Perry Barr Constituency Profile

Introduction

Perry Barr is located in the north of the city. It has a population of 122,501 making it the 4th most populous constituency in the city.

The constituency has a slightly younger age profile compared to the city as a whole. The area has a diverse ethnic make-up with a higher overall BAME population share than the city as a whole.

The constituency is home to 32,000 workers, making it the 5th largest constituency in terms of employment numbers.

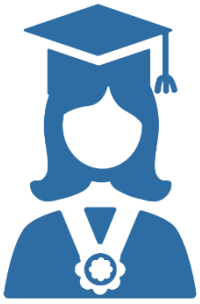
Resident employment rates in the area are well below the city average and the constituency has a weaker skills base than the city and nationally with a lower share of residents with high level qualification and a higher share of residents with no qualifications.

Population
122,501

Workplace Employment
32,000

Employment Rate
59.7%

Deprivation Rank (National)
5



RQF4+ Qualifications
27.4%

Active Businesses
3,260

Perry Barr Constituency Location Map

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Demography

Population & Age Structure

Data from the 2022 ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates shows that the Perry Barr Constituency has a population of 122,501, making Perry Barr the 4th largest constituency in the city in terms of population size. The constituency has a slightly higher proportion of children (26.9%) than the city as a whole (24.9%), and a slightly lower share of the population who are over 65 (11.0%) than the city and nationally.

Table 1: Age Structure

Age	Constituency Nº	% of Constituency Population	Birmingham %	England %
All Residents	122,501	-	-	-
16-64	80,029	65.3%	64.8%	62.9%
Under 18	33,008	26.9%	24.9%	20.8%
18-24	13,267	10.8%	11.8%	8.3%
25-44	43,034	35.1%	34.0%	32.8%
45-64	19,730	16.1%	16.1%	19.4%
65+	13,462	11.0%	13.1%	18.6%

Ethnicity

2021 Census data on the ethnic make-up of the Perry Barr constituency is shown in the table below. The constituency has a higher share of the population from BAME backgrounds (79.0%) than Birmingham (51.4%) and significantly more diverse than England (19.0%) as a whole.

Table 2: Ethnicity

Ethnic Group	Constituency Nº	% of Constituency Population	Birmingham %	England %
All Residents	121,862	-	-	-
BAME Total	96,241	79.0	51.4%	19.0%
Bangladeshi	16,636	13.7	4.2%	1.1%
Chinese	579	0.5	1.1%	0.8%
Indian	19,504	16.0	5.8%	3.3%
Pakistani	23,643	19.4	17.0%	2.8%
Black African	8,647	7.1	5.8%	2.6%
Black Caribbean	12,263	10.1	3.9%	1.1%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	4,615	3.8	4.8%	3.0%
Other Ethnic Group	6,143	5.0	4.5%	2.2%
White	25,621	21.0	48.6%	81.0%

Employment & Business Activity

Workplace Employment

Workplace employment data in this section is taken from an official ONS dataset, the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). This data is workplace based data and refers to the employment located within the constituency – and not the number of Perry Barr residents in employment.

The latest available data for 2023 shows that there are 32,000 people employed in the Perry Barr constituency. This accounts for 5.7% of all employment in the city, making Perry Barr the 5th largest employer amongst the 10 constituencies in the city. Employment in the constituency decreased by 500 between 2022 and 2023, a decrease of 1.5%.

In terms of the wards within the constituency, Perry Barr and Aston wards have the highest concentration of employment located within them. In 2023 there were 19,000 jobs located in these two wards, accounting for over half (59.4%) of the constituency's employment.

Table 3: Workplace Employment 2023

Area	2022	2023	Annual Change Nº	Annual Change %
Perry Barr Constituency	**32,500**	**32,000**	**-500**	**-1.5%**
Aston	9,000	9,000	0	0%
Birchfield	1,000	950	-50	-5%
Handsworth	2,750	2,750	0	0%
Handsworth Wood	2,750	2,750	0	0%
Holyhead	2,250	2,375	125	6%
Lozells	1,750	1,500	-250	-14%
Oscott*	4,000	4,250	250	6%
Perry Barr	10,500	10,000	-500	-5%
Birmingham	555,500	562,500	7,000	1.3%
England	27,922,000	28,248,000	326,000	1.2%

