

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 183 October 2023

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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.**

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 2.4% in October 2023. The South West rate increased to 2.5% while the UK rate increased to 3.7%. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.1% lower than the South West average of 2.5%, and 1.3% lower than the UK average of 3.7%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in October 2023 increased by **160 people**. The amount of people claiming in October 2023 was 1.7% higher than the number in September 2023. This compares to a 1.3% increase in the South West and a 1.1% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

Data & Analysis Team
Planning, Performance and Insight
Gloucestershire County Council
November 2023

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 October 2023

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

Claimant rate: The % of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in October 2023

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

CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,930
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.0%
Claimant rate:	2.6%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Hesters Way (5.2%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	2,845
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.2%
Claimant rate:	3.4%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Barton and Tredworth (6.8%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	910
Claimant count change on previous month:	6.4%
Claimant rate:	1.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (3.3%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,265
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.4%
Claimant rate:	1.8%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Slade (3.9%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,240
Claimant count change on previous month:	3.3%
Claimant rate:	2.4%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Lydney East (4.4%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,175
Claimant count change on previous month:	-1.7%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tewkesbury South (3.8%)

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

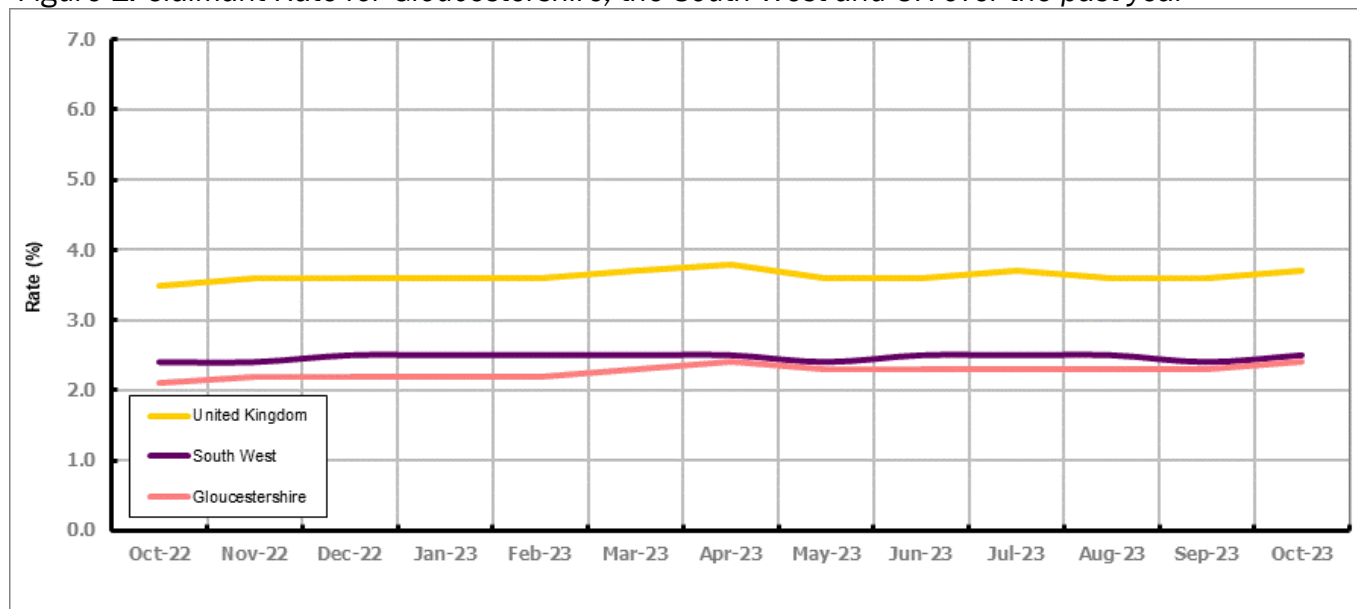


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.4% in October 2023. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since December 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 1.4% lower than the UK average since the same month of the previous year.

Claimant Count

Table 1: Analysis of UK, South West and Gloucestershire Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in October 2023	% change on September 2023	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,540,385	1.1%	0
South West	86,010	1.3%	0
Gloucestershire	9,365	1.7%	1

Table 1 shows that in October 2023, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 1.7% higher than the number in September 2023.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - October 2023

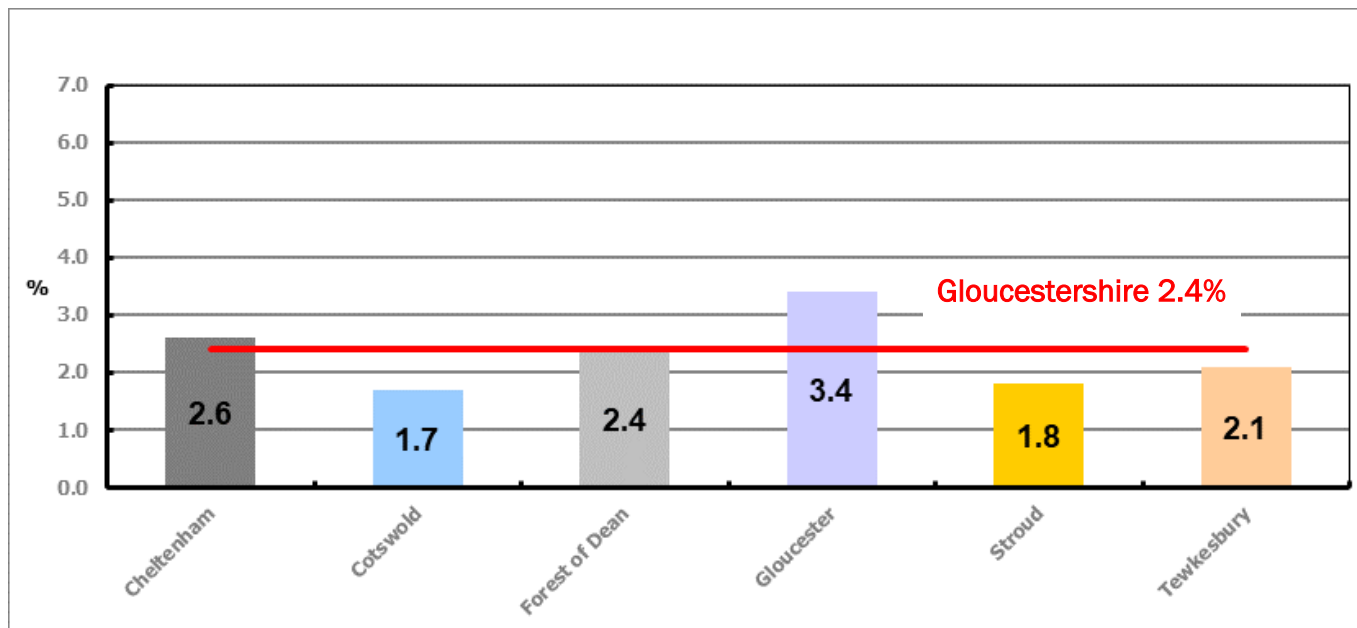


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for October 2023 in Gloucestershire. Between September and October 2023 the rate increased in all districts except Cheltenham and Tewkesbury where the rate remained the same.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Oct 23 Number	Oct 23 Rate	Sep 23 Number	Sep 23 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	9,365	2.4	9,205	2.3	160	1.7%	0.1
Cheltenham	1,930	2.6	1,930	2.6	0	0.0%	0.0
Cotswold	910	1.7	855	1.6	55	6.4%	0.1
Forest of Dean	1,240	2.4	1,200	2.3	40	3.3%	0.1
Gloucester	2,845	3.4	2,785	3.3	60	2.2%	0.1
Stroud	1,265	1.8	1,235	1.7	30	2.4%	0.1
Tewkesbury	1,175	2.1	1,195	2.1	-20	-1.7%	0.0

