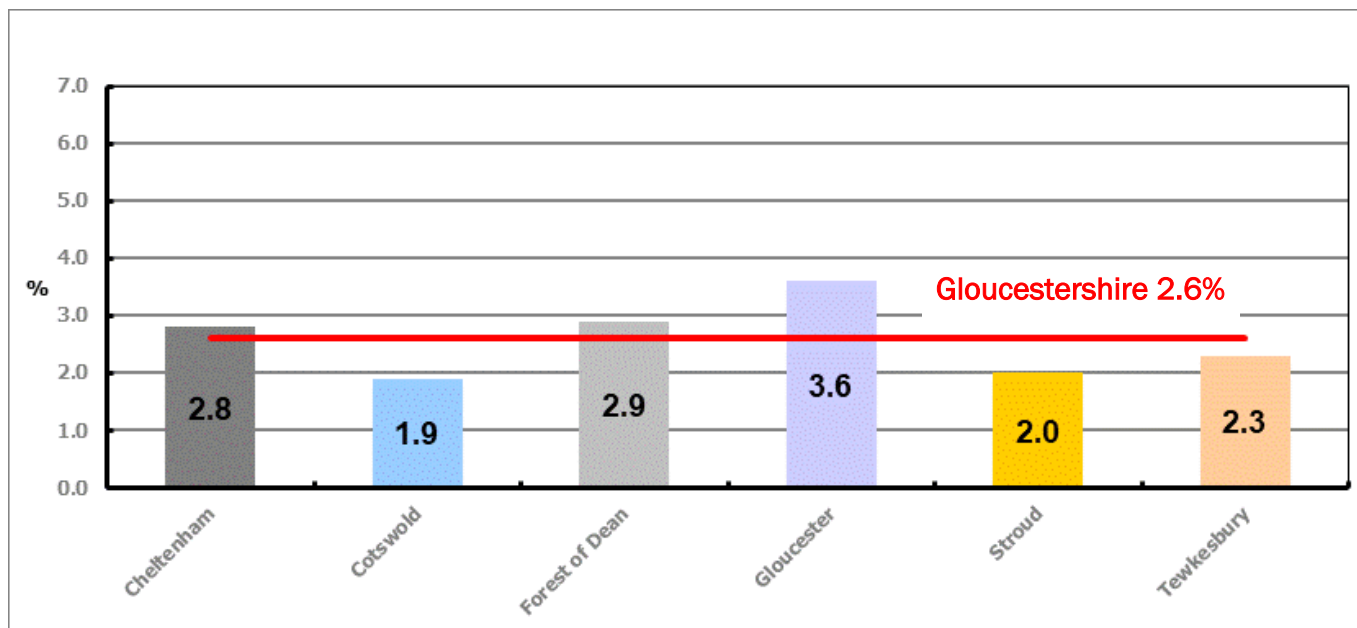


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for February 2024 in Gloucestershire. Between January and February 2024 the rate increased in all districts.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Feb 24 Number	Feb 24 Rate	Jan 24 Number	Jan 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	10,405	2.6	9,860	2.5	545	5.5%	0.1
Cheltenham	2,105	2.8	2,025	2.7	80	4.0%	0.1
Cotswold	1,000	1.9	945	1.8	55	5.8%	0.1
Forest of Dean	1,470	2.9	1,375	2.7	95	6.9%	0.2
Gloucester	3,050	3.6	2,905	3.4	145	5.0%	0.2
Stroud	1,450	2.0	1,340	1.9	110	8.2%	0.1
Tewkesbury	1,325	2.3	1,270	2.2	55	4.3%	0.1

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in February compared to January 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of claimants.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Feb 24 Number	Feb 24 Rate	Jan 24 Number	Jan 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	5,710	2.9	5,360	2.8	350	6.5%	0.1
Cheltenham	1,200	3.2	1,155	3.1	45	3.9%	0.1
Cotswold	505	2.0	470	1.8	35	7.4%	0.2
Forest of Dean	790	3.1	725	2.9	65	9.0%	0.2
Gloucester	1,800	4.3	1,690	4.0	110	6.5%	0.3
Stroud	730	2.1	660	1.9	70	10.6%	0.2
Tewkesbury	690	2.5	650	2.4	40	6.2%	0.1

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in February compared to January 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of male claimants.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Feb 24 Number	Feb 24 Rate	Jan 24 Number	Jan 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	4,695	2.4	4,500	2.3	195	4.3%	0.1
Cheltenham	905	2.4	870	2.3	35	4.0%	0.1
Cotswold	500	1.8	475	1.7	25	5.3%	0.1
Forest of Dean	680	2.6	645	2.5	35	5.4%	0.1
Gloucester	1,255	2.9	1,215	2.9	40	3.3%	0.0
Stroud	720	2.0	680	1.8	40	5.9%	0.2
Tewkesbury	635	2.2	615	2.1	20	3.3%	0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in February compared to January 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of female claimants.

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

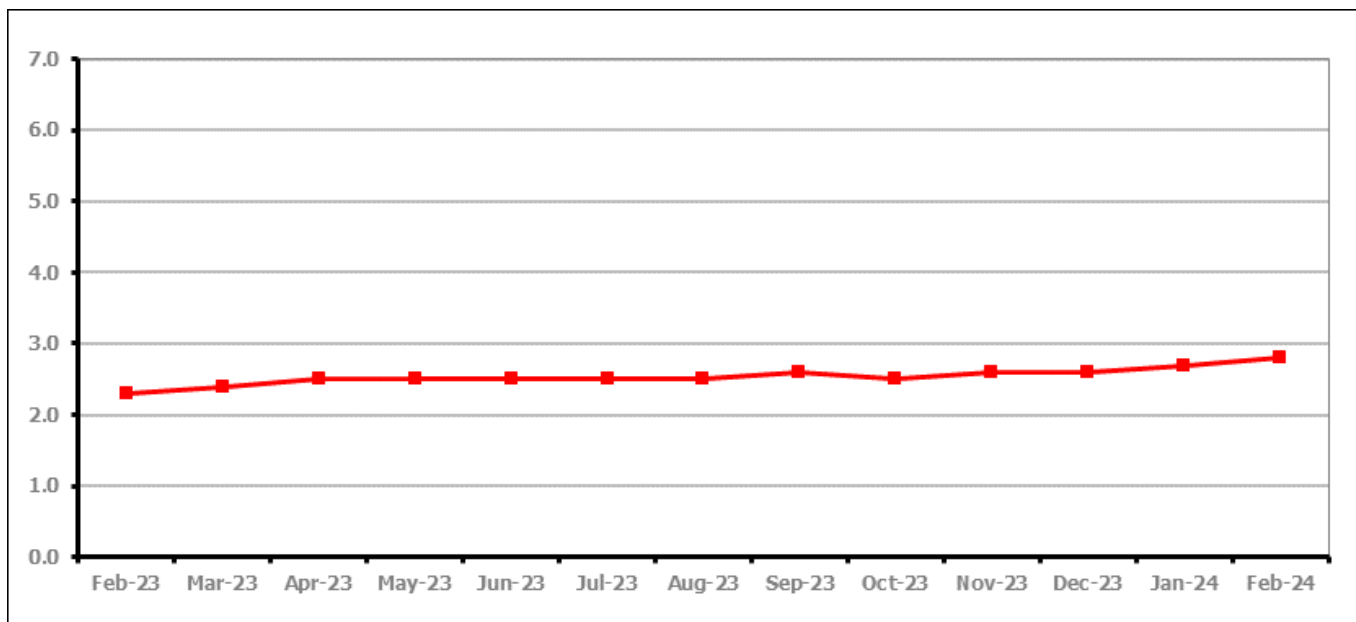


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham increased to 2.8% in February 2024.