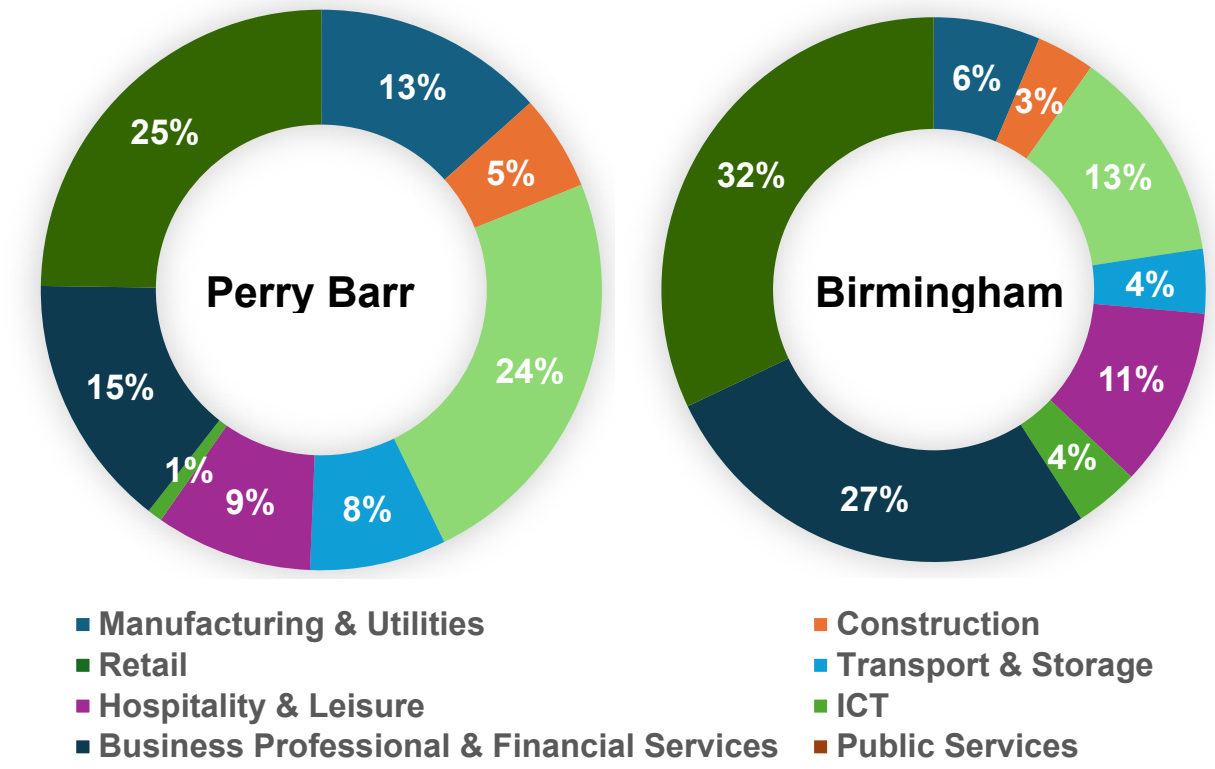
*Ward is in more than one constituency

Employment by Sector

At a sectoral level, services account for 81% of the constituency's workplace employment. Public Services (24.8%) is the largest sector in the Perry Barr constituency, but the sector has a lower share of employment than for the city as a whole (32%).

Retail is the next largest sector accounting for 23.9% of employment in the constituency. The constituency also retains a significant manufacturing presence locally with 4,200 people working in the sector accounting for 13.4% of employment locally, over double the share for Birmingham as a whole (6.3%).

Chart 1: Workplace Employment by Sector 2023



Business Activity

Official Data from the ONS UK Business Count dataset for 2024 is shown in the following section. In 2024 there were 3,260 businesses in the constituency, accounting for 8.8% of businesses in the city and meaning Perry Barr has the 5th largest concentrations of businesses out of the 10 constituencies in the city.

Business by Size Band

The vast majority of businesses are small employing fewer than 50 people, the table below gives a breakdown of businesses in the constituency by size band with a comparison with the city and nationally. The constituency has a similar breakdown of business by size band to the city and nationally with a very high proportion of micro (89.3%) and small (8.9%) firms.

