

# Unemployment and benefits data sheet

Last updated: February 2025

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Summary –there was a large a rise in the number of people claiming benefits during the Covid-19 pandemic, this has now reduced. In December 2024, 3.1% of Rushmoor’s working age population were claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

## Claimant Count analysis

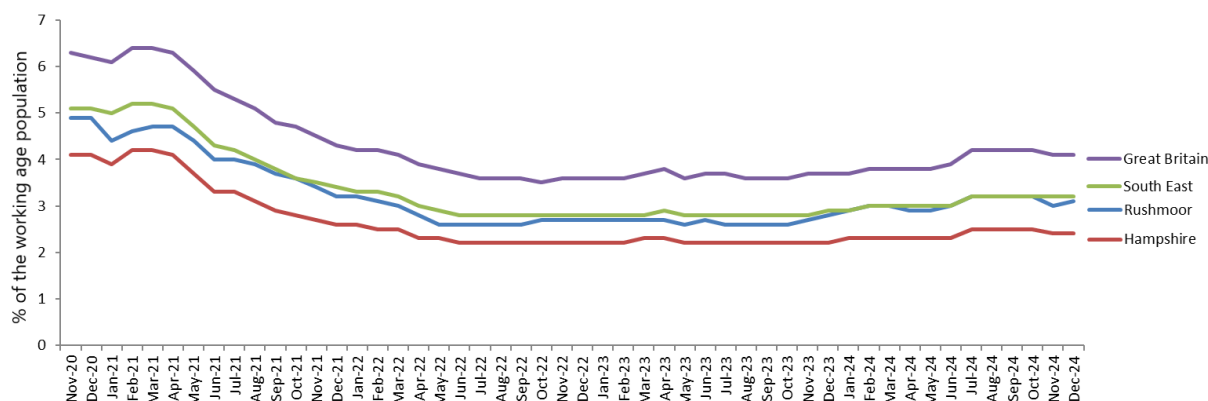
*“The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. This is measured by combining the number of people claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits with the number of people receiving Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed”*

Source: Office of National Statistics

In December 2024 there were 2,025 Rushmoor residents claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, a small increase from 1,995 in November 2024. Overall, 3.1% of Rushmoor’s working age population (16-64) were claiming benefits for the principally reason of being unemployed. This was a lower percentage than Great Britain (4.1%) and the South East (3.2%) but a higher percentage than Hampshire (2.4%).

The following chart sets out the claimants as a percentage of the working age population, it shows a recent increase for Rushmoor, Hampshire, the South East and Great Britain. However, this is expected as in May 2024, the Department for Work and Pensions rolled out an increase in the administrative earnings threshold for full work search conditionality. This change is likely to affect around 180,000 claimants over a period of around 6 months, increasing the Claimant Count over that time.

Claimant Count



(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/report.aspx?town=rushmoor>)

The following table shows the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed in each ward in December 2024.

December 2024	Claimant count	Claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16-64
Wellington	240	4.4
Aldershot Park	210	4.3
Cherrywood	230	4.3
North Town	190	4.2
Empress	140	3.8
Rowhill	160	3.7
Manor Park	185	3.2
West Heath	130	3.1
St Mark's	140	2.7
Fernhill	105	2.6
Cove and Southwood	115	2.5
Knellwood	100	2.0
St John's	85	2.0
<b>Column Total</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>3.3*</b>

(Source: Office for National Statistics <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx>)

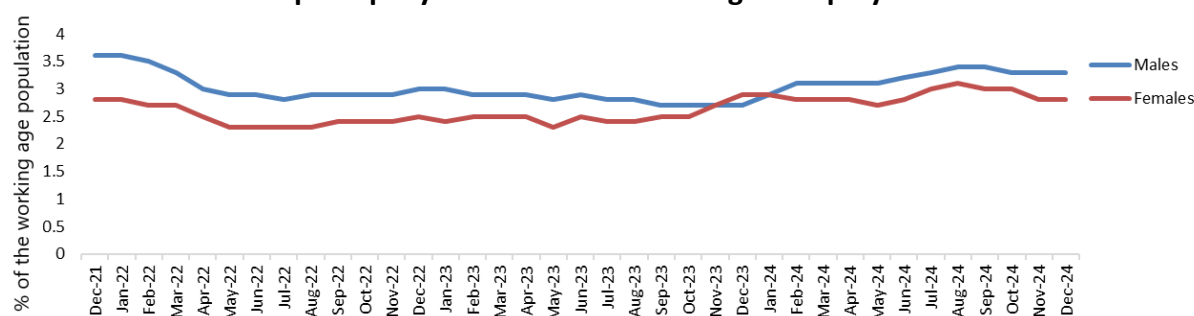
\*Different population figure has been used which has given a higher rate

There are six wards that have a higher percentage of claimants than the Rushmoor average. The wards are Wellington ward (4.4%), Aldershot Park ward (4.3%), Cherrywood ward (4.3%), North Town ward (4.2%), Empress ward (3.8%) and Rowhill ward (3.7%).

