

Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – October 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 October 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 1,250 to 78,220. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased to 14.0%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) also increasing to 10.3%. 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 530 in October to 15,650. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 18.4%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 11.4%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (14.8%) and for the UK as a whole (8.9%) in October.

Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for October 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 (4.9%). Eleven of the twelve core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

Table 1: Core City Claimant Count October 2025

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	78,220	14.0	1,250	0.3
Manchester	25,165	8.7	475	0.2
Nottingham	13,925	8.1	230	0.2
Liverpool	19,065	7.7	415	0.1
Glasgow	21,305	7.1	290	0.1
Leeds	24,905	6.6	270	0.1
Belfast	10,200	6.4	475	0.3
Newcastle	8,650	6.1	-50	0.0
Sheffield	16,915	5.7	395	0.1
Cardiff	9,985	5.1	265	0.2
Bristol	12,760	4.7	355	0.2
Edinburgh	9,035	2.9	270	0.1
UK	1,691,460	4.9	34,350	0.1
London	357,300	7.0	5,520	0.1

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 October, as did the West Midlands region.

Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count October 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	78,220	14.0	1,250	0.3
Sandwell	15,260	9.8	245	0.1
Wolverhampton	11,945	9.8	135	0.1
Walsall	10,545	7.7	205	0.1
Coventry	13,645	6.6	320	0.2
Dudley	9,490	6.2	240	0.1
Solihull	4,745	4.5	105	0.1
UK	1,691,460	4.9	34,350	0.1
West Midlands	202,475	6.8	3,805	0.1
WMCA Met Area	143,855	10.0	2,505	0.2

Birmingham Constituencies

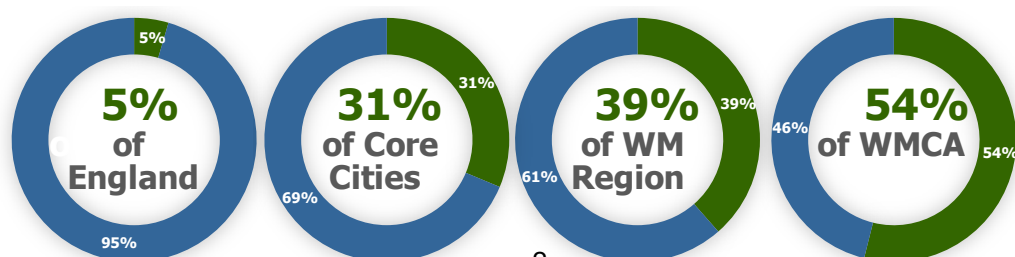
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for October 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 29.1% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.6%. All of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in October occurred in Ladywood (+380).

Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count October 2025

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,710	12.2	75	0.1
Erdington	8,495	12.6	195	0.3
Hall Green and Moseley	8,605	15.0	90	0.2
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,965	15.2	125	0.2
Ladywood	15,295	26.1	380	0.6
Northfield	5,025	7.3	120	0.2
Perry Barr	12,235	29.1	40	0.1
Selly Oak	4,710	7.0	60	0.1
Sutton Coldfield	1,615	2.6	95	0.2
Yardley	8,300	18.2	105	0.2
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

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

Lozells (22.3%) and Handsworth(21.0%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddicaap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.1% or under.

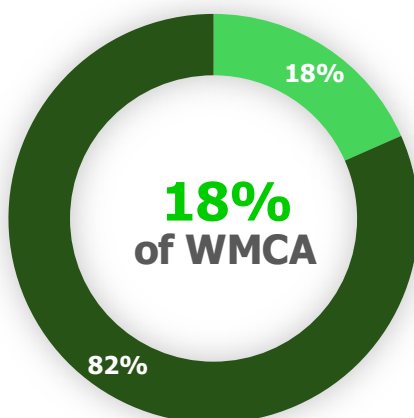
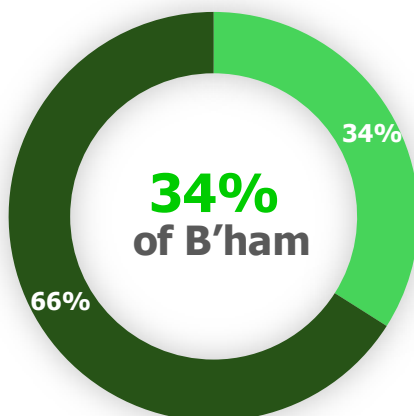
55 of the 69 wards in the city saw unemployment increase last month. The largest increase in total claimant numbers at a ward level occurred in Alum Rock (+85) and Balsall Heath West (+70).