Table 4: Businesses by Size Band 2024

Size Band	Constituency Nº	Constituency%	Birmingham %	England %
Micro (0-9 employees)	2,910	89.3%	89.2%	89.2%
Small (10-49 employees)	290	8.9%	8.8%	8.7%
Medium (50-249 employees)	50	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%
Large (250+ employees)	10	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Total Businesses	3,260	100%	-	-

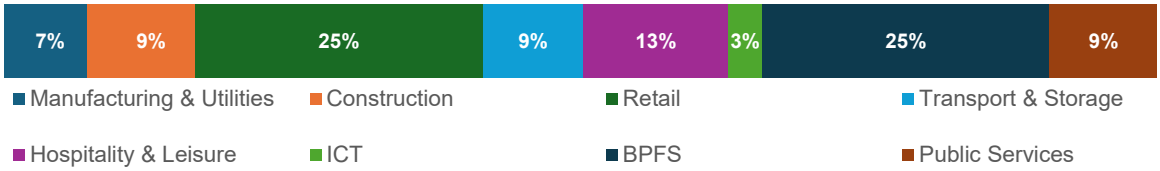
Businesses by Sector

A breakdown of business numbers in the constituency broken down by sector is set out below. The BPFS and retail sectors accounts for the largest share of businesses in the constituency (both 25.0%), followed by hospitality & leisure (12.6%).

Table 5: Businesses by Sector 2024

Sector	Constituency N°	Constituency%	Birmingham %	England %
Manufacturing & Utilities	235	7.2%	5.8%	5.3%
Construction	305	9.3%	9.9%	14.0%
Retail	815	25.0%	20.6%	14.6%
Transport & Storage	285	8.7%	6.2%	4.4%
Hospitality & Leisure	410	12.6%	12.7%	13.0%
ICT	95	2.9%	5.3%	7.3%
BPFS	815	25.0%	30.0%	31.1%
Public Services	305	9.3%	9.4%	6.3%
Total	3,260	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Perry Barr Constituency Business Breakdown by Sector



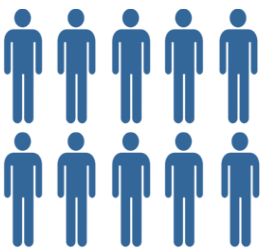
Economic Output

Experimental small area GVA data has recently been released by the ONS. This data enables us for the first time to get an understanding of an economic output in the wards and constituencies of the city. The table below shows GVA for the Perry Barr constituency and its wards. The economic output data is in 2022 prices and therefore shows growth in real terms accounting for any inflationary impact.

In 2022 the Perry Barr constituency had an economic output o1 £1.5bn, accounting for 4.4% of economic output in the city and making Perry Barr constituency the 6th largest economy in the city. Perry Barr's economy has recovered from the contraction it suffered during the pandemic with economic output in 2022, 4.7% up on the 2019 pre pandemic level. On an annual basis the economy grew by 1.3%

At a ward level Perry Barr ward has the largest economy in the constituency with GVA of £615m in 2022, 42% of the constituency total.

GVA
£1.5bn



GVA Per Head
£12,024

Table 6: Economic Output GVA £m

Area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Annual Change Nº	Annual Change %	3 year Change Nº	3 Year Change %
Perry Barr Constituency	**1,393**	**1,407**	**1,292**	**1,454**	**1,473**	**19**	**1.3%**	**66**	**4.7%**
Aston	257	250	243	267	264	- 2	-0.9%	14	5.7%
Birchfield	48	48	49	49	51	3	5.2%	3	6.6%
Handsworth	94	88	85	97	110	13	13.4%	21	24.1%
Handsworth Wood	122	135	114	126	128	2	1.5%	-7	-4.9%
Holyhead	117	129	109	132	143	11	8.6%	14	11.0%
Lozells	59	60	54	48	49	1	1.7%	-11	-18.6%
Oscott*	195	205	192	198	190	- 7	-3.8%	-15	-7.1%
Perry Barr	571	567	515	615	615	- 0	0.0%	48	8.4%
Birmingham	32,275	32,747	29,366	32,029	33,739	1,710	5.3%	993	3.0%

Labour Market

Economic Activity & Inactivity

The economically active working age population (16-64) is defined as those residents who are either in employment or unemployed. Unemployed residents are considered economically active as they are required to be actively seeking work and thus are active in the labour market. In Q3 2024 there were 38,600 economically active residents in Perry Barr, (67.1%) of the working age population. This is well below both the city rate (71.5%) and the national rate (78.4%).

Resident Employment

The latest resident employment data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) shows that in Q3 2024 there were 34,400 working age residents in employment. Meaning the constituency employment rate was 59.7%. This is well below the employment rate for the city as a whole (66.4%) and is the 3rd lowest employment rate amongst the ten constituencies in the city.

