

# Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – December 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 December 2025, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 470 to 76,360. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased slightly to 13.6%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) unchanged at 9.9%. 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 160 in December to 15,750. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 18.6%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 10.9%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (14.8%) and for the UK as a whole (8.9%) in December.

## Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for December 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 December 2025**

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	76,360	13.6	470	0.1
Manchester	24,160	8.4	90	0.1
Nottingham	13,580	7.9	180	0.1
Liverpool	18,625	7.6	145	0.1
Glasgow	20,835	7.0	15	0.0
Leeds	24,365	6.5	265	0.1
Newcastle	8,510	6.0	130	0.1
Belfast	8,985	5.7	-260	-0.1
Sheffield	16,080	5.4	-25	0.0
Cardiff	9,675	4.9	75	0.0
Bristol	12,610	4.6	65	0.0
Edinburgh	9,205	3.0	75	0.1
UK	1,651,930	4.8	15,695	0.0
London	345,675	6.8	2,980	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. Five of the seven Met areas saw an increase in unemployment in December, as did the West Midlands region.

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

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	76,360	13.6	470	0.1
Wolverhampton	11,670	9.6	100	0.1
Sandwell	14,790	9.5	60	0.0
Walsall	10,240	7.5	-20	0.0
Coventry	13,160	6.3	-135	-0.1
Dudley	9,300	6.1	75	0.1
Solihull	4,700	4.5	65	0.1
WMCA Met Area	140,220	9.7	615	0.0
West Midlands	197,005	6.7	950	0.1
UK	1,651,930	4.8	15,695	0.0

## Birmingham Constituencies

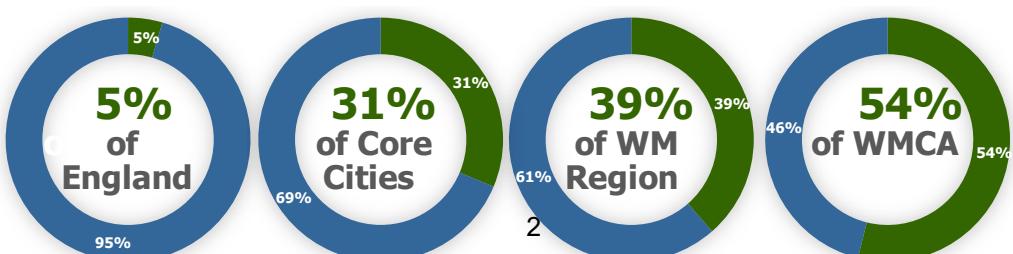
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for December 2025 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 28.2% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.5%. Nine of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in December occurred in Hall Green & Moseley (+90).

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

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,570	11.9	65	0.1
Erdington	8,325	12.3	75	0.1
Hall Green and Moseley	8,430	14.7	90	0.2
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,755	14.8	5	0.0
Ladywood	14,830	25.3	75	0.1
Northfield	5,050	7.3	70	0.1
Perry Barr	11,855	28.2	40	0.1
Selly Oak	4,590	6.8	20	0.0
Sutton Coldfield	1,575	2.5	30	0.0
Yardley	8,105	17.8	-5	0.0
Birmingham	76,360	13.6	470	0.1

## 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 (20.7%) and Birchfield (20.5%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddicap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.2% or under.

42 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 Bordesley & Highgate (+55) and Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East (+45).