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

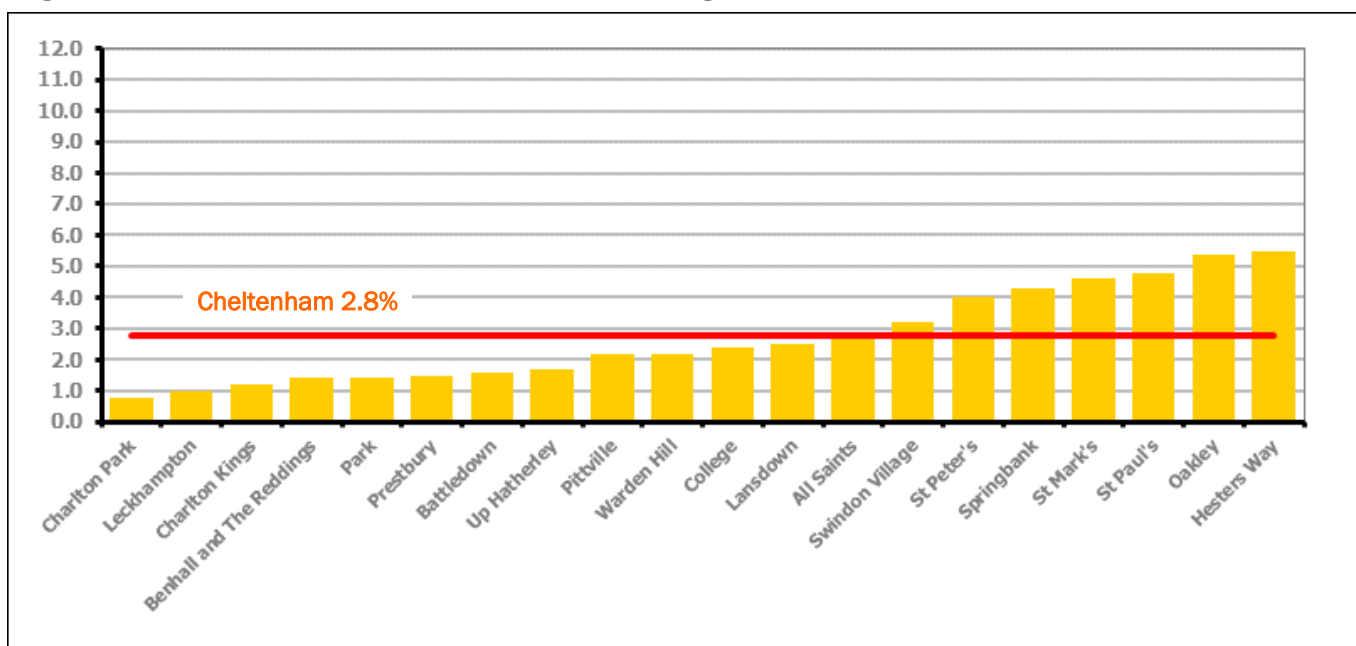


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.8%. Eight wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	0.8	1
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.0	3
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.2	10
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.4	17
Cheltenham	Park	1.4	17
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.5	22
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.6	30
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.7	39
Cheltenham	Pittville	2.2	67
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.2	67
Cheltenham	College	2.4	82
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.5	88
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.9	106
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.2	115
Cheltenham	St Peter's	4.0	120
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.3	123
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.6	128
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.8	131
Cheltenham	Oakley	5.4	135
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.5	136

	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.

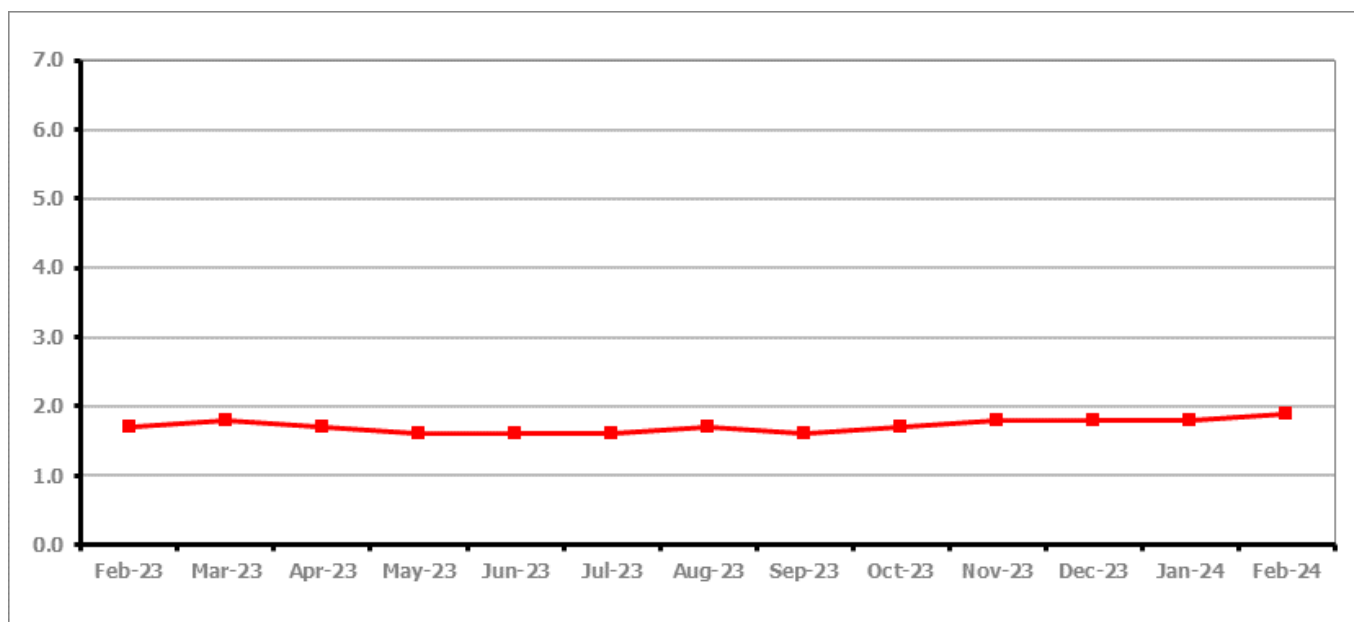
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.2 Cotswold District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year*

