Unemployment and benefits data sheet – October 2026

Summary – In September 2026, 3.0% of Rushmoor's working age population were claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

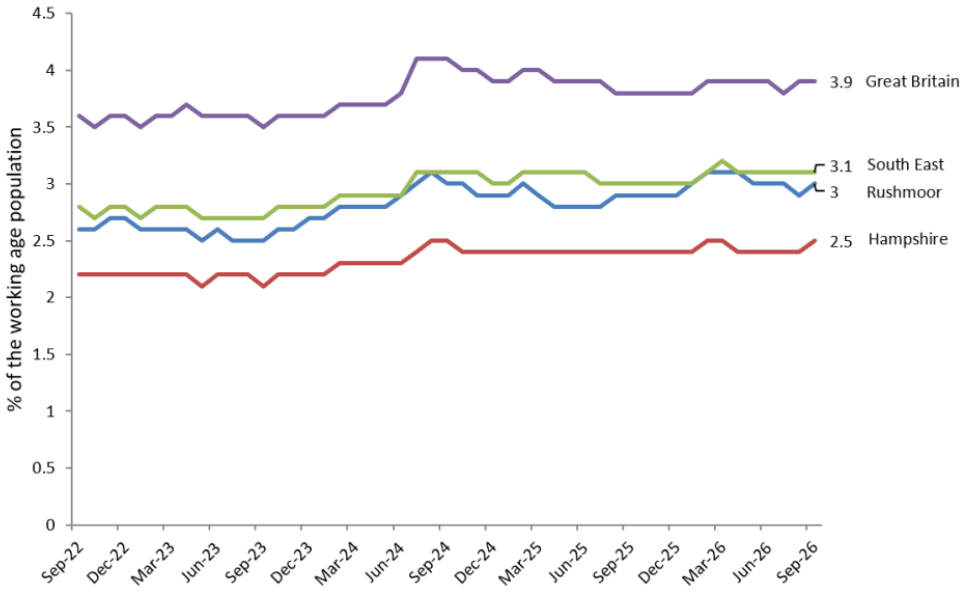
Claimant Count analysis

"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"

In September 2026 there were 2,095 Rushmoor residents claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, a small increase from 2,055 in August 2026. Overall, 3.0% 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 (3.9 %) and the South East (3.1%) but a higher percentage than Hampshire (2.5%).

The following chart sets out the claimants as a percentage of the working age population, it shows a recent increase for Rushmoor and Hampshire.

Claimant Count



Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics)

There are seven wards that have a higher percentage of claimants than the Rushmoor average. The wards are Aldershot Park ward (4.4%), Wellington ward (3.8%), Cherrywood ward (3.6%), North Town ward (3.4%). Empress ward (3.1%), Manor Park ward (3.2%) and Rowhill ward (3.1%).

The following table shows the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed in each ward in September 2026.

Produced by: Strategy, Policy and Transformation
Contact: performance@rushmoor.gov.uk

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

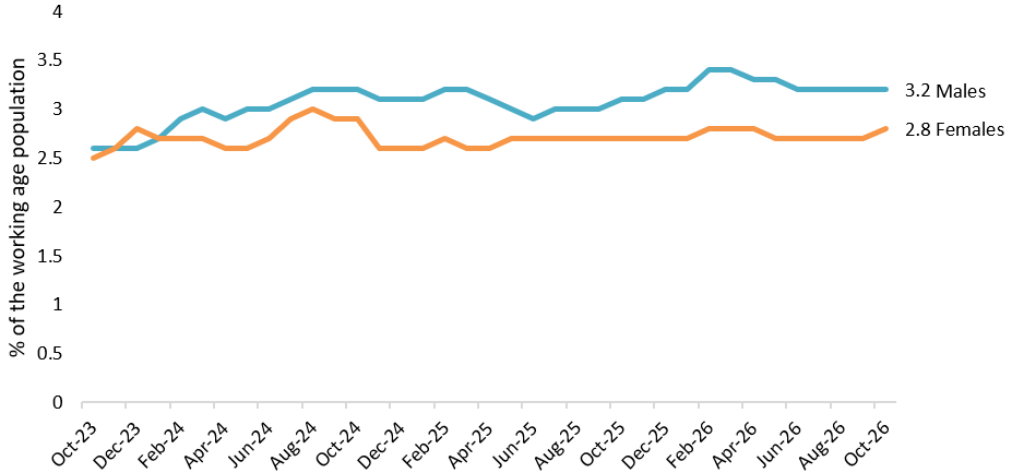
September 2026	Claimant count	Claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16-64
Aldershot Park	205	4.4
Wellington	290	3.8
Cherrywood	215	3.6
North Town	195	3.4
Empress	150	3.3
Manor Park	205	3.2
Rowhill	150	3.1
Cove and Southwood	125	2.5
Fernhill	110	2.5
St Mark's	165	2.4
West Heath	105	2.4
St John's	100	2.1
Knellwood	85	1.8
Total	2,095	3.0

(Source: Office for National Statistics Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics

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 2,095 residents claiming in September 2026, 1,140 were male (3.2% of the male working age population) and 955 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



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.

