

This bulletin includes;

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



Jobs and Economic Bulletin

January 2024

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Please find the **January** 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 **295 persons** to **10,010** but the rate remained at **2.5%**
- **Job posting numbers** for the month of **January** were around **17,108** which is a monthly **increase** of around **764** job postings when compared to the revised December figure of 16,344.
- Between December 2023 and January 2024, **Gloucestershire** saw a **4.7% increase** in job postings, this compares to the South West which saw a 5.3% increase and England with a 5.0% increase.

January Claimant Count

Note: the reference period for these Claimant Count figures is 11th January 2024.

This month saw the publication of the January ***Claimant Count** figures: the **Gloucestershire** rate was **2.5%** (the value is expressed as a proportion of residents aged 16-64). The January total now stands at **10,010** compared to the December figure of 9,715 which is a monthly **increase of 295 persons**. All districts saw an increase in the estimated number of unemployed claimants.

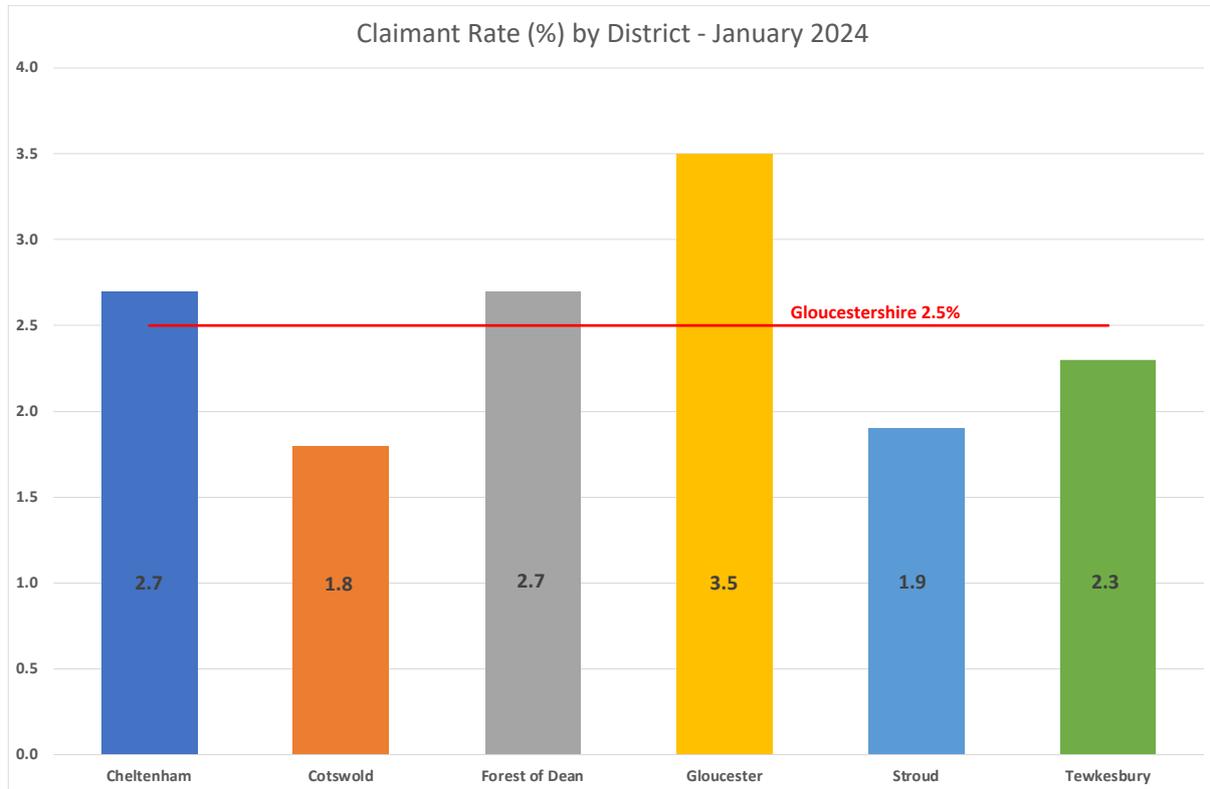
The January figure for the **South West** was **2.6%**, **England** was **3.8%** and the **UK** figure was **3.7%**.

