

Unemployment Update

April 2026 Claimant Count Data



Total Claimant Count

In April 2026, unadjusted claimant count numbers in the city increased by 750 to 77,325. The unadjusted claimant rate (% of the economically active population) increased to 13.5%, with the claimant proportion (% of the whole working age population) also increasing to 10.0%. Claimant numbers also increased in the WMCA (Met area) and the UK last month.



77,325

+750

Claimant Rate

13.5%

+0.1% points

Claimant Proportion

10.0%

+0.1% points

Youth Claimant Count

In Birmingham, the unadjusted youth (18-24) claimant count increased by 145 in April to 15,760. 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 (15.2%) and in the UK as a whole (8.9%) in April.



15,760

+145

Claimant Rate

19.0%

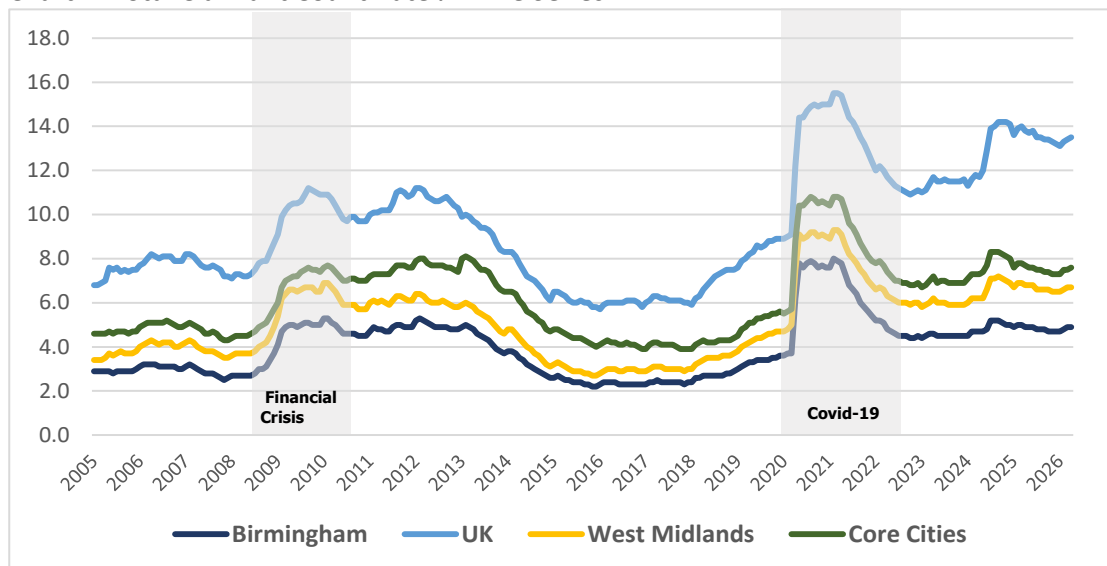
+0.2% points

Claimant Proportion

10.9%

+0.1% points

Chart 1: Total Claimant Count Rate % Time Series



Core Cities

Table 1 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for April 2026 for the core cities. Birmingham has the highest claimant unemployment rate (13.5%) 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 April 2026

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	77,325	13.5	750	0.1
Nottingham	13,935	8.2	70	0.0
Manchester	25,420	8.0	480	0.2
Liverpool	19,475	7.5	395	0.2
Glasgow	22,220	6.9	350	0.1
Leeds	25,795	6.1	240	0.0
Newcastle	8,815	6.0	190	0.2
Belfast	9,235	5.8	260	0.8
Sheffield	16,805	5.7	290	0.1
Cardiff	10,060	4.8	70	0.0
Bristol	12,760	4.7	100	0.1
Edinburgh	10,315	3.3	135	0.1
UK	1,709,725	4.9	15,860	0.0
London	348,975	6.7	4,815	0.1

West Midlands Region

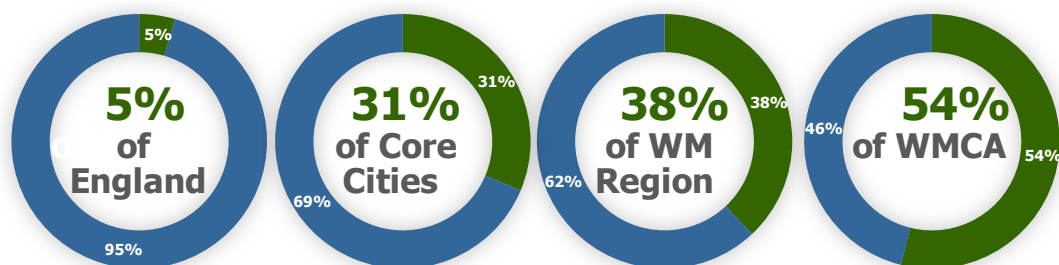
Table 2 displays the latest claimant count data for the region. Birmingham along with Sandwell and Wolverhampton, has the highest unemployment rates locally, with Coventry, Dudley and Solihull having lower rates, closer to or below the UK average. Six of the seven Met areas saw an increase in unemployment in April, as did the West Midlands region.

