

Key Findings:

- In February 2023, 3,820 residents claimed unemployment related benefits, equating to 1.7% of the working age population.
- The claimant rate for South Gloucestershire remains substantially lower than the national and regional averages of 3.7% and 2.5%.
- The proportion of 'younger' and 'older' claimants also remains below the national and regional averages.
- Kingswood (3.1%), Patchway Coniston (3.0%) and Filton (2.7%) are the wards with the highest claimant rate, although all are below the national average.

3135

Claimant Count

During the month of February 2023, a total of 3,135 claimants of unemployment related benefits were made across South Gloucestershire.

Staple Hill and Mangotsfield (220) and Filton (205) had the highest number of claimants. Charfield (35) and Boyd Valley (35) had the lowest.

Claimant Count	Area
220	Staple Hill & Mangotsfield
205	Filton
190	Kingswood
165	Emersons Green
165	Stoke Gifford
160	Thornbury
140	Woodstock
135	Charlton & Cribbs
130	Yate North
125	Dodington
125	New Cheltenham
120	Hanham
115	Yate Central
110	Frampton Cotterell
105	Bradley Stoke North
105	Patchway Coniston

Monthly Claimant Count February 2023

Total Claimants:

In February 2023 **3,135 (1.7%)** of South Gloucestershire's working age population were claiming unemployment benefits.

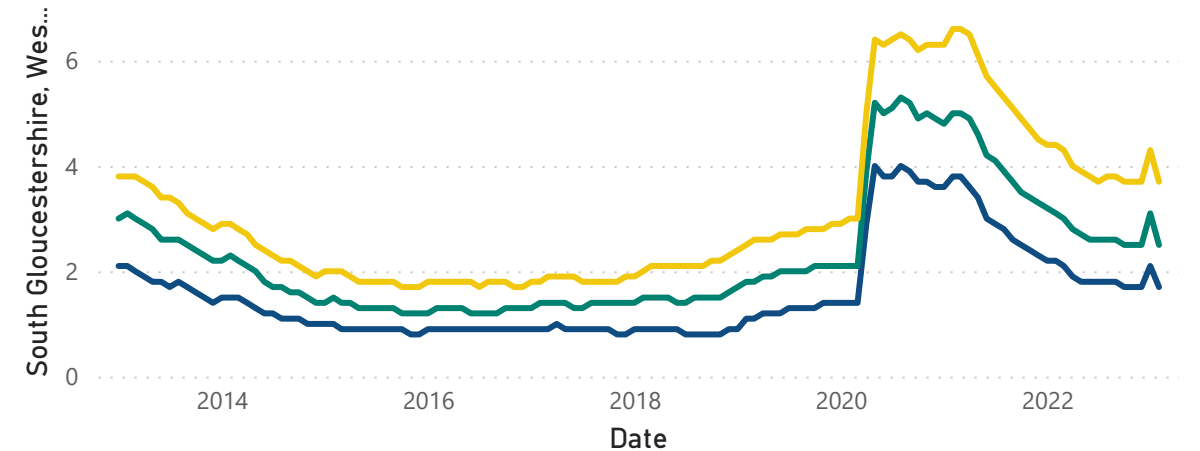
The local claimant rate remains lower than the national (England) and regional (West of England) rates, (3.7% and 2.5% respectively).

Note:

The monthly claimant count is not the official unemployment rate, but it provides the most regularly updated source of unemployment data at local level. The Claimant Count includes the stock of Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance Claimants.