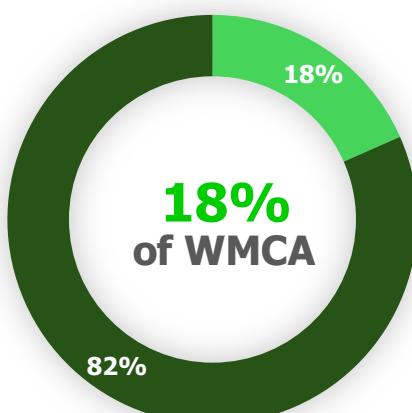
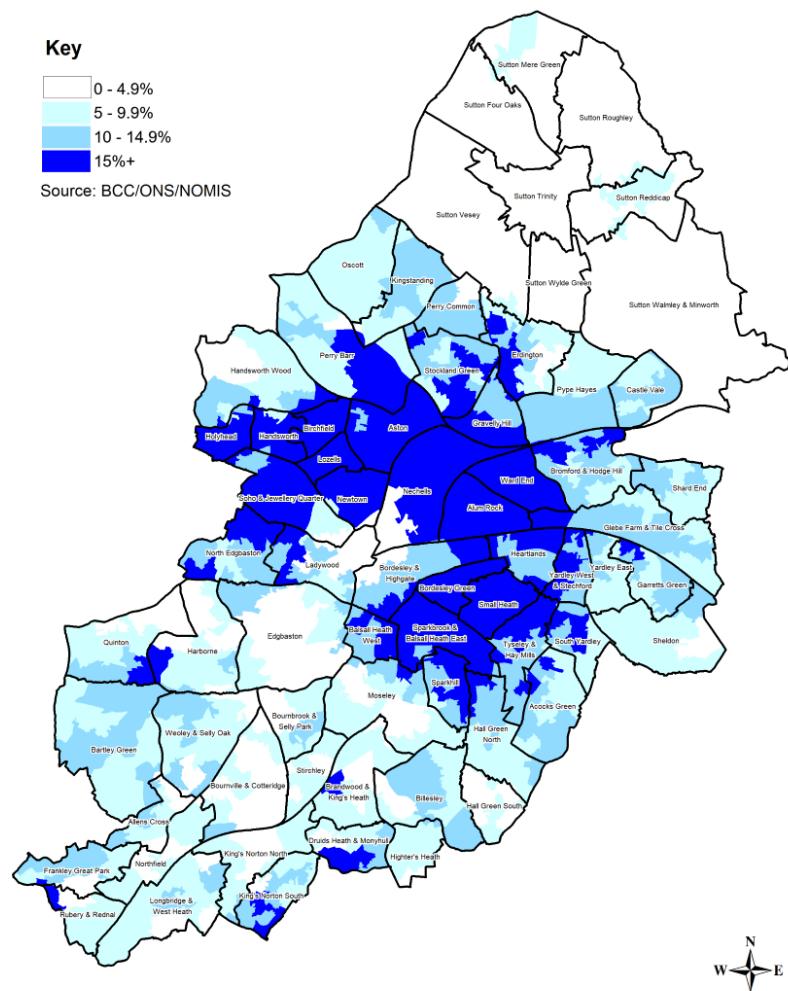
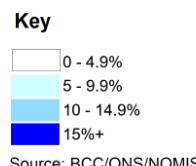
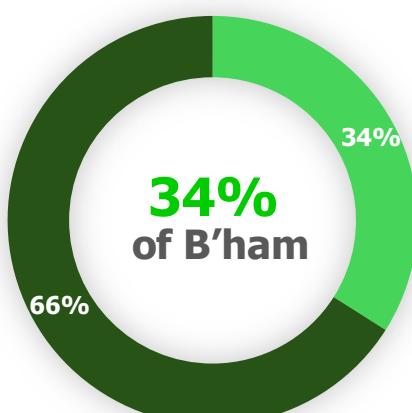
In terms of ward youth unemployment Birchfield (20.2%) and Gravelly Hill (19.4%) have the highest youth claimant proportions.

