

# Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – November 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 November 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 335 to 76,875. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) was unchanged at 13.7%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) increasing slightly to 10.2%. 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 350 in November to 15,725. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 18.5%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 11.5%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (14.9%) and for the UK as a whole (8.9%) in November.

## Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for November 2025 for the core cities. Birmingham has the highest claimant unemployment rate (13.7%) amongst the core cities and is well above the UK average (4.9%). Nine of the twelve core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

**Table 1: Core City Claimant Count November 2025**

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	76,875	13.7	335	0.0
Manchester	24,595	8.5	55	0.0
Nottingham	13,630	7.9	-10	0.0
Liverpool	18,810	7.6	185	0.0
Glasgow City	21,150	7.1	400	0.2
Leeds	24,550	6.5	230	0.1
Belfast	9,590	6.1	-85	0.0
Newcastle	8,495	6.0	40	0.1
Sheffield	16,390	5.5	-135	-0.1
Cardiff	9,785	5.0	20	0.0
Bristol	12,770	4.7	270	0.1
Edinburgh	9,260	3.0	400	0.1
UK	1,667,655	4.9	17,435	0.1
London	349,635	6.8	720	0.0

## West Midlands Region

Table 2 displays the latest claimant count data for the region. Birmingham along with Sandwell and Wolverhampton, 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 November, as did the West Midlands region.

**Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count November 2025**

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	76,875	13.7	335	0.0
Sandwell	15,075	9.7	150	0.1
Wolverhampton	11,760	9.7	100	0.1
Walsall	10,425	7.6	120	0.1
Coventry	13,455	6.5	80	0.1
Dudley	9,350	6.1	20	0.0
Solihull	4,710	4.5	85	0.1
WMCA Met Area	141,655	9.8	895	0.0
West Midlands	199,355	6.7	1,430	0.0
UK	1,667,655	4.9	17,435	0.1

## Birmingham Constituencies

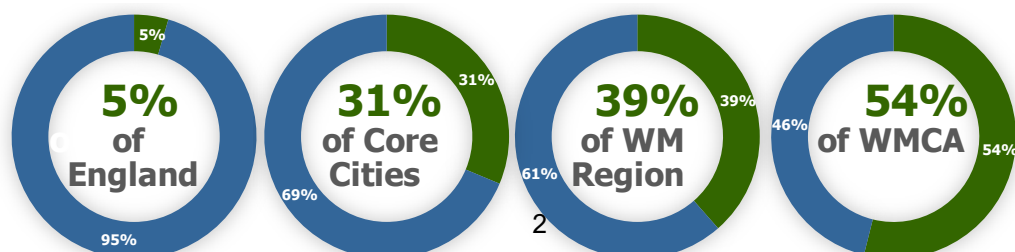
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for November 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 28.5% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.5%. Seven of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in November occurred in Ladywood (+100).

**Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count November 2025**

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,570	11.9	-20	0.0
Erdington	8,340	12.4	-5	0.0
Hall Green and Moseley	8,440	14.7	65	0.1
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,840	14.9	45	0.1
Ladywood	15,020	25.6	100	0.2
Northfield	5,025	7.3	65	0.1
Perry Barr	11,970	28.5	35	0.1
Selly Oak	4,625	6.9	-35	-0.1
Sutton Coldfield	1,570	2.5	15	0.0
Yardley	8,210	18.0	95	0.2
Birmingham	76,875	13.7	335	0.0

## 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 (21.3%) and Birchfield (20.9%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddicap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.1% or under.

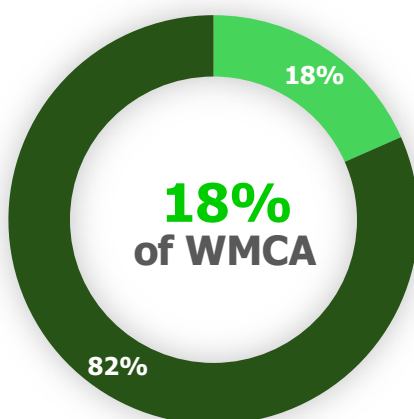
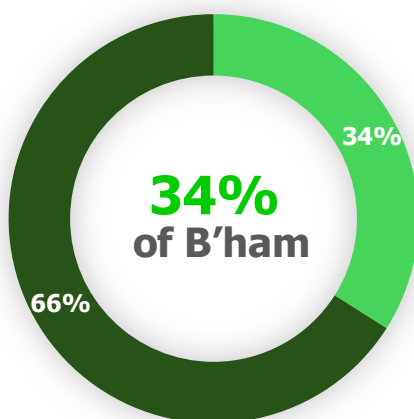
38 of the 69 wards in the city saw unemployment increase last month. The largest increase in total claimant numbers at a ward level occurred in Birchfield (+45) and Small Heath (+40).