## Claimant Count by female and males

The following chart shows the percentage of males and females claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. Of the 2,025 residents claiming in December 2024, 1115 were male (3.3% of the male working age population) and 910 were female (2.8% of the female working age population).

### Percentage of Rushmoor females and males (aged 16-64) claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed



(Source: Office for National Statistics

[http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa\\_time\\_series/report.aspx?](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa_time_series/report.aspx?))

## Claimant Count by age

The following table shows the age of residents claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed in Rushmoor. In December 2024, 3.9% of 18-24 year olds were claiming. This is a lower percentage than Great Britain (5.4%), and the South East (4.2%) but a higher percentage than Hampshire (3.6%).

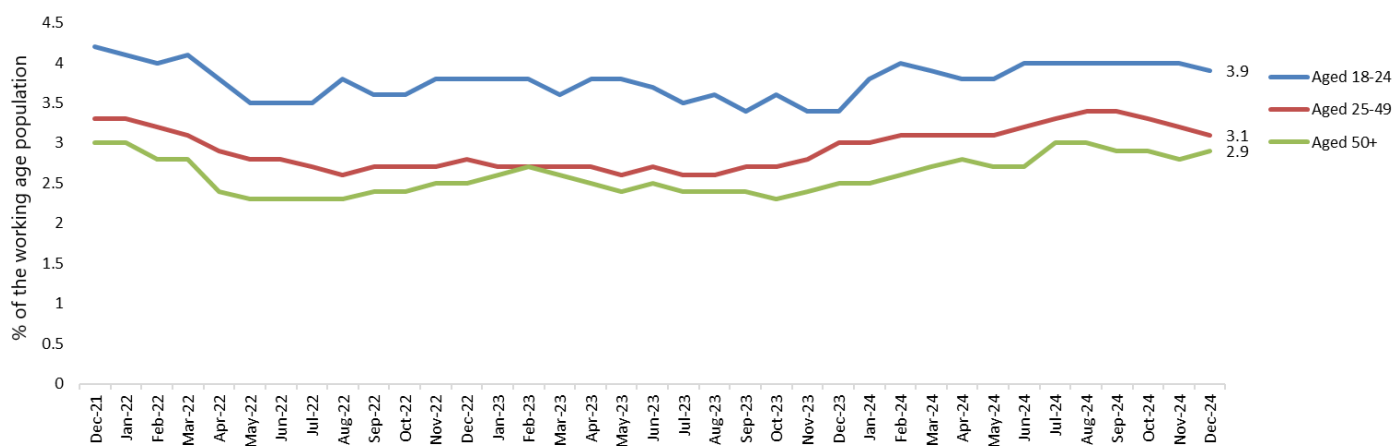
Claimant Count by age Dec 2024	Number in Rushmoor	Rushmoor*	Hampshire*	South East *	Great Britain*
Aged 18-24	295	3.9%	3.6%	4.2%	5.4%
Aged 25-49	1,180	3.1%	2.8%	3.6%	4.7%
Aged 50+	545	2.9%	1.8%	2.5%	3.1%

\*Claimants as a percentage of total age group in the area

(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/report.aspx?town=rushmoor>)

The following graph shows the percentage of residents claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed in Rushmoor as the percentage of the total population of each age group in Rushmoor.