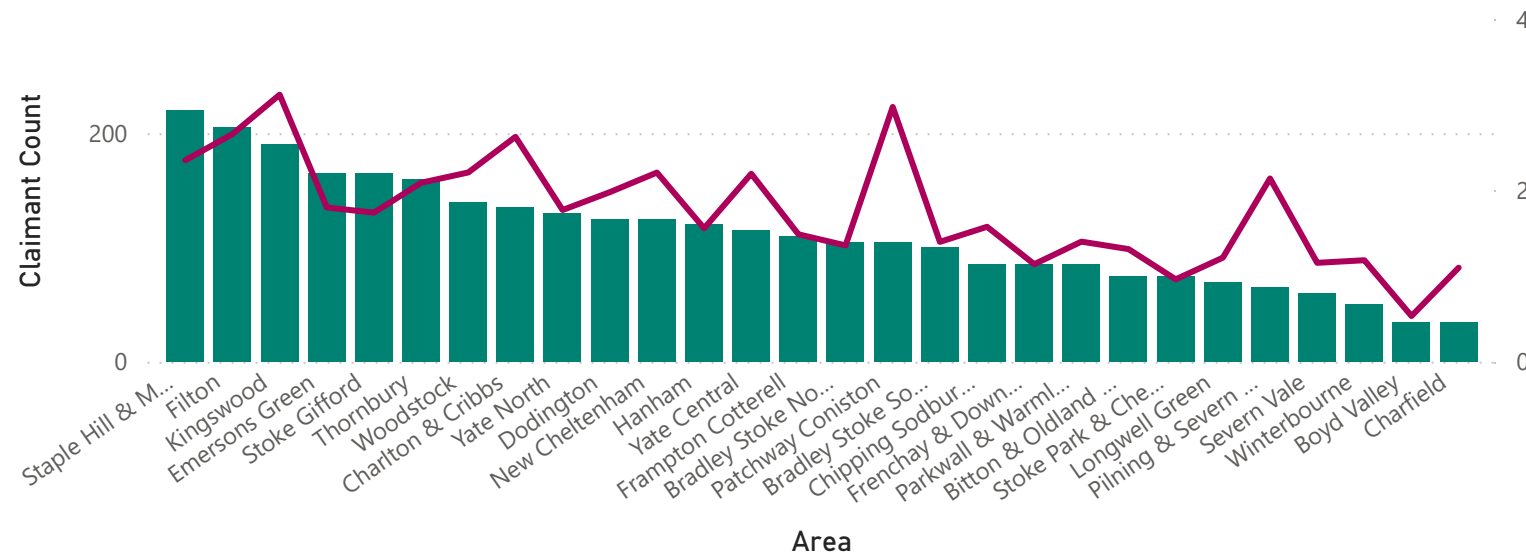
Percentage of working age residents claiming unemployment related benefits

● South Gloucestershire ● West of England ● England



Estimated ward claimant count and rate (%) -

● Claimant Count ● Claimant rate



Sub-district analysis (estimated claimant count and rate by ward):

In February 2023, the wards with the greatest number of claimants made were Staple Hill and Mangotsfield (220), Filton (205) and Kingswood (190). The wards with the highest claimant rates (total claimants as a proportion of the local population) were Kingswood (3.1%), Patchway Coniston (3.0%) and Filton (2.7%). These are below the national (England) average, which has a claimant rate of 3.7%.

Monthly Claimant Count

Source: (ONS, 2022)

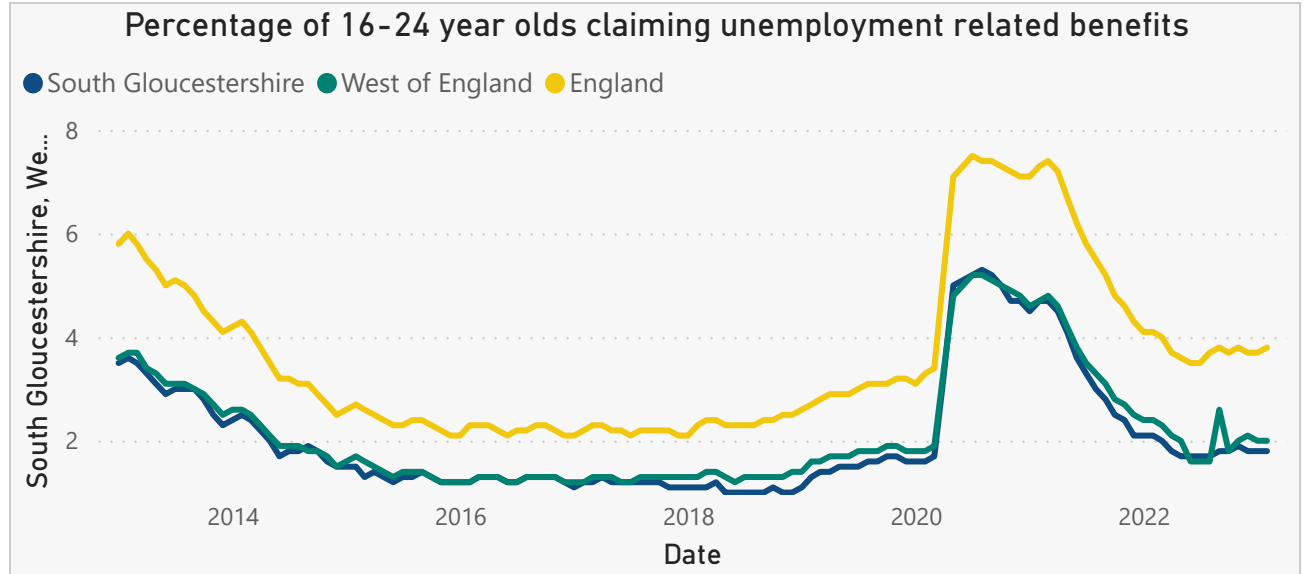
Young claimants (aged 16-24 years):