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

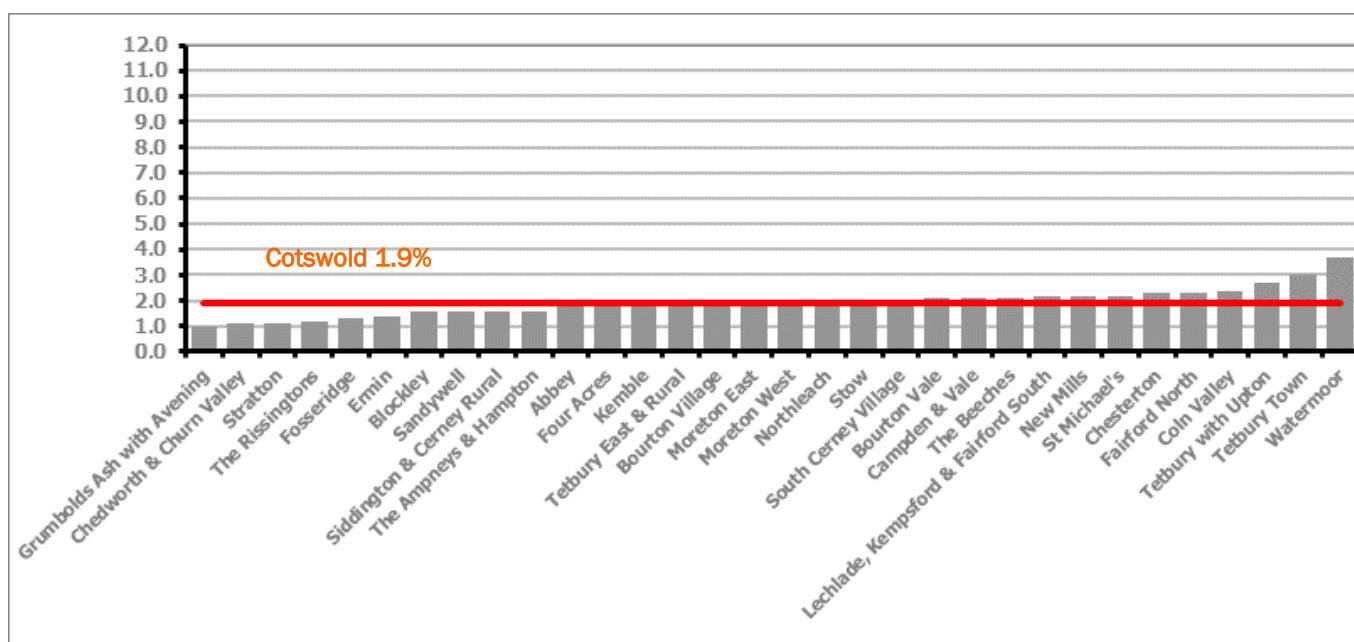
Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards – February 2024

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.0	3
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1.1	6
Cotswold	Stratton	1.1	6
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.2	10
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.3	14
Cotswold	Ermin	1.4	17
Cotswold	Blockley	1.6	30
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.6	30
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	1.6	30
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.6	30
Cotswold	Abbey	1.8	43
Cotswold	Four Acres	1.8	43
Cotswold	Kemble	1.8	43
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.8	43
Cotswold	Bourton Village	1.9	51
Cotswold	Moreton East	1.9	51
Cotswold	Moreton West	1.9	51
Cotswold	Northleach	1.9	51
Cotswold	Stow	1.9	51
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	2.0	58
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	2.1	59
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.1	59
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.1	59
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	2.2	67
Cotswold	New Mills	2.2	67
Cotswold	St Michael's	2.2	67
Cotswold	Chesterton	2.3	76
Cotswold	Fairford North	2.3	76
Cotswold	Coln Valley	2.4	82
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.7	97
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	3.0	111
Cotswold	Watermoor	3.7	119

	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.

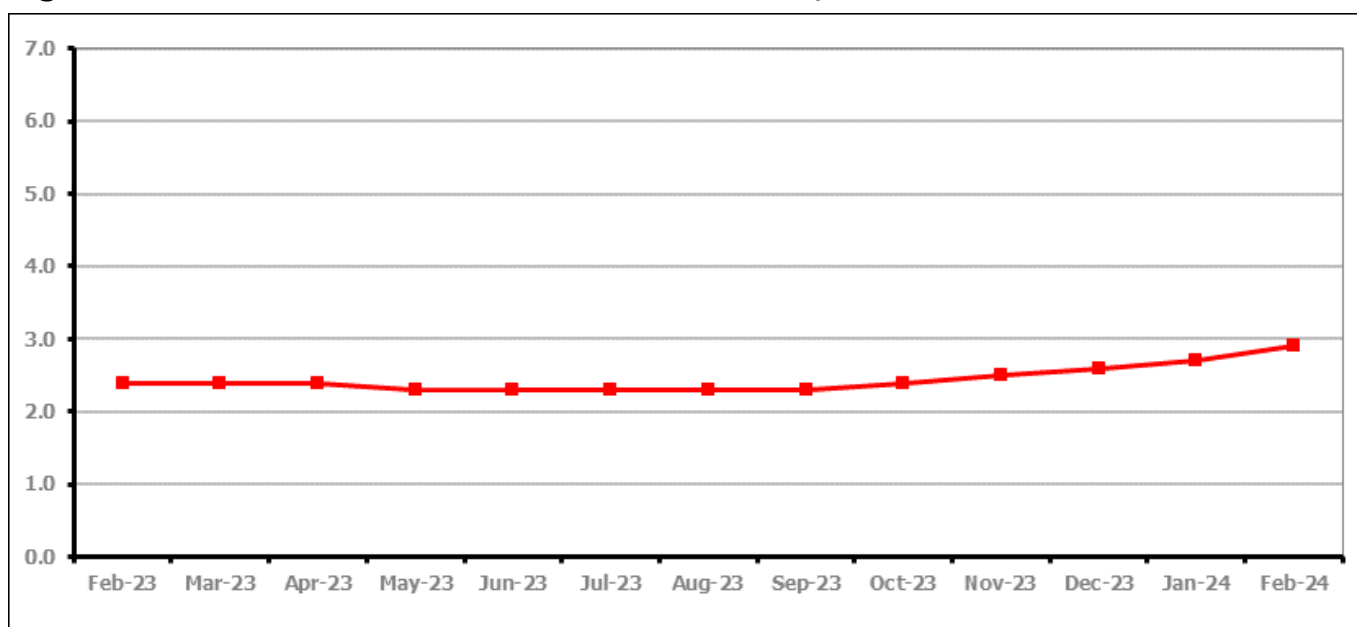
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.3 Forest of Dean District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 7: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean increased to 2.9% in February 2024.