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in October 2023 compared to September 2023. 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	Oct 23 Number	Oct 23 Rate	Sep 23 Number	Sep 23 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	5,030	2.6	4,950	2.6	80	1.6%	0.0
Cheltenham	1,095	2.9	1,110	2.9	-15	-1.4%	0.0
Cotswold	450	1.8	430	1.7	20	4.7%	0.1
Forest of Dean	635	2.5	625	2.5	10	1.6%	0.0
Gloucester	1,610	3.8	1,580	3.7	30	1.9%	0.1
Stroud	625	1.8	600	1.7	25	4.2%	0.1
Tewkesbury	610	2.2	610	2.2	0	0.0%	0.0

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in October 2023 compared to September 2023. All districts saw an increase in the number of male claimants except Cheltenham which saw a decrease, and Tewkesbury which stayed the same.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Oct 23 Number	Oct 23 Rate	Sep 23 Number	Sep 23 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	4,335	2.2	4,255	2.1	80	1.9%	0.1
Cheltenham	835	2.2	825	2.2	10	1.2%	0.0
Cotswold	460	1.7	430	1.6	30	7.0%	0.1
Forest of Dean	605	2.3	575	2.2	30	5.2%	0.1
Gloucester	1,230	2.9	1,205	2.8	25	2.1%	0.1
Stroud	640	1.7	640	1.7	0	0.0%	0.0
Tewkesbury	570	2.0	585	2.0	-15	-2.6%	0.0

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in October 2023 compared to September 2023. All districts saw an increase in the number of female claimants except Tewkesbury which saw a decrease, and Stroud which stayed the same.

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

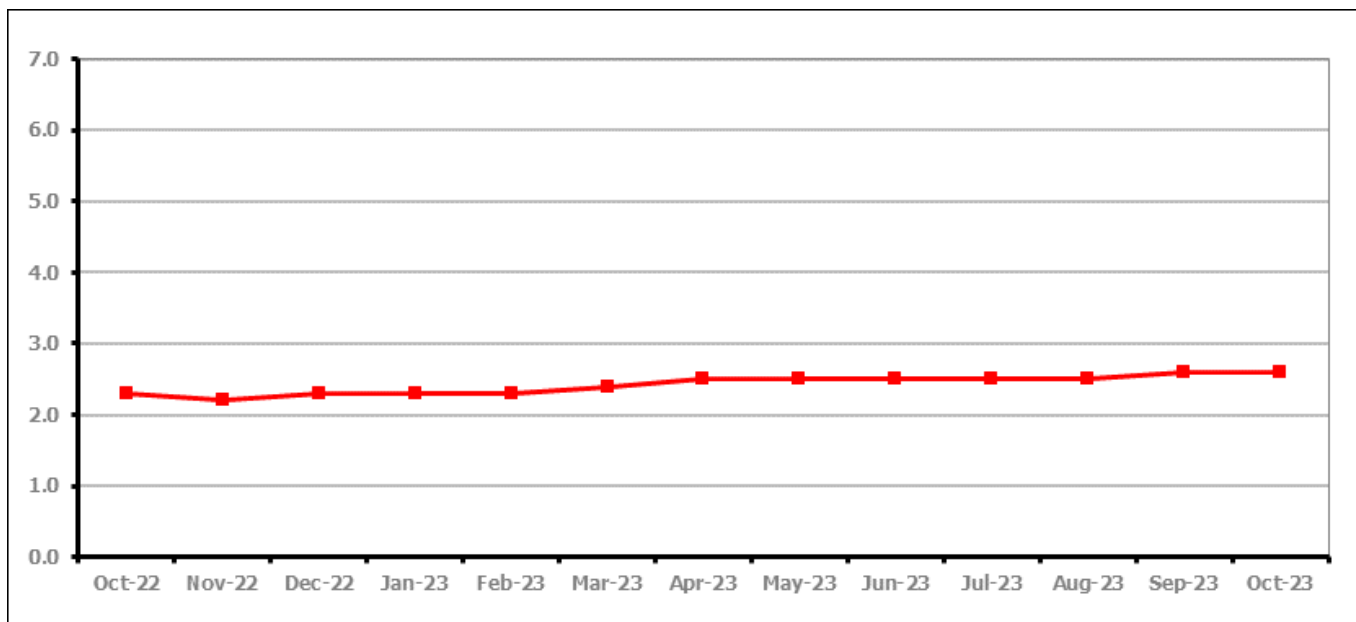


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham remained at 2.6% in October 2023.

Figure 4: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - October 2023

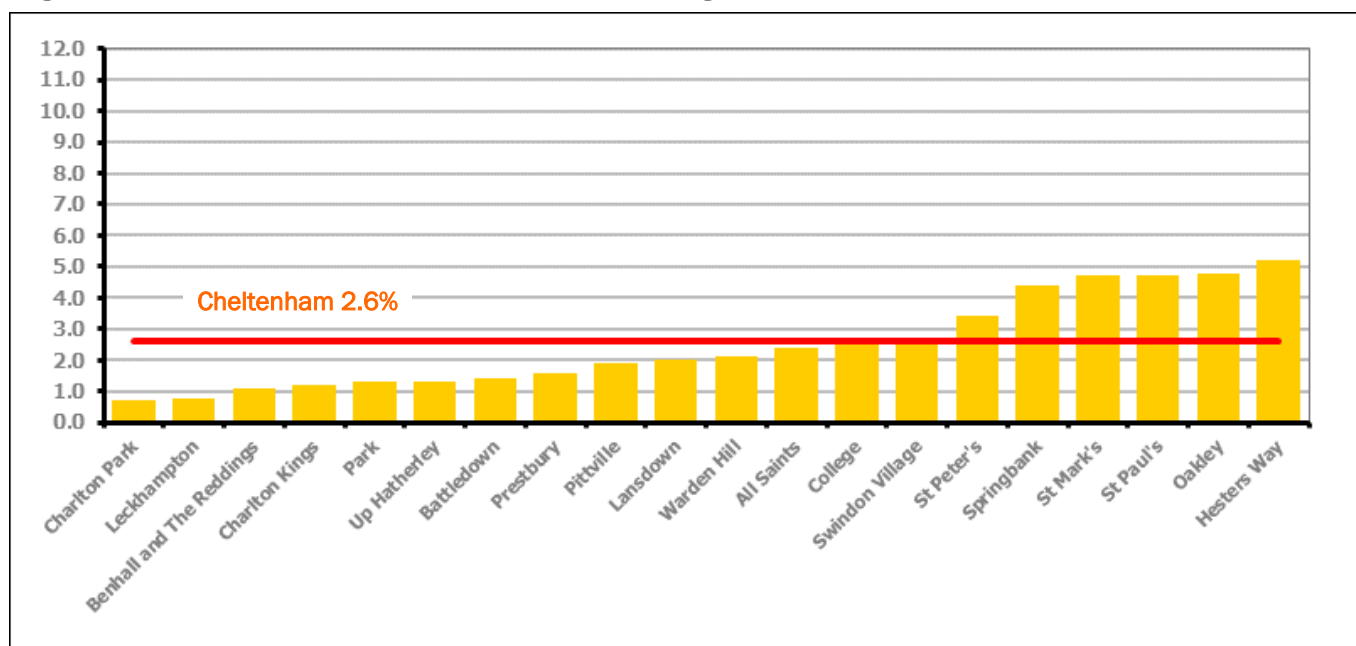


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.6%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - October 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	0.7	1
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	0.8	2
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.1	8
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.2	13
Cheltenham	Park	1.3	20
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.3	20
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.4	30
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.6	46
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.9	68
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.0	72
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.1	75
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.4	99
Cheltenham	College	2.5	107
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	2.7	113
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.4	120
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.4	128
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.7	132
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.7	132
Cheltenham	Oakley	4.8	134
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.2	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

