

Claimant Count Unemployment Monthly Update – March 2026 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 March 2026, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 1,625 to 77,715. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased to 13.6%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) also increasing to 10.1%. 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 315 in March to 15,780. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate increased to 19.0%, with the youth claimant proportion also increasing to 10.9%. Unadjusted youth unemployment increased in the WMCA (15.3%) and in the UK as a whole (9.0%) in March.

Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for March 2026 for the core cities. Birmingham has the highest claimant unemployment rate (13.6%) amongst the core cities and is well above the UK average (4.9%). All of the twelve core cities saw claimant numbers increase last month.

Table 1: Core City Claimant Count March 2026

Arial	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	77,715	13.6	1,625	0.3
Nottingham	14,105	8.3	380	0.2
Manchester	25,365	8.0	835	0.3
Liverpool	19,405	7.5	485	0.2
Glasgow	22,155	6.8	670	0.2
Leeds	25,975	6.2	695	0.2
Newcastle	8,755	5.9	90	0.0
Belfast	9,140	5.7	165	0.1
Sheffield	16,750	5.6	385	0.1
Cardiff	10,175	4.9	205	0.1
Bristol	12,890	4.7	120	0.0
Edinburgh	10,270	3.3	410	0.2
UK	1,722,830	4.9	36,245	0.1
London	351,085	6.8	6,060	0.2

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 March, as did the West Midlands region.

Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count March 2026

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	77,715	13.6	1,625	0.3
Sandwell	15,155	9.8	325	0.2
Wolverhampton	12,025	9.3	200	0.1
Walsall	10,700	8.2	305	0.2
Coventry	14,035	6.9	520	0.3
Dudley	9,675	5.9	50	0.0
Solihull	4,810	4.4	110	0.1
WMCA Met Area	144,120	9.9	3,145	0.3
West Midlands	204,170	6.8	4,320	0.2
UK	1,722,830	4.9	36,245	0.1

Birmingham Constituencies

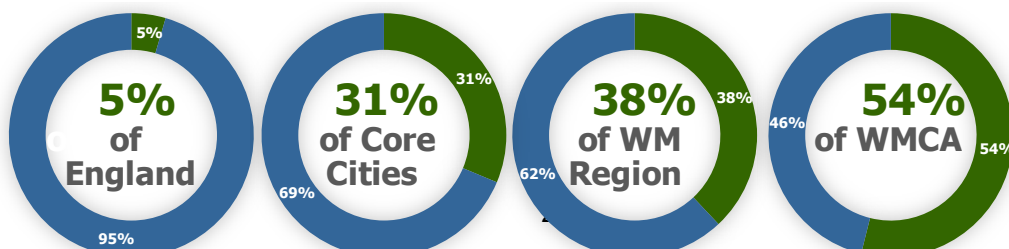
Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for March 2026 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Ladywood constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment rate at 35.0% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 3.3%. All of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in March occurred in Ladywood (+430).

Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count March 2026

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Edgbaston	6,690	10.6	105	0.2
Erdington	8,415	11.3	140	0.2
Hall Green and Moseley	8,930	13.1	230	0.3
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,850	14.3	175	0.3
Ladywood	14,965	35.0	430	1.0
Northfield	5,125	6.6	80	0.1
Perry Barr	12,125	25.8	220	0.5
Selly Oak	4,750	9.2	100	0.2
Sutton Coldfield	1,610	3.3	80	0.2
Yardley	8,000	15.7	85	0.2
Birmingham	77,715	13.6	1,625	0.3

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.