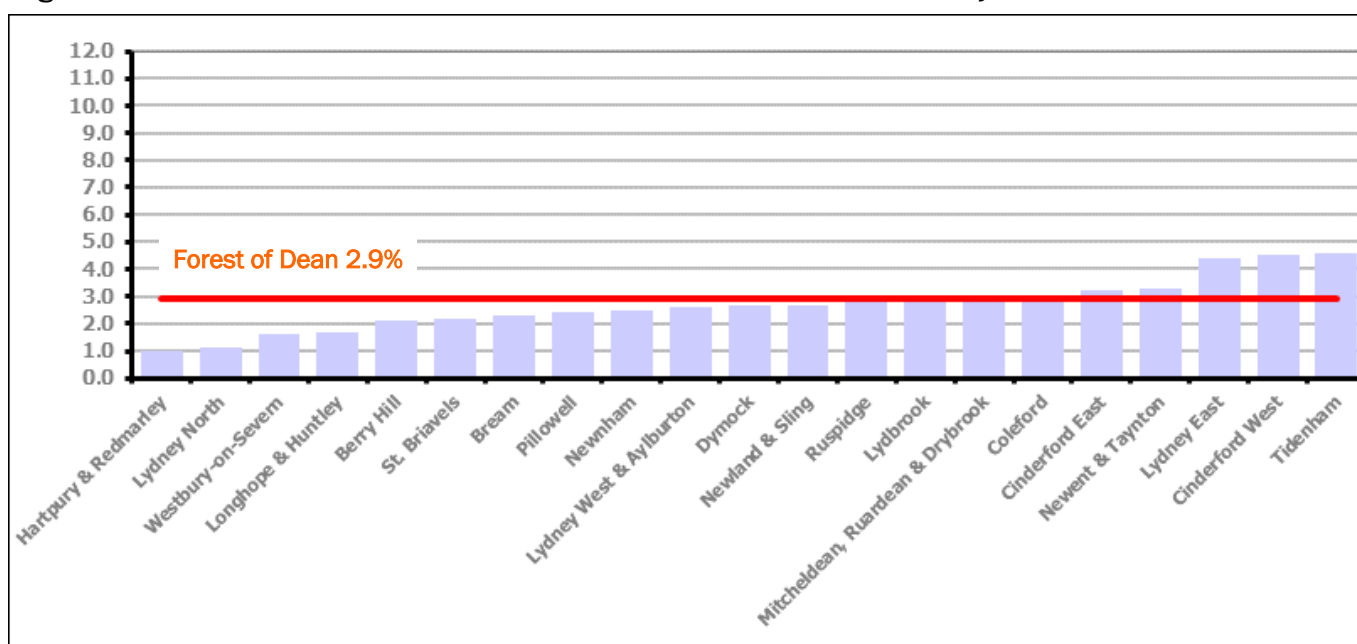
Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards – February 2024

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 - February 2024*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpur & Redmarley	1.0	3
Forest	Lydney North	1.1	6
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.6	30
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.7	39
Forest	Berry Hill	2.1	59
Forest	St. Briavels	2.2	67
Forest	Bream	2.3	76
Forest	Pillowell	2.4	82
Forest	Newnham	2.5	88
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	2.6	92
Forest	Dymock	2.7	97
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.7	97
Forest	Ruspidge	2.8	103
Forest	Lydbrook	2.9	106
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.9	106
Forest	Coleford	3.0	111
Forest	Cinderford East	3.2	115
Forest	Newent & Taynton	3.3	117
Forest	Lydney East	4.4	125
Forest	Cinderford West	4.5	127
Forest	Tidenham	4.6	128

	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.

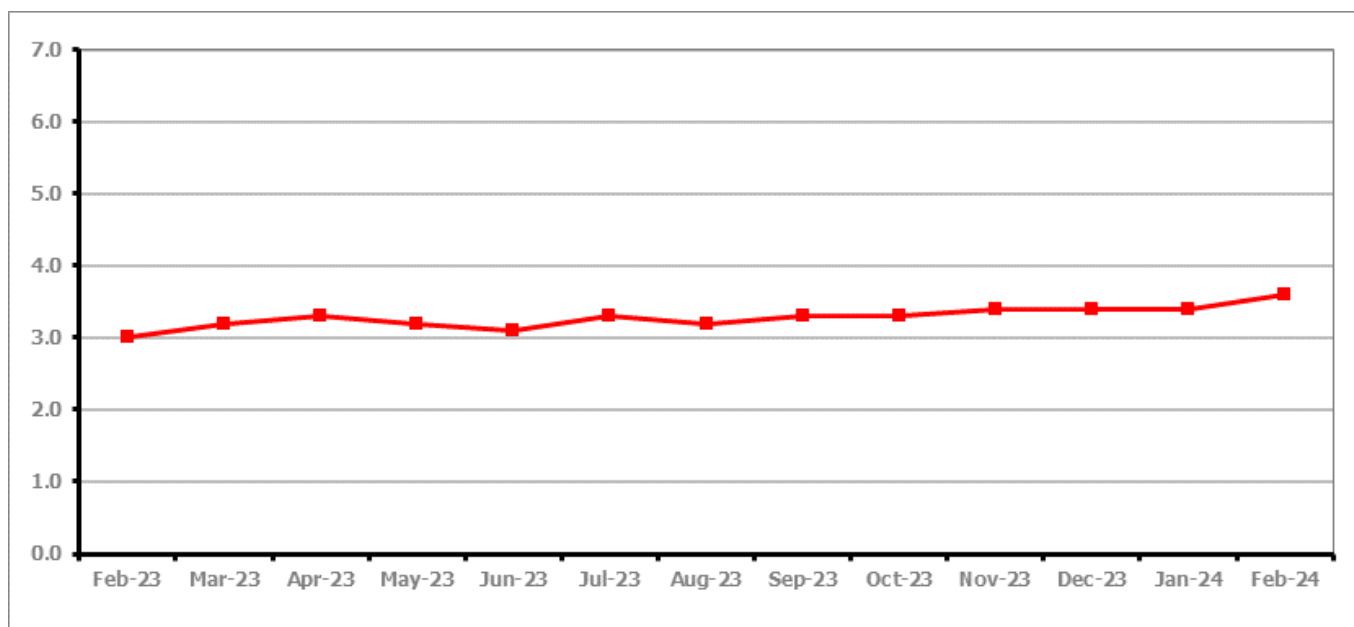
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

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

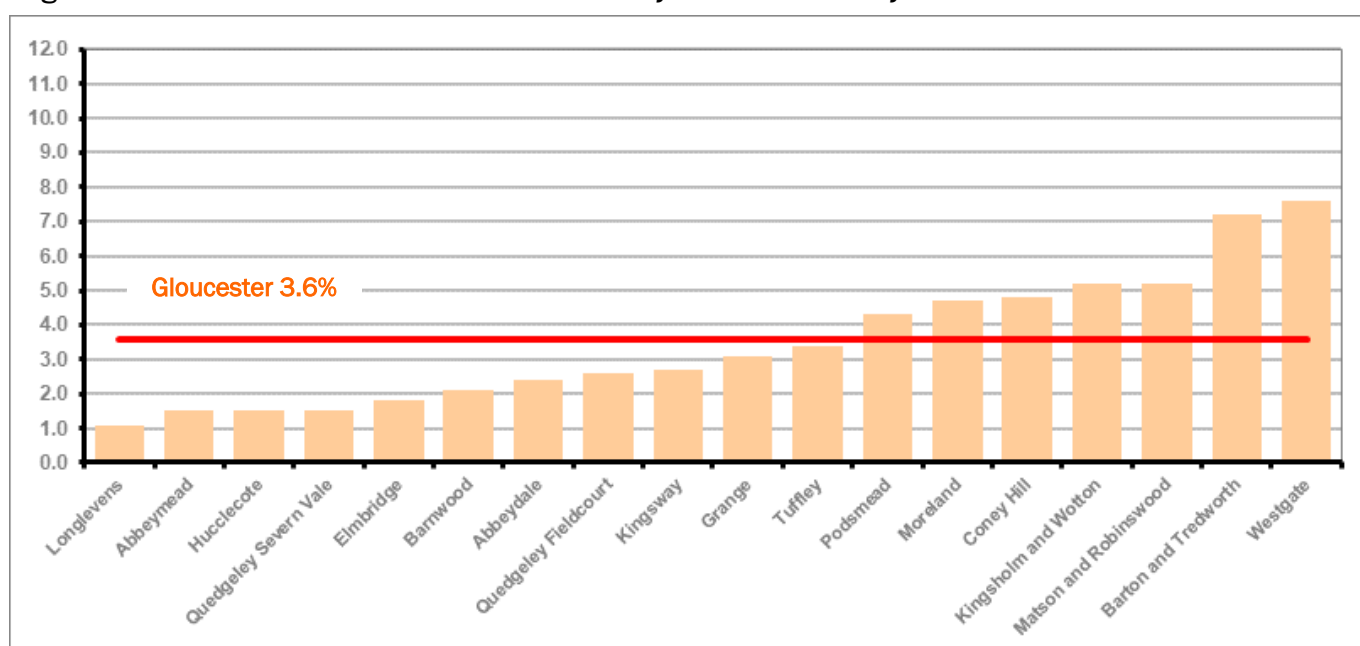
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - February 2024

