

Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – May 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 May 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 830 to 80,080. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased to 14.2%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) increasing to 10.6%. 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 95 in May to 14,570. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 17.2%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 10.6%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (13.9%) and for the UK as a whole (8.4%) in May.

Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for May 2025 for the core cities. Birmingham has the highest claimant unemployment rate (14.2%) amongst the core cities and is well above the UK average (5.1%). Nine of the ten core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

Table 1: Core City Claimant Count May 2025

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	80,080	14.2	830	0.1
Manchester	26,390	9.1	370	0.1
Nottingham	14,270	8.6	210	0.1
Liverpool	19,920	8.1	215	0.1
Glasgow	21,730	7.2	315	0.1
Leeds	25,690	6.7	515	0.1
Newcastle	8,935	6.3	150	0.2
Sheffield	17,435	5.8	-5	0.0
Cardiff	10,425	5.3	245	0.1
Bristol	12,700	4.6	300	0.1
UK	1,733,645	5.1	25,225	0.1
London	367,110	7.2	11,470	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 May, as did the West Midlands region.

Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count May 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	80,080	14.2	830	0.1
Wolverhampton	12,470	10.6	95	0.1
Sandwell	15,875	10.3	270	0.2
Walsall	10,915	7.9	125	0.1
Coventry	13,820	6.6	200	0.1
Dudley	9,810	6.5	65	0.1
Solihull	4,810	4.6	80	0.1
WMCA Met Area	147,775	10.3	1,655	0.1
West Midlands	207,710	7.0	2,655	0.1
UK	1,733,645	5.1	25,225	0.1

Birmingham Constituencies

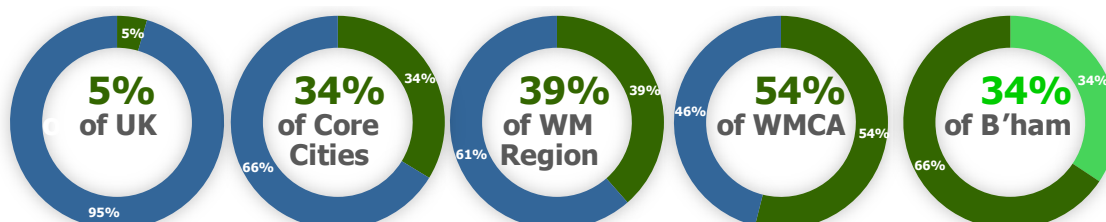
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for May 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 30.6% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.4%. Nine of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in May occurred in Hall Green & Moseley (+190) and Edgbaston (+155).

Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count May 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,720	12.2	155	0.3
Erdington	8,590	12.7	65	0.1
Hall Green and Moseley	8,995	15.7	190	0.3
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	8,260	15.7	40	0.1
Ladywood	15,575	26.6	115	0.2
Northfield	4,985	7.2	40	0.1
Perry Barr	12,855	30.6	125	0.3
Selly Oak	4,730	7.0	25	0.0
Sutton Coldfield	1,530	2.4	0	0.0
Yardley	8,585	18.8	70	0.2
Birmingham	80,080	14.2	830	0.1

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 (24.3%) and Handsworth (23.0%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddica^{ap} aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.1% or under.

44 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 Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East (+75) and North Edgbaston (+70).

In terms of ward youth unemployment Holyhead (21.6%) and Handsworth (21.0%) have the highest youth claimant proportions. 26 of the city's wards saw youth claimant numbers increase last month.