As of February 2023, **1.8%** of those aged between 16-24 claimed unemployment related benefits in **South Gloucestershire**. This figure is lower than the regional (**West of England**) claimant rate of **2.0%**, and lower than the national (**England**) level of **3.8%**.

From 2014 to 2020, the number of 16–24-year-olds claiming unemployment related benefits had been declining.

As shown by the graph, in March 2020 until April 2021, there was a sharp increase in young claimants coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since April 2021, the number of young people claiming unemployment related benefits has largely been on decline. Since July 2022, there has been an increase in young claimants, perhaps in part due to rising costs resulting current circumstances out of the Council's control.



Older claimants (aged 50+ years):

As of February 2023, **1.1%** of those aged over 50 claimed unemployment related benefit in **South Gloucestershire**. This figure is significantly lower than the regional (**West of England**) claimant rate of **2.0%**, and the national (**England**) rate of **2.9%**.

The graph shows similar changes in claimant rates to the previous one.

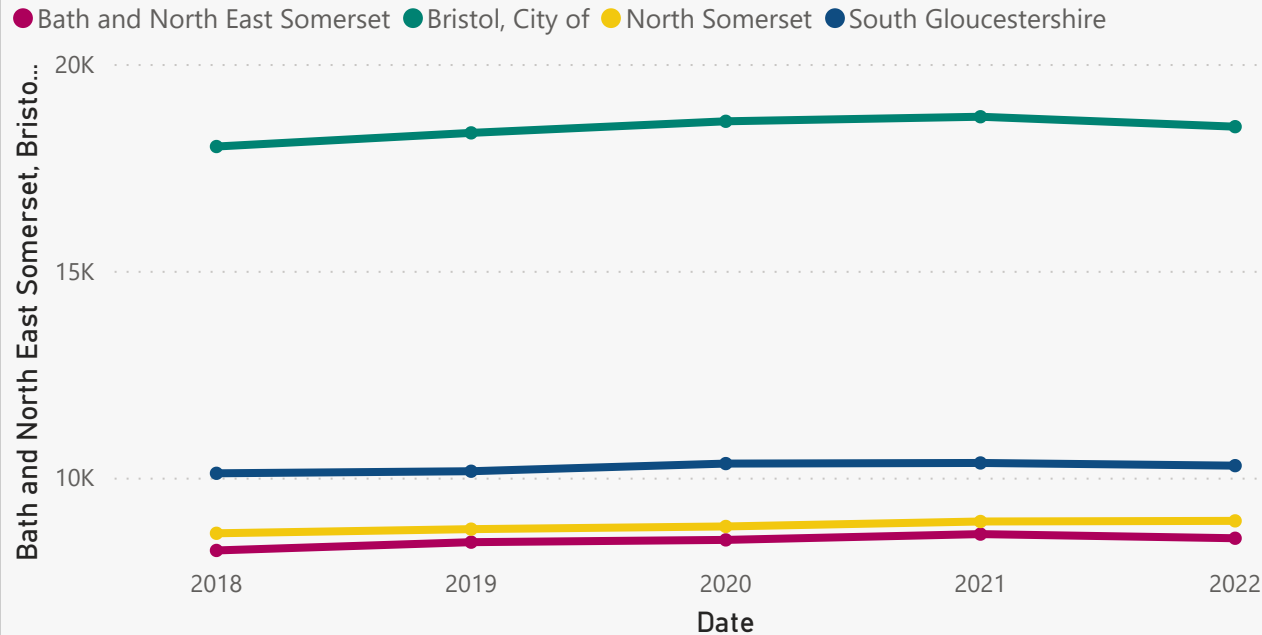
Sharp increases were seen in March 2020, in line with the COVID-19 pandemic. Since February 2021, the claimant rate across the three regions has been declining.

