

This bulletin includes;

- latest Claimant Count information
- total job posting numbers
- in demand skills
- job posting numbers by occupation



# Jobs and Economic Bulletin

**February 2024**

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## February 2024

Please find the **February** update below, which includes the latest **Claimant Count** information, total **job posting** numbers, **in demand skills** and job posting numbers by **occupation**.

### Executive summary

- The **Claimant Count** in Gloucestershire **increased** by **545 persons** to **10,405** and the rate was **2.6%**
- **Job posting numbers** for the month of **February** were around **17,618** which is a monthly **increase** of around **742** job postings when compared to the revised January figure of 16,876.
- Between January and February 2024, **Gloucestershire** saw a **4.4% increase** in job postings, this compares to the South West which saw a 5.6% increase and England which also saw a 5.6% increase.

### February Claimant Count

**Note:** the reference period for these Claimant Count figures is 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

This month saw the publication of the February **\*Claimant Count** figures: the **Gloucestershire** rate was **2.6%** (the value is expressed as a proportion of residents aged 16-64). The February total now stands at **10,405** compared to the January figure of 9,860 which is a monthly **increase of 545 persons**. All districts saw an increase in the estimated number of unemployed claimants.

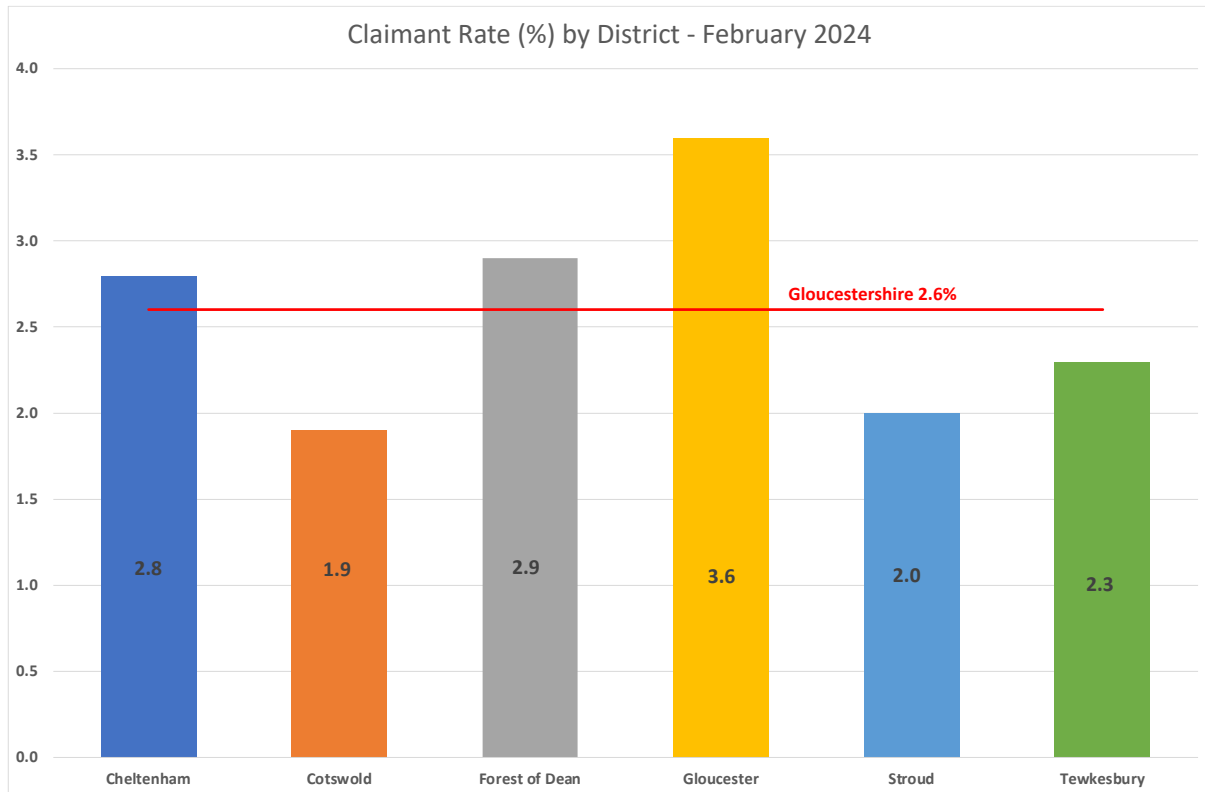
The February figure for the **South West** was **2.7%**, **England** was **3.9%** and the **UK** figure was **3.8%**.