In terms of ward youth unemployment Tyseley & Hay Mills (22.7%) and Birchfield (21.6%) have the highest youth claimant proportions. 46 of the city's wards saw youth claimant numbers increase last month.

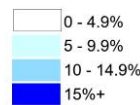
The map below highlights that the highest levels of claimant unemployment are concentrated in the inner city. East Birmingham accounts for 34% of all claimant unemployment in the city and 18% of unemployment in the WMCA.

Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions

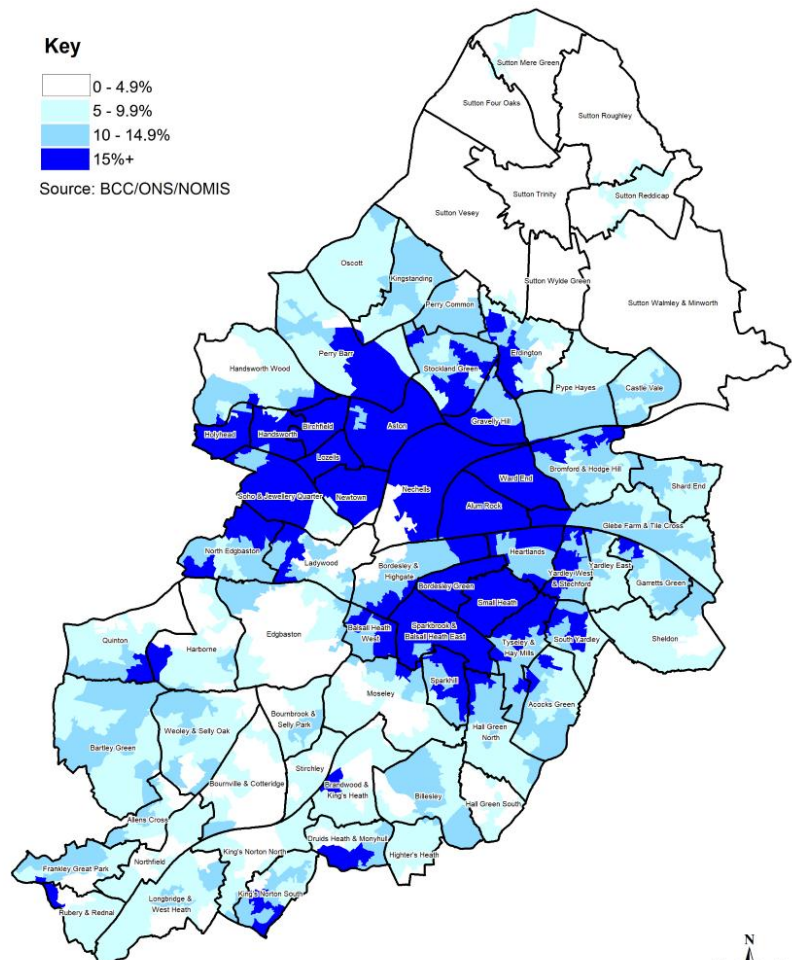
East Birmingham %



Key



Source: BCC/ONS/NOMIS



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

Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment October 2025

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,695	11.1	-40	-0.3
Allens Cross	520	8.1	10	0.1
Alum Rock	2,870	17.2	85	0.5
Aston	3,075	20.0	45	0.3
Balsall Heath West	1,205	15.3	70	0.9
Bartley Green	1,320	9.6	5	0.0
Billesley	1,050	8.8	0	0.0
Birchfield	1,745	20.8	-15	-0.2
Bordesley & Highgate	1,535	13.5	50	0.4
Bordesley Green	1,595	20.2	55	0.7
Bournbrook & Selly Park	995	4.5	5	0.0
Bournville & Cotteridge	590	5.4	10	0.1
Brandwood & King's Heath	800	6.8	45	0.4
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,505	11.3	-5	0.0
Castle Vale	565	9.5	20	0.4
Druids Heath & Monyhull	635	8.8	5	0.0
Edgbaston	800	4.8	20	0.1
Erdington	1,390	10.8	15	0.1
Frankley Great Park	680	9.5	5	0.1
Garretts Green	770	11.7	35	0.5
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,730	12.0	10	0.1
Gravelly Hill	1,125	15.5	35	0.5
Hall Green North	1,390	9.7	20	0.2
Hall Green South	275	4.5	-5	-0.1
