

Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – August 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 August 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 1,005 to 78,400. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased to 14.0%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) also increased to 10.4%. 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 535 in August to 15,305. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 18.0%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 11.2%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (14.5%) and for the UK as a whole (8.7%) in August.

Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for August 2025 for the core cities. Birmingham has the highest claimant unemployment rate (14.0%) amongst the core cities and is well above the UK average (5.0%). All of the twelve core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

Table 1: Core City Claimant Count August 2025

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	78,400	14.0	1,005	0.2
Manchester	25,430	8.8	345	0.1
Nottingham	14,050	8.1	205	0.1
Liverpool	19,280	7.8	385	0.1
Glasgow	21,950	7.3	660	0.2
Leeds	25,025	6.6	610	0.1
Newcastle	8,925	6.3	195	0.2
Belfast	9,605	6.1	185	0.1
Sheffield	16,880	5.7	245	0.1
Cardiff	9,955	5.1	285	0.2
Bristol	12,570	4.6	225	0.1
Edinburgh	9,275	3	145	0.1
UK	1,697,155	5.0	28,560	0.1
London	357,805	7.0	2,075	0.0

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 August, as did the West Midlands region.

Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count August 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	78,400	14.0	1,005	0.2
Wolverhampton	12,090	9.9	140	0.1
Sandwell	15,305	9.8	285	0.1
Walsall	10,740	7.8	105	0.0
Coventry	13,660	6.6	230	0.1
Dudley	9,465	6.2	215	0.1
Solihull	4,720	4.5	125	0.1
WMCA Met Area	144,380	10.0	2,100	0.1
West Midlands	203,220	6.9	3,280	0.1
UK	1,697,155	5.0	28,560	0.1

Birmingham Constituencies

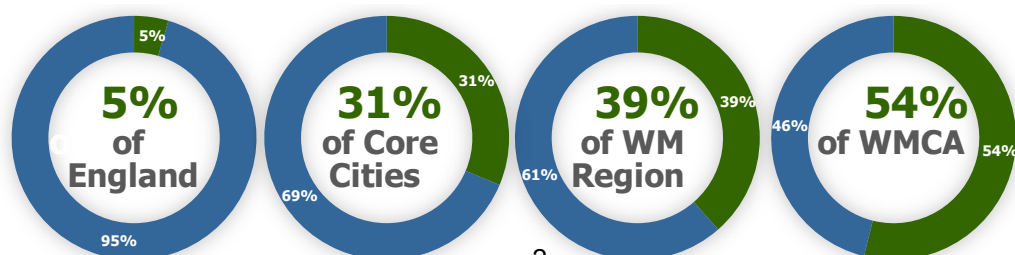
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for August 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 29.8% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.5%. All of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in August occurred in Ladywood (+260).

Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count August 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,685	12.1	30	0.1
Erdington	8,430	12.5	110	0.2
Hall Green and Moseley	8,705	15.2	75	0.1
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,945	15.1	70	0.1
Ladywood	15,310	26.1	260	0.4
Northfield	4,955	7.2	130	0.2
Perry Barr	12,520	29.8	105	0.3
Selly Oak	4,700	7.0	85	0.1
Sutton Coldfield	1,550	2.5	30	0.0
Yardley	8,320	18.2	120	0.3
Birmingham	78,400	14.0	1,005	0.2

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. 31% of all claimants in the UK core city are in Birmingham and the city accounts for over half (54%) of claimants in the WMCA area.



Birmingham Wards

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

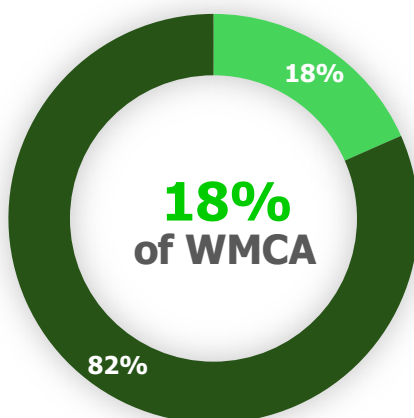
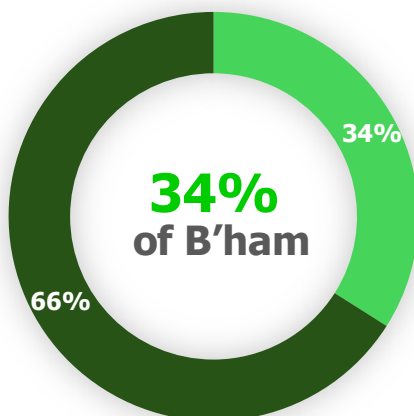
Lozells (22.6%) and Birchfield and Handsworth (both 21.9%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddicaap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.2% or under.