For more information on the claimant count, please refer to the Gloucestershire County Council's monthly publications [here](#).

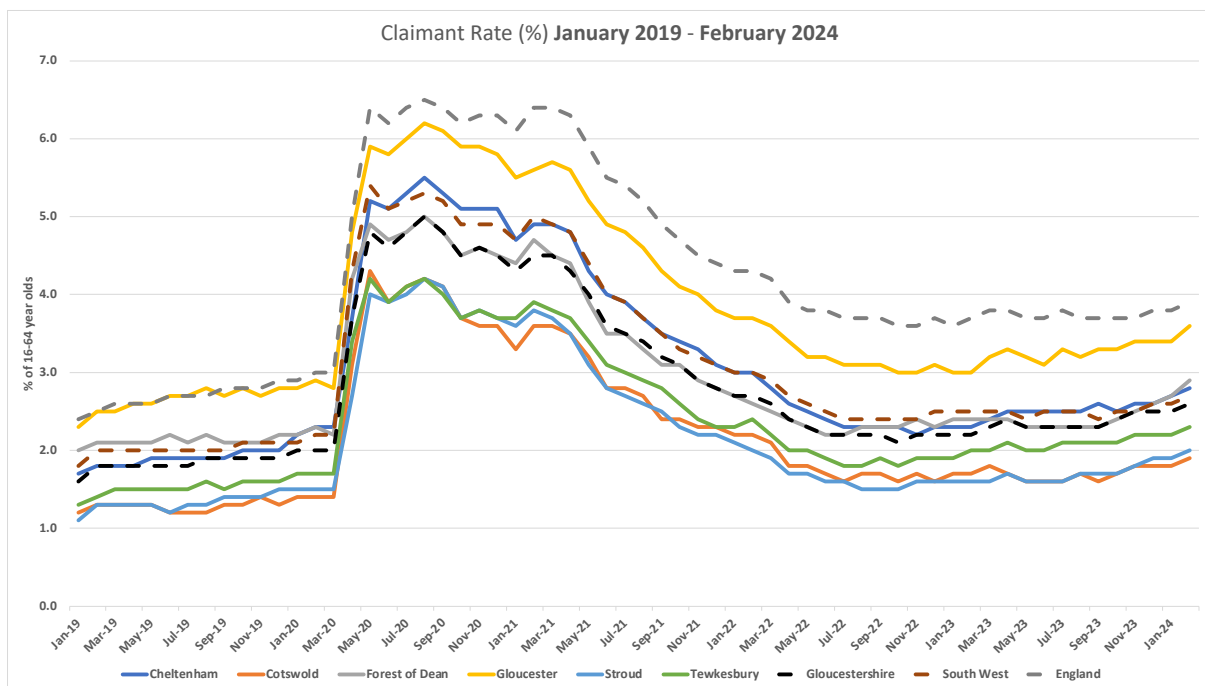
*\*The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people who are unemployed and claiming benefits. For more information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).*



The below shows the claimant rate for February 2024 in Gloucestershire.



The below shows the current claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.6%, compared with all six districts, the South West and England from January 2019 to February 2024. The rate for Gloucestershire continues to be below that of England and the South West.