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

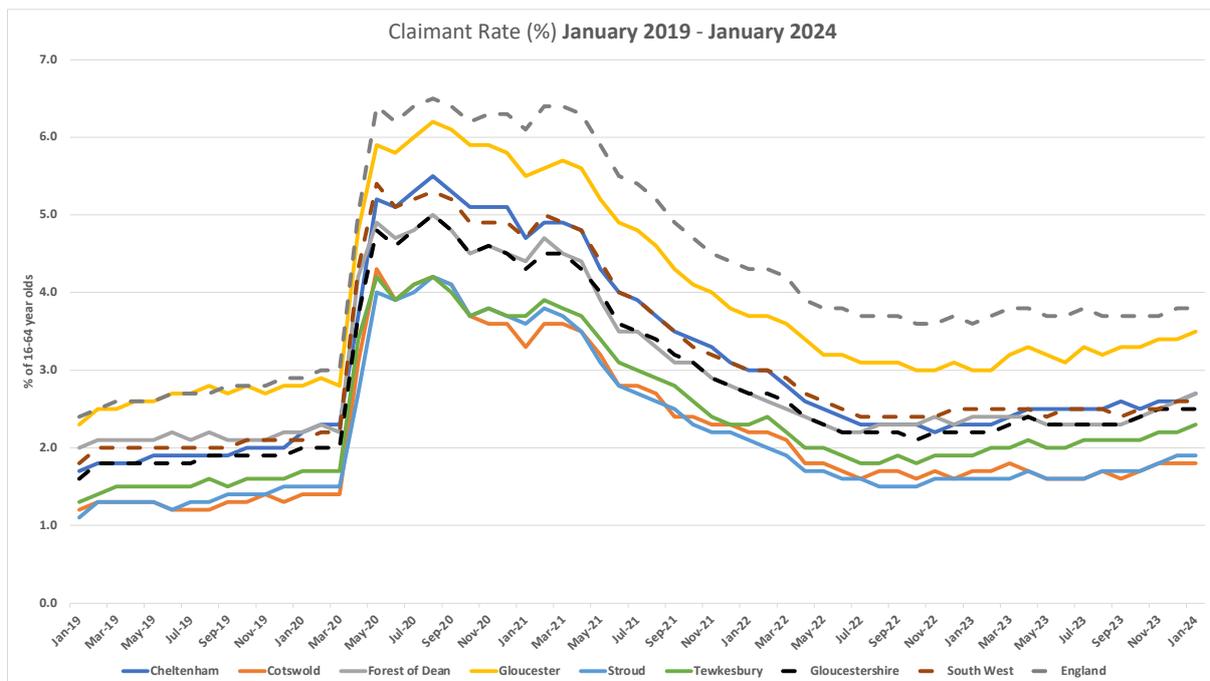
**The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people who are unemployed and claiming benefits. For more information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).*



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



The below shows the current claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.5%, compared with all six districts, the South West and England from January 2019 to January 2024. The rate for Gloucestershire continues to be below that of England and the South West.