51 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 (+60) and Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East (+50).

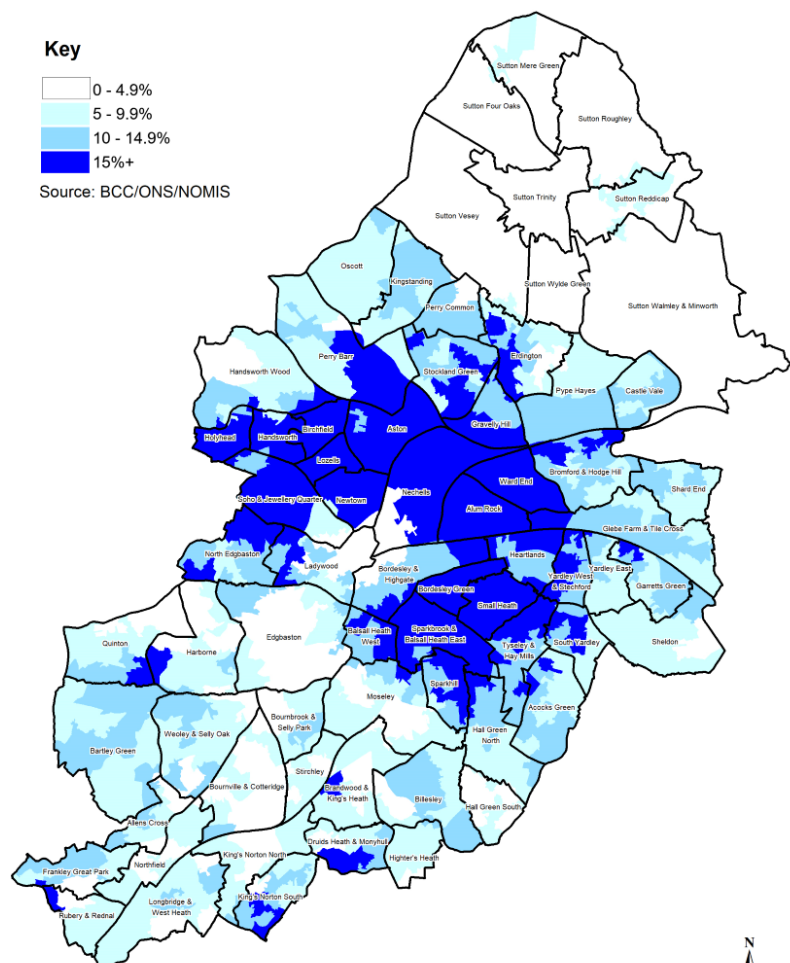
In terms of ward youth unemployment Tyseley & Hay Mills (23.6%) and Birchfield (22.0%) have the highest youth claimant proportions. 44 of the city's wards saw youth claimant numbers increase last month.

The map below highlights that the highest levels of claimant unemployment are concentrated in the inner city. East Birmingham accounts for 34% of all claimant unemployment in the city and 18% of unemployment in the WMCA.