Claimant Count by age September 2026	Number in Rushmoor	Rushmoor *	Hampshire *	South East *	Great Britain*
Aged 18-24	395	5.0%	4.7%	5.0%	6.0%
Aged 25-49	1,125	2.8%	2.6%	3.3%	4.3%
Aged 50+	575	3.0%	1.8%	2.5%	3.0%

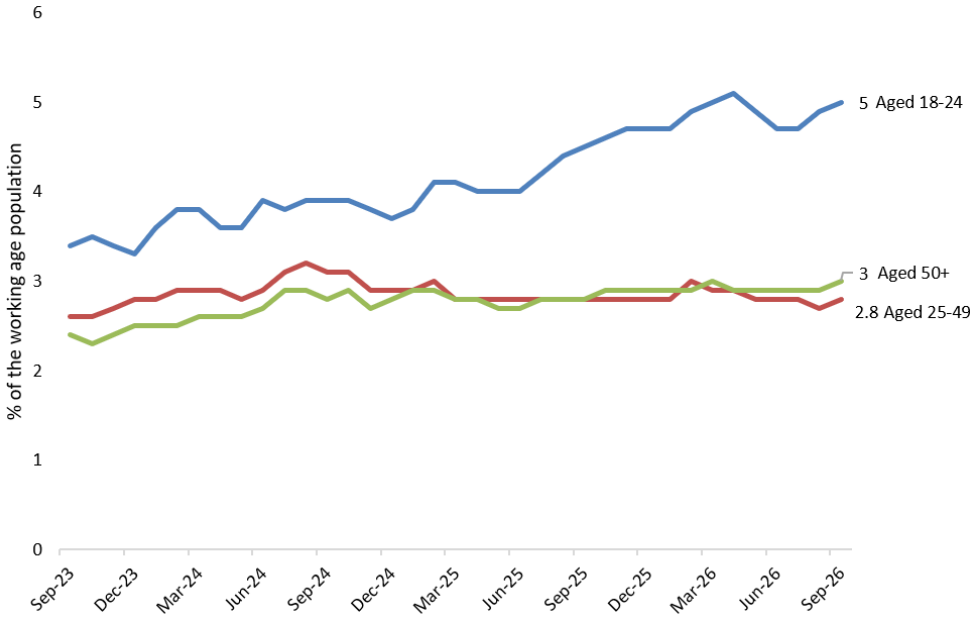
*Claimants as a percentage of total age group in the area

(Source: Office for National Statistics Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics)

In September 2026, 5.0% of 18-24 year olds were claiming. This is a lower percentage than Great Britain (6.0%), the same percentage as the South East (5.0%) but a higher percentage Hampshire (4.7%).

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



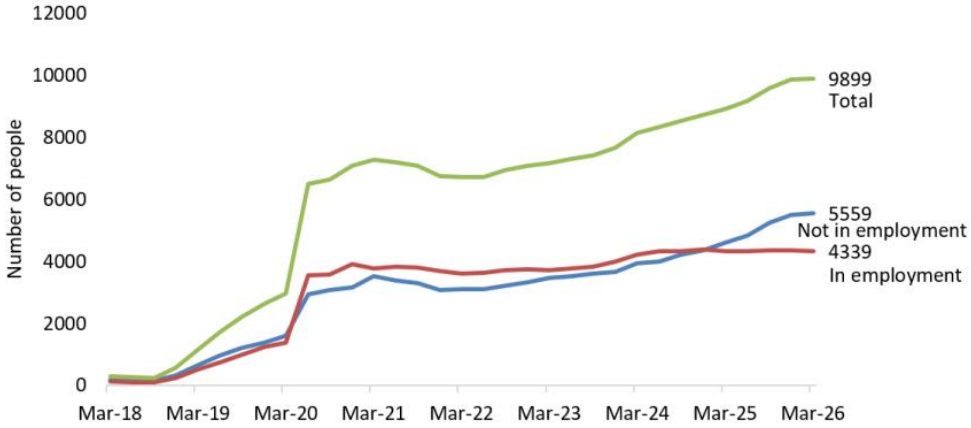
(Source: Office for National Statistics Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics)

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.