Whilst the West of England has seen an increase in older claimants since August 2022, such changes have not yet been seen at the South Gloucestershire level.



Business Counts

Total number of businesses across local authorities



In January 2022, there were **10,290** businesses across South Gloucestershire.

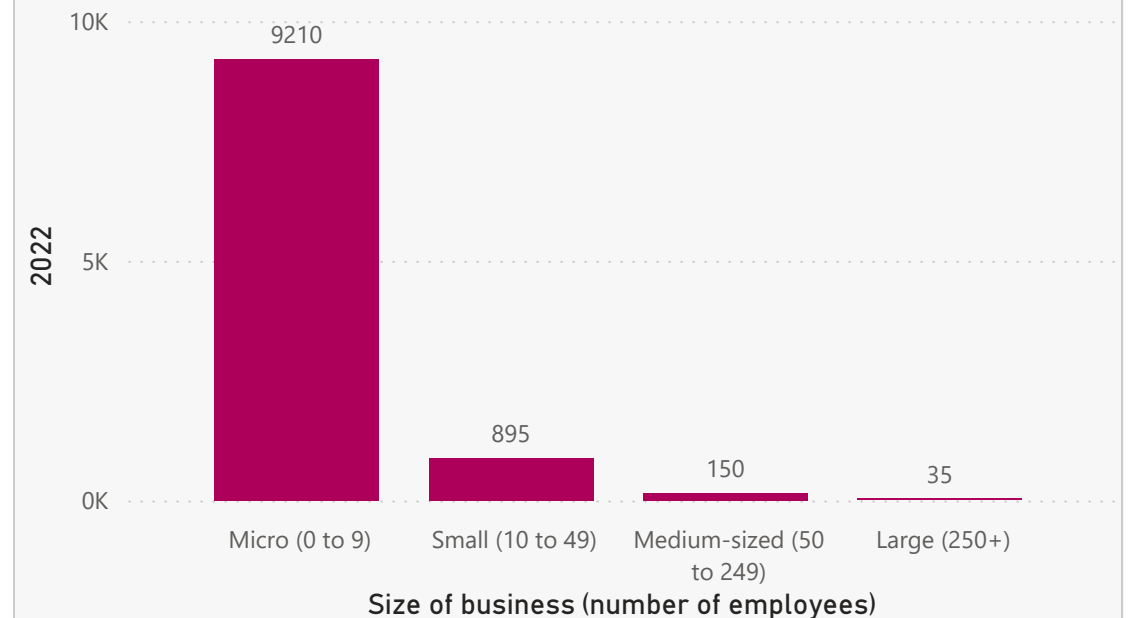
This figure is higher than the local authorities of Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset, which had 8,535 and 8,955 respectively.

Bristol had a much greater number of businesses, with 18,485 at the time figures was recorded.

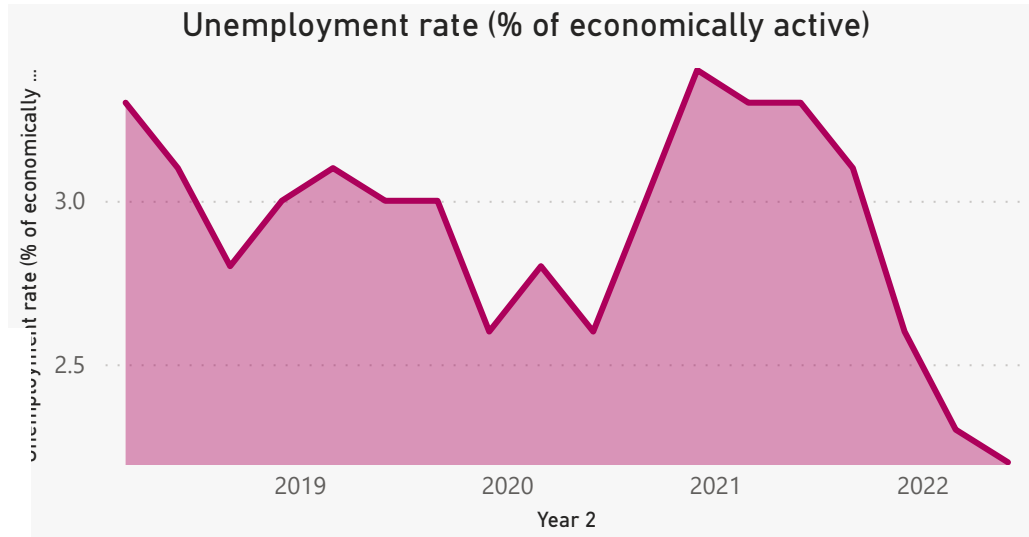
In January 2022, the most common business type in South Gloucestershire was a 'micro' business, which is defined as having 0-9 employees.