Table 2: West Midlands Claimant Count April 2026

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Rate %
Birmingham	77,325	13.5	750	0.1
Sandwell	15,025	9.7	160	0.1
Wolverhampton	11,855	9.2	35	0.0
Walsall	10,690	8.2	155	0.1
Coventry	14,020	6.9	195	0.1
Dudley	9,415	5.8	-90	0.0
Solihull	4,750	4.3	35	0.0
WMCA Met area	143,080	9.8	1,235	0.1
West Midlands	202,215	6.7	1,410	0.0
UK	1,709,725	4.9	15,860	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 cities are in Birmingham and the city accounts for over half (54%) of claimants in the WMCA area.



Birmingham Constituencies

Table 3 below shows the unadjusted claimant count unemployment data for April 2026 for the 10 parliamentary constituencies in the city. Perry Barr constituency has the highest claimant count unemployment proportion at 14.8% and Sutton Coldfield the lowest at 2.8%. All of the ten constituencies saw an increase in claimant numbers last month. The largest increase in claimant count numbers in April occurred in Ladywood (+205).

Table 3: Birmingham Constituency Claimant Count April 2026

Area	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Edgbaston	6,620	9.2	60	0.1
Erdington	8,320	10.3	50	0.0
Hall Green and Moseley	8,860	11.4	110	0.2
Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,755	9.9	75	0.1
Ladywood	14,870	12.1	205	0.1
Northfield	5,125	7.6	20	0.0
Perry Barr	12,160	14.8	115	0.1
Selly Oak	4,800	6.5	75	0.1
Sutton Coldfield	1,580	2.8	10	0.0
Yardley	7,970	10.7	30	0.1
Birmingham	77,325	13.5	750	0.1

Birmingham Wards

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

Birchfield (20.4%) and Handsworth (19.9%) wards have the highest claimant proportions. The Sutton wards (Sutton Reddick aside) have the lowest claimant proportions, all 3.0% or under. Aston (+75) and Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East (+60) saw the largest increase in claimant numbers at ward level last month. 42 of the 69 wards in the city saw unemployment increase last month.

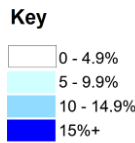
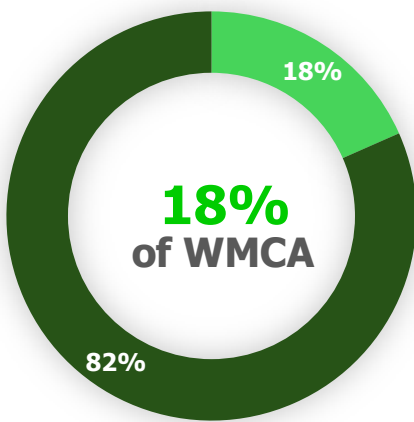
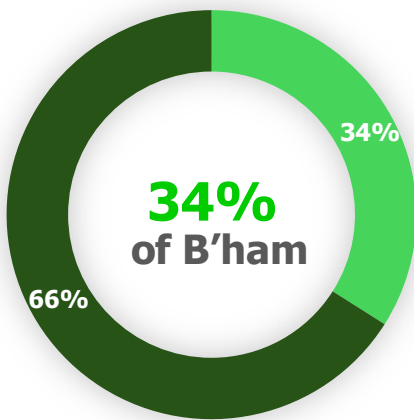
In terms of ward youth unemployment Gravelly Hill (20.2%) and Birchfield (18.7%) have the highest youth claimant proportions. The largest increase in youth claimant numbers at a ward level last

month occurred in Small Heath (+25) and Bournbrook & Selly Park (+25). 34 of the city's wards saw youth claimant numbers increase last month.

