

Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – September 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 September 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 1,395 to 78,565. 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 295 in September to 15,425. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 18.2%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 11.3%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (14.6%) and for the UK as a whole (8.8%) in September.

Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for September 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%). Eleven of the twelve core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

Table 1: Core City Claimant Count September 2025

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	78,565	14.0	1,395	0.2
Manchester	25,320	8.8	405	0.2
Nottingham	14,095	8.2	290	0.2
Liverpool	19,080	7.7	255	0.1
Glasgow	21,525	7.2	25	0.0
Leeds	25,155	6.7	555	0.2
Belfast	10,075	6.4	695	0.4
Newcastle	8,900	6.2	110	0.0
Sheffield	16,910	5.7	305	0.1
Cardiff	10,005	5.1	290	0.2
Bristol	12,675	4.6	345	0.1
Edinburgh	8,950	2.9	-115	0.0
UK	1,698,395	5.0	34,815	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 September, as did the West Midlands region.

Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count September 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	78,565	14.0	1,395	0.2
Sandwell	15,350	9.9	405	0.3
Wolverhampton	12,075	9.9	205	0.1
Walsall	10,625	7.8	75	0.1
Coventry	13,605	6.6	200	0.1
Dudley	9,420	6.2	95	0.1
Solihull	4,720	4.5	95	0.1
WMCA Met Area	144,355	10.0	2,465	0.1
West Midlands	203,145	6.9	3,530	0.1
UK	1,698,395	5.0	34,815	0.1

Birmingham Constituencies

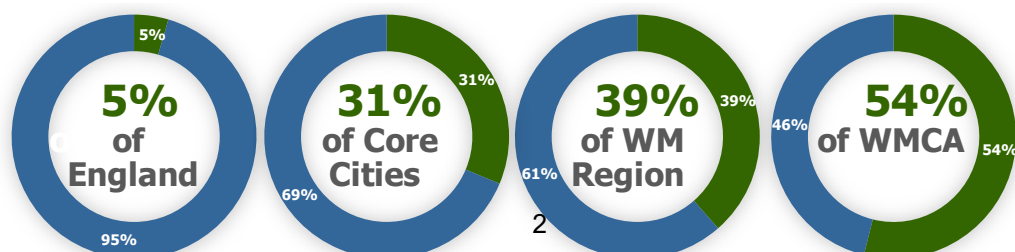
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for September 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 29.7% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.5%. All of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in September occurred in Ladywood (+265).

Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count September 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,755	12.3	170	0.3
Erdington	8,440	12.5	125	0.2
Hall Green and Moseley	8,710	15.2	130	0.2
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,985	15.2	175	0.3
Ladywood	15,270	26.1	265	0.5
Northfield	5,015	7.3	115	0.2
Perry Barr	12,475	29.7	180	0.4
Selly Oak	4,730	7.0	75	0.1
Sutton Coldfield	1,555	2.5	40	0.1
Yardley	8,350	18.3	130	0.3
Birmingham	78,565	14.0	1,395	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 (22.5%) and Birchfield (21.8%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddipap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.0% or under.

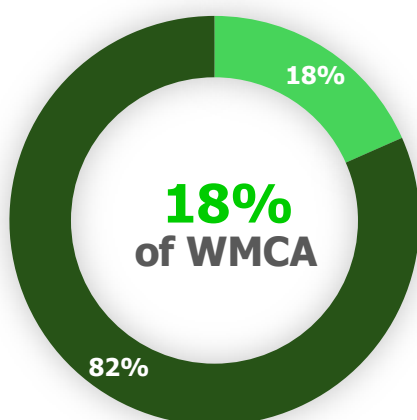
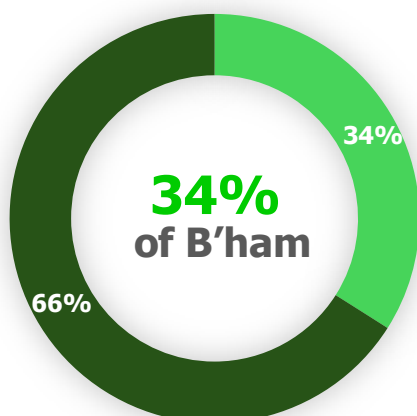
58 of the 69 wards in the city saw unemployment increase last month. The largest increase in total claimant numbers at a ward level occurred in Acocks Green (+55) and Harborne (+55).