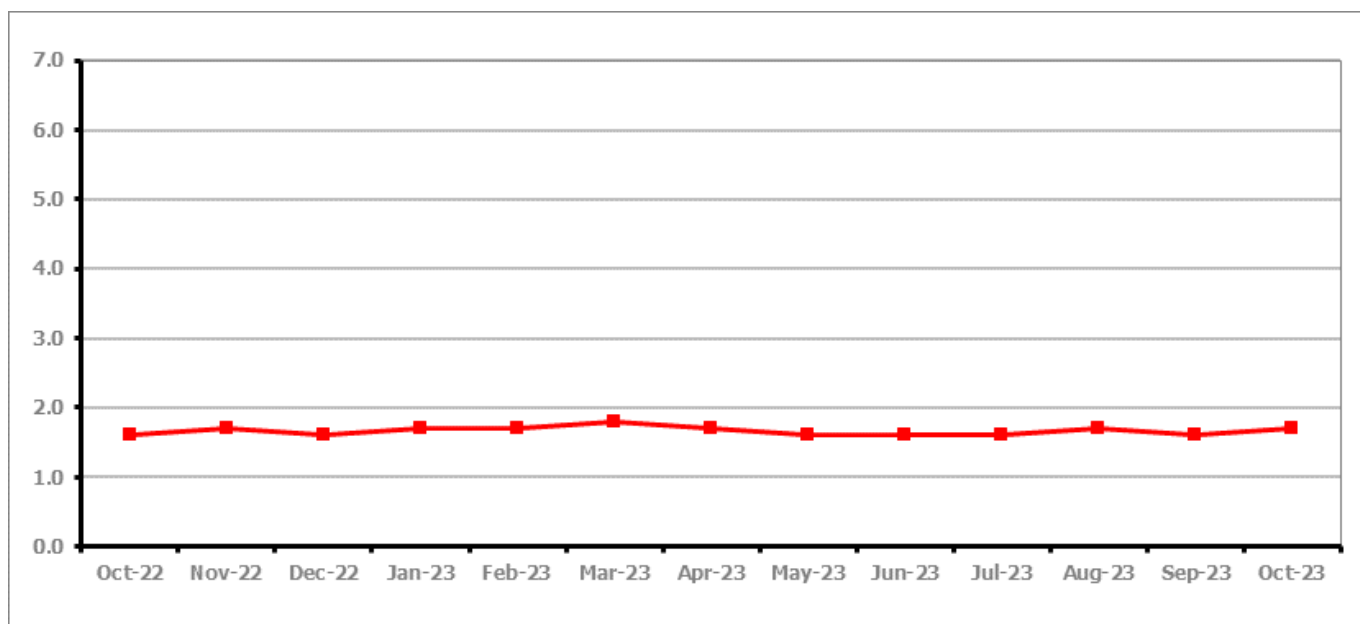


Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District increased to 1.7% in October 2023.

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards - October 2023

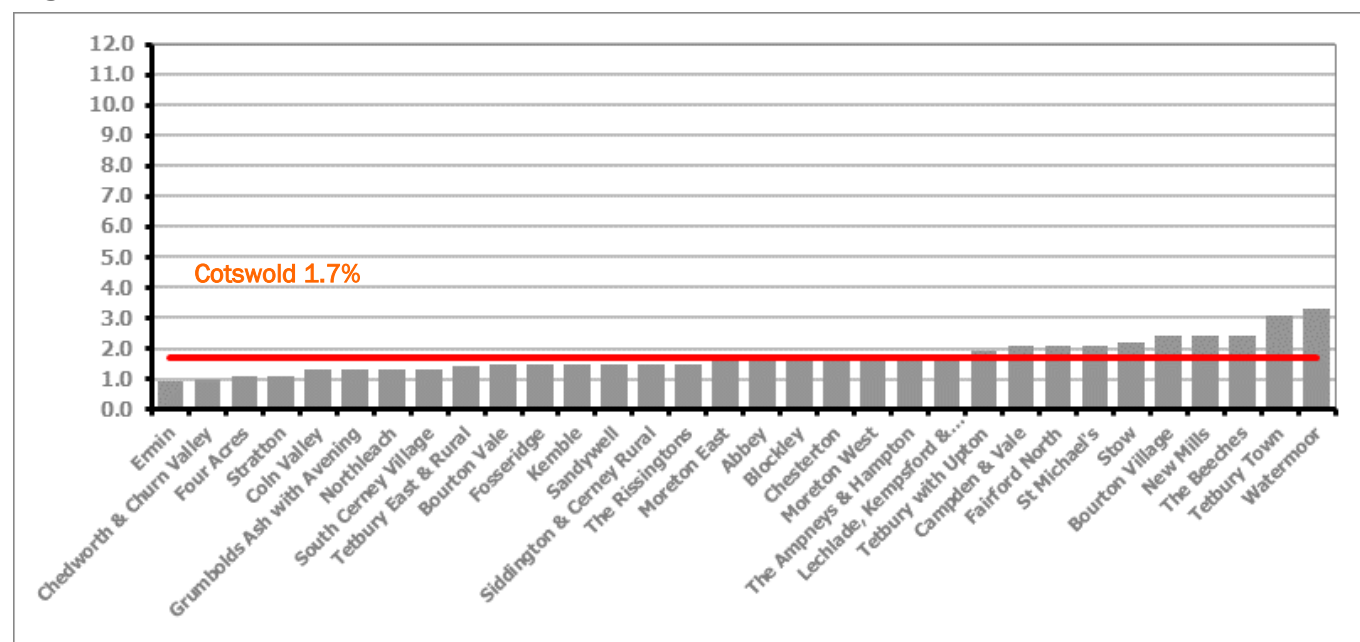


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.7%. Eleven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - October 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Ermin	0.9	4
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1.0	6
Cotswold	Four Acres	1.1	8
Cotswold	Stratton	1.1	8
Cotswold	Coln Valley	1.3	20
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.3	20
Cotswold	Northleach	1.3	20
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	1.3	20
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.4	30
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	1.5	37
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.5	37
Cotswold	Kemble	1.5	37
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.5	37
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	1.5	37
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.5	37
Cotswold	Moreton East	1.6	46
Cotswold	Abbey	1.7	50
Cotswold	Blockley	1.7	50
Cotswold	Chesterton	1.7	50
Cotswold	Moreton West	1.7	50
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.7	50
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	1.8	63
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	1.9	68
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.1	75
Cotswold	Fairford North	2.1	75
Cotswold	St Michael's	2.1	75
Cotswold	Stow	2.2	85
Cotswold	Bourton Village	2.4	99
Cotswold	New Mills	2.4	99
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.4	99
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	3.1	116
Cotswold	Watermoor	3.3	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.