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 - February 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.1	6
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.5	22
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.5	22
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.5	22
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.8	43
Gloucester	Barnwood	2.1	59
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.4	82
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.6	92
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.7	97
Gloucester	Grange	3.1	113
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.4	118
Gloucester	Podsmead	4.3	123
Gloucester	Moreland	4.7	130
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.8	131
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	5.2	133
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.2	133
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.2	137
Gloucester	Westgate	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.

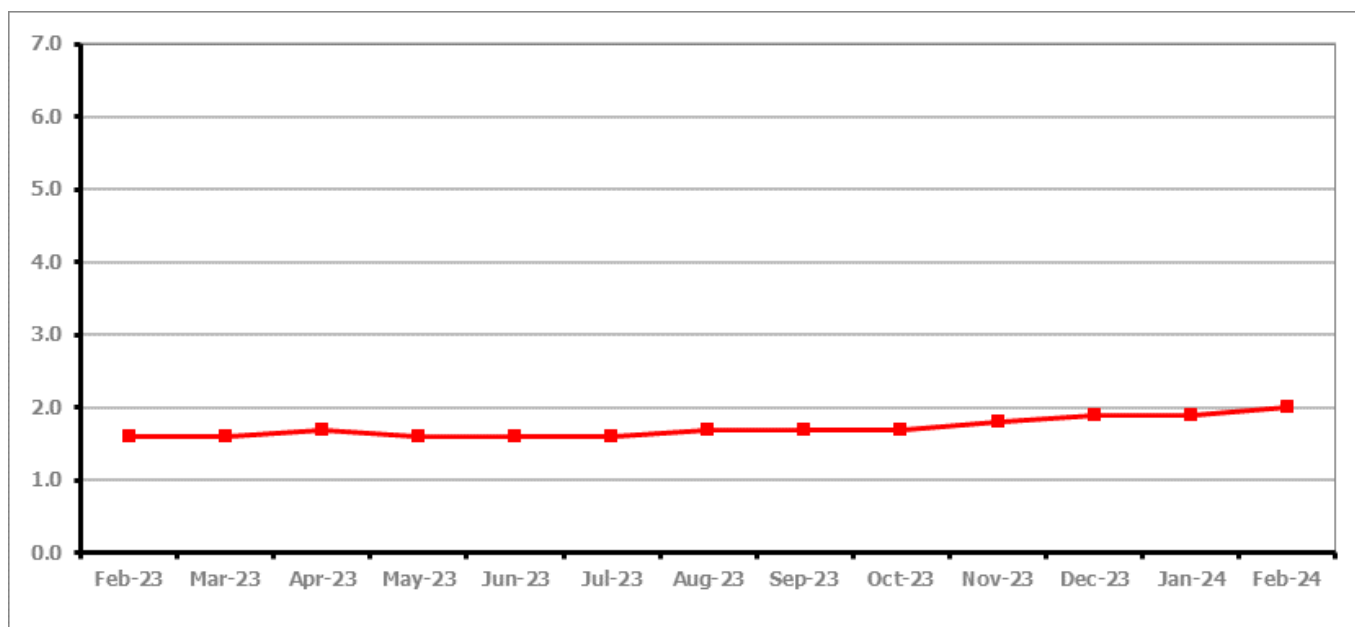
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud increased to 2.0% in February 2024.

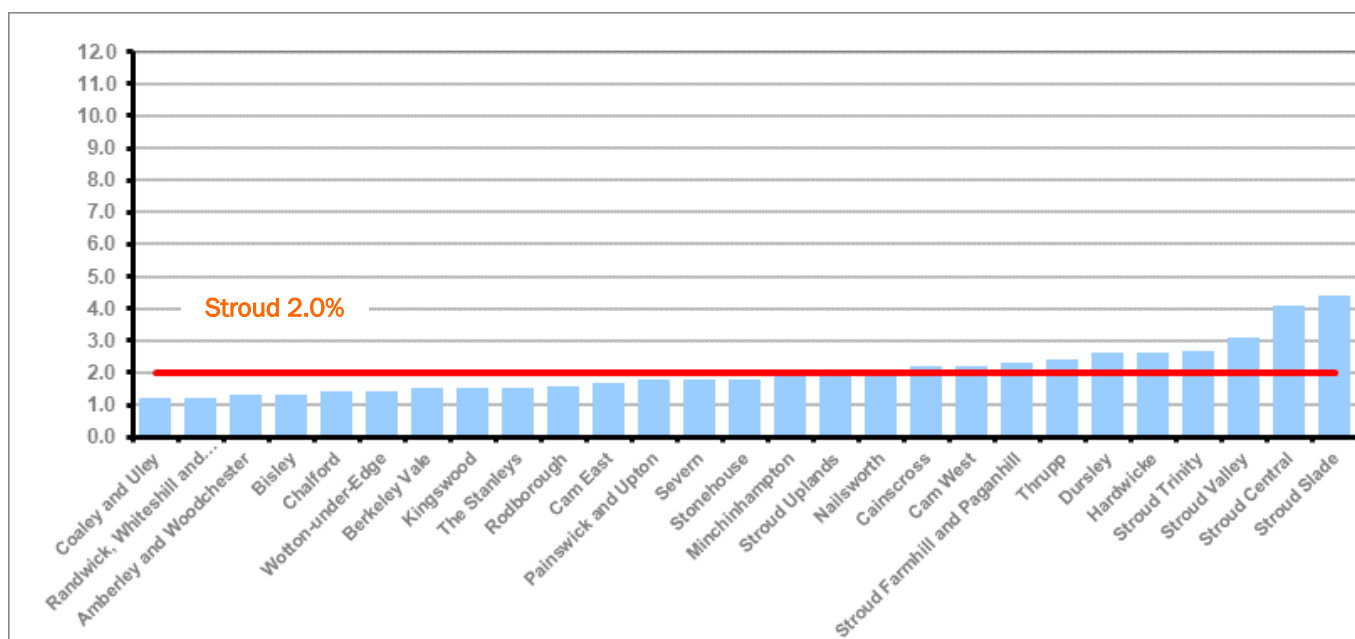
Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - February 2024

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.2	10
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.2	10
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.3	14
Stroud	Bisley	1.3	14
Stroud	Chalford	1.4	17
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.4	17
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.5	22
Stroud	Kingswood	1.5	22
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.5	22
Stroud	Rodborough	1.6	30
Stroud	Cam East	1.7	39
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.8	43
Stroud	Severn	1.8	43
Stroud	Stonehouse	1.8	43
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.9	51
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	1.9	51
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.1	59
Stroud	Cainscross	2.2	67
Stroud	Cam West	2.2	67
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.3	76
Stroud	Thrupp	2.4	82
Stroud	Dursley	2.6	92
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.6	92
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.7	97
Stroud	Stroud Valley	3.1	113
Stroud	Stroud Central	4.1	121
Stroud	Stroud Slade	4.4	125

	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.