31 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 %**



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

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,675	11.0	-10	0.0
Allens Cross	525	8.2	5	0.0
Alum Rock	2,785	16.6	20	0.1
Aston	2,935	19.1	-20	-0.1
Balsall Heath West	1,130	14.3	-15	-0.2
Bartley Green	1,275	9.3	0	0.0
Billesley	1,005	8.4	20	0.2
Birchfield	1,715	20.5	-25	-0.3
Bordesley & Highgate	1,550	13.6	55	0.4
Bordesley Green	1,545	19.5	-10	-0.1
Bournbrook & Selly Park	1,010	4.6	5	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	530	4.9	-10	0.0
Brandwood & King's Heath	815	6.9	0	0.0
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,450	10.9	40	0.3
Castle Vale	545	9.2	10	0.2
Druids Heath & Monyhull	630	8.7	0	-0.1
Edgbaston	740	4.5	-5	0.0
Erdington	1,350	10.5	15	0.1
Frankley Great Park	690	9.6	20	0.2
Garretts Green	710	10.8	-25	-0.4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,705	11.8	15	0.1
Gravelly Hill	1,095	15.1	10	0.2
Hall Green North	1,380	9.6	45	0.3
Hall Green South	295	4.7	15	0.1
Handsworth	1,700	20.5	30	0.4
Handsworth Wood	1,240	9.1	30	0.2
Harborne	990	6.1	30	0.1
Heartlands	1,130	14.0	-5	-0.1
Highter's Heath	405	6.0	-5	-0.1
Holyhead	1,265	15.6	30	0.4
King's Norton North	395	5.7	10	0.1
King's Norton South	620	9.4	15	0.2
Kingstanding	1,395	10.8	25	0.2
Ladywood	2,035	8.2	35	0.2
Longbridge & West Heath	915	7.3	15	0.1
Lozells	1,285	20.7	-35	-0.4
Moseley	1,110	7.7	-25	-0.1
Nechells	1,335	11.0	-25	-0.2
Newtown	1,680	15.7	-15	-0.2
North Edgbaston	2,625	15.1	30	0.2

Northfield	400	6.5	5	0.1
Oscott	840	6.7	10	0.1
Perry Barr	1,345	10.4	15	0.1
Perry Common	670	9.2	-5	-0.1
Pype Hayes	600	9.0	-15	-0.3
Quinton	940	7.5	15	0.1
Rubery & Rednal	500	7.5	-5	0.0
Shard End	630	8.7	-25	-0.4
Sheldon	885	7.4	15	0.2
Small Heath	2,090	16.2	15	0.1
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,775	13.3	35	0.2
South Yardley	705	10.6	-5	-0.1
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	2,965	18.0	45	0.3
Sparkhill	2,185	15.8	20	0.2
Stirchley	455	6.7	10	0.1
Stockland Green	2,205	13.9	40	0.3
Sutton Four Oaks	90	1.8	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	130	2.4	-10	-0.2
Sutton Reddicap	295	5.0	5	0.1
Sutton Roughley	155	2.4	-10	-0.1
Sutton Trinity	135	2.6	5	0.2
Sutton Vesey	345	2.9	5	0.0
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	260	2.8	20	0.2
Sutton Wylde Green	155	3.2	5	0.1
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,145	15.0	5	0.2
Ward End	1,400	16.5	5	0.0
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,255	8.4	15	0.1
Yardley East	560	9.1	-10	-0.1
Yardley West & Stechford	1,040	13.2	-15	-0.2
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>76,360</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Table 5 - Ward Youth 18-24 Claimant Unemployment December 2025**