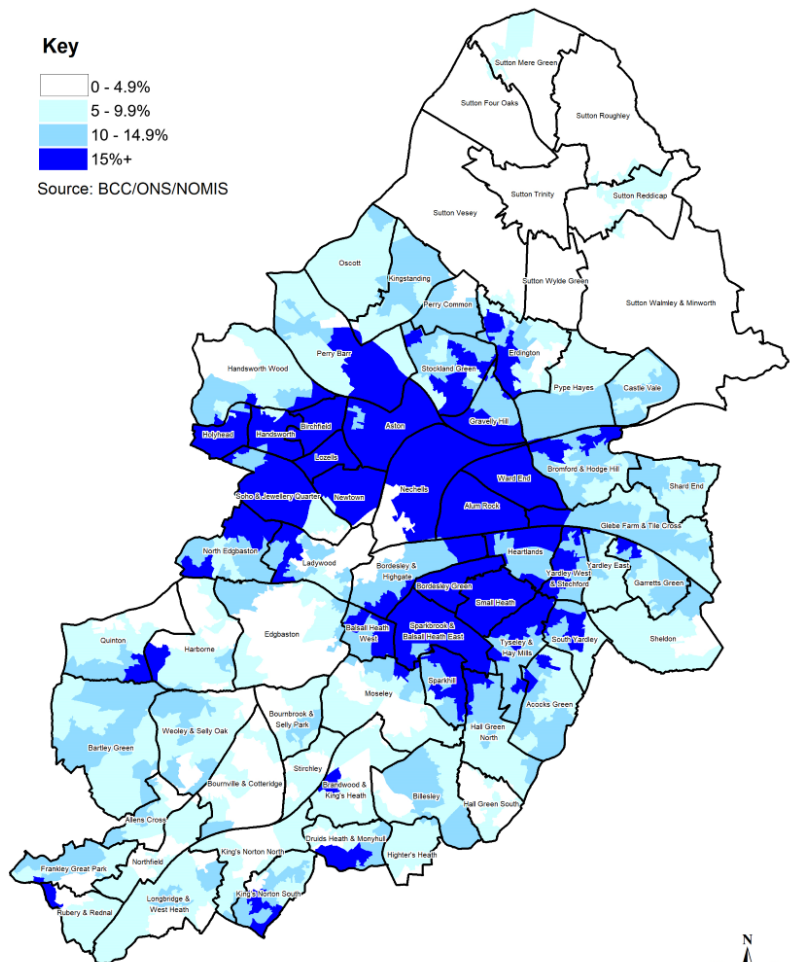
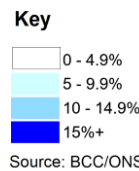
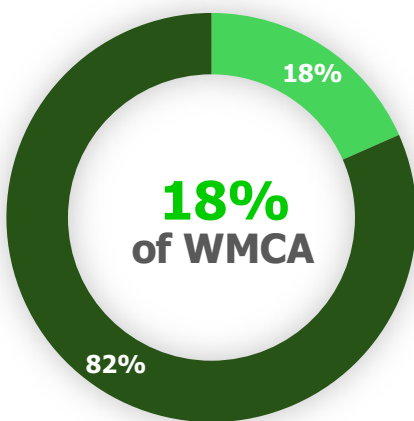
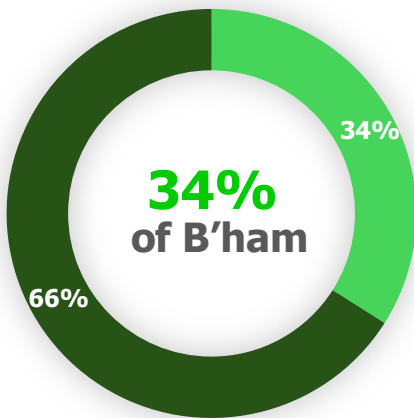
Birchfield (20.0%) and Handsworth (20.0%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddicap aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.0% or under. 58 of the 69 wards in the city saw unemployment increase last month.

In terms of ward youth unemployment Gravelly Hill (20.2%) and Birchfield (19.9%) 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 %



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

Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment March 2026

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,685	10.4	-5	0.0
Allens Cross	550	7.9	10	0.2
Alum Rock	2,870	15.0	90	0.5
Aston	2,880	17.7	45	0.3
Balsall Heath West	1,155	12.9	35	0.3
Bartley Green	1,290	9.2	20	0.2
Billesley	1,055	8.0	50	0.4
Birchfield	1,710	20.0	15	0.2
Bordesley & Highgate	1,590	12.1	55	0.5
Bordesley Green	1,575	17.7	55	0.6
Bournbrook & Selly Park	1,015	5.2	15	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	575	4.8	0	0.0
Brandwood & King's Heath	805	6.7	5	0.1
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,420	9.8	40	0.2
Castle Vale	530	8.3	15	0.3
Druids Heath & Monyhull	675	9.4	30	0.5
Edgbaston	710	5.3	20	0.1
Erdington	1,455	10.2	35	0.3
Frankley Great Park	690	8.8	0	0.0
Garretts Green	760	10.3	15	0.1
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,725	10.9	15	0.1
Gravelly Hill	1,150	15.6	20	0.4
Hall Green North	1,470	9.1	25	0.2
Hall Green South	330	4.9	15	0.2
Handsworth	1,710	20.0	60	0.7
Handsworth Wood	1,190	8.7	0	0.1
Harborne	1,045	7.3	25	0.2
Heartlands	1,125	12.6	60	0.7
Highter's Heath	400	5.7	5	0.0
Holyhead	1,280	16.5	35	0.5
King's Norton North	425	6.1	20	0.4
King's Norton South	605	8.4	0	0.0
Kingstanding	1,385	10.1	10	0.1
Ladywood	2,000	8.3	25	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	985	7.2	15	0.0
Lozells	1,545	18.4	40	0.5
Moseley	1,185	8.3	20	0.1
Nechells	1,325	9.7	50	0.4
Newtown	1,630	12.1	30	0.3
North Edgbaston	2,685	16.0	25	0.1