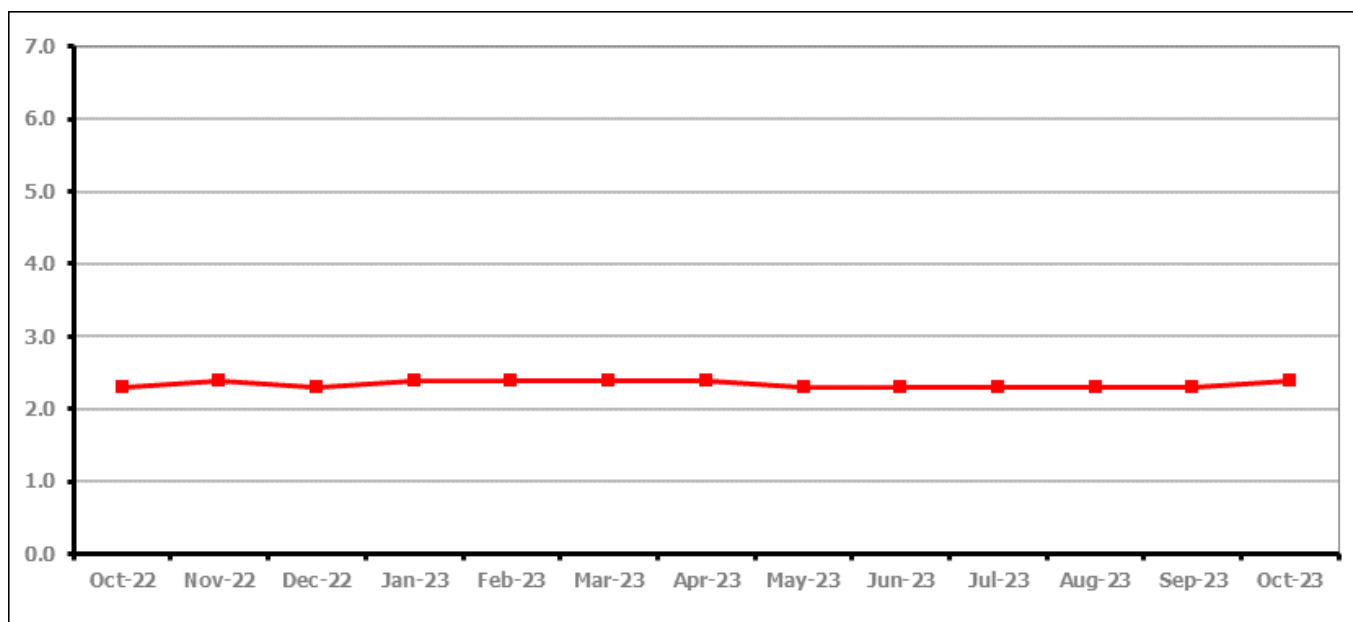
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.3 Forest of Dean District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 7: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean increased to 2.4% in October 2023.

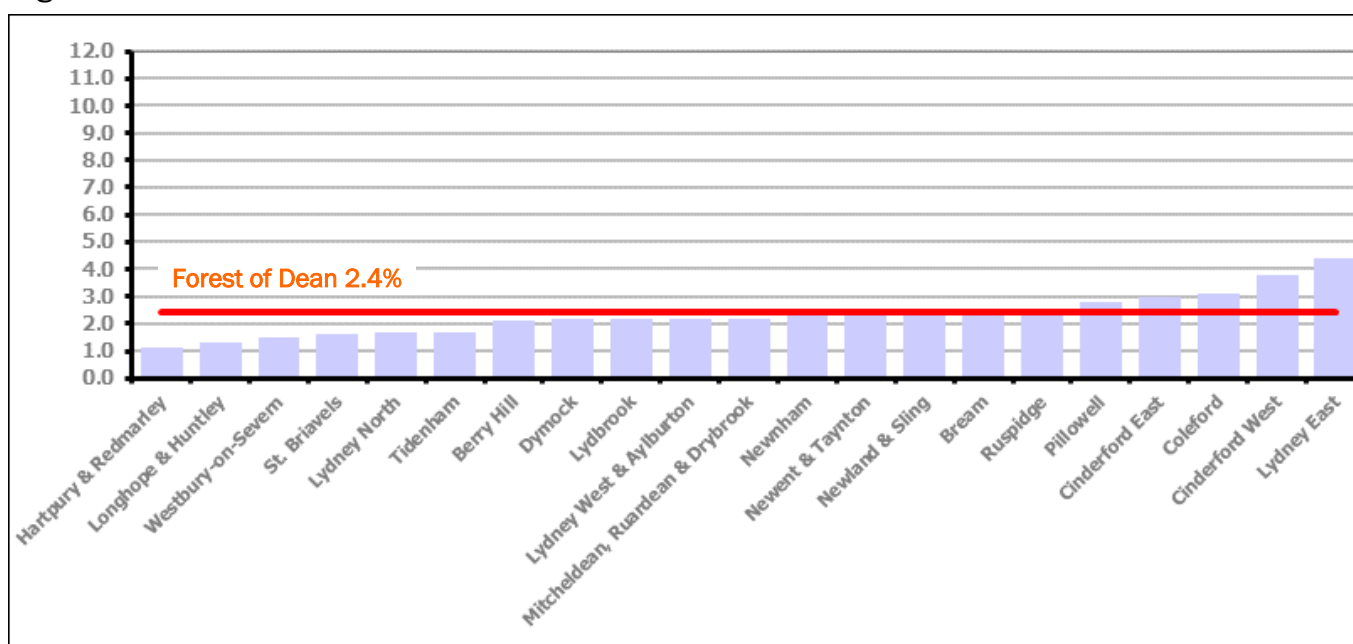
Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards - October 2023

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 2.4%. Seven 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 - October 2023*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.1	8
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.3	20
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.5	37
Forest	St. Briavels	1.6	46
Forest	Lydney North	1.7	50
Forest	Tidenham	1.7	50
Forest	Berry Hill	2.1	75
Forest	Dymock	2.2	85
Forest	Lydbrook	2.2	85
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	2.2	85
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.2	85
Forest	Newnham	2.3	93
Forest	Newent & Taynton	2.4	99
Forest	Newland & Sling	2.4	99
Forest	Bream	2.5	107
Forest	Ruspidge	2.5	107
Forest	Pillowell	2.8	114
Forest	Cinderford East	3.0	115
Forest	Coleford	3.1	116
Forest	Cinderford West	3.8	122
Forest	Lydney East	4.4	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.

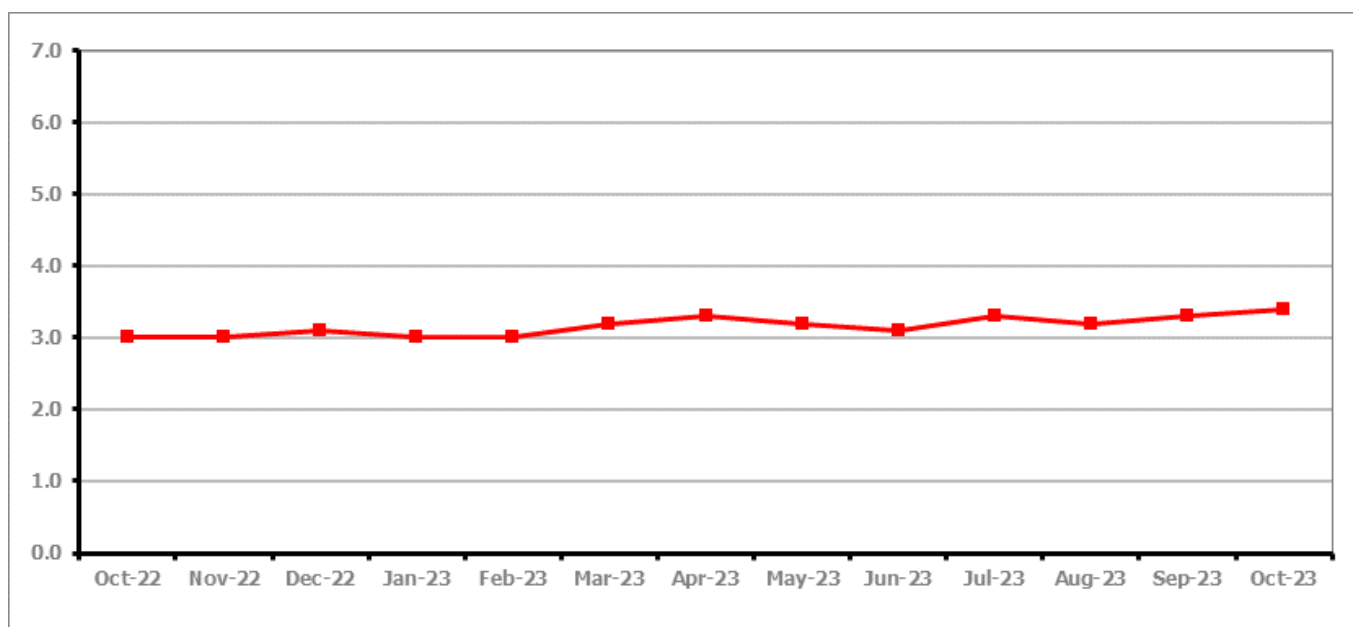
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City increased to 3.4% in October 2023.