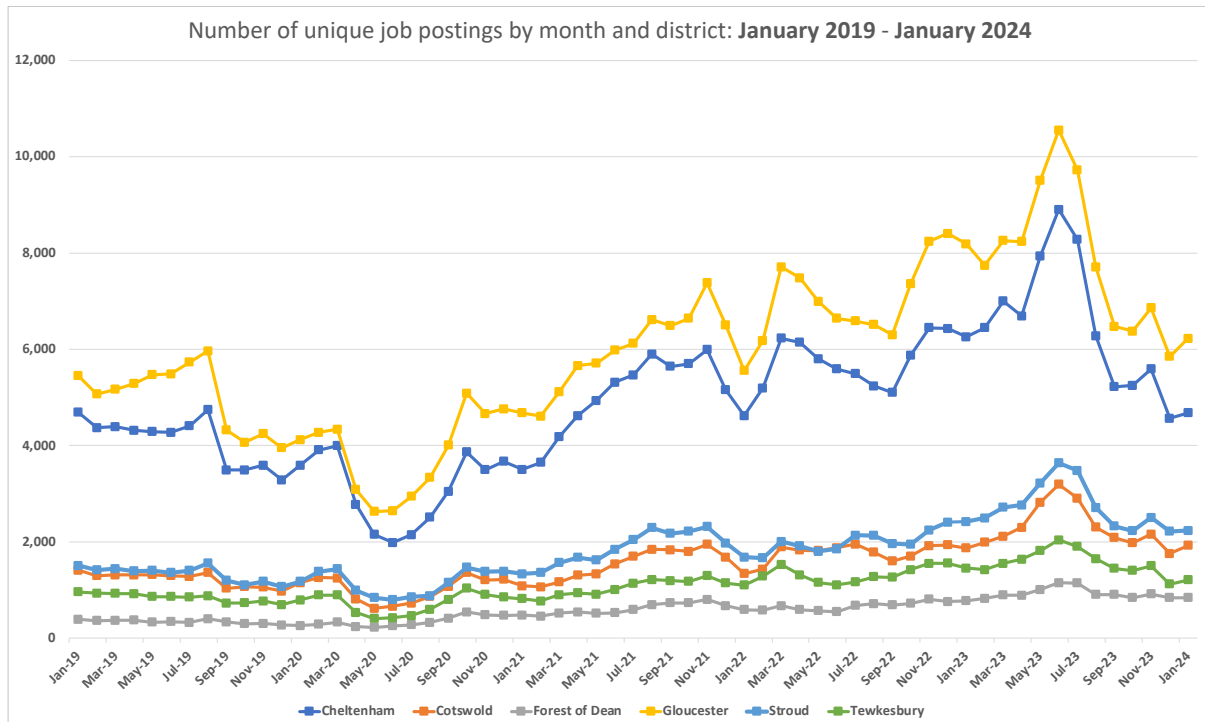




**Job posting numbers**

**Job posting numbers** for the month of **January 2024** were around **17,108** which is a monthly **increase** of around **764** job postings, when compared to the revised December 2023 figure of 16,344.

The below shows total jobs posted by district from **January 2019 to January 2024**. All districts saw an increase in numbers when compared to December 2023.



Source: Lightcast™. 2024

Between **January and February 2024**, **Gloucestershire** saw a **4.4% increase** in job postings, this compares to the South West which saw a 5.6% increase and England which also saw a 5.6% increase.

The table below shows the month on month change in job posting numbers for Gloucestershire and each of the six districts. All districts saw an increase in job postings, except for the Forest of Dean which saw a 12.5% decrease.

Area	Jan 2024 total unique job postings	Feb 2024 total unique job postings	% change
Cheltenham	4,609	4,913	↑ 6.6%
Cotswold	1,897	2,047	↑ 7.9%
Forest of Dean	835	731	↓ -12.5%
Gloucester	6,131	6,318	↑ 3.1%
Stroud	2,211	2,326	↑ 5.2%
Tewkesbury	1,193	1,283	↑ 7.5%
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>16,876</b>	<b>17,618</b>	<b>↑ 4.4%</b>