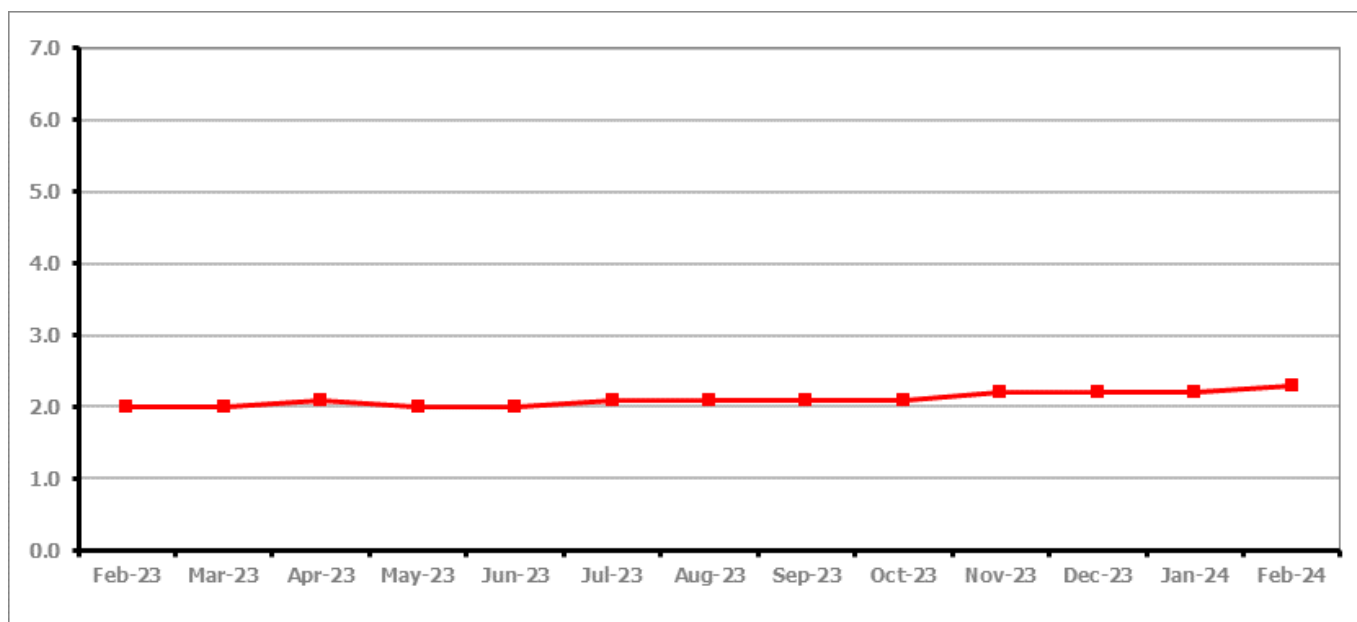
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough increased to 2.3% in February 2024.

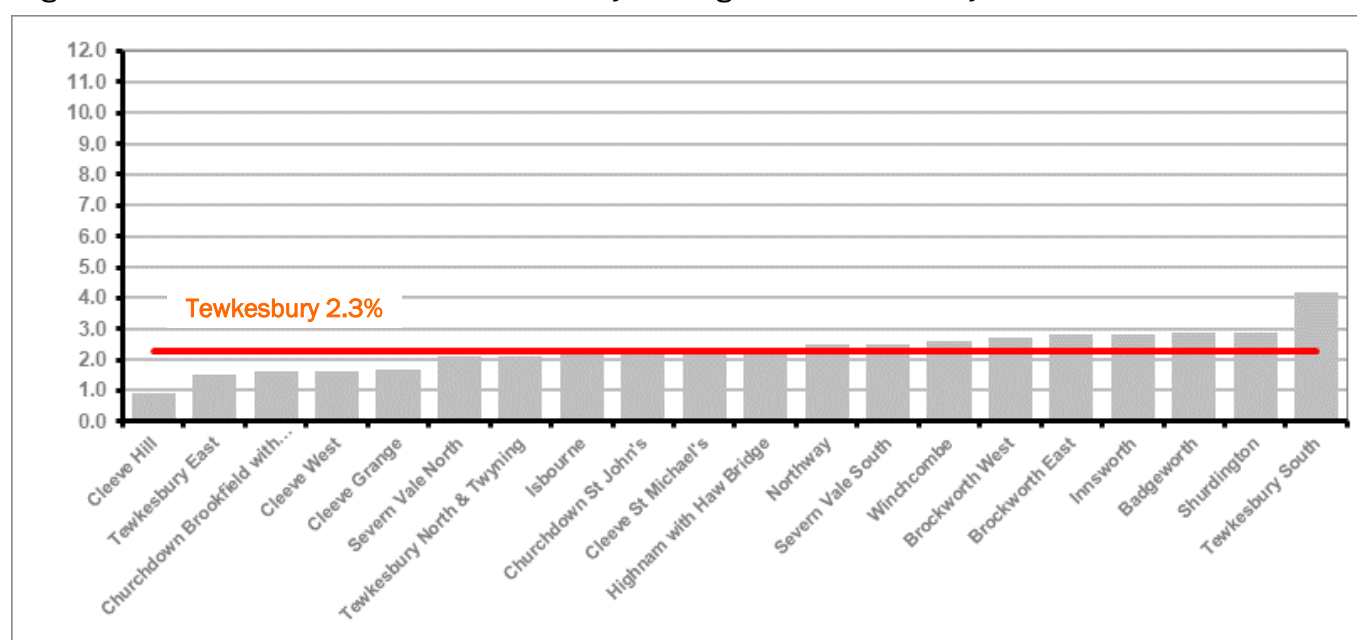
Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - February 2024