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

Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions

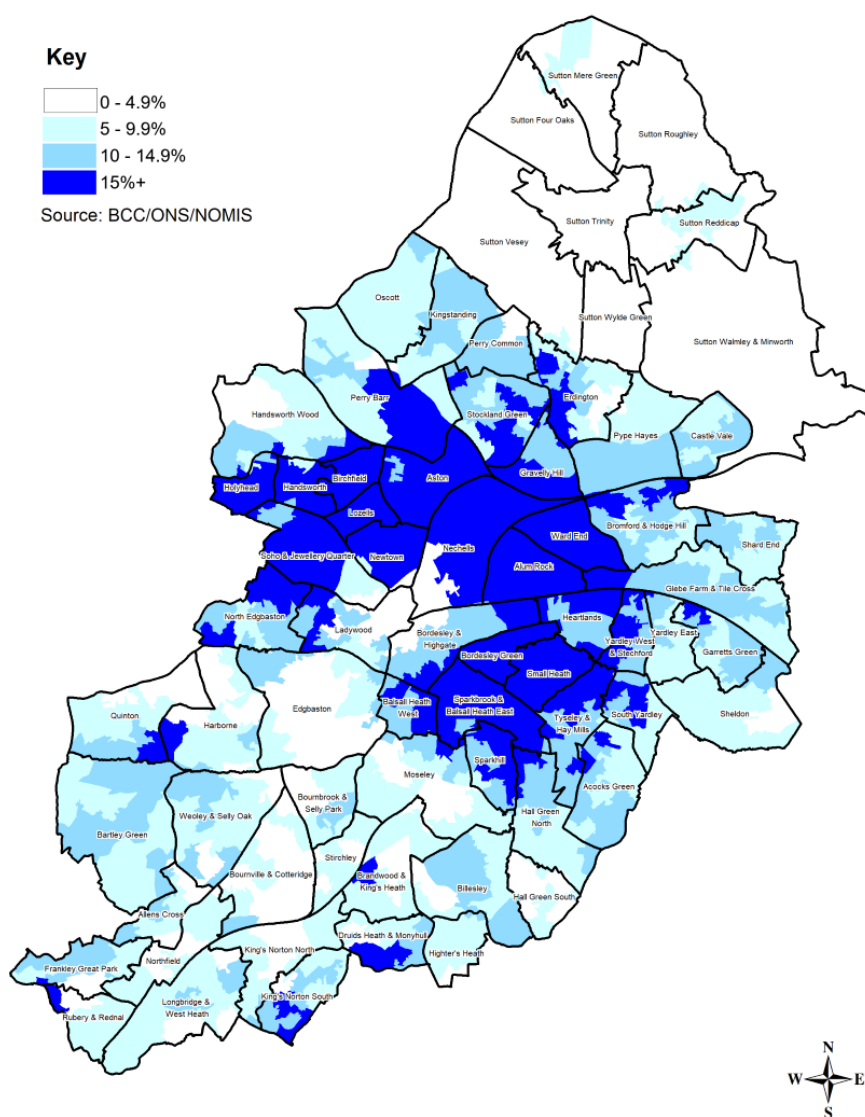


Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment May 2025

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,805	11.8	45	0.3
Allens Cross	485	7.6	-5	0.0
Alum Rock	3,000	17.9	15	0.0
Aston	3,285	21.4	25	0.2
Balsall Heath West	1,130	14.3	-20	-0.3
Bartley Green	1,325	9.6	40	0.3
Billesley	1,075	9.0	0	0.0
Birchfield	1,830	21.9	5	0.1
Bordesley & Highgate	1,550	13.7	25	0.3
Bordesley Green	1,565	19.8	50	0.7
Bournbrook & Selly Park	945	4.3	20	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	600	5.5	25	0.2
Brandwood & King's Heath	785	6.7	15	0.1
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,535	11.5	35	0.2
Castle Vale	575	9.7	10	0.2
Druids Heath & Monyhull	650	9.0	-10	-0.2
Edgbaston	775	4.7	5	0.1
Erdington	1,370	10.7	10	0.1
Frankley Great Park	690	9.6	10	0.1
Garretts Green	770	11.7	-5	-0.1
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,775	12.3	10	0.1
Gravelly Hill	1,155	15.9	15	0.2
Hall Green North	1,535	10.6	25	0.1
Hall Green South	300	4.9	20	0.4
Handsworth	1,905	23.0	30	0.4
Handsworth Wood	1,330	9.8	50	0.4
Harborne	1,040	6.5	10	0.1
Heartlands	1,230	15.3	10	0.1
Highter's Heath	470	7.0	-10	-0.1
Holyhead	1,370	16.9	30	0.3
King's Norton North	410	6.0	-15	-0.2
King's Norton South	615	9.4	-5	0.0
Kingstanding	1,420	11.0	0	0.0
Ladywood	2,040	8.2	15	0.0
Longbridge & West Heath	930	7.5	15	0.1
Lozells	1,515	24.3	-15	-0.2
Moseley	1,250	8.6	20	0.1
Nechells	1,460	12.1	10	0.1
Newtown	1,890	17.7	-5	-0.1
North Edgbaston	2,595	14.9	70	0.4