In terms of ward youth unemployment Birchfield (22.3%) and Tyseley & Hay Mills (21.4%) have the highest youth claimant proportions. 38 of the city's wards saw youth claimant numbers increase last month.

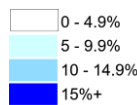
The map below highlights that the highest levels of claimant unemployment are concentrated in the inner city. East Birmingham accounts for 34% of all claimant unemployment in the city and 18% of unemployment in the WMCA.

**Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions**

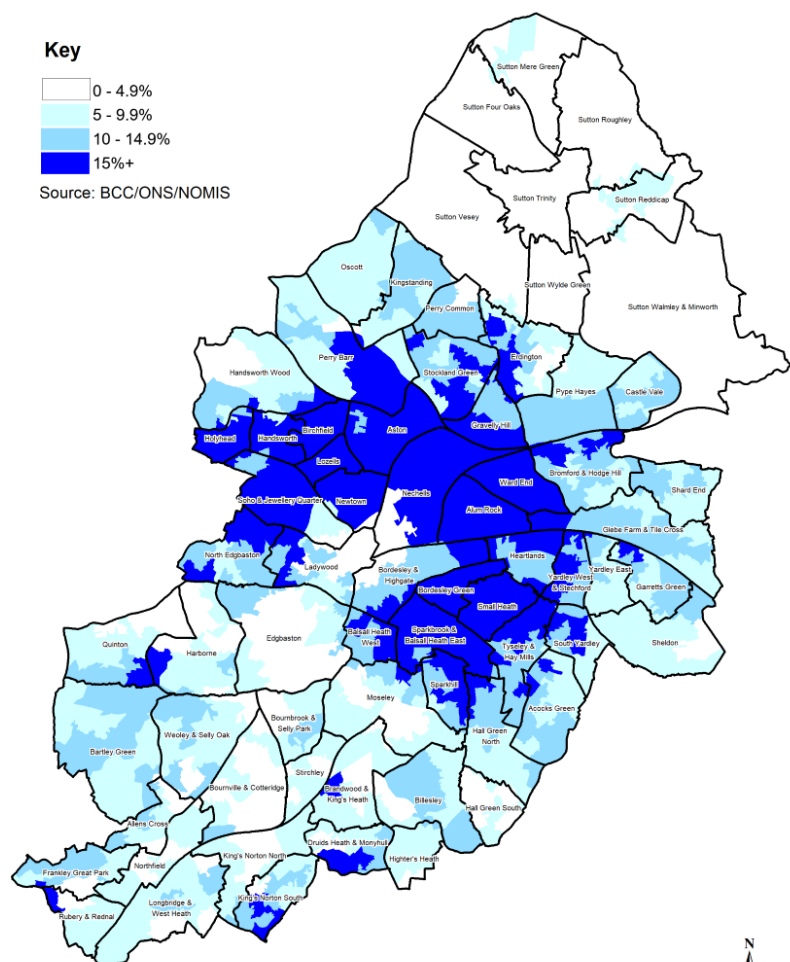
### East Birmingham %



#### Key



Source: BCC/ONS/NOMIS



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

**Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment November 2025**

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	365	15.5	20	0.9
Allens Cross	115	12.8	5	0.6
Alum Rock	635	16.4	20	0.5
Aston	545	18.4	25	0.8
Balsall Heath West	220	12.1	-5	-0.3
Bartley Green	260	13.8	0	0.0
Billesley	240	13.8	0	0.0
Birchfield	330	22.3	25	1.7
Bordesley & Highgate	300	10.8	10	0.4
Bordesley Green	330	19.6	0	0.0
Bournbrook & Selly Park	245	1.7	-10	-0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	120	6.3	0	0.0
Brandwood & King's Heath	165	12.2	0	0.0
Bromford & Hodge Hill	340	13.4	0	0.0
Castle Vale	135	14.9	0	0.0
Druids Heath & Monyhull	155	15.8	0	0.0
Edgbaston	120	2.4	5	0.1
Erdington	260	15.6	-5	-0.3
Frankley Great Park	180	17.3	15	1.4
Garretts Green	190	16.1	5	0.4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	385	16.6	15	0.6
Gravelly Hill	225	20.1	20	1.8
Hall Green North	285	11.5	15	0.6
Hall Green South	65	7.3	0	0.0
Handsworth	320	21.0	10	0.7
Handsworth Wood	240	11.4	0	0.0
Harborne	175	8.0	-10	-0.5
Heartlands	255	15.2	10	0.6
Highter's Heath	100	13.2	0	0.0
Holyhead	245	20.3	10	0.8
King's Norton North	95	10.2	5	0.5
King's Norton South	140	15.3	5	0.5
Kingstanding	335	17.2	5	0.3
Ladywood	310	5.9	0	0.0
Longbridge & West Heath	195	11.6	0	0.0
Lozells	225	14.3	-5	-0.3
Moseley	190	11.5	5	0.3
Nechells	280	5.7	15	0.3
Newtown	290	5.9	10	0.2
North Edgbaston	510	18.6	-10	-0.4