**Percentage of residents claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed as a proportion of the resident population of the same age**

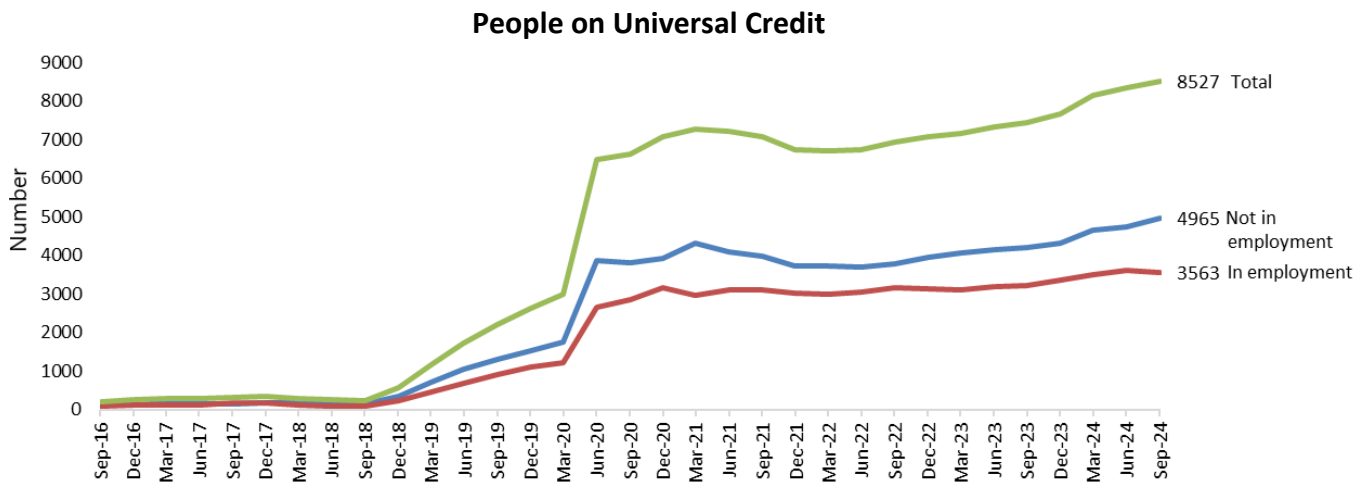


(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/report.aspx?town=rushmoor>)

## Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a benefit for people on a low income or out of work, who are below pension age. It began being rolled out in Rushmoor in February 2016 and will replace most means-tested benefits and tax credits and will include payments for children and housing costs.

The following shows the number of people on Universal Credit in Rushmoor at the end of each financial quarter since the introduction of Universal Credit. Due to the pandemic there was a sharp rise in people on Universal Credit between March 2020 and June 2020.

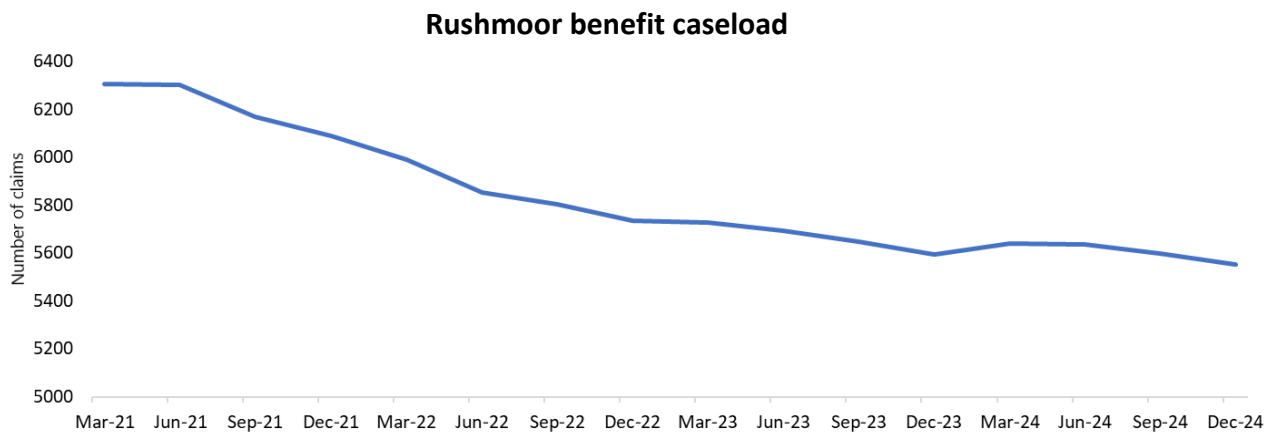


(Source: Department for Work & Pensions <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/> )

## Housing and Council Tax Benefit take up

Rushmoor Borough Council is responsible for Council Tax Support (CTS) and local Housing Allowance (this is now covered by Universal Credit for those of working age). The benefit caseload was 5,552 in December 2024.