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	370	14.8	5	0.2
Allens Cross	110	12.1	-5	-0.6
Alum Rock	600	14.5	-15	-0.4
Aston	530	16.9	10	0.3
Balsall Heath West	210	10.8	-5	-0.3
Bartley Green	265	13.3	10	0.5
Billesley	250	14.0	10	0.6
Birchfield	325	20.2	-5	-0.3
Bordesley & Highgate	305	10.1	5	0.2
Bordesley Green	330	17.2	5	0.3
Bournbrook & Selly Park	240	1.8	-5	0.0
Bournville & Cotteridge	110	5.7	-5	-0.3
Brandwood & King's Heath	170	12.5	5	0.4
Bromford & Hodge Hill	350	12.9	10	0.4
Castle Vale	140	14.5	15	1.6
Druids Heath & Monyhull	150	14.7	-10	-1.0
Edgbaston	105	2.1	-5	-0.1
Erdington	255	14.0	0	0.0
Frankley Great Park	180	16.3	5	0.5
Garretts Green	180	14.3	-5	-0.4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	390	15.4	5	0.2
Gravelly Hill	235	19.4	5	0.4
Hall Green North	290	11.1	15	0.6
Hall Green South	70	7.3	0	0.0
Handsworth	325	18.5	10	0.6
Handsworth Wood	230	10.1	0	0.0
Harborne	175	8.5	0	0.0
Heartlands	250	13.5	-10	-0.5
Highter's Heath	100	12.8	0	0.0
Holyhead	240	17.0	10	0.7
King's Norton North	105	10.4	5	0.5
King's Norton South	135	14.4	-5	-0.5
Kingstanding	355	16.4	15	0.7
Ladywood	320	5.9	5	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	185	10.9	0	0.0
Lozells	210	11.8	-5	-0.3
Moseley	190	10.9	-5	-0.3
Nechells	285	4.8	0	0.0
Newtown	280	4.9	0	0.0
North Edgbaston	535	18.2	15	0.5

Northfield	100	13.6	-5	-0.7
Oscott	165	10.3	-10	-0.6
Perry Barr	270	14.5	15	0.8
Perry Common	165	16.1	-5	-0.5
Pype Hayes	125	14.3	-5	-0.6
Quinton	210	12.4	20	1.2
Rubery & Rednal	115	14.1	-5	-0.6
Shard End	150	15.3	5	0.5
Sheldon	190	10.7	10	0.6
Small Heath	395	12.6	0	0.0
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	435	11.0	10	0.3
South Yardley	140	14.6	-5	-0.5
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	630	16.2	25	0.6
Sparkhill	455	15.1	0	0.0
Stirchley	90	11.8	5	0.7
Stockland Green	470	17.9	5	0.2
Sutton Four Oaks	25	4.2	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	30	4.6	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	75	10.0	0	0.0
Sutton Roughley	35	4.7	0	0.0
Sutton Trinity	30	4.8	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	65	5.0	5	0.4
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	45	4.4	5	0.5
Sutton Wylde Green	45	7.8	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	235	18.4	-5	-0.4
Ward End	305	14.9	10	0.5
Weoley & Selly Oak	315	12.5	5	0.2
Yardley East	110	10.5	-5	-0.5
Yardley West & Stechford	245	15.0	-5	-0.3
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>15,750</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0.1</b>

## Latest Resident Employment



**Birmingham**  
Q3 2025

16-64 Employed

**520,700**  
+11,800

Employment Rate

**68.9%**  
+1.5pp

**West Midlands**  
September to November 2025

16-64 Employed

**2.8m**  
+23,000

Employment Rate

**73.7%**  
+0.5pp

16-64 Employed

**32.6m**  
+65,000

Employment Rate

**75.1%**  
0.0pp

The latest Annual Population Survey resident employment data for Birmingham (Q3 2025) shows working age employment levels increasing by 11,800 in the last quarter to stand at 520,700. The employment rate increased, rising from 67.4% in Q4 to 68.9% in Q3 2025.

Economic inactivity (those not in work or seeking work) in the city stood at 191,600 in Q3, 25.3% of the 16-64 population.

The latest Labour Force Survey figures for the West Midlands region for the three month period September to November 2025 shows that the number of working age people employed has increased by 23,000 compared with the previous quarter (June to August). The employment rate regionally increased by 0.5% point compared to the previous quarter to stand at 73.7%.

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 November 2025 there were 16,871 new online job adverts posted in Birmingham. This was up by 1,261 (+8.1%) on the previous month.

The occupations that had the highest number of new online adverts in Birmingham in November 2025 were IT professionals (1,376), sales & marketing professionals (1,275).

### 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**