In terms of ward youth unemployment Tyseley & Hay Mills (21.8%) and Birchfield (21.3%) have the highest youth claimant proportions. 39 of the city's wards saw youth claimant numbers increase last month.

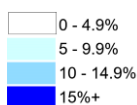
The map below highlights that the highest levels of claimant unemployment are concentrated in the inner city. East Birmingham accounts for 34% of all claimant unemployment in the city and 18% of unemployment in the WMCA.

Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions

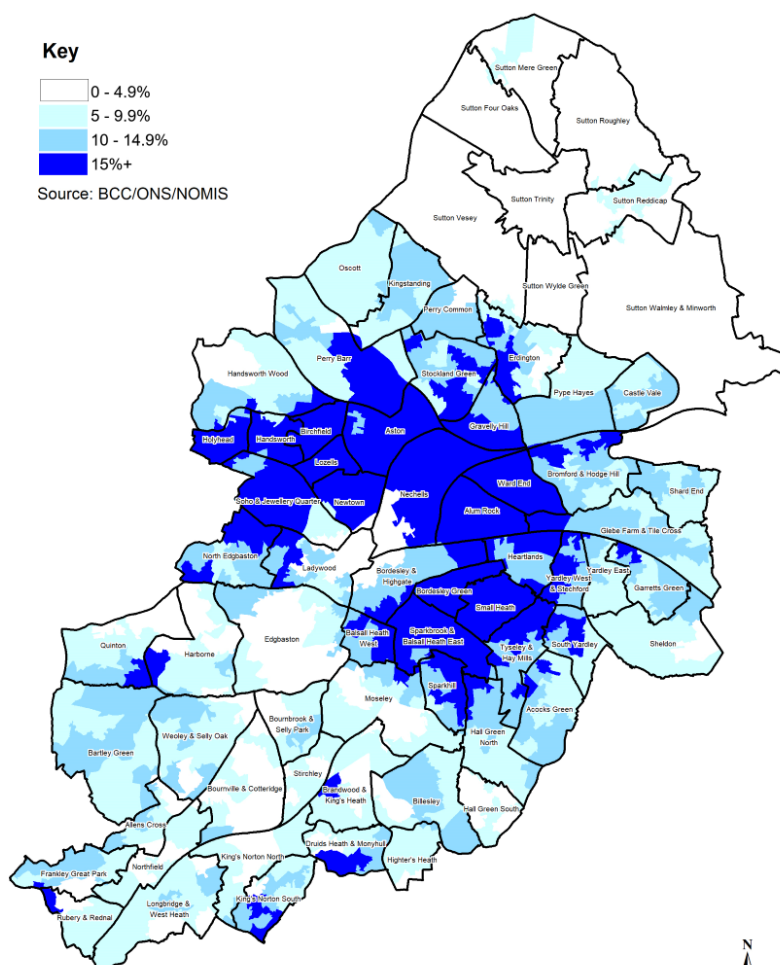
East Birmingham %



Key



Source: BCC/ONS/NOMIS



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

Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment September 2025

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,800	11.8	55	0.4
Allens Cross	525	8.2	15	0.2
Alum Rock	2,815	16.8	35	0.2
Aston	3,100	20.2	40	0.3
Balsall Heath West	1,145	14.5	30	0.4
Bartley Green	1,330	9.7	15	0.2
Billesley	1,080	9.0	25	0.2
Birchfield	1,820	21.8	25	0.3
Bordesley & Highgate	1,550	13.6	40	0.3
Bordesley Green	1,605	20.3	45	0.6
Bournbrook & Selly Park	975	4.4	5	0.0
Bournville & Cotteridge	605	5.5	25	0.2
Brandwood & King's Heath	775	6.6	25	0.2
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,525	11.5	25	0.2
Castle Vale	555	9.3	-15	-0.2
Druids Heath & Monyhull	635	8.8	0	0.0
Edgbaston	805	4.9	15	0.1
Erdington	1,405	10.9	50	0.4
Frankley Great Park	690	9.6	0	0.0
Garretts Green	735	11.2	5	0.1
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,750	12.1	40	0.3
Gravelly Hill	1,095	15.1	15	0.3
Hall Green North	1,420	9.9	45	0.4
Hall Green South	285	4.6	5	0.1