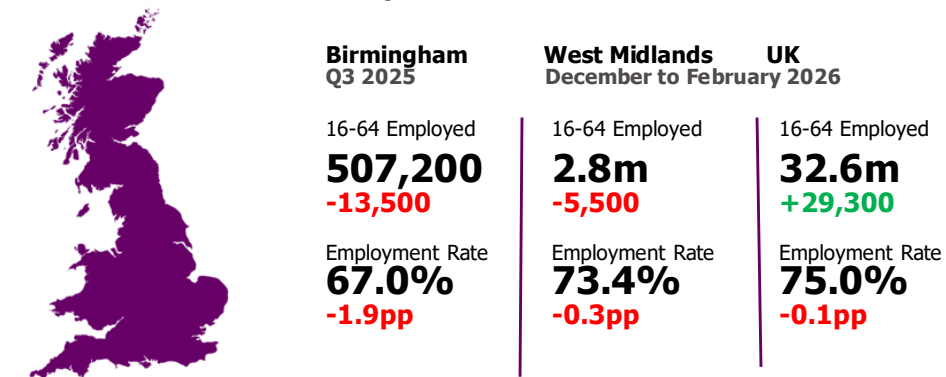
Northfield	405	6.3	5	0.1
Oscott	900	6.9	10	0.1
Perry Barr	1,415	10.6	20	0.1
Perry Common	645	8.6	-15	-0.2
Pype Hayes	610	8.4	0	0.0
Quinton	960	7.1	15	0.1
Rubery & Rednal	485	7.5	20	0.3
Shard End	665	8.7	15	0.2
Sheldon	860	6.7	5	0.1
Small Heath	2,090	14.6	55	0.4
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,810	13.3	80	0.3
South Yardley	715	9.9	-5	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,165	17.0	115	0.6
Sparkhill	2,275	15.4	45	0.3
Stirchley	465	6.6	5	0.0
Stockland Green	2,135	13.0	60	0.4
Sutton Four Oaks	100	1.9	15	0.2
Sutton Mere Green	140	2.5	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	300	5.0	15	0.3
Sutton Roughley	180	2.6	0	0.1
Sutton Trinity	145	2.5	-5	0.0
Sutton Vesey	340	2.9	20	0.2
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	265	2.9	25	0.3
Sutton Wylde Green	140	2.8	5	0.1
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,065	13.7	15	0.2
Ward End	1,410	15.2	20	0.2
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,250	8.3	15	0.1
Yardley East	560	7.9	10	0.2
Yardley West & Stechford	1,025	11.3	10	0.1
Birmingham	77,715	10.1	1,625	0.2

Table 5 - Ward Youth 18-24 Claimant Unemployment March 2026

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	370	14.8	15	0.6
Allens Cross	130	14.3	10	1.1
Alum Rock	625	15.1	40	1.0
Aston	520	16.5	5	0.2
Balsall Heath West	195	10.0	0	0.0
Bartley Green	270	13.5	0	0.0
Billesley	265	14.8	15	0.8
Birchfield	305	19.0	0	0.0
Bordesley & Highgate	295	9.8	15	0.5
Bordesley Green	300	15.6	0	0.0
Bournbrook & Selly Park	245	1.9	10	0.1
Bournville & Cotteridge	115	5.9	5	0.3
Brandwood & King's Heath	170	12.5	5	0.4
Bromford & Hodge Hill	355	13.1	5	0.2
Castle Vale	140	14.5	-5	-0.5
Druids Heath & Monyhull	170	16.6	10	1.0
Edgbaston	110	2.1	5	0.1
Erdington	295	16.2	20	1.1
Frankley Great Park	180	16.3	0	0.0
Garretts Green	190	15.1	10	0.8
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	385	15.2	-15	-0.6
Gravelly Hill	245	20.2	0	0.0
Hall Green North	290	11.1	5	0.2
Hall Green South	75	7.8	0	0.0
Handsworth	320	18.2	5	0.3
Handsworth Wood	205	9.0	-5	-0.2
Harborne	180	8.7	5	0.2
Heartlands	250	13.5	15	0.8
Highter's Heath	95	12.2	0	0.0
Holyhead	230	16.3	0	0.0
King's Norton North	100	9.9	0	0.0
King's Norton South	120	12.8	0	0.0
Kingstanding	335	15.5	10	0.5
Ladywood	325	5.9	15	0.3
Longbridge & West Heath	185	10.9	5	0.3
Lozells	270	15.2	15	0.8
Moseley	200	11.4	0	0.0
Nechells	275	4.7	0	0.0
Newtown	260	4.5	5	0.1
North Edgbaston	525	17.8	0	0.0
Northfield	100	13.6	10	1.4

