

Public sector workers on Universal Credit rockets 155 per cent



The number of public sector workers on Universal Credit has rocketed 155 percent since the start of the pandemic, new GMB analysis shows.

Between late 2019 and the end of 2022, the number of public sector workers in receipt of Universal Credit has risen by a staggering 119,000.

GMB analysis of ONS Labour Force Survey data shows in the fourth quarter of 2019, 76,803 public sector workers were in receipt of Universal Credit.

By the fourth quarter of 2022, that number had shot up to 195,772.



The findings are revealed in a special report to GMB's annual Congress, which takes place in Brighton today [Tuesday 6 June 2023].

**Public sector workers in receipt of Universal Credit (estimated)[i]
October–December 2019 and October–December 2022**

Nation / English Region	2019	2022	Increase (n)	Increase (%)
North East	7,595	12,032	4,437	58.4
North West	7,654	17,586	9,932	129.8
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,887	15,747	10,860	222.2
East Midlands	4,977	25,838	20,861	419.1
West Midlands	2,655	11,054	8,399	316.3
East of England	11,690	26,252	14,562	124.6
London	6,631	19,159	12,528	188.9
South East	15,667	23,212	7,545	48.2
South West	6,486	17,167	10,681	164.7
Wales	2,162	5,772	3,610	167.0
Scotland	5,295	13,639	8,344	157.6
Northern Ireland	1,104	8,314	7,210	653.1
United Kingdom	76,803	195,772	118,969	154.9

Rachel Harrison, GMB National Secretary, said:

“It’s a stain on the honour of our nation so many public sector staff have to rely on working benefits to get by.

“NHS staff, care workers, school staff, and the council workers who keep our towns and cities alive.



“Surely these people should be paid enough to feed their families and keep a roof over their heads without relying on Universal Credit.

“Instead, the numbers are rocketing. It’s a disgrace.

“If the past 12 months of industrial action have taught us anything, it’s that people are refusing to take in-work poverty lying down. Yet this Government doesn’t seem to have learned its lesson.”

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