

People on Universal Credit

Jobcentre Plus by Month

Month	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020 (r)	May 2020 (p)	Increase March>May	Increase %
"Searching for Work" & "Working - With Requirements" Regimes	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total		
Hereford	1776	1788	1844	3189	4379	2535	137.47
Leominster	754	745	793	1356	1780	987	124.46
Ross-On-Wye	286	285	297	574	816	519	174.75
Total	2819	2820	2933	5116	6969	4036	137.61
Bridgnorth	680	671	698	1397	1798	1100	157.59
Market Drayton	402	437	436	739	899	463	106.19
Oswestry	864	907	944	1591	2013	1069	113.24
Shrewsbury	1923	1913	1949	3269	4771	2822	144.79
Telford	3954	4022	4230	7341	9058	4828	114.14
Whitchurch	519	542	540	983	1146	606	112.22
Total	8339	8484	8798	15319	19695	10897	123.86
Marches LEP	11158	11304	11731	20435	26664	14933	127.30

People on Universal Credit (18-24)

Jobcentre Plus Month and Conditionality Regime

Counting: People on Universal Credit

Month	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020 (r)	May 2020 (p)	Increase March>May	Increase %
"Searching for Work" & "Working - With Requirements" Regimes	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total		
Hereford	328	312	318	518	782	464	145.91
Leominster	123	106	117	185	279	162	138.46
Ross-On-Wye	48	56	57	90	146	89	156.14
Total	498	476	494	794	1211	717	145.14
Bridgnorth	117	114	121	219	304	183	151.24
Market Drayton	76	80	80	119	158	78	97.50
Oswestry	166	176	187	294	355	168	89.84
Shrewsbury	357	355	345	533	815	470	136.23
Telford	789	804	845	1394	1792	947	112.07
Whitchurch	97	108	105	164	218	113	107.62
Total	1598	1638	1680	2719	3642	1962	116.79
Marches LEP	2096	2114	2174	3513	4853	2679	123.23

Strategic Economic Plan (2019)

- *‘a tight labour market with almost full employment, our firms risk struggling to recruit...’*
- *‘Brexit increases the impetus to upskill residents, enabling them to take on higher skilled jobs...’*
- *‘our population is older and ageing more rapidly than the national average...’*
- *‘outward migration of young people is a challenge in the Marches...’*

Impact of Covid-19

- Applying Institute for Fiscal Studies assumptions to the West Midlands economy suggests:
 - **44,205** jobs may be adversely affected in the **Marches**
 - **Younger workers, women** and **lower paid people** most likely to be affected
- Increasing concern about impending **recession** and lack of **employment** opportunities, including **apprenticeship** availability
- Impact on number of students progressing to **higher education**
- Impact on **mental health, emotional wellbeing** and future **aspirations**

Current support available in the Marches

- **Delivery of current ESF project portfolio**

<https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/esf-current-projects/>

- Life Ready, Work Ready (available in Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire)
- Building Skills and Growth Capacity (available in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin)
- Skills Support for the Workforce
- In2 Youth Support Partnership
- Building Better Opportunities
- Skills for Growth (available in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin)
- Work Routes
- Community Grants

Current support available in the Marches

- Support available from members of the Marches Skills Provider Network
- Telford & Wrekin's Job Box
- CITB Marches Construction Ready Partnership
- Support through Marches Growth Hub – including self-employment opportunities
- SAP funding for local leadership and for commissioning data and intelligence

New announcements – A Plan For Jobs

- **Job Retention Bonus** to reward businesses which maintain employment
- New £2 billion **Kickstart Scheme** - fully subsidised 6 month job placements for young people
- £1.6 billion will be invested in scaling up **employment support schemes** for young people - includes:
 - Businesses to be given £2,000 for each new **apprentice** hired under the age of 25
 - £111 million investment to triple **traineeships** in 2020-21
 - £17 million funding to triple **sector-based work academy** placements in 2020-21
 - Nearly £900 million to double the number of **work coaches** to 27,000
 - More than 250,000 more people to benefit from extra £32 million investment in the **National Careers Service**

New announcements – Capital Funding

- **£200 million** of government's £1.5 billion college capital funding pot available from September 2020
- A ten-year “rebuilding programme” for schools which includes **£560 million** being made available to them this year for refurbishment
- Additional Marches LEP allocation for capital projects

Discussion

- How can we make these work for people in the Marches?
- What 'asks' should we make of government and through the LEP Network?
 - Opportunities to co-design national initiatives?
 - How can we support rural communities?
 - Funding flexibilities for local provision?
 - Use of local expertise?
 - Sectoral approaches?