During this year, there were **9,200 micro business**. There were **895 small businesses** (with 10-49 employees), **150 medium sized businesses** (with 50 to 249 employees), and **35 large businesses** (with 250+ employees).

Number of businesses by their size (South Glos) (2022)



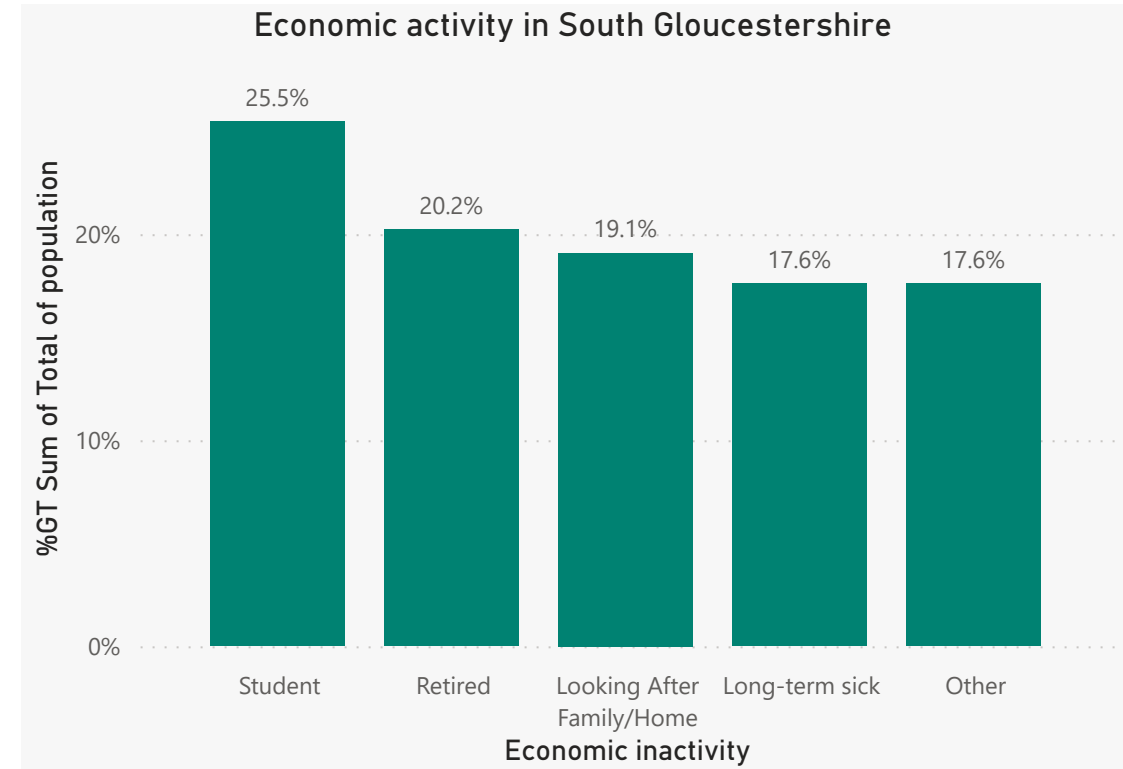
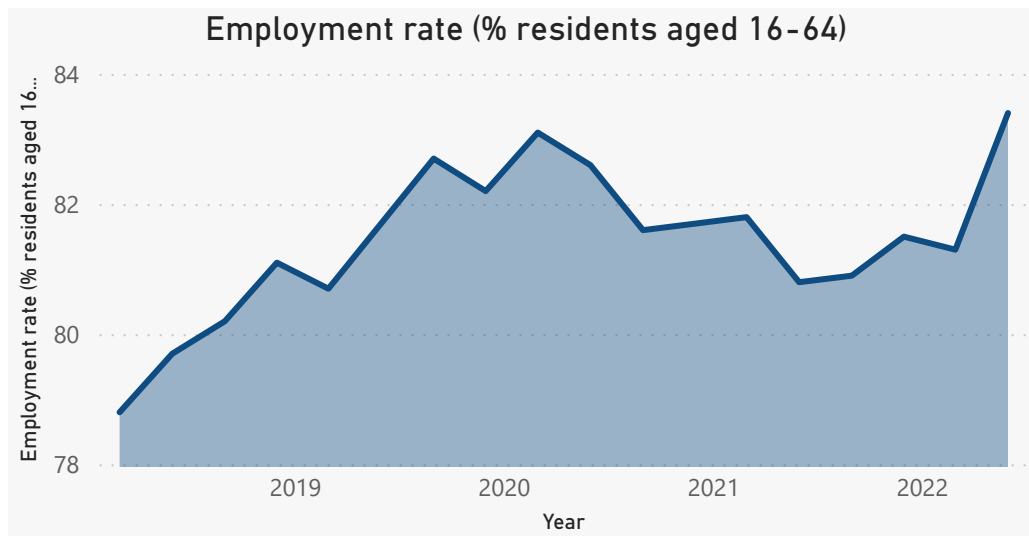
Employment and economic inactivity



