

# Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – March 2025 Data

**Please Note:** Recent changes to Universal Credit (UC) including a further transition of some claimants on legacy benefits and an increase in the Administrative Earnings Threshold has resulted in many more UC claimants being moved into the 'Intensive Work Search' category and thus being counted in the claimant count figures. More detail can be found [here](#).

## Total Claimant Count

In March 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 1,525 to 80,995. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased to 14.4%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) also increasing to 10.7%. Claimant numbers also increased in the WMCA (Met area) and the UK last month.

### Youth Claimant Count

In Birmingham, the unadjusted youth (18-24) claimant count increased by 380 in March to 14,550. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 17.1%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 10.6%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (14.0%) and for the UK as a whole (8.6%) in March.

## Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for March 2025 for the core cities. Birmingham has the highest claimant unemployment rate (14.4%) amongst the core cities and is well above the UK average (5.2%). All of the ten core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

**Table 1: Core City Claimant Count March 2025**

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	80,995	14.4	1,525	0.3
Manchester	26,850	9.3	685	0.3
Nottingham	14,490	8.7	420	0.2
Liverpool	20,310	8.2	455	0.2
Glasgow	22,490	7.5	140	0.1
Leeds	26,335	6.9	740	0.2
Newcastle	9,275	6.5	115	0.1
Sheffield	18,055	6.1	260	0.1
Cardiff	10,480	5.3	165	0.1
Bristol	12,770	4.6	165	0.0
UK	1,778,055	5.2	27,435	0.1
London	367,315	7.2	7,560	0.2

## West Midlands Region

Table 2 displays the latest claimant count data for the region. Birmingham along with Wolverhampton, and Sandwell have the highest unemployment rates locally, with Coventry, Dudley and Solihull having lower rates, closer to or below the UK average. All of the seven Met areas saw an increase in unemployment in March, as did the West Midlands region.

**Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count March 2025**

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	80,995	14.4	1,525	0.3
Wolverhampton	12,935	11.0	240	0.2
Sandwell	16,180	10.5	330	0.2
Walsall	11,205	8.1	115	0.0
Coventry	14,015	6.7	480	0.2
Dudley	10,095	6.7	130	0.1
Solihull	4,835	4.6	45	0.0
WMCA Met Area	150,265	10.5	2,865	0.2
West Midlands	212,150	7.2	3,705	0.1
UK	1,778,055	5.2	27,435	0.1

## Birmingham Constituencies

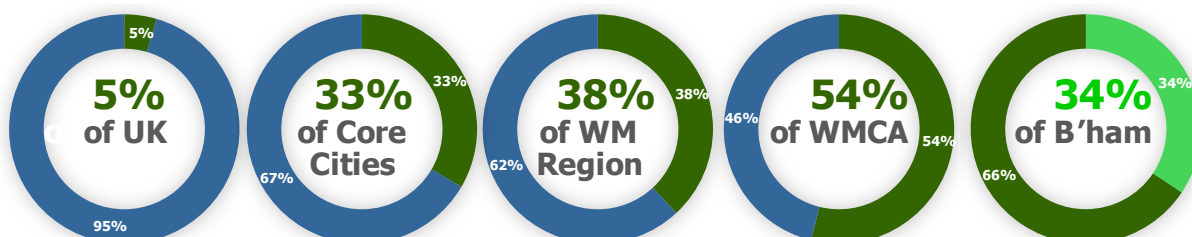
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for March 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Ladywood constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 27.6% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 3.1%. All ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in March occurred in Ladywood (+570) and Perry Barr (+490).

**Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count March 2025**

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,660	12.8	290	0.6
Erdington	8,595	9.0	365	0.4
Hall Green and Moseley	9,110	23.5	295	0.8
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	8,475	14.7	390	0.7
Ladywood	15,620	27.6	570	1.0
Northfield	5,150	8.6	180	0.3
Perry Barr	12,860	25.6	490	1.0
Selly Oak	4,835	8.5	190	0.3
Sutton Coldfield	1,625	3.1	110	0.2
Yardley	8,580	25.8	330	1.0
Birmingham	80,745	14.9	3,175	0.6

## Birmingham Claimant Concentration

The infographic below highlights the concentration of claimants in the city by showing what percentage of claimants in wider areas are accounted for by Birmingham claimants. The chart on the far right shows the proportion of claimants in Birmingham who are from East Birmingham.



## Birmingham Wards

Tables containing ward claimant count unemployment data and ward youth unemployment data are shown on the following pages.