The following table shows the number of claims has been declining over the past four years, as people move over to Universal Credit.



## Model based unemployment

Not everyone who is unemployed is entitled to claim out of work benefits, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey estimates the percentage of the working age population who are unemployed. It should be noted that this is model based and the ONS Annual Population Survey base the data on a small sample of people in the area.

This data estimates that there are 1,800 people unemployed in Rushmoor (3.1% of the economically active population).

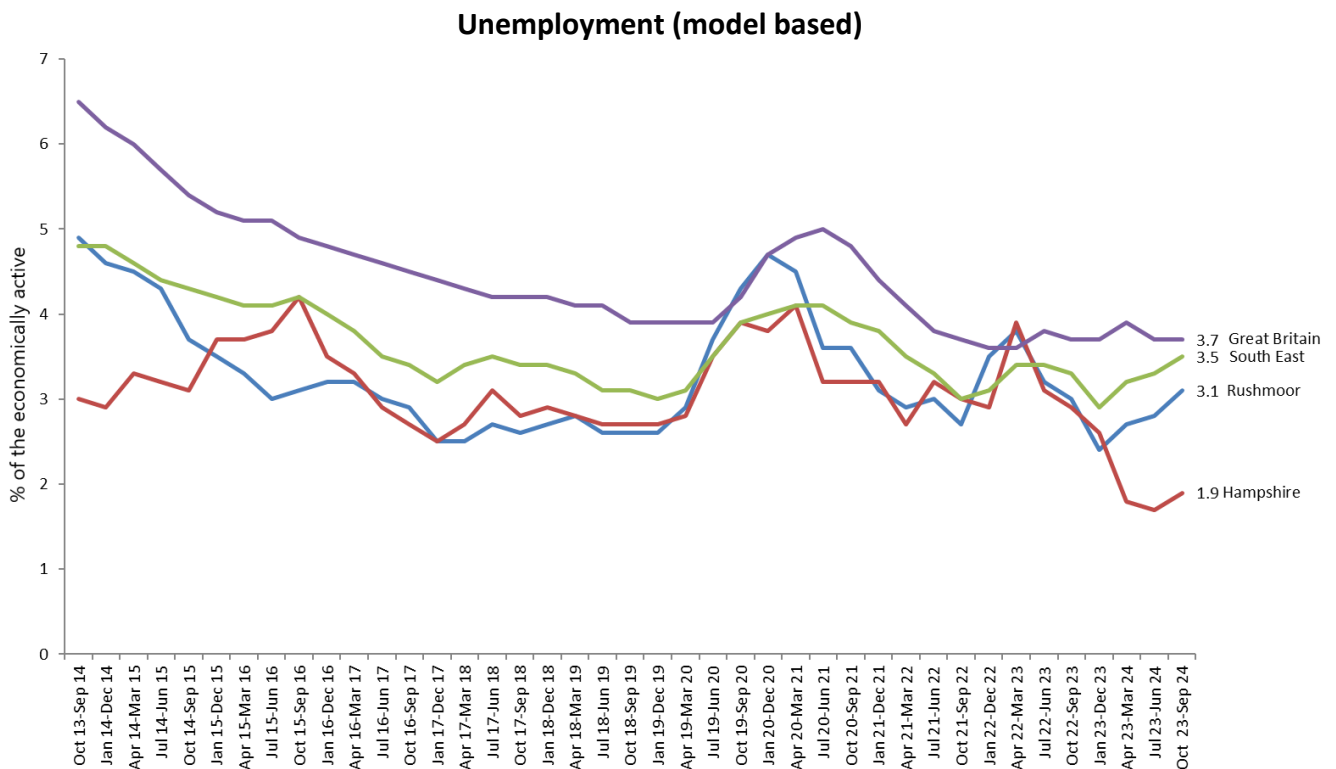
The following table shows the unemployment rate in Rushmoor, Hampshire, the South East and Great Britain. Rushmoor has a lower rate than the South East and Great Britain.

Oct 2023 –Sept 2024	Rushmoor	Hampshire	South East	Great Britain
Unemployed (Model Based)	3.1% (1,800)	1.9%	3.5%	3.7%

(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS)

[http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa\\_time\\_series/report.aspx?](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa_time_series/report.aspx?)

The following chart shows the unemployment rate over the last 10 years, recent data shows a small rise for Rushmoor and the South East.



(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS)

[http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa\\_time\\_series/report.aspx?](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa_time_series/report.aspx?)