Handsworth	1,790	21.6	5	0.1
Handsworth Wood	1,325	9.7	15	0.1
Harborne	1,035	6.4	55	0.3
Heartlands	1,165	14.4	35	0.4
Highter's Heath	445	6.6	10	0.2
Holyhead	1,320	16.3	40	0.5
King's Norton North	395	5.8	10	0.2
King's Norton South	610	9.3	20	0.3
Kingstanding	1,390	10.8	10	0.1
Ladywood	2,075	8.4	35	0.2
Longbridge & West Heath	915	7.3	5	0.0
Lozells	1,405	22.5	15	0.2
Moseley	1,205	8.3	-10	-0.1
Nechells	1,410	11.6	40	0.3
Newtown	1,785	16.7	10	0.1
North Edgbaston	2,630	15.1	50	0.3

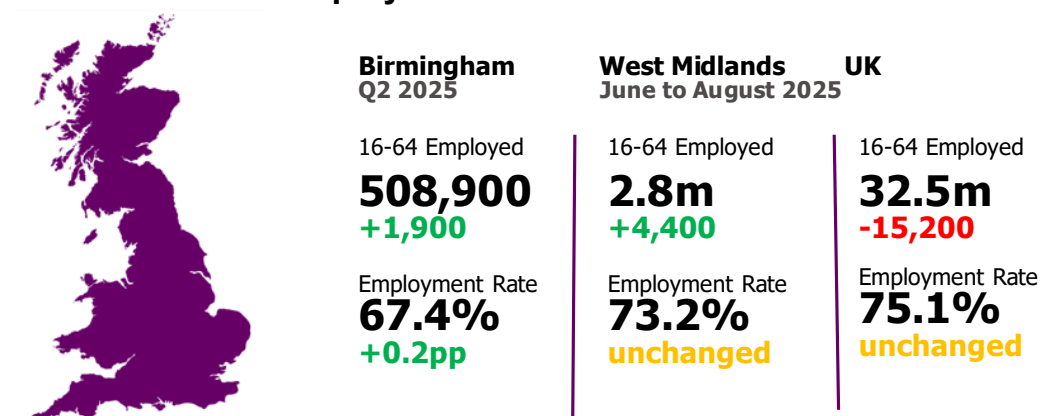
Northfield	400	6.5	0	0.0
Oscott	860	6.9	5	0.1
Perry Barr	1,340	10.4	45	0.3
Perry Common	680	9.4	25	0.4
Pype Hayes	625	9.4	30	0.4
Quinton	960	7.6	40	0.3
Rubery & Rednal	490	7.3	30	0.5
Shard End	660	9.1	10	0.1
Sheldon	910	7.6	20	0.2
Small Heath	2,125	16.5	15	0.1
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,885	13.8	35	0.1
South Yardley	690	10.3	20	0.2
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,060	18.5	50	0.3
Sparkhill	2,255	16.3	15	0.1
Stirchley	440	6.6	-5	0.0
Stockland Green	2,210	13.9	5	0.0
Sutton Four Oaks	90	1.8	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	140	2.6	10	0.2
Sutton Reddicap	275	4.6	5	0.1
Sutton Roughley	150	2.3	5	0.2
Sutton Trinity	135	2.5	-5	-0.1
Sutton Vesey	355	3.0	-10	-0.1
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	255	2.8	20	0.3
Sutton Wylde Green	145	3.0	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,170	15.3	-15	-0.2
Ward End	1,430	16.9	45	0.6
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,250	8.3	40	0.3
Yardley East	545	8.8	10	0.1
Yardley West & Stechford	1,105	14.1	25	0.3
Birmingham	78,565	10.4	1,395	0.2