Northfield	390	6.3	20	0.3
Oscott	865	6.9	-30	-0.3
Perry Barr	1,240	9.6	5	0.0
Perry Common	690	9.5	0	0.0
Pype Hayes	590	8.9	0	0.0
Quinton	980	7.8	30	0.2
Rubery & Rednal	455	6.7	0	-0.1
Shard End	700	9.7	-5	0.0
Sheldon	945	7.8	15	0.1
Small Heath	2,270	17.6	25	0.2
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,935	14.1	25	0.2
South Yardley	675	10.1	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,160	19.1	75	0.4
Sparkhill	2,260	16.3	40	0.2
Stirchley	460	6.9	-5	0.0
Stockland Green	2,295	14.4	35	0.2
Sutton Four Oaks	95	1.9	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	135	2.5	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	275	4.6	5	0.1
Sutton Roughley	160	2.4	5	0.1
Sutton Trinity	145	2.7	5	0.1
Sutton Vesey	360	3.1	0	0.0
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	210	2.3	-15	-0.2
Sutton Wylde Green	150	3.1	5	0.1
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,205	15.7	0	0.0
Ward End	1,505	17.8	5	0.1
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,250	8.3	20	0.1
Yardley East	565	9.1	-15	-0.2
Yardley West & Stechford	1,125	14.3	0	0.0
Birmingham	80,080	10.6	830	0.1

Table 5 - Ward Youth 18-24 Claimant Unemployment May 2025

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	315	13.4	-10	-0.4
Allens Cross	115	12.8	-10	-1.1
Alum Rock	580	15.0	15	0.4
Aston	525	17.8	5	0.2
Balsall Heath West	170	9.4	-10	-0.6
Bartley Green	265	14.0	15	0.8
Billesley	215	12.3	0	0.0
Birchfield	310	21.0	-5	-0.3
Bordesley & Highgate	290	10.5	15	0.5
Bordesley Green	305	18.1	25	1.5
Bournbrook & Selly Park	235	1.6	15	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	115	6.0	10	0.5
Brandwood & King's Heath	150	11.1	-10	-0.7
Bromford & Hodge Hill	295	11.7	5	0.2
Castle Vale	135	14.9	10	1.1
Druids Heath & Monyhull	130	13.2	-5	-0.5
Edgbaston	120	2.4	0	0.0
Erdington	260	15.6	5	0.3
Frankley Great Park	160	15.4	0	0.0
Garretts Green	165	14.0	0	0.0
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	350	15.1	0	0.0
Gravelly Hill	225	20.1	5	0.4
Hall Green North	275	11.1	0	0.0
Hall Green South	55	6.1	5	0.6
Handsworth	320	21.0	-5	-0.3
Handsworth Wood	235	11.1	15	0.7
Harborne	175	8.0	-5	-0.2
Heartlands	215	12.8	5	0.3
Highter's Heath	95	12.6	-5	-0.7
Holyhead	260	21.6	0	0.0
King's Norton North	85	9.1	0	0.0
King's Norton South	115	12.5	0	0.0
Kingstanding	310	15.9	5	0.3
Ladywood	305	5.8	0	0.0
Longbridge & West Heath	170	10.1	-5	-0.3
Lozells	230	14.6	0	0.0
Moseley	215	13.1	-5	-0.3
Nechells	240	4.9	5	0.1
Newtown	275	5.6	5	0.1
North Edgbaston	465	17.0	-10	-0.4