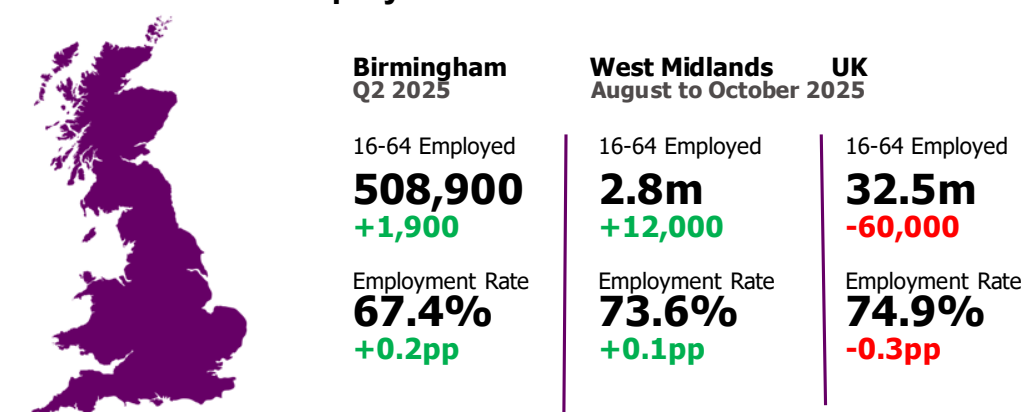
Northfield	390	6.4	5	0.2
Oscott	825	6.6	-15	-0.1
Perry Barr	1,335	10.4	-10	0.0
Perry Common	685	9.4	10	0.1
Pype Hayes	630	9.5	15	0.3
Quinton	930	7.4	5	0.1
Rubery & Rednal	500	7.5	20	0.3
Shard End	655	9.1	20	0.3
Sheldon	890	7.4	-15	-0.1
Small Heath	2,115	16.4	40	0.3
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,785	13.4	10	0.1
South Yardley	705	10.6	-5	-0.1
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	2,975	18.0	25	0.1
Sparkhill	2,170	15.7	20	0.2
Stirchley	450	6.7	-5	0.0
Stockland Green	2,170	13.7	-10	0.0
Sutton Four Oaks	95	1.8	-5	-0.2
Sutton Mere Green	135	2.5	0	-0.1
Sutton Reddicap	295	4.9	10	0.2
Sutton Roughley	165	2.5	-5	0.0
Sutton Trinity	135	2.5	-5	-0.1
Sutton Vesey	350	3.0	10	0.1
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	245	2.7	5	0.1
Sutton Wylde Green	150	3.1	5	0.1
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,150	15.0	5	0.1
Ward End	1,415	16.7	15	0.2
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,255	8.4	25	0.2
Yardley East	575	9.2	30	0.4
Yardley West & Stechford	1,080	13.8	0	0.1
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>76,875</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>0.1</b>

**Table 5 - Ward Youth 18-24 Claimant Unemployment November 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	5	0.7
Oscott	175	11.2	10	0.6
Perry Barr	255	14.3	5	0.3
Perry Common	170	17.5	5	0.5
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	150	15.9	15	1.6
Sheldon	185	10.8	0	0.0
Small Heath	400	13.5	-5	-0.2
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	425	12.6	-10	-0.3
South Yardley	135	15.3	10	1.1
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	605	17.0	30	0.8
Sparkhill	455	16.0	5	0.2
Stirchley	85	11.3	5	0.7
Stockland Green	470	19.8	-5	-0.2
Sutton Four Oaks	25	4.2	5	0.8
Sutton Mere Green	30	4.7	5	0.8
Sutton Reddicap	70	9.7	0	0.0
Sutton Roughley	35	4.6	0	0.0
Sutton Trinity	30	4.8	-5	-0.8
Sutton Vesey	65	5.2	10	0.8
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	40	3.9	5	0.5
Sutton Wylde Green	45	7.7	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	245	21.4	0	0.0
Ward End	300	16.3	10	0.5
Weoley & Selly Oak	310	12.9	15	0.6
Yardley East	120	12.6	15	1.6
Yardley West & Stechford	250	18.0	10	0.7
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>15,725</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0.3</b>

## 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 August to October 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has increased by 12,000 compared with the previous quarter (May to July). The employment rate regionally increased by 0.1% point compared to the previous quarter to stand at 73.6%.

Nationally the employment rate fell by 0.3% points to 74.9%. 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**