East Birmingham %



Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions



Date: 14/10/2024
Scale 1:110,000

Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment August 2025

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,745	11.4	50	0.3
Allens Cross	515	8.1	15	0.3
Alum Rock	2,850	17.1	35	0.3
Aston	3,145	20.4	-10	-0.1
Balsall Heath West	1,140	14.4	50	0.6
Bartley Green	1,325	9.6	25	0.1
Billesley	1,075	9.0	20	0.2
Birchfield	1,835	21.9	20	0.2
Bordesley & Highgate	1,535	13.5	5	0.0
Bordesley Green	1,595	20.2	30	0.4
Bournbrook & Selly Park	970	4.4	25	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	580	5.3	20	0.2
Brandwood & King's Heath	750	6.4	-5	0.0
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,525	11.5	25	0.2
Castle Vale	585	9.8	10	0.2
Druids Heath & Monyhull	640	8.9	5	0.0
Edgbaston	805	4.9	10	0.1
Erdington	1,360	10.6	-5	0.0
Frankley Great Park	695	9.7	30	0.4
Garretts Green	745	11.4	15	0.3
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,740	12.0	25	0.1
Gravelly Hill	1,095	15.1	10	0.2
Hall Green North	1,400	9.7	-25	-0.2
Hall Green South	290	4.7	-5	-0.1
Handsworth	1,815	21.9	25	0.3
Handsworth Wood	1,325	9.7	10	0.0
Harborne	1,005	6.2	-20	-0.2
Heartlands	1,150	14.3	-25	-0.3
Highter's Heath	440	6.5	15	0.2
Holyhead	1,295	16.0	20	0.3
King's Norton North	390	5.7	0	0.0
King's Norton South	590	9.0	15	0.2
Kingstanding	1,410	11.0	40	0.4
Ladywood	2,045	8.2	35	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	930	7.5	25	0.2
Lozells	1,410	22.6	20	0.3
Moseley	1,230	8.5	50	0.3
Nechells	1,405	11.6	25	0.2
Newtown	1,810	16.9	20	0.1
North Edgbaston	2,635	15.1	15	0.1

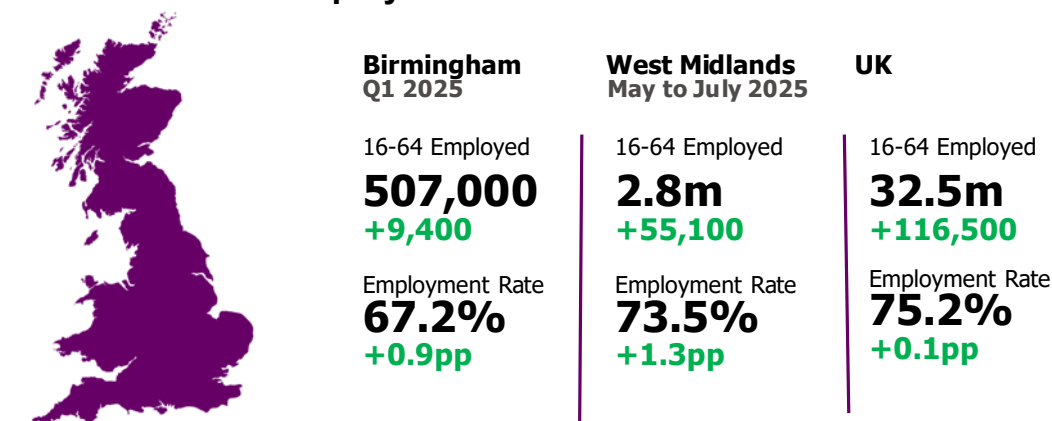
Northfield	390	6.4	10	0.2
Oscott	870	6.9	25	0.1
Perry Barr	1,310	10.2	20	0.2
Perry Common	670	9.2	5	0.1
Pype Hayes	615	9.3	30	0.5
Quinton	915	7.3	0	0.0
Rubery & Rednal	465	6.9	30	0.4
Shard End	660	9.2	-15	-0.1
Sheldon	910	7.5	-25	-0.3
Small Heath	2,135	16.6	35	0.3
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,930	14.0	60	0.2
South Yardley	680	10.2	25	0.3
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,060	18.5	50	0.3
Sparkhill	2,270	16.4	25	0.2
Stirchley	455	6.8	0	0.0
Stockland Green	2,215	14.0	5	0.1
Sutton Four Oaks	95	1.9	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	130	2.4	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	270	4.5	-5	-0.1
Sutton Roughley	150	2.3	-10	-0.1
Sutton Trinity	145	2.7	10	0.2
Sutton Vesey	380	3.2	25	0.2
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	235	2.6	5	0.1
Sutton Wylde Green	145	3.0	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,215	15.8	25	0.3
Ward End	1,400	16.6	30	0.4
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,230	8.2	10	0.1
Yardley East	530	8.5	-15	-0.3
Yardley West & Stechford	1,105	14.1	25	0.3
Birmingham	78,400	10.4	1,005	0.2