Unemployment

The Labour Force Survey measure of unemployment is the headline measure of unemployment used nationally and is a count of those who are out of work and actively seeking work regardless of benefit eligibility. In Q3 2024 the unemployment rate in Perry Barr was 11.0%, above the Birmingham rate of 7.2%.

Table 7: Economic Activity Q3 2024

Econ Activity	Constituency N°	Constituency%	Birmingham %	England %
Employment	34,400	59.7	66.4	75.4
Employees	29,300	51.0	59.1	66.0
Self employed	5,000	8.7	7.2	9.2
Unemployment	4,200	11.0	7.2	3.7
Total Economically Active	38,600	67.1	71.5	78.45

Claimant Count Unemployment

Claimant count unemployment provides a slightly different measure of unemployment than the Annual Population Survey (APS) used above, the claimant count is a measure of those in receipt of unemployment related benefits and is available at ward and neighbourhood level and is released monthly and is more timely than the APS data.

Constituency and ward level claimant count, and youth claimant count unemployment data is released monthly. The latest data can be found in our monthly Unemployment Update available on our website on the following link: Link to Monthly Unemployment Update

Economic Inactivity

Economic inactivity is defined as those residents who are of working age who are not currently active in the labour market. This could be for a variety of reasons including being in full time education, looking after family, illness or disability and early retirement.

In Q3 2024 there were 18,900 working age residents who are economically inactive accounting for 32.9% of the 16-64 population: a significantly higher rate than for the city as a whole (28.5%) and for the UK (21.6%).

Of those residents who were economically inactive 1,600 (8.4%) stated that they wanted a job. This is below the city figure of 14.3%.

Employment & Economic Inactivity - Disability

Data on the number of working age residents who are disabled or have a work limiting health condition and their employment and economic inactivity rates and how these compare with non-disabled residents is shown in the table below.

There are 19,800 working age residents in Perry Barr who are classed as disabled, accounting for 34.4% of the 16-64 population. This is a larger proportion of the population than for the city and nationally, who both have disability rates over 26%.

The employment rate for disabled residents in Perry Barr is 51.7%, well below the employment rate for non-disabled residents of 63.9%. The disability employment rate locally is however, above the corresponding figure for Birmingham (47.1%) but below the UK rate (56.1%).

Disabled residents correspondingly have a higher rate of economic inactivity (48.3%) than non-disabled residents (24.8%). The economic inactivity rate for disabled residents locally is also higher than for Birmingham (47.8%) and for the UK (40.1%).

Table 8: Employment & Economic Inactivity – Disability Q3 2024

Disability	Constituency Nº	Constituency%	Birmingham %	UK %
16-64 who are Disabled	19,800	34.4	26.3	26.2
Employment rate 16-64 - Disabled	10,200	51.7	47.1	56.1
Employment rate 16-64 - not Disabled	24,100	63.9	73.1	82.4
% economically inactive 16-64 - Disabled	9,600	48.3	47.8	40.1
% economically inactive 16-64 - not Disabled	9,300	24.8	21.7	15.0

Occupations

Table 10 below shows the occupational breakdown of all 16+ Perry Barr constituency residents in employment. The majority of residents in the constituency are employed in higher skilled occupations (51.2%) below the corresponding figure for both the city (53.9%) and the UK (53.0%). This is reflective of the lower levels of skills and qualifications present in the resident population which is shown in the following section. The Perry Barr constituency has a higher share of residents employed in intermediate skilled occupations (21.8%) than for the city as a whole (16.1%).

Table 9: Occupational Breakdown Q3 2024

Occupation	Constituency Nº	% of Employed Residents	Birmingham %	England %
All Employed 16+	36700	-	-	-
Managers, directors and senior officials	1,100	3.0	6.6	11.0
Professional occupations	12,600	34.3	32.5	26.7
Associate professional and technical occupations	5,100	13.9	14.8	15.2
Higher Skilled Occupations	**18,800**	**51.2**	**53.9**	**53.0**
Administrative and secretarial occupations	5,800	15.9	8.9	9.3
Skilled trades occupations	2,200	6.0	7.2	8.7
Intermediate Occupations	**8,000**	**21.8**	**16.1**	**18.1**
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	2,500	6.8	5.1	8.4
Sales and customer service occupations	3,800	10.4	4.7	6.1
Process plant and machine operatives	2,100	5.7	7.4	5.5
Elementary occupations	1,500	4.1	12.3	8.8
Lower Skilled Occupations	**9,900**	**27.0**	**29.5**	**28.8**

