CLAIMANT COUNT DATA
for April 2022
May 17th 2022 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 665 persons to 9,510 a rate of 2.5%.

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

Area	Apr'22 Number	Apr'22 Rate	Mar'22 Number	Mar'22 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate %
UK	1,654,230	4.0	1,717,660	4.1	-63,430	-3.7	-0.1
GB	1,616,725	4.0	1,679,790	4.1	-63,065	-3.8	-0.1
England & Wales	1,494,515	4.0	1,550,605	4.2	-56,090	-3.6	-0.2
England	1,425,955	4.0	1,477,445	4.2	-51,490	-3.5	-0.2
South West	95,100	2.8	101,405	3.0	-6,305	-6.2	-0.2
Gloucestershire	9,510	2.5	10,175	2.6	-665	-6.5	-0.1
Cheltenham	2,000	2.8	2,125	2.9	-125	-5.9	-0.1
Cotswold	975	1.9	1,085	2.1	-110	-10.1	-0.2
Forest of Dean	1,220	2.4	1,285	2.5	-65	-5.1	-0.1
Gloucester	2,900	3.6	3,015	3.7	-115	-3.8	-0.1
Stroud	1,245	1.7	1,405	2.0	-160	-11.4	-0.3
Tewkesbury	1,175	2.1	1,255	2.2	-80	-6.4	-0.1

The Claimant Count* in Great Britain **decreased** by 63,065 persons to **1,616,725** a rate of **4.0%.**

Gloucestershire's Claimant Count* rate **decreased** since last month to **2.5%**.

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

The number of males unemployed in the County stands at **5,440 (2.8%)**, which represents a **decrease** on last month. The number of females unemployed stands at **4,070 (2.1%)**, which also 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 **1.3 million** unemployed at a rate of **3.7%**[*]**.** 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 **1.7 million** at a rate of **4.0%.**
>
> **NB: These figures cannot be replicated at a local level**

* **Jan-Mar 2022 unemployment rate.**

Notes on Claimant Count (Experimental Statistics):

These Claimant Count Experimental Statistics relate to 14 April 2022. 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 employed. Consequently changes in the Claimant Count will not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who are unemployed. 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/latest#claimant-count-experimental-statistics