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

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	330	14.1	15	0.6
Allens Cross	120	13.3	10	1.1
Alum Rock	610	15.8	45	1.2
Aston	535	18.1	25	0.8
Balsall Heath West	210	11.6	30	1.7
Bartley Green	265	14.0	0	0.0
Billesley	250	14.3	20	1.1
Birchfield	325	22.0	0	0.0
Bordesley & Highgate	310	11.2	0	0.0
Bordesley Green	320	19.0	20	1.2
Bournbrook & Selly Park	240	1.7	5	0.0
Bournville & Cotteridge	115	6.0	10	0.5
Brandwood & King's Heath	160	11.9	5	0.4
Bromford & Hodge Hill	335	13.2	10	0.4
Castle Vale	140	15.4	10	1.1
Druids Heath & Monyhull	145	14.8	5	0.5
Edgbaston	120	2.4	0	0.0
Erdington	260	15.6	0	0.0
Frankley Great Park	155	14.9	0	0.0
Garretts Green	175	14.9	10	0.8
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	365	15.7	15	0.6
Gravelly Hill	205	18.3	0	0.0
Hall Green North	285	11.5	-5	-0.2
Hall Green South	70	7.8	10	1.1
Handsworth	310	20.3	5	0.3
Handsworth Wood	235	11.1	0	0.0
Harborne	170	7.8	10	0.5
Heartlands	220	13.1	-5	-0.3
Highter's Heath	95	12.6	0	0.0
Holyhead	245	20.3	5	0.4
King's Norton North	85	9.1	0	0.0
King's Norton South	115	12.5	10	1.1
Kingstanding	320	16.4	15	0.8
Ladywood	325	6.2	5	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	190	11.3	10	0.6
Lozells	235	15.0	0	0.0
Moseley	220	13.4	20	1.2
Nechells	265	5.4	15	0.3
Newtown	300	6.1	15	0.3
North Edgbaston	495	18.1	0	0.0

Northfield	100	14.0	10	1.4
Oscott	150	9.6	5	0.3
Perry Barr	225	12.6	-10	-0.6
Perry Common	150	15.5	5	0.5
Pype Hayes	130	16.0	5	0.6
Quinton	180	10.9	5	0.3
Rubery & Rednal	105	13.1	15	1.9
Shard End	140	14.8	0	0.0
Sheldon	190	11.1	15	0.9
Small Heath	380	12.9	10	0.3
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	445	13.2	10	0.3
South Yardley	125	14.2	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	590	16.6	20	0.6
Sparkhill	475	16.8	15	0.5
Stirchley	70	9.3	0	0.0
Stockland Green	475	20.0	5	0.2
Sutton Four Oaks	20	3.4	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	20	3.1	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	70	9.7	5	0.7
Sutton Roughley	35	4.6	-5	-0.7
Sutton Trinity	30	4.8	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	65	5.2	10	0.8
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	30	2.9	0	0.0
Sutton Wylde Green	45	7.7	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	270	23.6	20	1.7
Ward End	275	14.9	10	0.5
Weoley & Selly Oak	280	11.7	10	0.4
Yardley East	100	10.5	0	0.0
Yardley West & Stechford	265	19.1	20	1.4
Birmingham	15,305	11.2	535	0.4

Latest Resident Employment



The latest Annual Population Survey employment data for Birmingham (Q1 2025) shows working age employment levels increasing by 9,400 in the last quarter to stand at 507,000. The employment rate increased rising from 66.3% in Q4 to 67.2% in Q1 2025.

Economic inactivity (those not in work or seeking work) in the city stood at 204,600 in Q1, 27.1% of the 16-64 population.

The latest Labour Force Survey figures for the West Midlands region for the three month period May to July 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has increased by 55,100 compared with the previous quarter (February to April). The employment rate regionally increased by 1.3% points compared to the previous quarter.

Nationally the employment rate increased to 75.2%, however, 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 (8.6%).

The city (64.6%) also has a correspondingly lower proportion of residents with RQF3+ qualifications than the UK (67.8%) and core city average (68.9%).

Chart 1: RQF Qualification Levels 2024