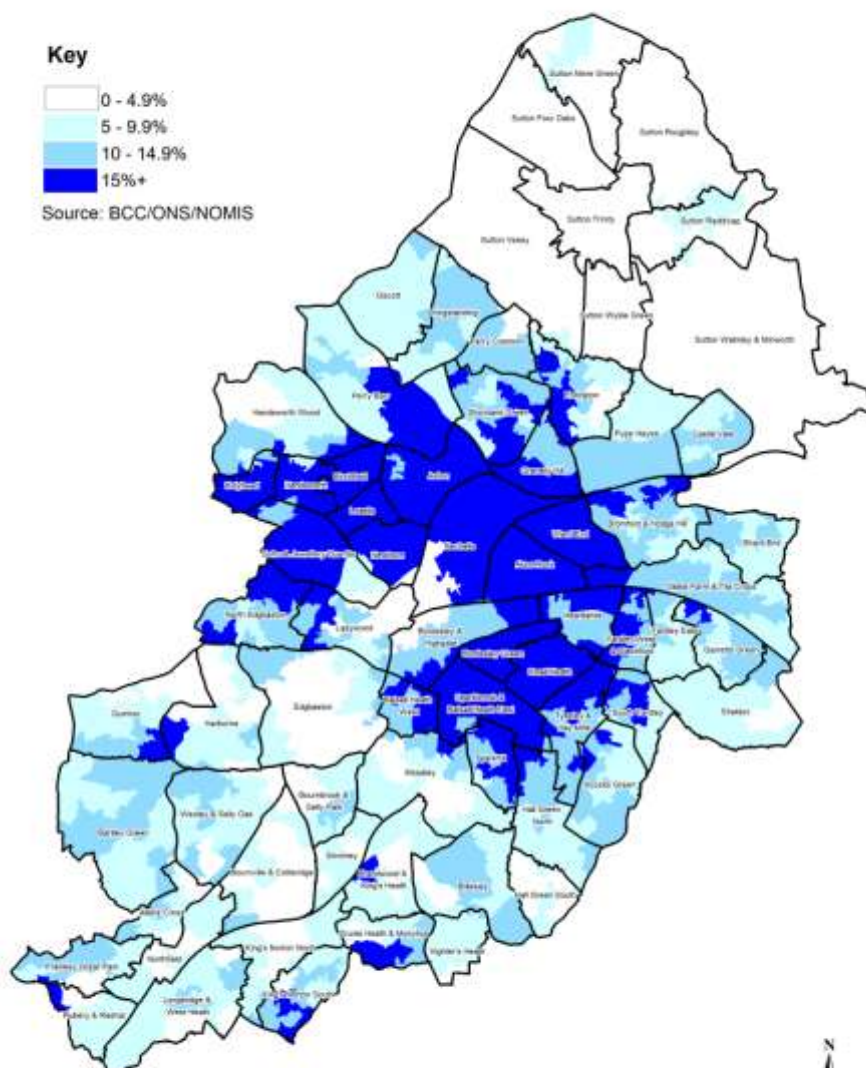
Lozells (24.8%) and Handsworth (22.8%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddicap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.2% or under.

54 of the 69 wards in the city saw unemployment increase last month. The largest increase in total claimant numbers at a ward level occurred in Soho & Jewellery Quarter (+90) and Newtown (+75).

In terms of ward youth unemployment Birchfield (22.3%) and Handsworth (21.3%) have the highest youth claimant proportions.

The map below highlights that the highest levels of claimant unemployment are concentrated in the inner city.

**Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions**



**Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment March 2025**

<b>8</b>	<b>Claimant Count</b>	<b>Claimant Proportion %</b>	<b>Monthly Change in Claimants</b>	<b>Monthly Change in Proportion %</b>
Acocks Green	1,740	11.4	60	0.4
Allens Cross	500	7.8	-5	-0.1
Alum Rock	3,085	18.5	65	0.5
Aston	3,330	21.6	45	0.2
Balsall Heath West	1,165	14.7	35	0.4
Bartley Green	1,325	9.6	15	0.1
Billesley	1,125	9.4	20	0.2
Birchfield	1,860	22.2	55	0.6
Bordesley & Highgate	1,610	14.2	45	0.4
Bordesley Green	1,545	19.5	60	0.7
Bournbrook & Selly Park	930	4.2	20	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	590	5.4	15	0.1
Brandwood & King's Heath	805	6.8	-20	-0.2
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,535	11.5	-5	-0.1
Castle Vale	590	9.9	0	0.0
Druids Heath & Monyhull	700	9.8	15	0.3
Edgbaston	775	4.7	20	0.1
Erdington	1,375	10.7	-5	-0.1
Frankley Great Park	705	9.8	20	0.2
Garretts Green	805	12.2	30	0.4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,810	12.5	30	0.2
Gravelly Hill	1,125	15.5	30	0.4
Hall Green North	1,540	10.7	-10	-0.1
Hall Green South	310	5.0	20	0.3
Handsworth	1,885	22.8	45	0.6
Handsworth Wood	1,310	9.6	30	0.2
Harborne	1,070	6.6	15	0.1
Heartlands	1,285	16.0	40	0.5
Highter's Heath	485	7.2	20	0.3
Holyhead	1,345	16.6	20	0.3
King's Norton North	445	6.5	10	0.2
King's Norton South	640	9.7	15	0.1
Kingstanding	1,485	11.5	50	0.4
Ladywood	2,045	8.2	40	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	950	7.6	5	0.0
Lozells	1,545	24.8	55	0.9
Moseley	1,240	8.6	35	0.3
Nechells	1,485	12.3	30	0.3
Newtown	1,960	18.4	75	0.8
North Edgbaston	2,545	14.6	60	0.3

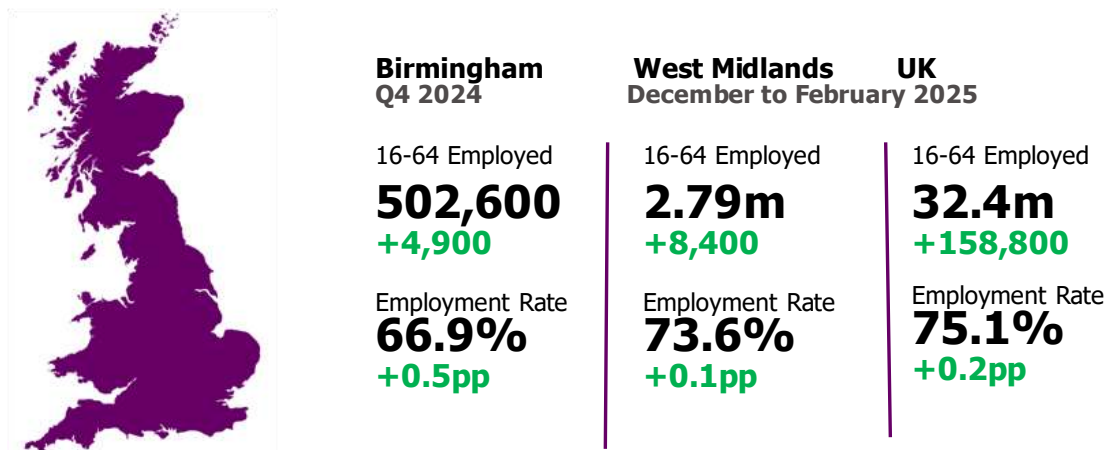
Northfield	385	6.3	5	0.1
Oscott	900	7.2	25	0.2
Perry Barr	1,270	9.9	45	0.4
Perry Common	710	9.8	20	0.3
Pype Hayes	620	9.4	15	0.3
Quinton	980	7.8	10	0.1
Rubery & Rednal	495	7.3	10	0.1
Shard End	720	9.9	-10	-0.2
Sheldon	945	7.8	15	0.1
Small Heath	2,330	18.1	60	0.5
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,935	14.1	90	0.5
South Yardley	690	10.4	15	0.3
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,115	18.9	-10	0.0
Sparkhill	2,270	16.4	35	0.2
Stirchley	470	7.0	20	0.3
Stockland Green	2,225	14.0	35	0.2
Sutton Four Oaks	105	2.0	0	-0.1
Sutton Mere Green	140	2.6	-5	-0.1
Sutton Reddicap	280	4.7	-5	-0.1
Sutton Roughley	160	2.4	-10	-0.2
Sutton Trinity	145	2.8	-5	0.0
Sutton Vesey	370	3.2	5	0.1
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	255	2.8	25	0.3
Sutton Wylde Green	155	3.2	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,210	15.8	5	0.1
Ward End	1,515	17.9	0	0.0
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,290	8.6	10	0.1
Yardley East	585	9.4	20	0.3
Yardley West & Stechford	1,135	14.4	15	0.1
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>80,995</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>0.2</b>