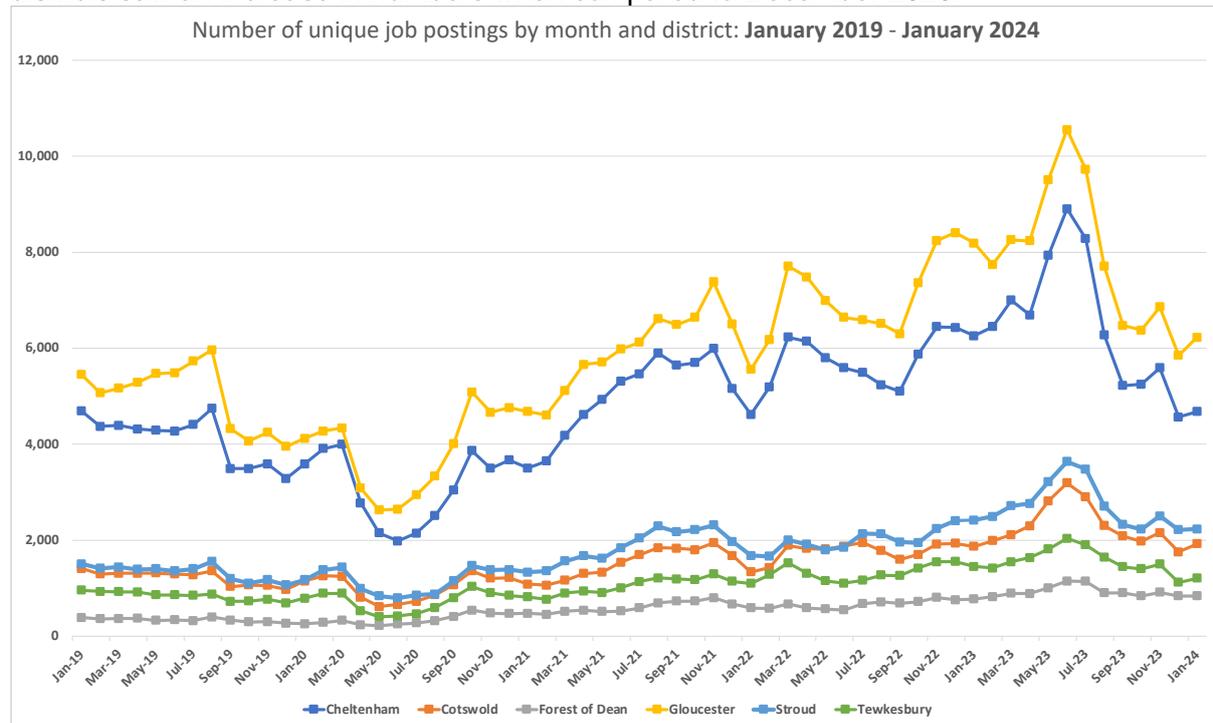




Job posting numbers

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 December 2023 and January 2024, **Gloucestershire** saw a **4.7% increase** in job postings, this compares to the South West which saw a 5.3% increase and England with a 5.0% increase.

The table below shows the month on month change in job posting numbers for Gloucestershire and each of the six districts, which shows all districts saw an increase with Tewkesbury seeing the biggest (7.6%) increase, while the Forest of Dean saw a smaller 0.2% increase.

Area	Dec 2023 total unique job postings	Jan 2024 total unique job postings	% change
Cheltenham	4,564	4,680	↑ 2.5%
Cotswold	1,756	1,924	↑ 9.6%
Forest of Dean	838	840	↑ 0.2%
Gloucester	5,849	6,225	↑ 6.4%
Stroud	2,215	2,232	↑ 0.8%
Tewkesbury	1,122	1,207	↑ 7.6%
Gloucestershire	16,344	17,108	↑ 4.7%

