

This bulletin includes;

- latest Claimant Count information
- total job posting numbers
- job posting numbers by occupation



Jobs and Economic Bulletin

March 2023

Jute Blackmon
jute.blackmon@gfirstlep.com



March 2023

Please find the **March** update below, which includes the latest **Claimant Count** information, total **Job Posting** numbers and job posting numbers by **occupation**.

Executive summary

- The **Claimant Count** in Gloucestershire **increased** by **230 persons** to **9,015** and the rate was **2.3%**
- **Job posting numbers** for the month of **March** were around **21,935** which is a monthly **decrease** of around **385** job postings when compared to the revised February figure of 22,320.

March Claimant Count

Note: the reference period for these Claimant Count figures is 9th March 2023.

This month saw the publication of the March ***Claimant Count** figures: the **Gloucestershire** rate has **increased** to **2.3%** (the value is expressed as a proportion of residents aged 16-64). The March total now stands at **9,015** compared to the February figure of 8,785 which is a monthly **increase of 230 persons**. All districts saw an increase in the estimated number of unemployed claimants, except Stroud which saw a decrease.

The March figure for the **South West** was **2.5%**, **England** was **3.8%** and the **UK** figure was **3.7%**.

For reference, prior to the pandemic in February 2020, the Gloucestershire rate was 2.0% with 7,895 people claiming, peaking in August 2020 to 5.0% and 19,155 people claiming.

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

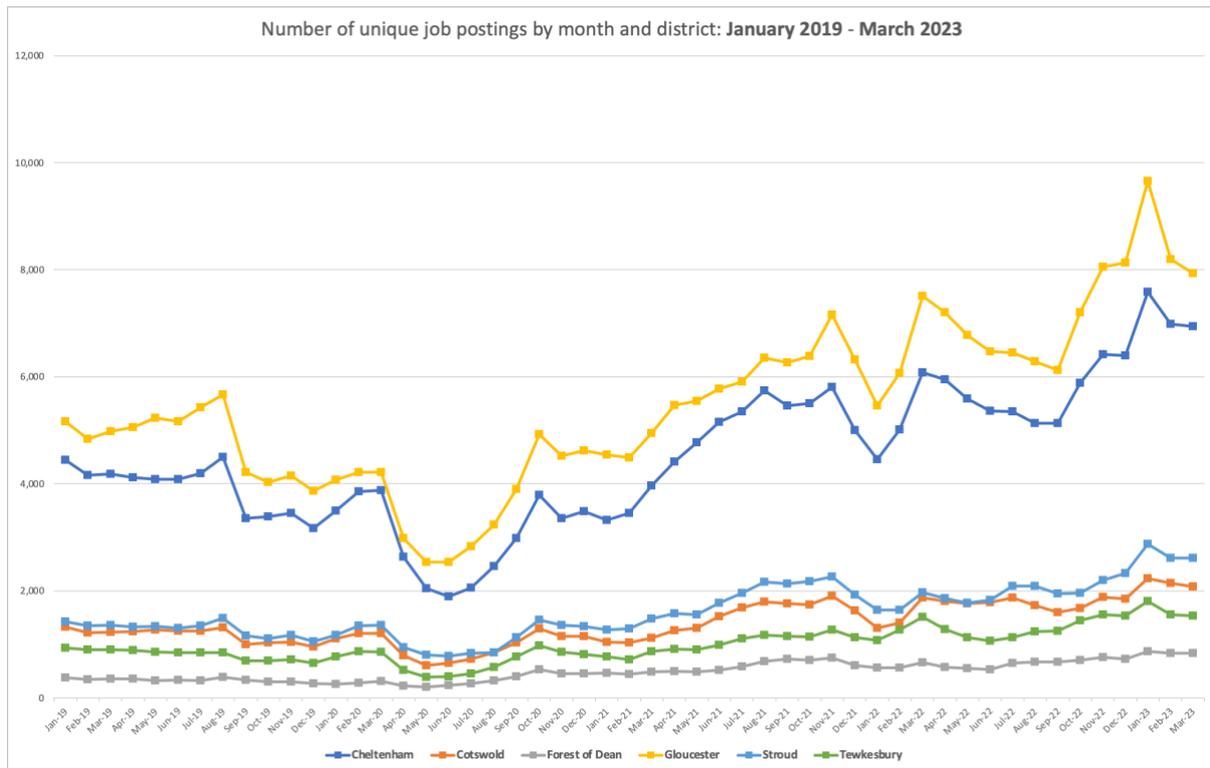
**The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people who are unemployed and claiming benefits. For more information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).*



Job posting numbers

Job posting numbers for the month of **March 2023** were around **21,935** which is a monthly **decrease** of around **385** job postings, when compared to the revised February 2023 figure of 22,320.

The below shows total jobs posted by district from **January 2019 to March 2023**. All districts saw a decrease in numbers when compared to February 2023, except the Forest of Dean which saw an increase.