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

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	370	15.8	20	0.9
Allens Cross	120	13.3	5	0.6
Alum Rock	590	15.2	-5	-0.1
Aston	525	17.8	10	0.3
Balsall Heath West	215	11.8	5	0.3
Bartley Green	270	14.3	15	0.8
Billesley	240	13.8	0	0.0
Birchfield	315	21.3	-10	-0.7
Bordesley & Highgate	300	10.8	5	0.2
Bordesley Green	320	19.0	0	0.0
Bournbrook & Selly Park	245	1.7	10	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	120	6.3	0	0.0
Brandwood & King's Heath	160	11.9	5	0.4
Bromford & Hodge Hill	340	13.4	15	0.6
Castle Vale	130	14.3	-5	-0.6
Druids Heath & Monyhull	150	15.3	0	0.0
Edgbaston	110	2.2	-5	-0.1
Erdington	270	16.2	10	0.6
Frankley Great Park	165	15.9	10	1.0
Garretts Green	170	14.4	-5	-0.4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	365	15.7	10	0.4
Gravelly Hill	210	18.8	0	0.0
Hall Green North	295	11.9	15	0.6
Hall Green South	70	7.8	0	0.0
Handsworth	305	20.0	10	0.7
Handsworth Wood	250	11.8	10	0.5
Harborne	185	8.5	15	0.7
Heartlands	225	13.4	0	0.0
Highter's Heath	105	13.9	10	1.3
Holyhead	250	20.7	5	0.4
King's Norton North	90	9.7	5	0.5
King's Norton South	130	14.2	10	1.1
Kingstanding	320	16.4	5	0.3
Ladywood	320	6.1	-5	-0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	180	10.7	0	0.0
Lozells	230	14.6	-5	-0.3
Moseley	200	12.1	-10	-0.6
Nechells	275	5.6	20	0.4
Newtown	290	5.9	-5	-0.1
North Edgbaston	510	18.6	20	0.7

Northfield	100	14.0	0	0.0
Oscott	160	10.2	15	1.0
Perry Barr	235	13.2	5	0.3
Perry Common	150	15.5	5	0.5
Pype Hayes	140	17.2	10	1.2
Quinton	195	11.8	15	0.9
Rubery & Rednal	115	14.4	10	1.3
Shard End	130	13.7	0	0.0
Sheldon	190	11.1	0	0.0
Small Heath	395	13.4	15	0.5
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	435	12.9	0	0.0
South Yardley	125	14.2	5	0.6
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	590	16.6	10	0.3
Sparkhill	475	16.8	-5	-0.2
Stirchley	75	9.9	5	0.7
Stockland Green	475	20.0	5	0.2
Sutton Four Oaks	15	2.5	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	25	3.9	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	70	9.7	5	0.7
Sutton Roughley	30	4.0	0	0.0
Sutton Trinity	35	5.6	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	60	4.8	-5	-0.4
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	40	3.9	5	0.5
Sutton Wylde Green	50	8.5	5	0.9
Tyseley & Hay Mills	250	21.8	-10	-0.9
Ward End	290	15.7	15	0.8
Weoley & Selly Oak	280	11.7	5	0.2
Yardley East	100	10.5	0	0.0
Yardley West & Stechford	260	18.7	0	0.0
Birmingham	15,425	11.3	295	0.2

Latest Resident Employment



The latest Annual Population Survey employment data for Birmingham (Q2 2025) shows working age employment levels increasing by 1,900 in the last quarter to stand at 508,900. The employment rate increased rising from 67.2% in Q1 to 67.4% in Q2 2025.

Economic inactivity (those not in work or seeking work) in the city stood at 202,500 in Q2, 26.8% of the 16-64 population.

The latest Labour Force Survey figures for the West Midlands region for the three month period June to August 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has increased by 4,400 compared with the previous quarter (March to May). The employment rate regionally was unchanged compared to the previous quarter.

Nationally the employment rate was unchanged at 75.1%. The employment rate nationally is still below pre pandemic levels.

Vacancies

The latest data on online job adverts from the ONS/Textkernel shows that in July 2025 there were a total of 38,995 jobs being advertised in Birmingham. This was up by 4,146 (+11.9%) on the previous month.

The occupations that had the highest number of online adverts in Birmingham in July 2025 were sales & marketing professionals (3,058), IT professionals (2,446) and teachers (1,297).

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