People on Universal Credit

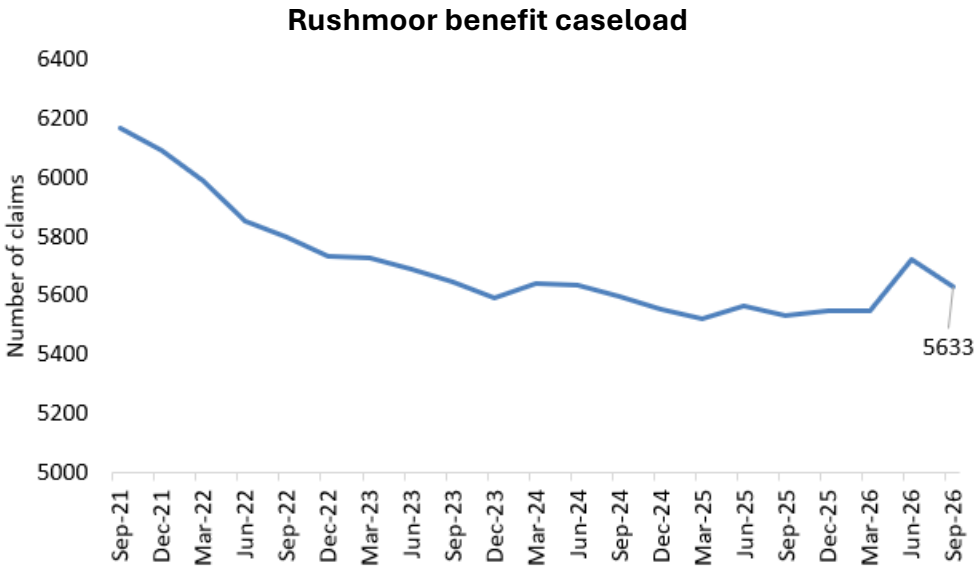


(Source: Department for Work & Pensions https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/)

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 5,633 in September 2026.

The following table shows the number of claims has been declining over the past four years, due to people moving over to Universal Credit. However, whist local Housing Allowance claims decrease, there has been a rise in those claiming Council Tax Support



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 2.200 people unemployed in Rushmoor (4.0% of the economically active population).

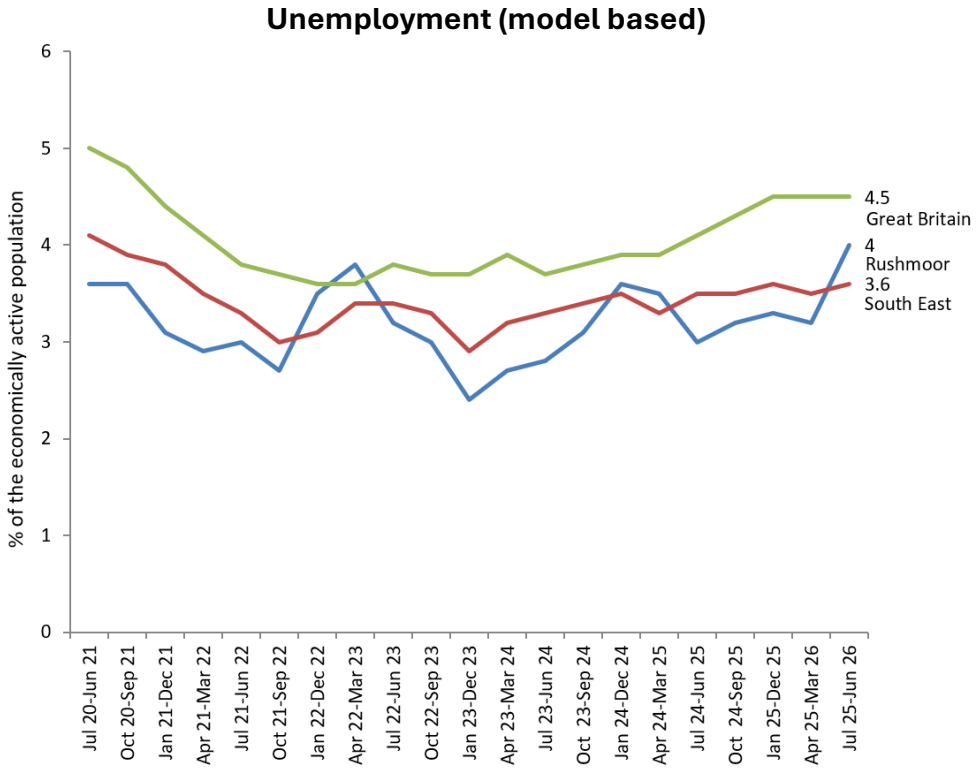
The following table shows the unemployment rate in Rushmoor, the South East and Great Britain. Rushmoor has a lower rate than Great Britain, but a higher level than the South East.

July 2025-June 2026	Rushmoor	South East	Great Britain
Unemployed (Model Based)	4.0% (2.200)	3.6%	4.5%

(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS

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 five years; recent data shows a rise for Rushmoor.



(Source: Office for National Statistics NOMIS

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431789/subreports/jsa_time_series/report.aspx?)