**Table 5 - Ward Youth 18-24 Claimant Unemployment March 2025**

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	310	13.2	10	0.4
Allens Cross	125	13.9	-5	-0.6
Alum Rock	565	14.6	25	0.6
Aston	515	17.4	15	0.5
Balsall Heath West	185	10.2	5	0.3
Bartley Green	255	13.5	0	0.0
Billesley	220	12.6	5	0.3
Birchfield	330	22.3	10	0.7
Bordesley & Highgate	290	10.5	15	0.5
Bordesley Green	285	16.9	10	0.6
Bournbrook & Selly Park	220	1.5	10	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	110	5.8	-5	-0.3
Brandwood & King's Heath	155	11.5	-10	-0.7
Bromford & Hodge Hill	290	11.5	10	0.4
Castle Vale	130	14.3	0	0.0
Druids Heath & Monyhull	150	15.3	-5	-0.5
Edgbaston	105	2.1	10	0.2
Erdington	260	15.6	5	0.3
Frankley Great Park	165	15.9	0	0.0
Garretts Green	160	13.6	0	0.0
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	355	15.3	0	0.0
Gravelly Hill	215	19.2	20	1.8
Hall Green North	270	10.9	5	0.2
Hall Green South	50	5.6	5	0.6
Handsworth	325	21.3	5	0.3
Handsworth Wood	230	10.9	10	0.5
Harborne	190	8.7	0	0.0
Heartlands	220	13.1	5	0.3
Highter's Heath	100	13.2	5	0.7
Holyhead	255	21.1	5	0.4
King's Norton North	90	9.7	0	0.0
King's Norton South	125	13.6	5	0.5
Kingstanding	310	15.9	0	0.0
Ladywood	305	5.8	20	0.4
Longbridge & West Heath	190	11.3	0	0.0
Lozells	225	14.3	10	0.6
Moseley	195	11.8	10	0.6
Nechells	235	4.8	15	0.3
Newtown	285	5.8	20	0.4
North Edgbaston	470	17.2	10	0.4

Northfield	80	11.2	0	0.0
Oscott	160	10.2	10	0.6
Perry Barr	220	12.4	10	0.6
Perry Common	150	15.5	10	1.0
Pype Hayes	115	14.2	0	0.0
Quinton	175	10.6	10	0.6
Rubery & Rednal	95	11.9	5	0.6
Shard End	140	14.8	10	1.1
Sheldon	175	10.2	5	0.3
Small Heath	370	12.5	0	0.0
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	480	14.2	5	0.1
South Yardley	120	13.6	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	545	15.3	5	0.1
Sparkhill	400	14.1	-5	-0.2
Stirchley	75	9.9	5	0.7
Stockland Green	435	18.3	25	1.1
Sutton Four Oaks	15	2.5	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	30	4.7	5	0.8
Sutton Reddicap	60	8.3	0	0.0
Sutton Roughley	40	5.3	5	0.7
Sutton Trinity	25	4.0	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	55	4.4	5	0.4
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	40	3.9	5	0.5
Sutton Wylde Green	35	6.0	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	220	19.2	0	0.0
Ward End	255	13.8	20	1.1
Weoley & Selly Oak	260	10.9	-5	-0.2
Yardley East	100	10.5	0	0.0
Yardley West & Stechford	235	16.9	5	0.4
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>14,550</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0.3</b>

## Latest Resident Employment



The latest Annual Population Survey employment data for Birmingham (Q4 2024) shows working age employment levels increasing by 4,900 in the last quarter to stand at 502,600. The employment rate increased rising from 66.4% in Q3 to 66.9% in Q4 2024.

The latest Labour Force Survey figures for the West Midlands region for the three month period December to February 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has increased by 8,400 compared with the previous quarter (September to November 2024). The employment rate regionally increased by 0.1-% points compared to the previous quarter.

Nationally the employment rate increased to 75.1%, the employment rate nationally is still below pre pandemic levels.

## Skill Levels

On the supply side comparatively high unemployment and low employment rates in the city are linked to the skills gap that exists locally with residents having lower skills and qualification levels than the national average.

The chart below highlights this showing how Birmingham (11.6%) has a greater proportion of working age residents with no qualifications compared to the UK (6.8%) and the core city average (9.1%).

The city (64.6%) also has a correspondingly lower proportion of residents with RQF3+ qualifications than the UK (67.8%) and core city average (67.5%).

**Chart 1: RQF Qualification Levels 2024**

