

Birmingham City-Wide Food Aid Count 2025

Groups and organisations providing food aid in Birmingham were asked to count the number of visits to their services over one week.



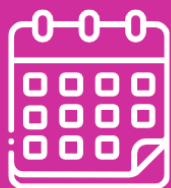
22,367

The number of visits made to a food bank or food project over the count period



30,240

The minimum number of people fed from the visit to the food bank or food project



64% increase

The potential change in the number of visits made to a food bank or food project between the 2023 and 2025 food aid counts



53%

Of all visits were to a food bank or food project in the Ladywood constituency

Key Findings

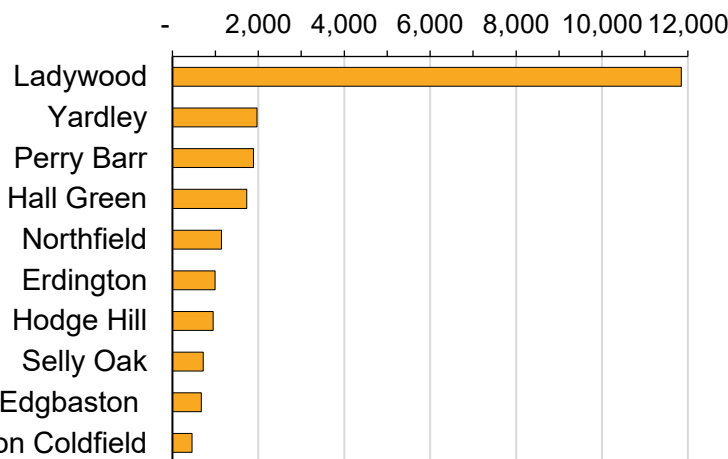
The Birmingham City-Wide Food Aid Count 2025 took place 24th March - 6th April. Groups and organisations providing food aid across the city were asked to count the visits of people that used their services over one of the two weeks. 137 groups and organisations have been included in this summary.

A huge thank you!

These findings help to build a picture of what is happening in the city and show how many people are needing vital food support. They will be used to inform decision-makers and influence policy.

- Over the two weeks **22,367 visits were made** to a foodbank or other food project, an average of 163 visits per group/organisation. Taking food back to the household meant **at least 30,240 people were fed** from those visits.
- A fifth of all the visits (4,740) came from just three groups/organisations**, each of the top three had more than 1,300 visits in their counted week.
- These numbers represent a potential **increase compared to the previous City-Wide Food Aid Count** in March 2023, as in that count we found that 13,604 people visited a foodbank or other food project, average of 112 visits per group/organisation, and feeding at least 19,013 people.
- Two thirds (66%)** of groups and organisations felt that the numbers of people using their project had **'definitely increased'** since the 2023 survey.
- Ladywood constituency** (which includes the city centre) had the **highest number of visits (11,851)**; over half of all visits.
- Visits to a **Trussell Trust foodbank** accounted for **only 4% of all visits** to a foodbank or food project. Using this as a proxy measure of need greatly underestimates the true picture.
- 89% of respondents received BCC's Food Provision Top Up grant in 2024. **70% said that not having the grant would mean supporting less people.**

Number of visits by constituency



Type of projects in the food aid count	Number
Foodbank (food provided to people in crisis)	74
Warm welcome space/hub with food offer	46
Community café/communal dining (people come together to eat cooked food)	35
Food pantry, club or social supermarket (people pay a small amount of money or membership for a cheaper food shop)	32
Food parcel (i.e. groceries/ingredients for meals) delivery	25
On-street feeding (food given to the homeless/people on the streets)	12
Cooked food delivery	9
Other	4

Additional Findings

- Two thirds of groups and organisations completed the survey the week of 24th-30th March and a third the week of 31st-6th April. Ramadan and Eid took place over the collection period which may have affected visits to the food projects.
- Ladywood had the highest number of food projects with 37% of the total, Perry Barr had the second highest with 12%. Food projects in Ladywood had 11,851 visits, and Yardley, Perry Barr, Hall Green, and Northfield all had more than 1,000 visits.
- In the City-Wide Food Aid Count 2023, 13,604 people visited a food project. In 2025 there was a 64% increase. The average number of visits per group/organisation increased from 112 in 2023 to 163 in 2025, a 46% increase. It is possible this is affected by some groups not doing the count in either 2023 or 2025.
- 78% felt the numbers of people using their food project since March 2023 had probably or definitely increased, 5% felt it had probably or definitely decreased and 16% about the same. Comments from groups and organisations included:

The food bank is busier than ever. Seen a massive increase in need in the past 3 yrs

Would benefit from having somewhere nearby to direct our attendees where we can assist them in maximising their income, discuss their social care needs, and give them sign-posting information

We are spending £8,000-10,000 A MONTH on food from reserves

We are seeing that some food products are not taken because of rising energy costs e.g. potatoes and pasta

We are receiving less fresh food in donations from supermarkets...the range of food as well as the amount we can offer has reduced

- Numbers of vulnerable households were not gathered by everyone, meaning the number of people may be greatly underestimated. 29% of groups and organisations said they didn't know or didn't collect how many visitors were in households which included a person with a disability, 21% for households with a pensionable adult, and 11% for households with children.
- Tuesday and Wednesday were the most popular days of the week for groups and organisations to run a food project on, accounting for 40%. Saturday and Sunday were the least common, accounting for 11%. Although a Saturday was one of the least common days to run a food project on, it was the busiest day of the week – an average of 65 visits to a food project running on a Saturday compared to 53 running on a Wednesday. This may suggest there is still a need for food support outside of typical working days.
- Nine organisations (10% of responses) said they had sessions that didn't run during data collection week that normally would have done. Reasons for this included not having enough volunteers to run it and no longer having the funding e.g. for staff wages. A third mentioned the session that didn't run was due on a Saturday.

Impact of the BCC Food Provision Top Up Grant

- The BCC Food Provision Top Up Grant provided £4,000 each to food banks and food projects for activities that directly benefit Birmingham residents including: food & consumables, infrastructure and equipment, fees and training (including food safety and hygiene, allergen awareness). This formed part of the emergency Cost of Living response.
- 89% of the groups and organisations included in this summary received the grant in 2024.
- 70% of those that answered said they felt their numbers would've been less if they hadn't had the grant. A quarter (25%) said without the grant their numbers would've stayed the same; but it would mean less food could be given out, and it would be less nutritious, balanced, varied, or culturally sensitive.
- "If we hadn't received the Top Up grant....."

The numbers would drop significantly as we wouldn't be able to provide the food

The quality and serving size of food would not be so great, the food offered in kids clubs would be less healthy

The numbers would be the same, but they received more variety and culturally sensitive foods

Thanks to the grant we were able to re-introduce deliveries for services users with mobility issues

Without the funding we would be in the position of having to decline food parcels as we have seen a decline in donations to the Foodbank

We clearly won't be able to cope as users keep increasing weekly. What is most worrying is the fact that they do not expect that our food items run out. It's really sad to watch families in such difficulties

We would have closed down if this funding did not come in time

I would not have served as many people without the funding as I was providing the food items myself from my own money and would not be able to continue doing this

The club isn't financially sustainable. We would have had to dramatically increase food prices which would put us out of the affordability of many attendees or close the club. This funding has given us security for the next 9-12 months

We would not have been able to complete this (survey) as we had nothing to give to these families, and numbers would of been 0