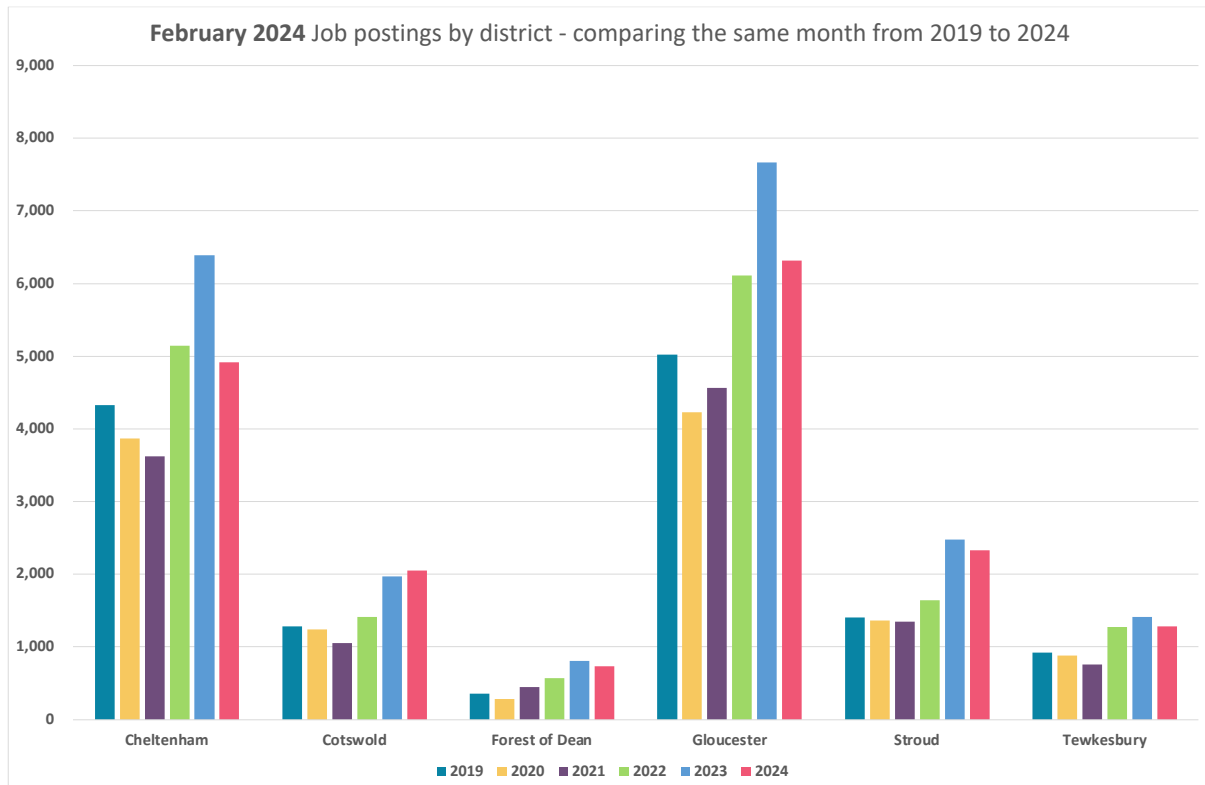
Source: Lightcast™. 2024



**Job posting numbers – district comparison**

The below gives a district overview of total job postings for the month of February 2024, comparing the same month from 2019 to 2024.

Job posting numbers in February 2024 (red bar) were lower than those seen in February 2023 across all districts, except for Cotswold which saw higher numbers in February 2024 compared to previous years. February 2024 job posting numbers still exceeded those seen in February in other years across most districts.