Since December 2021, the unemployment rate in South Gloucestershire has been declining.

As of June 2022, the **unemployment rate was 2.2%** of the economically active population.

During that month, the **employment rate (% of residents aged 16-64) was 83%**.



In June 2022 (latest available data), **26,600 people** in South Gloucestershire aged 16-64 were classed as **economically inactive**. This is 9.2% of the total population of the local authority, which was 290,400 as of the 2021 Census.

6,800 of these residents were students, 5,400 were retired, 5,100 were looking after family/home, 4,700 were long-term sick, and 4,700 identified as other.

Notes and caveats

All data in this report is sourced from NOMIS: (www.nomisweb.co.uk) © Crown Copyright 2020

The claimant count figures are an experimental data series which counts the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work. It replaces the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as the headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed:

- from April 2015, the Claimant Count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all JSA claimants
- between May 2013 and March 2015, the Claimant Count includes all out of work Universal Credit claimants as well as all JSA claimants
- between October 1996 and April 2013, the Claimant Count is a count of the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- between January 1971 (when comparable estimates start) and September 1996, it is an estimate of the number of people who would have claimed unemployment-related benefit if Jobseeker's Allowance had existed at that time

The Claimant Count does not meet the internationally agreed definition of unemployment specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Estimates of unemployment are sourced from the Labour Force Survey, Annual Population Survey and modelled estimates which make use of the Annual Population Survey.

The Claimant Count includes people who claim unemployment-related benefits but who do not receive payment. For example, some claimants will have had their benefits stopped for a limited period of time by Jobcentre Plus. Some people claim JSA in order to receive National Insurance Credits.

Under Universal Credit it is expected that a broader span of claimants will claim benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed and therefore be included within the Claimant Count. This means that, with the roll-out of Universal Credit, the level of the Claimant Count series is likely to be higher than it would have been otherwise, even if labour market conditions remain unchanged.

Claimant Count figures are not seasonally adjusted. Care is needed in interpreting monthly changes in local level counts, which will be affected by seasonal fluctuations. Source: JSA Claimant Count (www.nomisweb.co.uk) © Crown Copyright 2020.

Rates for young and older claimants are not official data, but are calculated in house using relevant denominators from the (latest) 2019 mid-year population estimates

All ward level data are calculated in house from LSOA level data. Rates are based on estimates from the ONS 2019 mid-year population estimates.

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by South Gloucestershire Council's Corporate Research and Consultation Team, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Please be aware of the notes and caveats outlined overleaf.

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