Oscott	185	11.6	0	0.0
Perry Barr	265	14.3	10	0.5
Perry Common	145	14.2	0	0.0
Pype Hayes	125	14.3	-5	-0.6
Quinton	220	13.0	5	0.3
Rubery & Rednal	120	14.7	10	1.2
Shard End	150	15.3	5	0.5
Sheldon	170	9.6	-5	-0.3
Small Heath	395	12.6	20	0.6
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	455	11.5	25	0.6
South Yardley	150	15.6	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	655	16.8	15	0.4
Sparkhill	470	15.6	-5	-0.2
Stirchley	95	12.5	5	0.7
Stockland Green	445	17.0	10	0.4
Sutton Four Oaks	20	3.4	0	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	30	4.6	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	65	8.7	0	0.0
Sutton Roughley	45	6.1	5	0.7
Sutton Trinity	35	5.6	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	55	4.2	-5	-0.4
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	50	4.8	5	0.5
Sutton Wylde Green	40	6.9	0	0.0
Tyseley & Hay Mills	240	18.8	10	0.8
Ward End	280	13.6	-5	-0.2
Weoley & Selly Oak	320	12.7	5	0.2
Yardley East	120	11.5	5	0.5
Yardley West & Stechford	245	15.0	0	0.0
Birmingham	15,780	10.9	315	0.2

Latest Resident Employment



The latest Annual Population Survey resident employment data for Birmingham (Q4 2025) shows working age employment levels decreasing by 13,500 in the last quarter to stand at 507,200. The employment rate decreased, falling from 68.9% in Q3 to 67.0% in Q4 2025.

Economic inactivity (those not in work or seeking work) in the city stood at 206,500 in Q4, 27.3% of the 16-64 population.

The latest Labour Force Survey figures for the West Midlands region for the three month period December to February 2026 shows that the number of working age people employed has decreased by 5,500 compared with the previous quarter (September to November). The employment rate regionally decreased by 0.3% points compared to the previous quarter to stand at 73.4%.

Nationally, the employment rate decreased to 75.0%. The employment rate nationally is still below pre-pandemic levels.

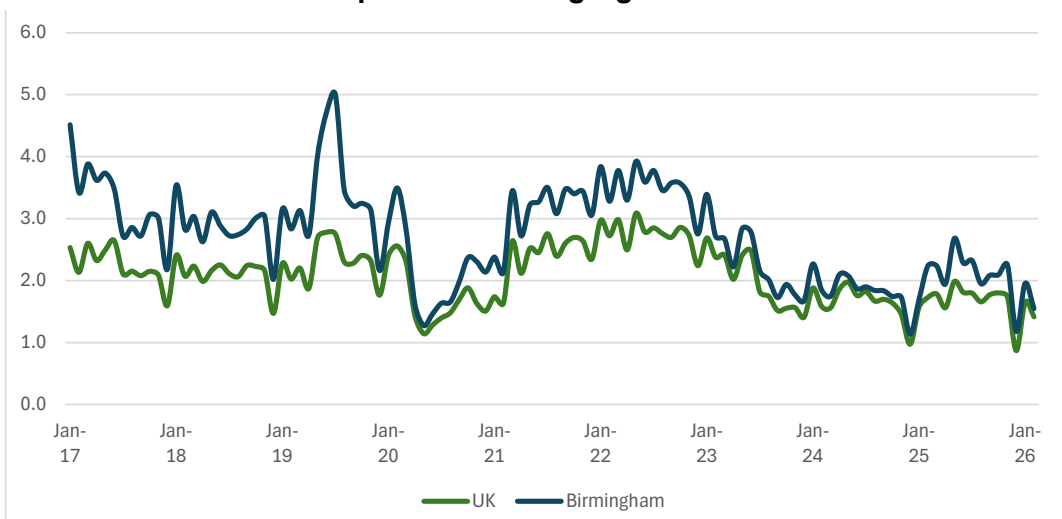
Vacancies

The latest data on online job adverts from the ONS/Textkernel shows that in February 2026 there were 11,686 new online job adverts posted in Birmingham. This was down by 3,079 (-21%) on the previous month.

The occupations that had the highest number of new online adverts in Birmingham in February were IT professionals (588) and Teaching professionals (384).

The chart below shows the trend for online job adverts per 100 working age residents for Birmingham and the UK in recent years. Birmingham has a slightly higher rate than the UK but has followed a similar trend with a peak in vacancies as the economy emerged from the pandemic before seeing a decline in vacancies as the recovery slowed and the labour market cooled during 2022 as inflationary and supply side shocks hit the UK economy.

Chart : New Job Adverts per 100 Working Age Residents Jan 2017 to Feb 2026



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 (9.3%) has a greater proportion of working age residents with no qualifications compared to the UK (6.4%) and the core city average (8.0%).

The city (64.8%) also has a correspondingly lower proportion of residents with RQF3+ qualifications than the UK (68.9%) and core city average (71.0%).

Chart 2: RQF Qualification Levels 2025