Handsworth	1,745	21.0	-10	-0.2
Handsworth Wood	1,290	9.5	-5	0.0
Harborne	1,010	6.2	-10	-0.1
Heartlands	1,150	14.3	20	0.2
Highter's Heath	435	6.5	5	0.1
Holyhead	1,255	15.5	-15	-0.2
King's Norton North	400	5.8	15	0.2
King's Norton South	630	9.6	20	0.3
Kingstanding	1,410	11.0	60	0.5
Ladywood	2,070	8.3	45	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	930	7.5	40	0.3
Lozells	1,390	22.3	5	0.0
Moseley	1,190	8.2	10	0.1
Nechells	1,405	11.6	25	0.2
Newtown	1,745	16.4	10	0.1
North Edgbaston	2,640	15.2	55	0.3

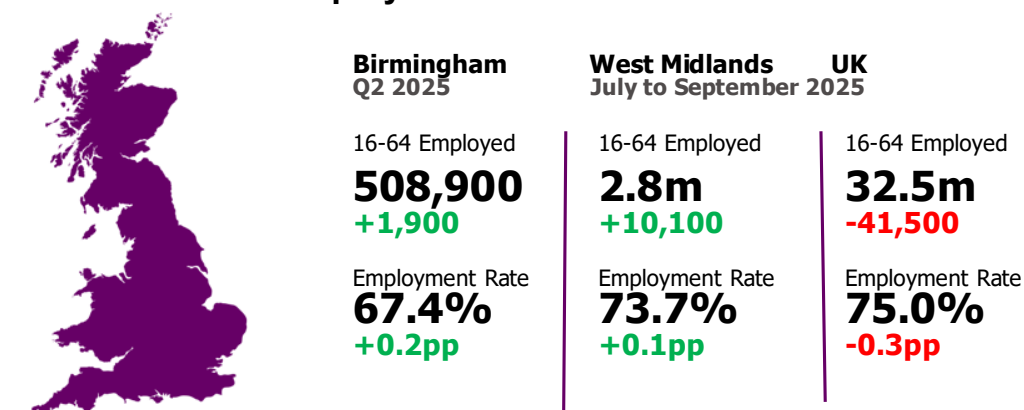
Northfield	390	6.4	-5	0.0
Oscott	860	6.9	25	0.2
Perry Barr	1,365	10.6	40	0.3
Perry Common	690	9.5	20	0.2
Pype Hayes	625	9.4	20	0.3
Quinton	940	7.5	0	0.1
Rubery & Rednal	485	7.2	0	0.0
Shard End	655	9.0	10	0.1
Sheldon	910	7.6	10	0.1
Small Heath	2,135	16.5	50	0.3
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,870	13.7	45	0.2
South Yardley	715	10.7	25	0.3
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,020	18.3	35	0.2
Sparkhill	2,215	16.0	0	0.0
Stirchley	460	6.9	20	0.4
Stockland Green	2,195	13.8	5	0.0
Sutton Four Oaks	100	1.9	10	0.1
Sutton Mere Green	140	2.6	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	295	4.9	20	0.3
Sutton Roughley	175	2.6	20	0.3
Sutton Trinity	140	2.6	10	0.1
Sutton Vesey	355	3.0	10	0.1
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	255	2.8	15	0.2
Sutton Wylde Green	150	3.1	5	0.1
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,195	15.6	35	0.5
Ward End	1,425	16.8	30	0.3
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,240	8.2	20	0.1
Yardley East	550	8.9	15	0.3
Yardley West & Stechford	1,100	14.0	10	0.1
Birmingham	78,220	10.3	1,250	0.1