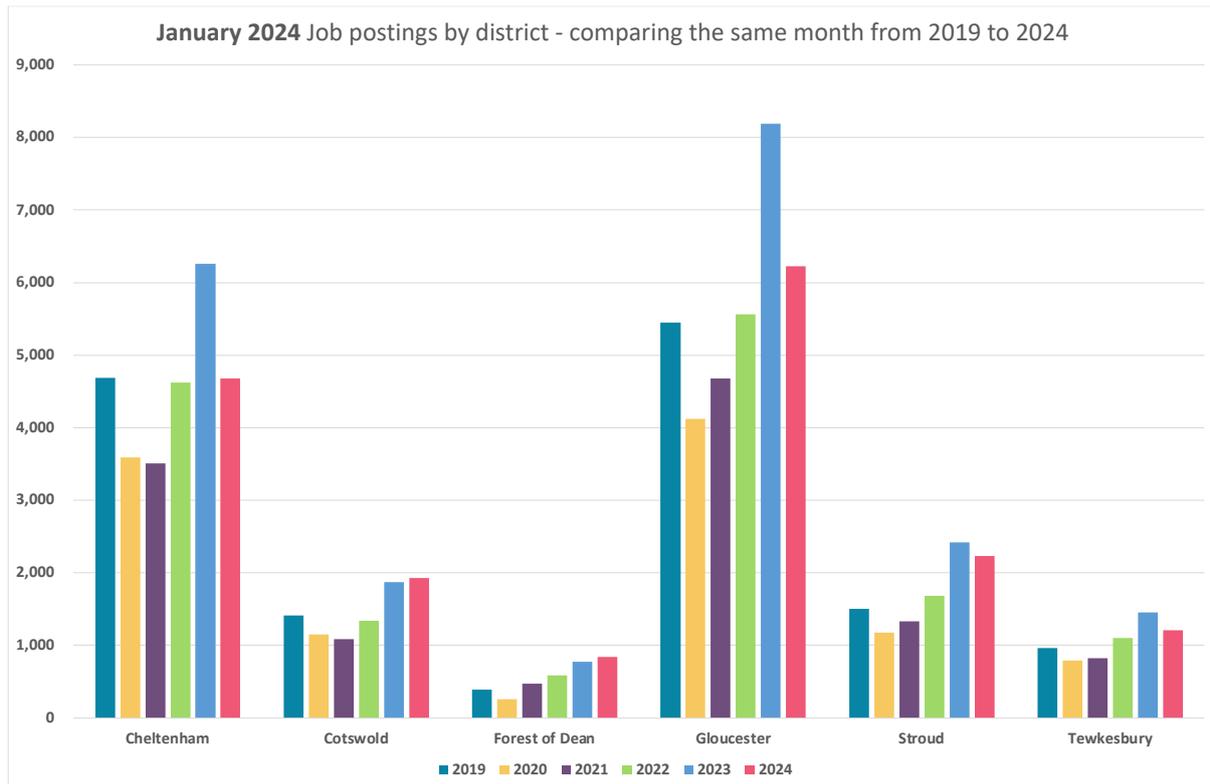
Source: Lightcast™. 2024



Job posting numbers – district comparison

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

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



Source: Lightcast™. 2024

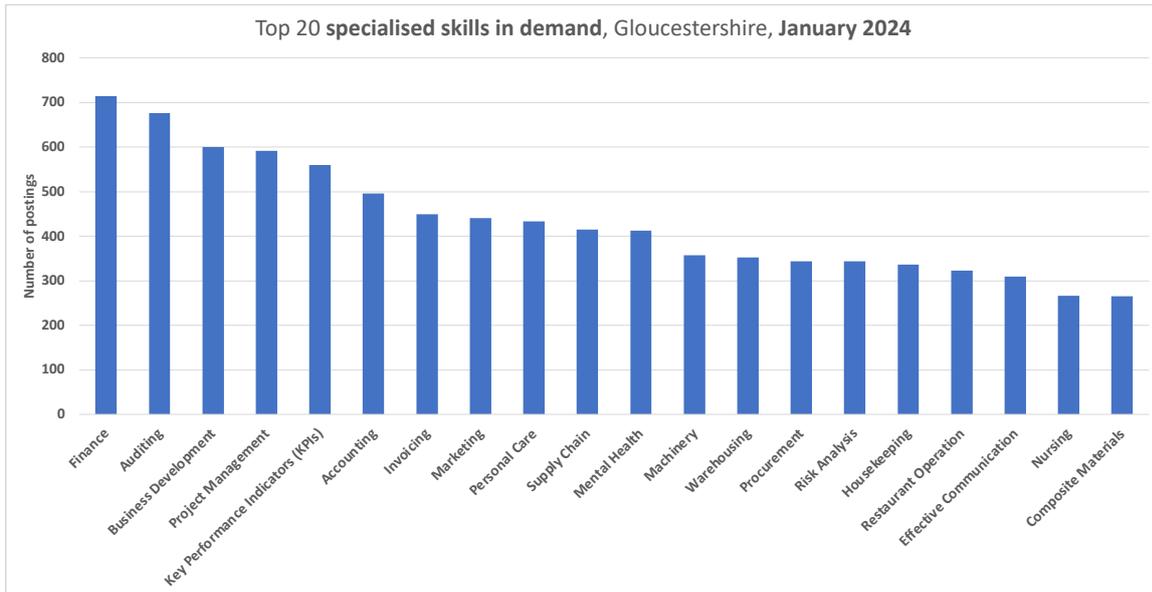
Please note – job posting numbers are based on snapshot data taken on the 19th February, numbers are provisional and subject to change. Job postings are collected from online sources, it doesn't capture postings that are not advertised online, this might result in undercounting for some occupations. 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