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 - February 2024

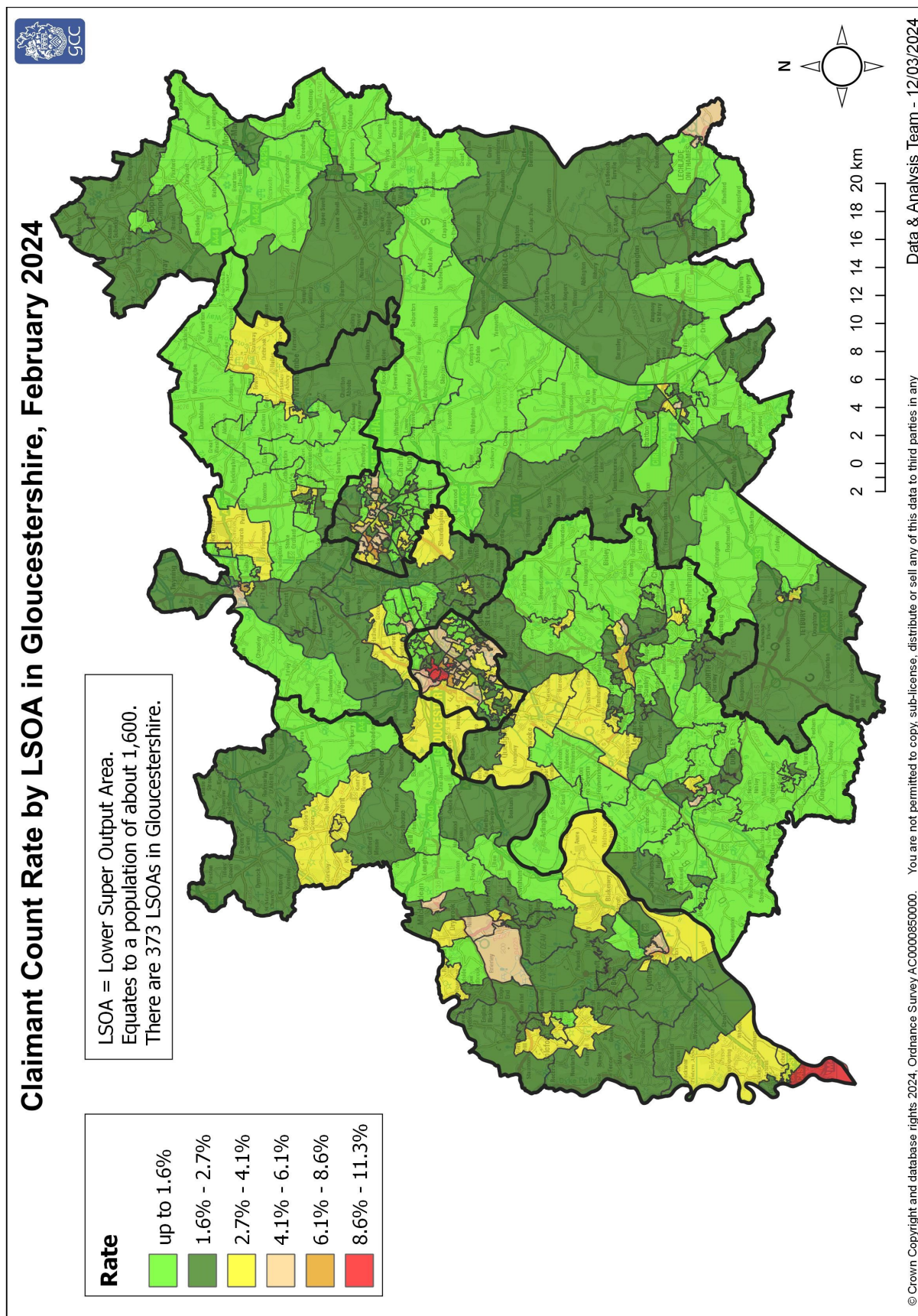
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.9	2
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.5	22
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.6	30
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.6	30
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	1.7	39
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.1	59
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twynning	2.1	59
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.2	67
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.3	76
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.3	76
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.4	82
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.5	88
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	2.5	88
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.6	92
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.7	97
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	2.8	103
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	2.8	103
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.9	106
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.9	106
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	4.2	122

	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

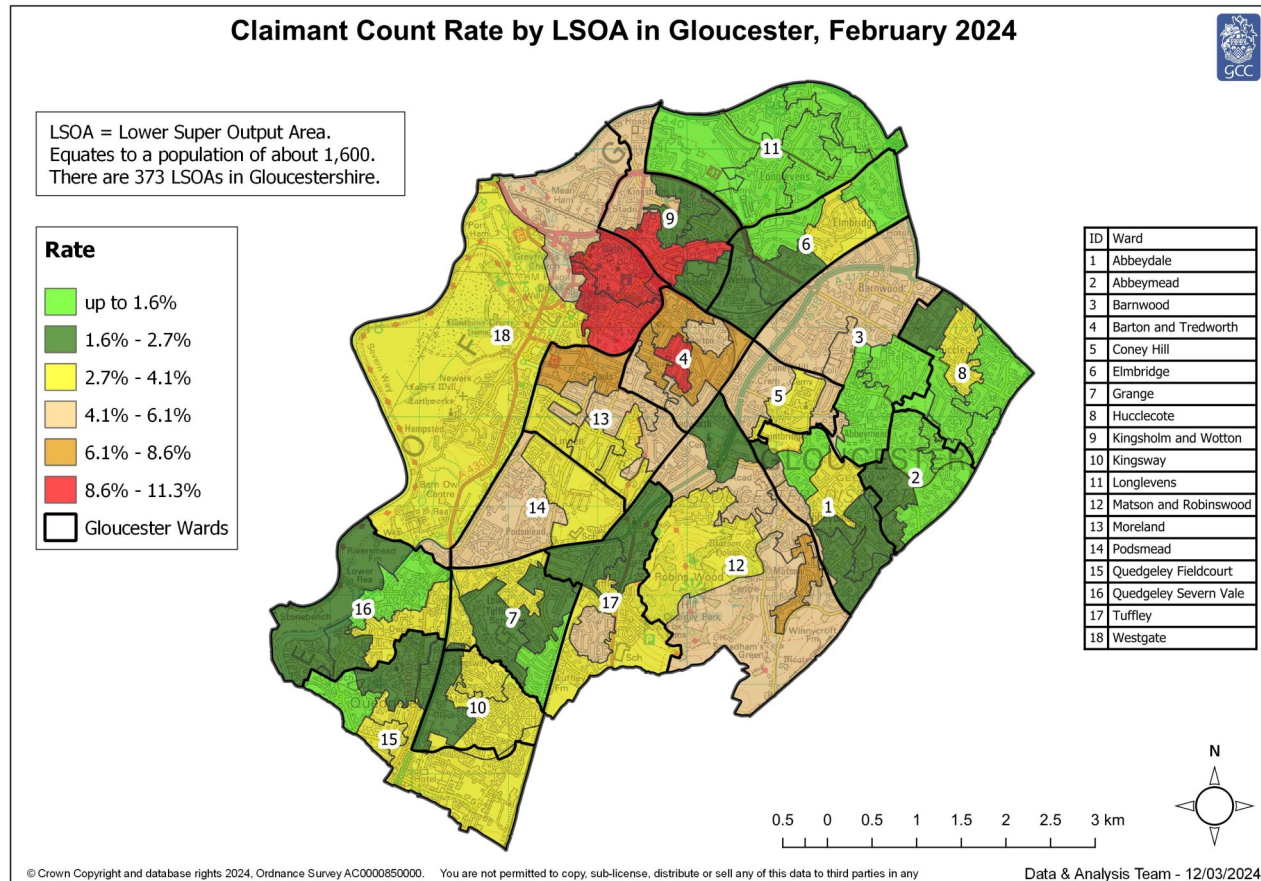
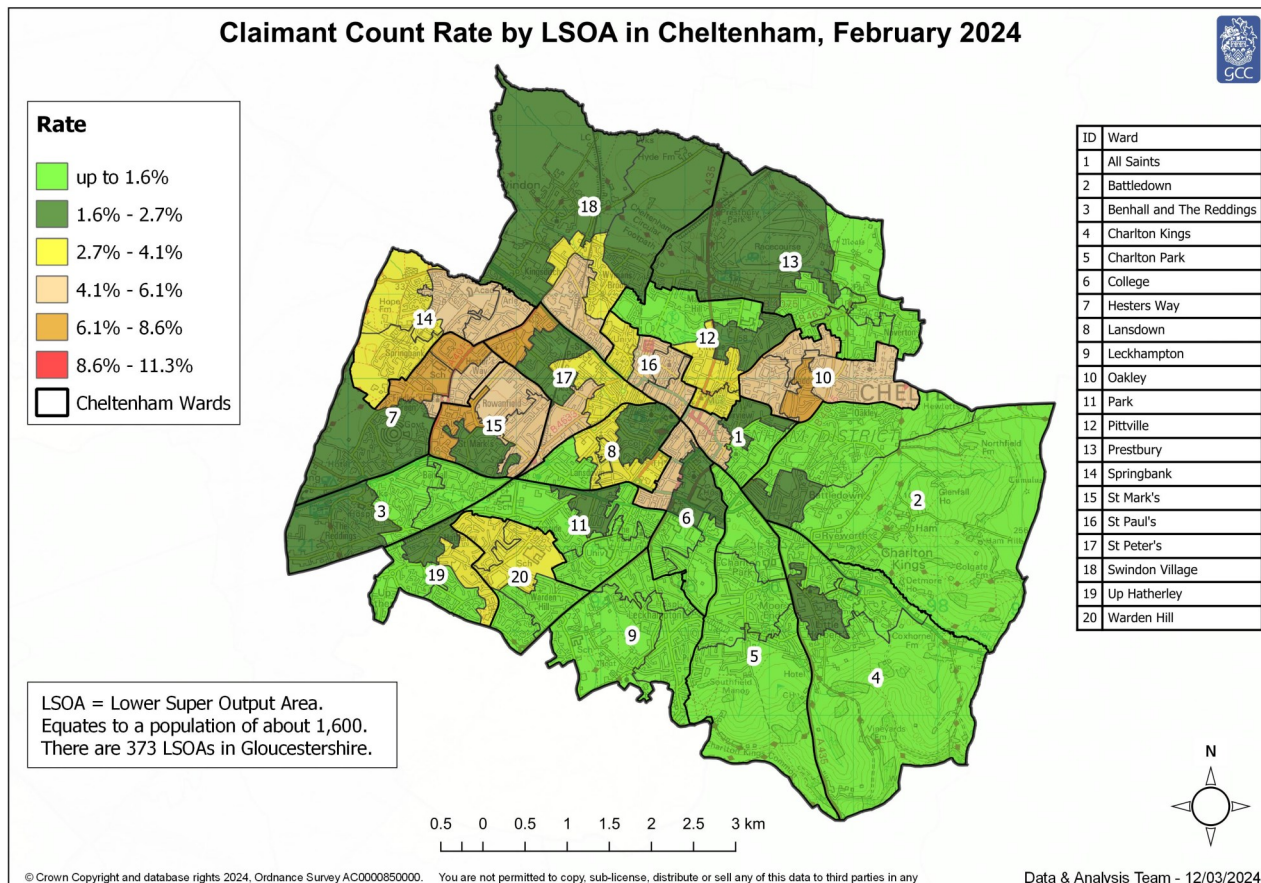