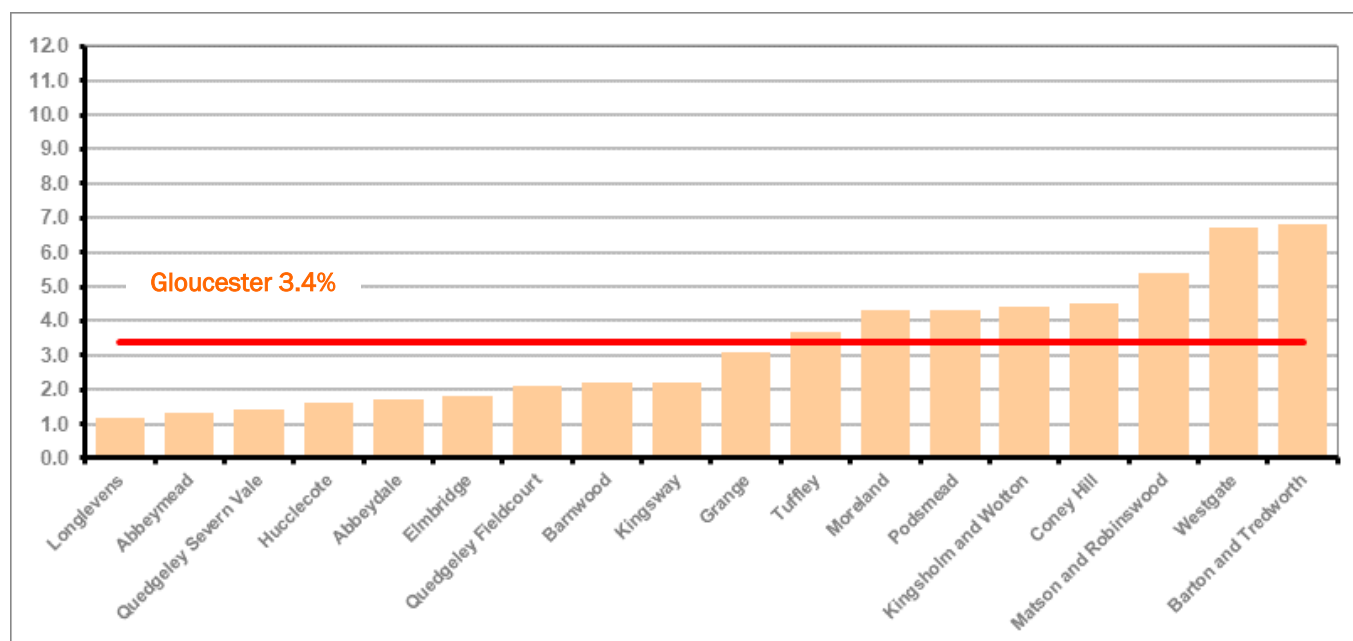
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - October 2023

Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 3.4%. Eight 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 - October 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.2	13
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.3	20
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.4	30
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.6	46
Gloucester	Abbeydale	1.7	50
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.8	63
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.1	75
Gloucester	Barnwood	2.2	85
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.2	85
Gloucester	Grange	3.1	116
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.7	121
Gloucester	Moreland	4.3	126
Gloucester	Podsmead	4.3	126
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.4	128
Gloucester	Coney Hill	4.5	131
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.4	136
Gloucester	Westgate	6.7	137
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	6.8	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.

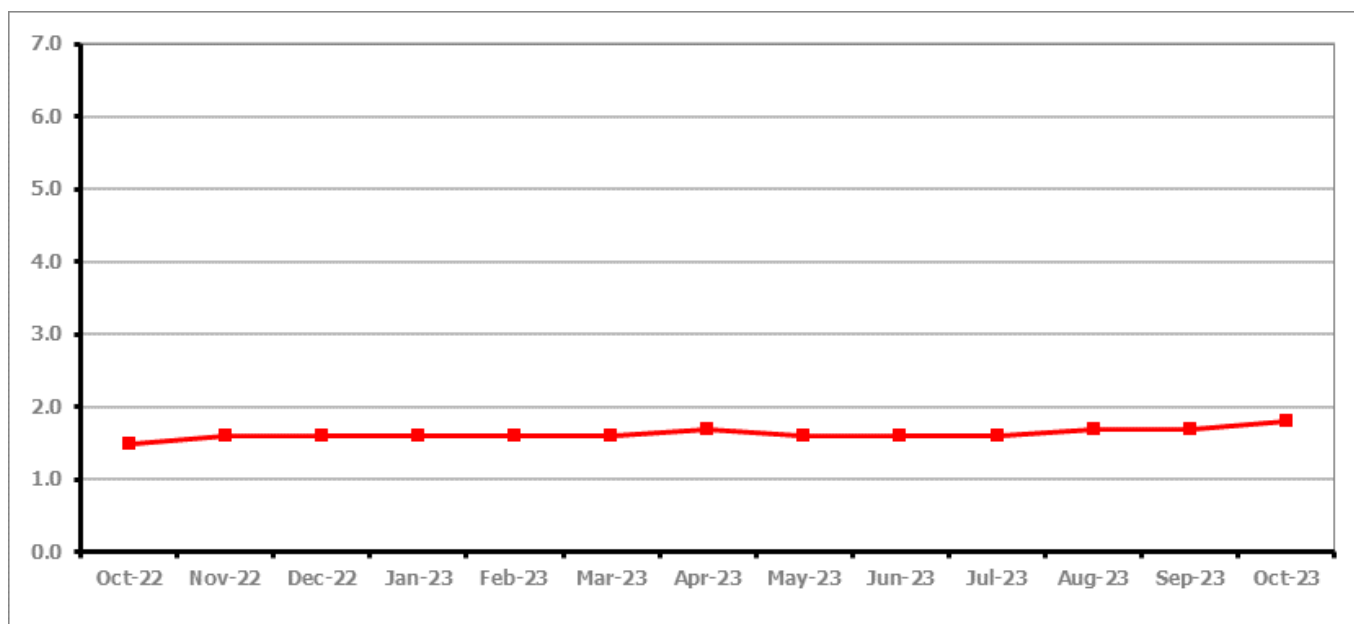
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud increased to 1.8% in October 2023.