Source: Lightcast™. 2024

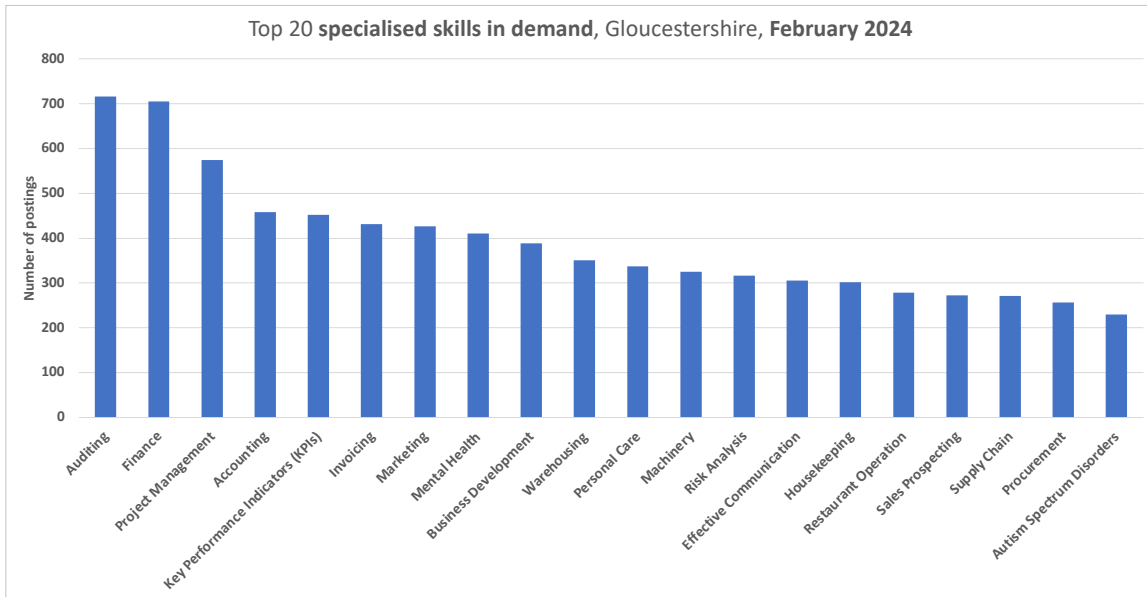
**Please note** – job posting numbers are based on snapshot data taken on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, numbers are provisional and subject to change. Job postings are collected from online sources, it doesn't capture postings that are not advertised online, this might result in undercounting for some occupations. This data shows any active posting rather than newly listed postings. A posting is removed from the count after it has been online for 61 days. A job posting does not necessarily result in a job and some jobs will be created without a job posting.



**Skills in demand**

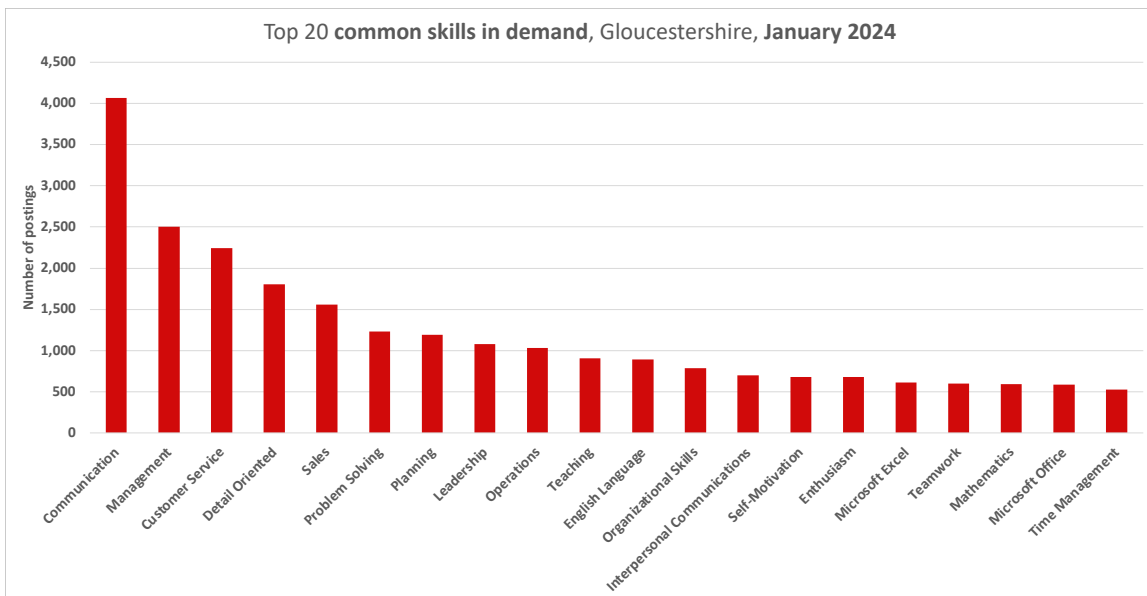
Job vacancy data can be broken down to identify skills in demand, this information can help to identify emerging skills required as the labour market evolves or identify skills gaps. Skills can be broken down into specialised skills or generic skills.