Northfield	90	12.6	5	0.7
Oscott	160	10.2	5	0.3
Perry Barr	205	11.5	-5	-0.3
Perry Common	140	14.4	-5	-0.5
Pype Hayes	110	13.5	0	0.0
Quinton	165	10.0	10	0.6
Rubery & Rednal	90	11.3	0	0.0
Shard End	145	15.3	10	1.1
Sheldon	180	10.5	5	0.3
Small Heath	370	12.5	5	0.2
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	475	14.1	-10	-0.3
South Yardley	115	13.1	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	570	16.0	0	0.0
Sparkhill	400	14.1	-5	-0.2
Stirchley	70	9.3	-5	-0.7
Stockland Green	450	19.0	-10	-0.4
Sutton Four Oaks	15	2.5	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	30	4.7	5	0.8
Sutton Reddicap	55	7.6	-5	-0.7
Sutton Roughley	40	5.3	5	0.7
Sutton Trinity	25	4.0	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	50	4.0	0	0.0
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	30	2.9	-10	-1.0
Sutton Wylde Green	35	6.0	-5	-0.9
Tyseley & Hay Mills	240	21.0	20	1.7
Ward End	255	13.8	-5	-0.3
Weoley & Selly Oak	250	10.4	0	0.0
Yardley East	100	10.5	0	0.0
Yardley West & Stechford	240	17.3	0	0.0
Birmingham	14,570	10.6	95	0.1

Latest Resident Employment

Latest Resident Employment



Birmingham Q4 2024

16-64 Employed
502,600
+4,900

Employment Rate
66.9%
+0.5pp

West Midlands February to April 2025

16-64 Employed
2.75m
-61,500

Employment Rate
72.2%
-1.8pp

UK

16-64 Employed
32.4m
+88,400

Employment Rate
75.1%
+0.1pp

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 February to April 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has decreased by 61,500 compared with the previous quarter (November to January). The employment rate regionally decreased by 1.8% points compared to the previous quarter.

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

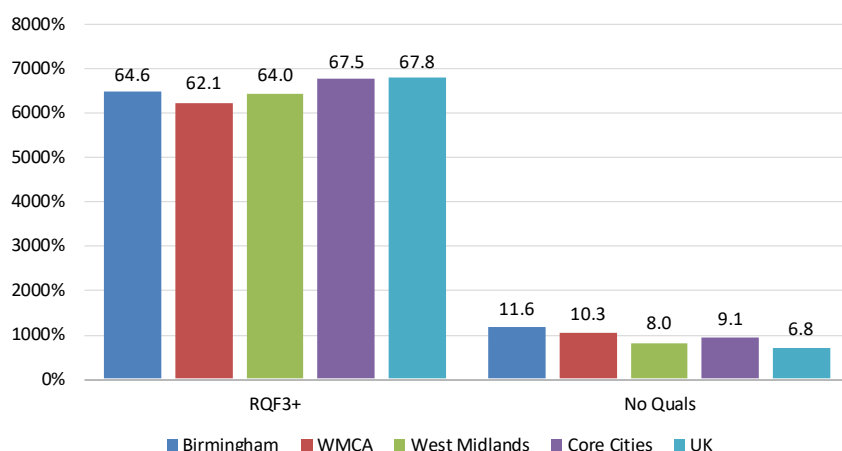
Skill Levels

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



Development Policy
Place, Prosperity, Sustainability