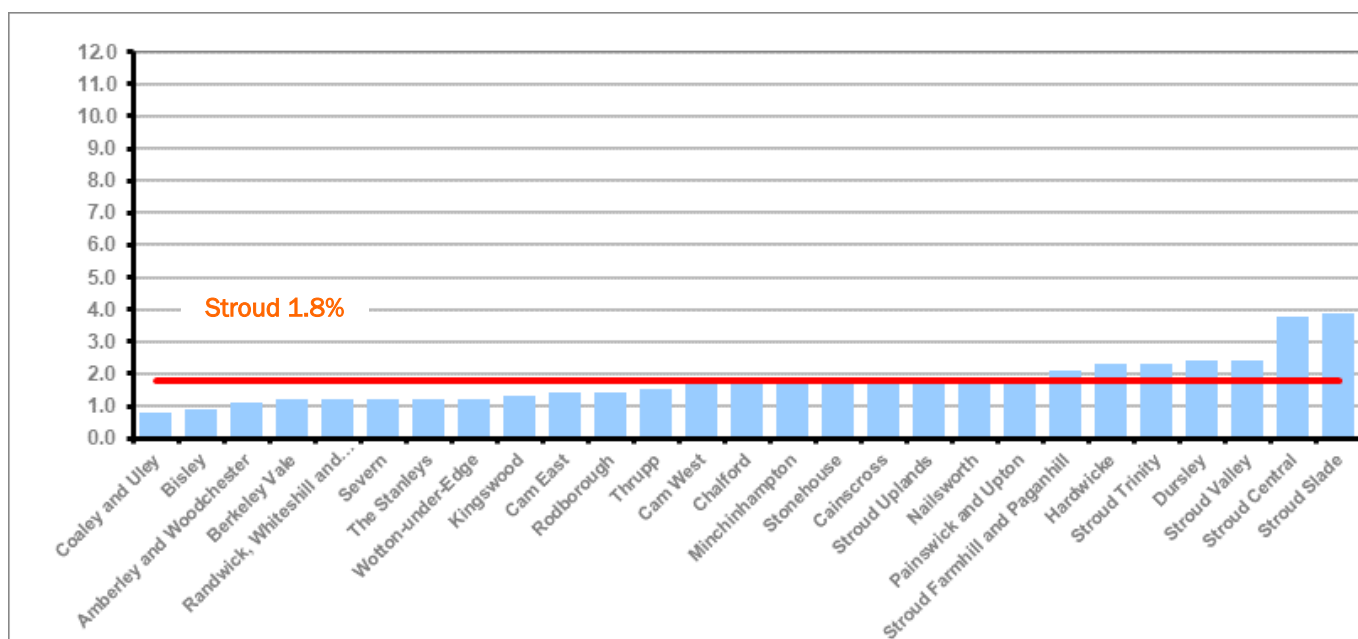
Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - October 2023

Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.8%. Nine 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 - October 2023

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	0.8	2
Stroud	Bisley	0.9	4
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.1	8
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.2	13
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.2	13
Stroud	Severn	1.2	13
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.2	13
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.2	13
Stroud	Kingswood	1.3	20
Stroud	Cam East	1.4	30
Stroud	Rodborough	1.4	30
Stroud	Thrupp	1.5	37
Stroud	Cam West	1.7	50
Stroud	Chalford	1.7	50
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.7	50
Stroud	Stonehouse	1.7	50
Stroud	Cainscross	1.8	63
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	1.8	63
Stroud	Nailsworth	1.9	68
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.9	68
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.1	75
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.3	93
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.3	93
Stroud	Dursley	2.4	99
Stroud	Stroud Valley	2.4	99
Stroud	Stroud Central	3.8	122
Stroud	Stroud Slade	3.9	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.

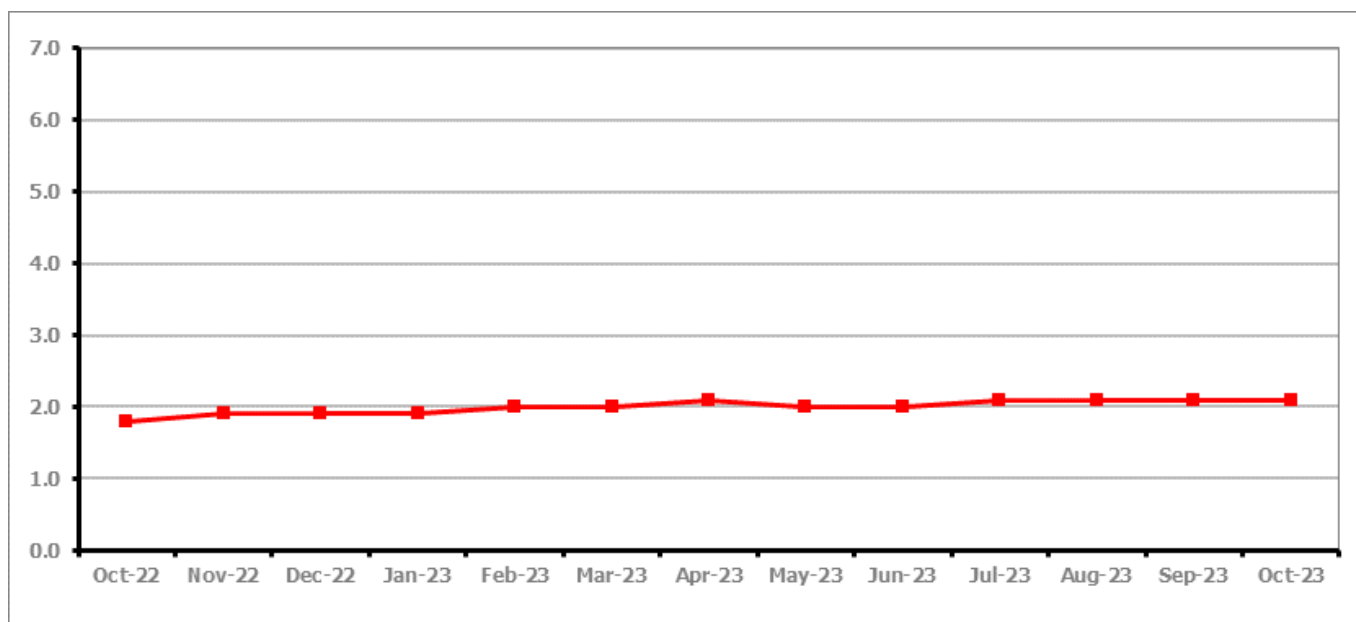
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough remained at 2.1% in October 2023.

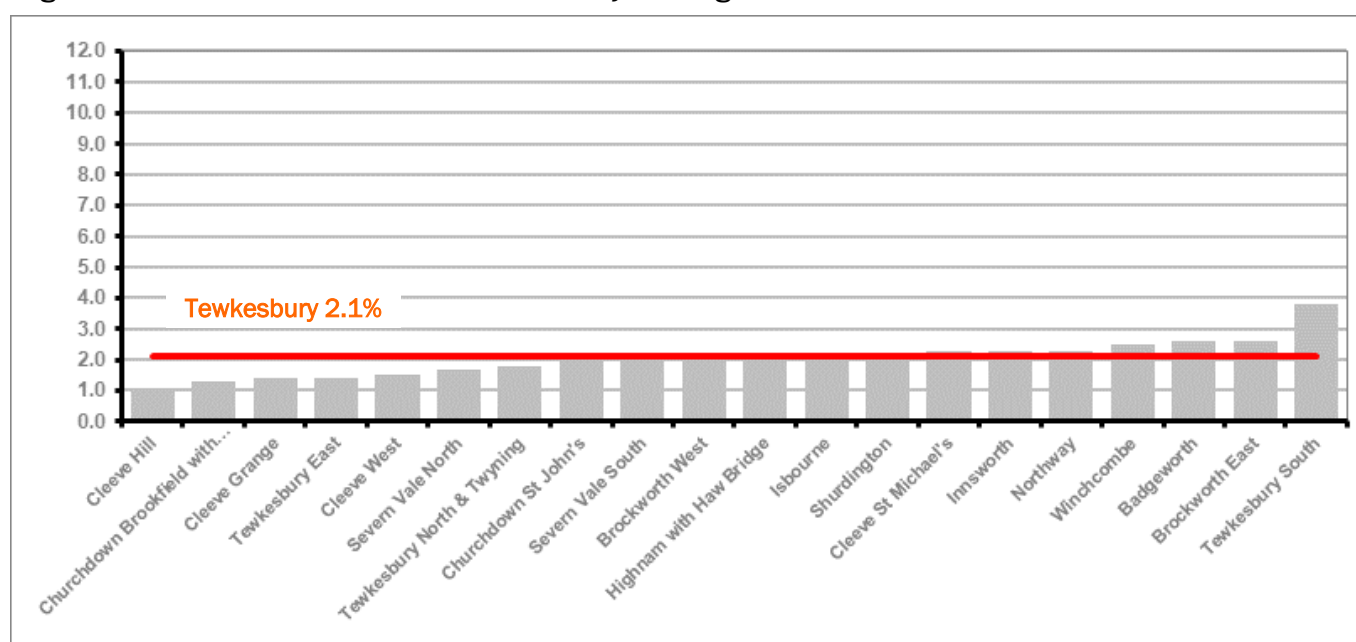
Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - October 2023

Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.1%. Eight 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 - October 2023

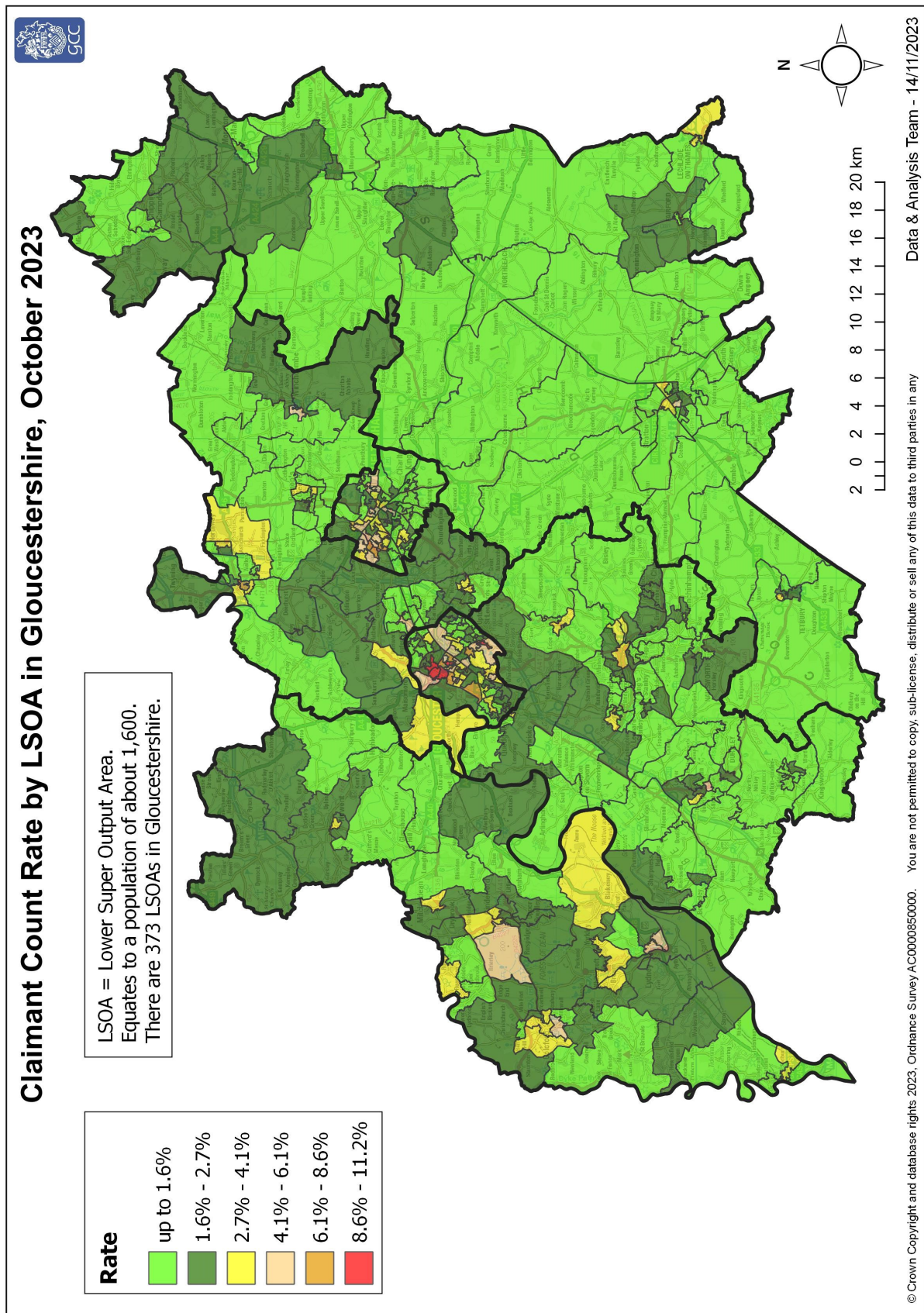
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	1.0	6
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.3	20
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	1.4	30
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.4	30
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.5	37
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	1.7	50
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twynning	1.8	63
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.0	72
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	2.0	72
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.1	75
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.1	75
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.1	75
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.2	85
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.3	93
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	2.3	93
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.3	93
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.5	107
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.6	111
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	2.6	111
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	3.8	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