In February 2024, the specialised skills most in demand in Gloucestershire largely related to Finance, with skills including Auditing, Finance, Accounting and Invoicing making up four of the top six skills in demand.



Source: Lightcast™. 2024

The below shows the most common generic skills in demand in Gloucestershire include Communications, Management and Customer Service.



Source: Lightcast™. 2024

**Please note** that a job posting can contain more than one skill.



**Occupations**

The table below shows changes in the number of postings by broad occupation, comparing pre-pandemic February 2020 numbers with February 2021, February 2022, February 2023, and February 2024.

The trend displayed (chart on the right) is for the period from January 2019 to February 2024. Cells highlighted green show the occupations that have seen an increase when compared to February 2020.

All occupations saw an increase in February 2024 compared with February 2020 numbers. The green bars in the trend chart show the peak in postings for that occupation and red bars highlighting the lowest number of postings for the period January 2019 to February 2024.

The trend shows that all occupations peaked in June 2023, with numbers falling back in recent months before increasing in February 2024. Some of the biggest increases since February 2020 can be seen in the **Elementary Occupations** – examples of some occupations that fall under this category are **agricultural, construction, process plant occupations, goods storage, administration, personal services, cleaning, security, and sales occupations.**

Vancancies by broad occupation	Feb 2020 Unique Postings	Feb 2021 Unique Postings	Feb 2022 Unique Postings	Feb 2023 Unique Postings	Feb 2024 Unique Postings	% change Feb 2020 - Feb 2024	Monthly trend between January 2019 - February 2024
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	1,046	1,023	1,399	1,700	1,403	34%	
Professional Occupations	3,680	4,153	4,512	5,255	4,528	23%	
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	1,803	1,875	2,348	3,046	2,604	44%	
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	1,071	1,056	1,492	2,088	1,685	57%	
Skilled Trades Occupations	979	736	1,133	1,428	1,254	28%	
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	786	823	1,430	1,736	1,538	96%	
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	1,016	797	1,247	1,827	1,470	45%	
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	716	655	1,137	1,385	1,101	54%	
Elementary Occupations	751	639	1,411	2,162	1,968	162%	
<b>Total Across All Occupations</b>	<b>11,876</b>	<b>11,794</b>	<b>16,153</b>	<b>20,718</b>	<b>17,618</b>	<b>48%</b>	

Source: Lightcast™. 2024

Occupation data can be viewed at a high level (as shown in the above table), which uses broad category one-digit Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes to group similar jobs together, or at a granular level, using four-digit Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes. These four-digit Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes provide more detailed descriptions and have been used in the table below.

The below lists the **top ten occupations by four-digit SOC code for February 2024**, alongside total jobs advertised and what proportion this was as a percentage of the total jobs posted in Gloucestershire for this month. **Care Workers and Home Carers** accounted for **3.9%** of the overall jobs posted in Gloucestershire in February 2024, followed by **Sales Related Occupations n.e.c. 3.1%** and **Cleaners and Domestic 2.7%**, with the remaining occupations accounting for smaller numbers.



Top ten Occupations by four-digit SOC code	February 2024 Unique Postings	As a percentage of jobs posted
Care Workers and Home Carers	692	3.9%
Sales Related Occupations n.e.c.	547	3.1%
Cleaners and Domestic	476	2.7%
Customer Service Occupations n.e.c.	320	1.8%
Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.	319	1.8%
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	303	1.7%
Teaching Assistants	300	1.7%
Book-keepers, Payroll Managers and Wages Clerks	290	1.6%
Kitchen and Catering Assistants	282	1.6%
Social Workers	269	1.5%

Source: Lightcast™. 2024

Please note: **n.e.c.** stands for **not elsewhere classified** – for a classification that cannot fit into any other grouping

### Top companies posting

The top ten companies posting jobs in Gloucestershire in February 2024 were:

- NHS
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Safran
- General Electric
- Tesco
- St James's Place
- Barchester PLC
- University of Gloucestershire
- G4S Secure Solutions
- Bupa

**Please note** this does not include employment agencies, however employment agencies do form part of the total jobs posted in the report.