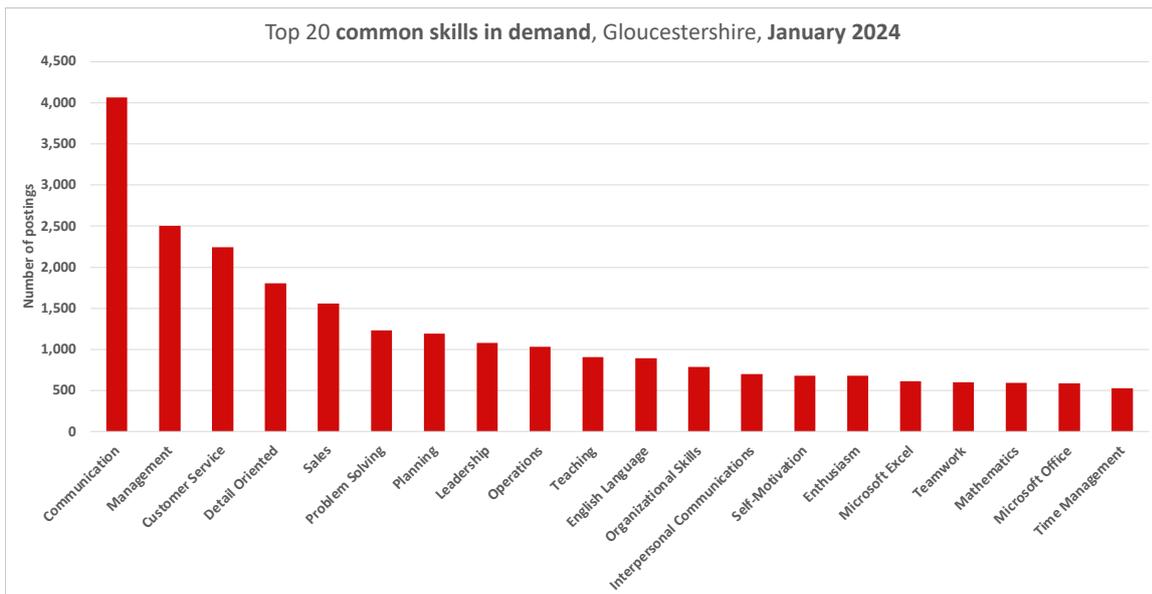
Job vacancy data can be broken down to identify skills in demand, this information can help to identify emerging skills required as the labour market evolves or identify skills gaps. Skills can be broken down into specialised skills or generic skills.

In January 2024, the specialised skills most in demand in Gloucestershire largely related to Finance with skills including Auditing, Finance, Invoicing and Accounting making up four of the top seven 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 January 2021, January 2022, January 2023, and January 2024.

The trend displayed (chart on the right) is for the 5-year period January 2019 to January 2024. Cells highlighted green show the occupations that have seen an increase when compared to February 2020.

All occupations saw an increase in January 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 January 2024.

The trend shows that all occupations peaked in June 2023, with numbers falling back in recent months before increasing in January 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	Jan 2021 Unique Postings	Jan 2022 Unique Postings	Jan 2023 Unique Postings	Jan 2024 Unique Postings	% change Feb 2020 - Jan 2024	Monthly trend between January 2019 - January 2024
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	1,059	1,067	1,213	1,693	1,390	31%	
Professional Occupations	3,723	4,138	4,360	5,223	4,506	21%	
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	1,817	1,856	2,195	3,053	2,604	43%	
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	1,086	953	1,339	1,975	1,542	42%	
Skilled Trades Occupations	982	723	957	1,412	1,136	16%	
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	797	912	1,350	2,021	1,532	92%	
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	1,027	793	1,186	1,834	1,416	38%	
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	725	713	998	1,385	1,076	48%	
Elementary Occupations	756	709	1,244	2,267	1,843	144%	
Total Across All Occupations	12,000	11,894	14,889	20,962	17,108	43%	

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 January 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 **4.2%** of the overall jobs posted in Gloucestershire in January 2024, followed by **Sales Related Occupations n.e.c. 2.9%** and **Cleaners and Domestic 2.7%**, with the remaining occupations accounting for smaller numbers.



Top ten Occupations by four-digit SOC code	January 2024 Unique Postings	As a percentage of jobs posted
Care Workers and Home Carers	712	4.2%
Sales Related Occupations n.e.c.	499	2.9%
Cleaners and Domestic	463	2.7%
Customer Service Occupations n.e.c.	340	2.0%
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	331	1.9%
Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.	320	1.9%
Teaching Assistants	291	1.7%
Plant and Machine Operatives n.e.c.	271	1.6%
Other Registered Nursing Professionals	264	1.5%
Production and Process Engineers	254	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 January 2024 were:

- NHS
- Safran
- Gloucestershire County Council
- The Orders of St John Care Trust
- Tesco
- Barchester PLC
- Ministry of Justice
- Babcock International Group
- Bupa
- Brandon Trust

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