Higher Skilled 51.2%

Intermediate Skills 21.8%

Lower Skilled 27.0%

Qualification Levels

Data on qualification levels of 16-64 residents in Perry Barr is shown in the table below. The area has a lower proportion of working age residents with higher level qualifications (27.4%) than Birmingham (44.4%) and the UK (47.1%). The constituency has a higher share of working age residents with no qualifications (15.3%) than the city (9.4%) and the UK (6.6%).

Table 10: RQF Qualification Levels 2023

RQF Level	Constituency Nº	% of 16-64 Population	Birmingham %	England %
RQF Level 4+ (Higher Education)	17,300	27.4	44.4	47.1
RQF Level 3 (A Level)	14,000	22.1	16.4	20.6
RQF Level 2 (GCSE)	7,900	12.5	19.1	18.7
RQF Level 1	4,000	6.4	3.6	2.4
Other Qualifications	10,300	16.3	7.2	4.5
No Qualifications	9,600	15.3	9.4	6.6

Deprivation & Child Poverty

2025 Index of Deprivation

Data from the 2025 Index of Deprivation at constituency level for the city is shown in the table below. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) uses a basket of indicators to create a measure of relative deprivation at neighbourhood level across the country.

Perry Barr is one of the more deprived constituencies in the city and is the 5th most deprived constituency in England (out of 543 constituencies) making it in the top 1% of deprived constituencies nationally. Over half (53.9%) of children live in income deprivation as do 28.7% of older people.

Table 11: 2025 Index of Deprivation Birmingham Constituencies Ranked

Constituency	IMD 2025 National Rank (out of 543)	IMD 2019 Rank	Change in Rank	% of Children in Income Deprivation	% of Old People in Income Deprivation
Ladywood	2	4	-2	49.4%	27.3%
Perry Barr	**5**	**16**	**-11**	**53.9%**	**28.7%**
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	6	7	-1	60.5%	39.5%
Erdington	13	12	1	55.6%	23.7%
Yardley	14	21	-7	56.8%	31.8%
Hall Green and Moseley	19	31	-12	50.3%	23.3%
Northfield	47	24	23	55.4%	25.5%
Edgbaston	106	84	22	51.2%	25.2%
Selly Oak	129	83	46	51.4%	29.4%
Sutton Coldfield	481	419	62	24.0%	10.2%

Child Poverty

Every year the End Child Poverty Coalition, together with the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, publishes data on the number of children living in poverty, in each Westminster Constituency and Local Authority across the UK.

The data is for children aged 0-15 and shows the proportion of children living in relative poverty , which is defined as those households whose income is less than 60% of the average household income after housing costs are taken into account.

In 2022/23, 52.6% of children in Perry Barr lived in relative poverty, the 4th highest constituency rate in the city. The child poverty rate in the constituency is above the city rate (48.3%) and well above the UK rate (30.0%). Child poverty increased in all ten constituencies in the city in the most recent year and all but one constituency (Sutton Coldfield) are in the top 10% of constituencies nationally for child poverty.

Table 12: Child Poverty by Constituency Ranked

Constituency	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Annual Change % Point	National Rank	National Percentile
Ladywood	52.4%	54.4%	54.6%	0.2%	1	1
Hall Green and Moseley	52.2%	53.2%	54.6%	1.4%	2	1
Yardley	47.5%	51.0%	53.5%	2.5%	4	1
Perry Barr	**47.4%**	**50.5%**	**52.6%**	**2.1%**	**6**	**1**
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	46.8%	50.0%	51.2%	1.2%	10	1
Erdington	40.0%	45.1%	48.9%	3.8%	23	1
Northfield	33.5%	39.2%	43.4%	4.2%	48	1
Edgbaston	36.3%	39.8%	43.2%	3.4%	**50**	**1**
Selly Oak	34.1%	37.5%	41.6%	4.2%	59	1
Sutton Coldfield	15.0%	17.1%	19.1%	2.0%	572	9
Birmingham	**42.2%**	**46.4%**	**48.3%**	**1.9%**	**1**	**1**

Children in Poverty

16,952

52.6%

Con Rank

National (out of 650)

6