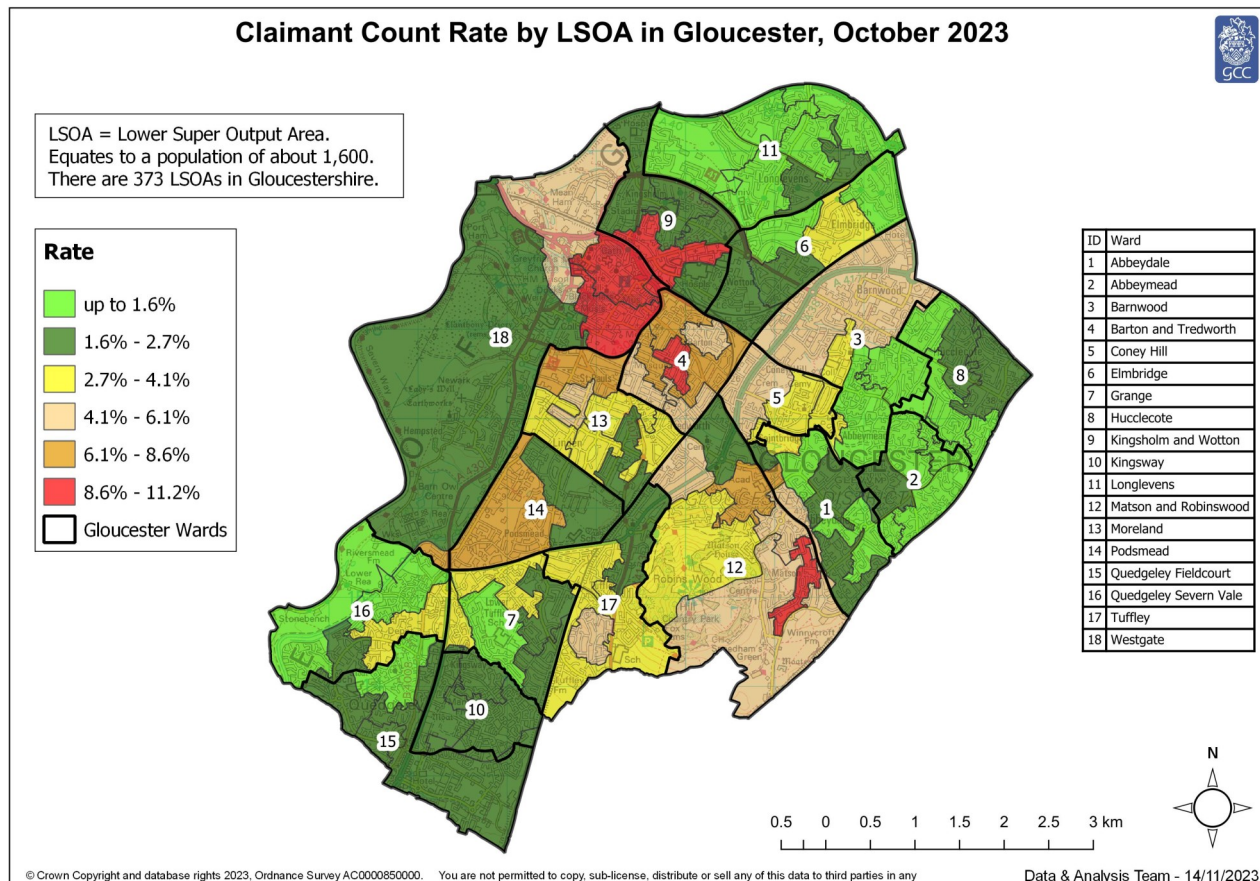
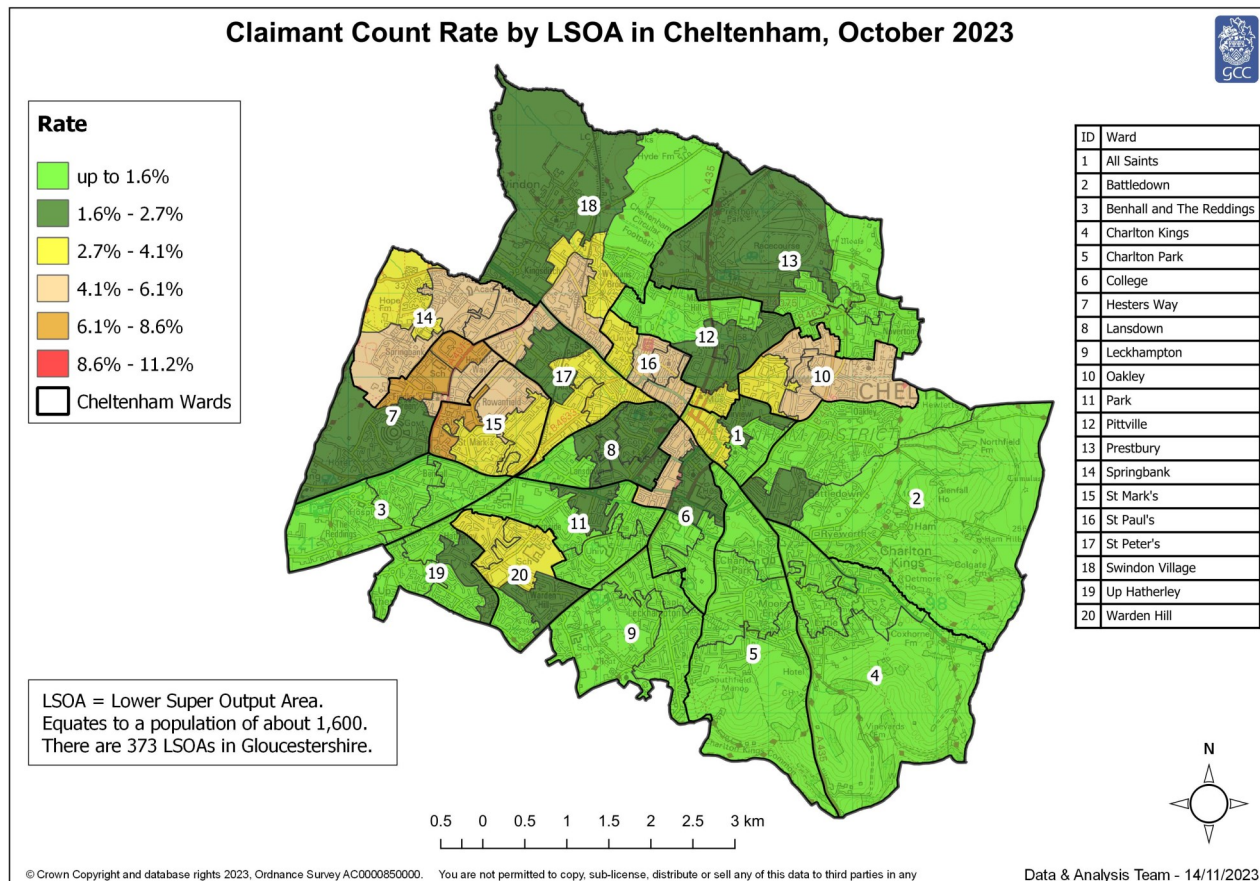


These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

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

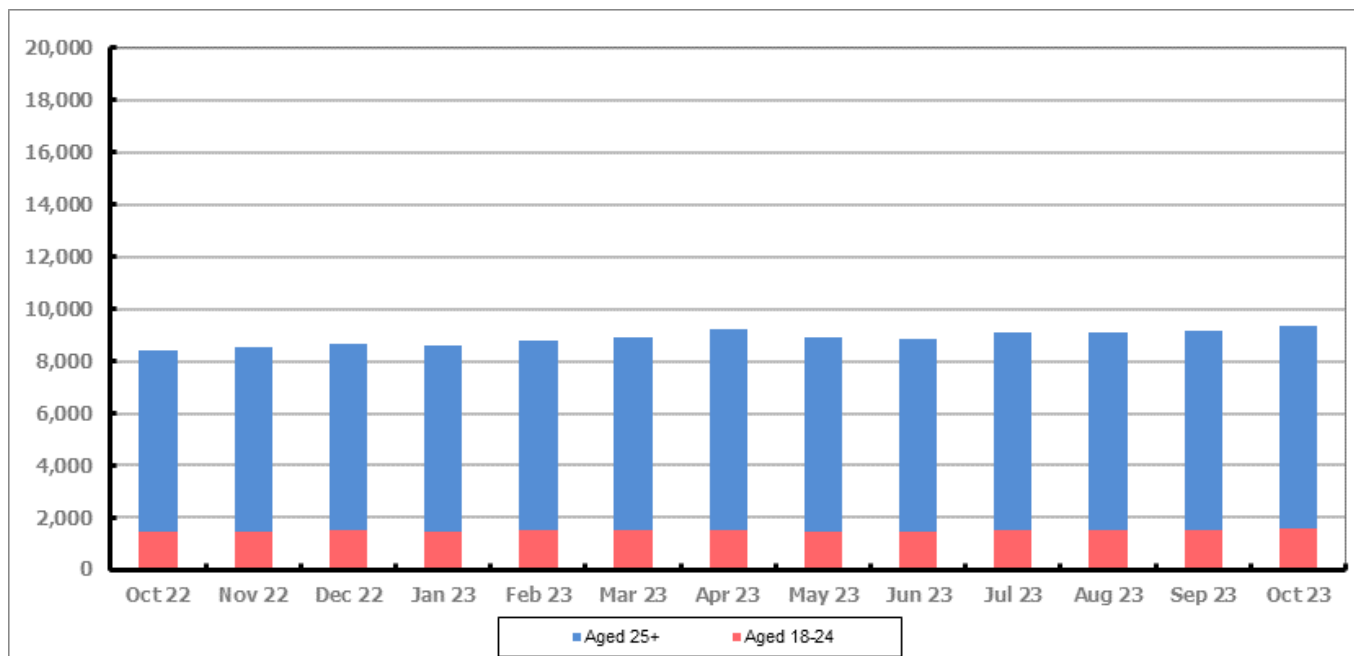


Figure 15 shows that in October 2023, 1,610 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.2% of total working age claimants.

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) October 2023

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	78	2321	3.36%
Cotswold	30	1764	1.70%
Forest	53	1729	3.07%
Gloucester	138	3317	4.16%
Stroud	41	2751	1.49%
Tewkesbury	52	2039	2.55%
Total	392	13921	2.82%

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	107	3182	3.36%
Cotswold	38	2485	1.53%
Forest	86	2437	3.53%
Gloucester	218	4618	4.72%
Stroud	56	3797	1.47%
Tewkesbury	67	2856	2.35%
Total	572	19375	2.95%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	5.20%
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Monthly Change	189	13	1.36%
Previous month	203	13908	1.46%

Monthly Change	170	-540	0.93%
Previous month	402	19915	2.02%

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.