These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

Note: We have made changes to the way in which the rates illustrated on the maps are calculated -

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

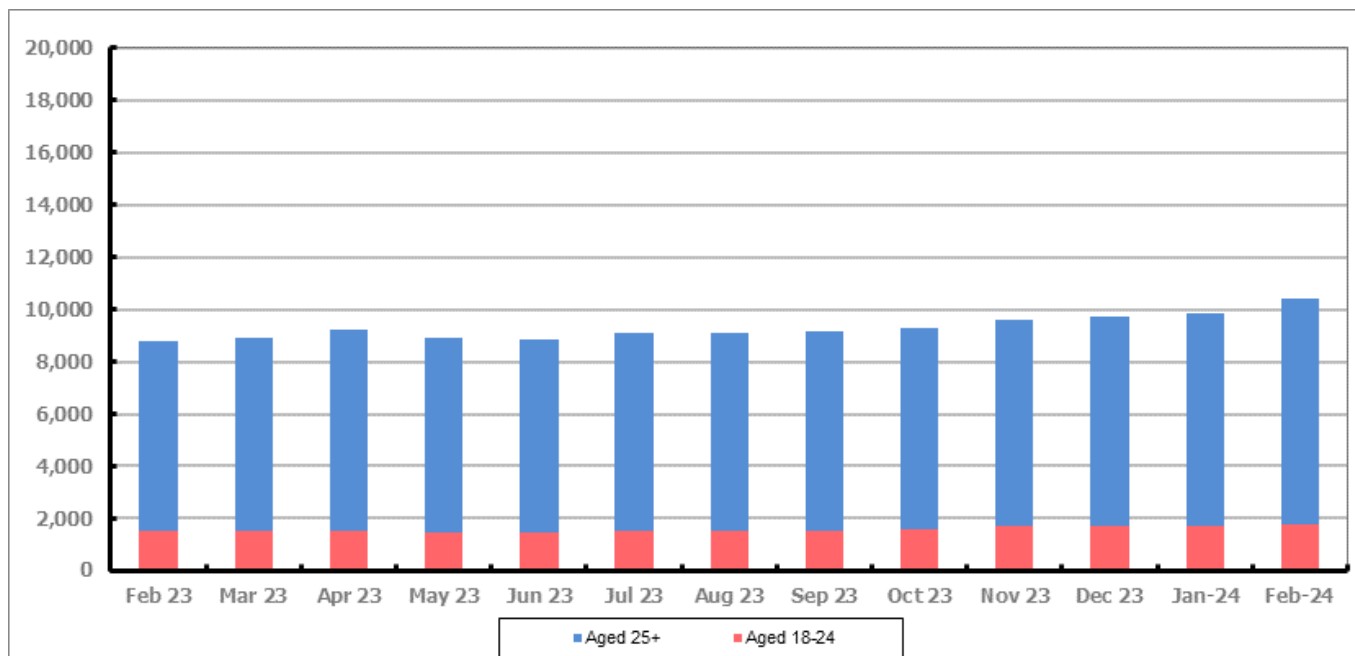


Figure 15 shows that in February 2024, 1,790 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.2% of total working age claimants.

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) February 2024

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	65	2323	2.80%
Cotswold	28	1759	1.59%
Forest	43	1726	2.49%
Gloucester	123	3350	3.67%
Stroud	31	2739	1.13%
Tewkesbury	48	2037	2.36%
Total	338	13934	2.43%

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	81	2870	2.82%
Cotswold	30	2203	1.36%
Forest	64	2155	2.97%
Gloucester	170	4121	4.13%
Stroud	45	3378	1.33%
Tewkesbury	56	2524	2.22%
Total	446	17251	2.59%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	5.06%
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Monthly Change	-25	4	-0.18%
Previous month	363	13930	2.61%

Monthly Change	-42	-483	-0.17%
Previous month	488	17734	2.75%

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.