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

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	350	14.9	-10	-0.4
Allens Cross	110	12.2	0	0.0
Alum Rock	620	16.0	45	1.2
Aston	540	18.3	30	1.0
Balsall Heath West	235	12.9	15	0.8
Bartley Green	265	14.0	0	0.0
Billesley	240	13.8	5	0.3
Birchfield	320	21.6	10	0.7
Bordesley & Highgate	290	10.5	10	0.4
Bordesley Green	335	19.9	20	1.2
Bournbrook & Selly Park	255	1.8	5	0.0
Bournville & Cotteridge	120	6.3	5	0.3
Brandwood & King's Heath	165	12.2	15	1.1
Bromford & Hodge Hill	340	13.4	0	0.0
Castle Vale	140	15.4	10	1.1
Druids Heath & Monyhull	155	15.8	0	0.0
Edgbaston	115	2.3	15	0.3
Erdington	275	16.5	5	0.3
Frankley Great Park	170	16.4	10	1.0
Garretts Green	190	16.1	10	0.8
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	375	16.1	20	0.9
Gravelly Hill	210	18.8	-5	-0.4
Hall Green North	280	11.3	-5	-0.2
Hall Green South	60	6.7	-10	-1.1
Handsworth	325	21.3	10	0.7
Handsworth Wood	235	11.1	0	0.0
Harborne	190	8.7	10	0.5
Heartlands	245	14.6	25	1.5
Highter's Heath	105	13.9	0	0.0
Holyhead	230	19.1	-10	-0.8
King's Norton North	95	10.2	10	1.1
King's Norton South	140	15.3	10	1.1
Kingstanding	335	17.2	20	1.0
Ladywood	320	6.1	15	0.3
Longbridge & West Heath	195	11.6	20	1.2
Lozells	235	15.0	5	0.3
Moseley	195	11.8	5	0.3
Nechells	270	5.5	10	0.2
Newtown	285	5.8	0	0.0
North Edgbaston	525	19.2	10	0.4

Northfield	100	14.0	0	0.0
Oscott	170	10.9	15	1.0
Perry Barr	245	13.8	10	0.6
Perry Common	165	17.0	15	1.5
Pype Hayes	135	16.6	0	0.0
Quinton	195	11.8	0	0.0
Rubery & Rednal	115	14.4	0	0.0
Shard End	135	14.3	0	0.0
Sheldon	185	10.8	5	0.3
Small Heath	415	14.0	15	0.5
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	455	13.5	15	0.4
South Yardley	125	14.2	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	585	16.4	25	0.7
Sparkhill	455	16.0	-10	-0.4
Stirchley	85	11.3	15	2.0
Stockland Green	480	20.2	10	0.4
Sutton Four Oaks	20	3.4	5	0.8
Sutton Mere Green	25	3.9	5	0.8
Sutton Reddicap	70	9.7	5	0.7
Sutton Roughley	35	4.6	5	0.7
Sutton Trinity	35	5.6	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	60	4.8	0	0.0
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	40	3.9	5	0.5
Sutton Wylde Green	45	7.7	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	260	22.7	5	0.4
Ward End	295	16.0	10	0.5
Weoley & Selly Oak	285	11.9	15	0.6
Yardley East	105	11.0	10	1.0
Yardley West & Stechford	250	18.0	-10	-0.7
Birmingham	15,650	11.4	530	0.4

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 July to September 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has increased by 10,100 compared with the previous quarter (April to June). The employment rate regionally increased by 0.1% point compared to the previous quarter to stand at 73.7%.

Nationally the employment rate fell by 0.3% points to 75.0%. 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 September 2025 there were 15,715 new online job adverts posted in Birmingham. This was up by 1,009 (+6.9%) on the previous month.

The occupations that had the highest number of new online adverts in Birmingham in September 2025 were sales & marketing professionals (937), IT professionals (838) and teachers (549).

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