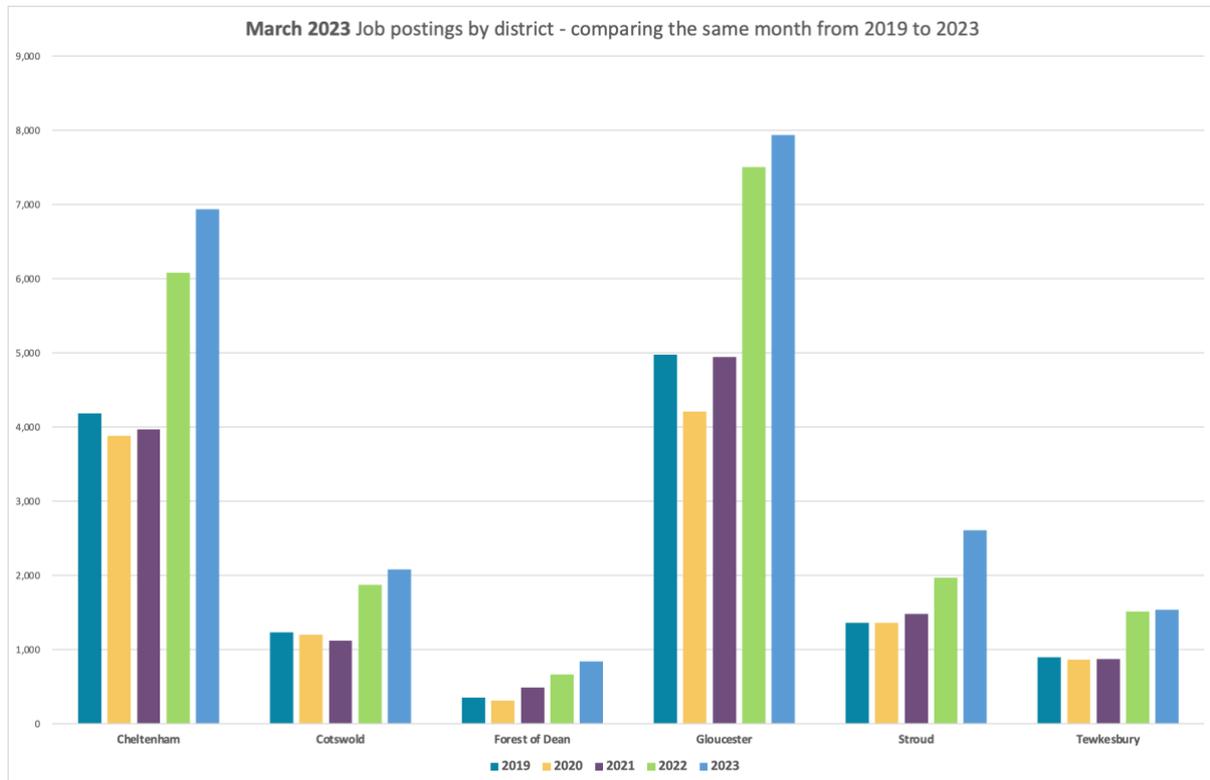


Source: Lightcast™. 2023



Job posting numbers – district comparison

The below gives a district overview of total job postings for the month of March 2023, comparing the same month in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Job posting numbers in March 2023 (light blue bar) are higher than March in previous years, with the biggest increase seen in Cheltenham.



Source: Lightcast™. 2023

Please note – job posting numbers are based on snapshot data taken on the 17th April, 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.



Occupations

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

The trend displayed (chart on the right) is for the 4-year period January 2019 to March 2023. Cells highlighted green show the occupations that have seen an increase when compared to pre-pandemic February 2020.

All occupations saw an increase in March 2023 compared with pre-pandemic 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 March 2023.

The trend shows that all occupations peaked in January 2023 and then decreasing in February and March 2023, which reflects the decrease in job posting numbers overall. 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.**

Vacancies by broad occupation	Feb 2020 Unique Postings	Mar 2021 Unique Postings	Mar 2022 Unique Postings	Mar 2023 Unique Postings	% change Feb 2020 - Mar 2023	Trend between January 2019 - March 2023
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	874	982	1,453	1,493	71%	
Professional Occupations	3,314	3,979	5,009	4,950	49%	
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	2,039	2,298	3,466	3,469	70%	
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	1,100	1,261	1,876	2,525	130%	
Skilled Trades Occupations	1,014	949	1,518	1,714	69%	
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	984	1,078	1,934	2,250	129%	
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	1,105	895	1,630	2,028	84%	
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	571	607	1,010	1,173	105%	
Elementary Occupations	708	723	1,654	2,261	219%	
Total Across All Occupations	11,770	12,861	19,609	21,935	86%	

Source: Lightcast™. 2023

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 March 2023**, 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 **4.6%** of the overall jobs posted in Gloucestershire in March 2023, followed by **Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c. 4.0%** and **Sales Related Occupations n.e.c. 3.0%**, with the remaining occupations accounting for smaller numbers.



Top ten Occupations by four-digit SOC code	Mar 2023 Unique Postings	As a percentage of jobs posted
Care Workers and Home Carers	1,006	4.6%
Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.	870	4.0%
Sales Related Occupations n.e.c.	659	3.0%
Customer Service Occupations n.e.c.	659	3.0%
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	569	2.6%
Nurses	550	2.5%
Kitchen and Catering Assistants	476	2.2%
Cleaners and Domestic	416	1.9%
Book-keepers, Payroll Managers and Wages Clerks	376	1.7%
Van Drivers	358	1.6%

Source: Lightcast™. 2023

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 March 2023 were:

- NHS
- Ultra Group Company Limited
- General Electric
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Northrop Grumman
- The Orders of St John Care Trust
- St James Place
- GCHQ Holdings
- University of Gloucestershire
- Safran

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