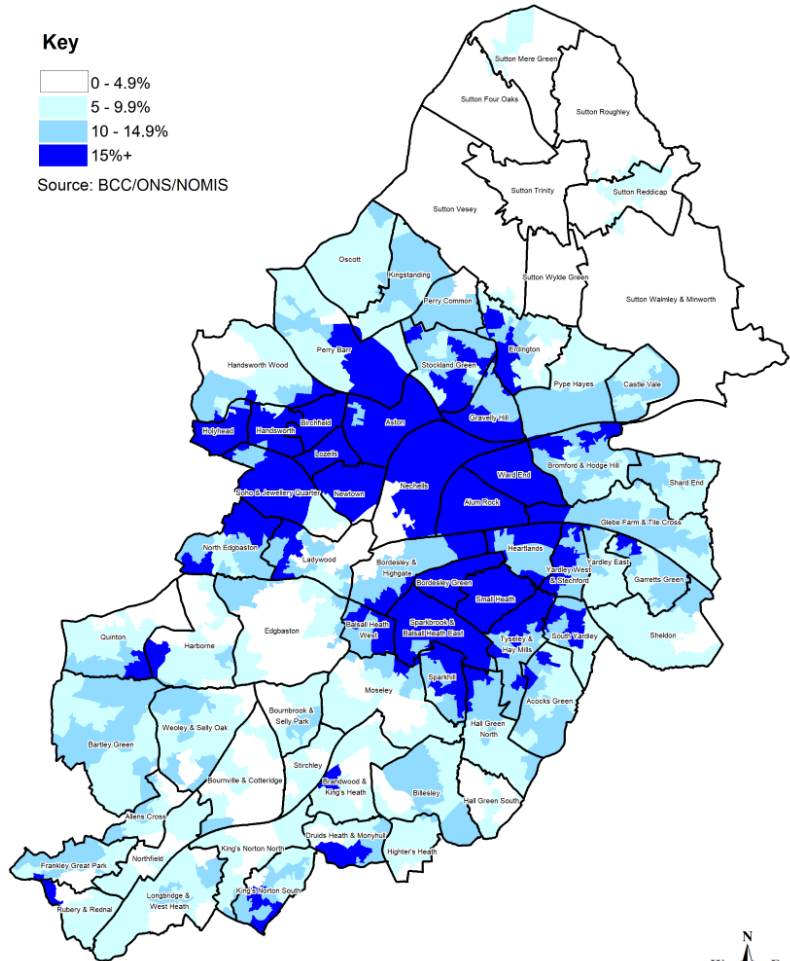
The map below highlights that the highest levels of claimant unemployment are concentrated in the inner city. East Birmingham accounts for 34% of all claimant unemployment in the city and 18% of unemployment in the WMCA.

Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions

East Birmingham %



Source: BCC/ONS/NOMIS



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

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Table 4 - Ward Claimant Unemployment April 2026

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	1,645	10.2	0	0.0
Allens Cross	540	7.7	0	0.0
Alum Rock	2,855	15.0	30	0.2
Aston	2,930	18.0	75	0.5
Balsall Heath West	1,160	13.0	25	0.3
Bartley Green	1,260	9.0	-15	-0.1
Billesley	1,050	7.9	-5	0.0
Birchfield	1,745	20.4	15	0.2
Bordesley & Highgate	1,615	12.2	45	0.3
Bordesley Green	1,585	17.8	50	0.6
Bournbrook & Selly Park	1,055	5.4	30	0.2
Bournville & Cotteridge	595	5.0	20	0.2
Brandwood & King's Heath	790	6.6	0	0.1
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1,415	9.8	15	0.1
Castle Vale	505	7.9	-5	-0.1
Druids Heath & Monyhull	685	9.5	10	0.2
Edgbaston	705	5.3	10	0.1
Erdington	1,435	10.0	-5	-0.1
Frankley Great Park	700	8.9	5	0.0
Garretts Green	745	10.1	0	0.0
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1,705	10.7	15	0.1
Gravelly Hill	1,110	15.0	-20	-0.3
Hall Green North	1,445	9.0	5	0.1
Hall Green South	335	5.0	10	0.2
Handsworth	1,710	19.9	30	0.3
Handsworth Wood	1,220	8.9	40	0.3
Harborne	1,050	7.3	15	0.1
Heartlands	1,100	12.3	10	0.1
Highter's Heath	410	5.9	15	0.2
Holyhead	1,275	16.4	20	0.2
King's Norton North	430	6.1	5	0.1
King's Norton South	595	8.3	-5	-0.1
Kingstanding	1,365	9.9	15	0.1
Ladywood	1,990	8.3	25	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	990	7.3	0	0.0
Lozells	1,535	18.3	-25	-0.3
Moseley	1,170	8.2	5	0.0
Nechells	1,325	9.7	25	0.2
Newtown	1,600	11.8	-5	-0.1
North Edgbaston	2,680	16.0	40	0.3
Northfield	385	6.0	-10	-0.2

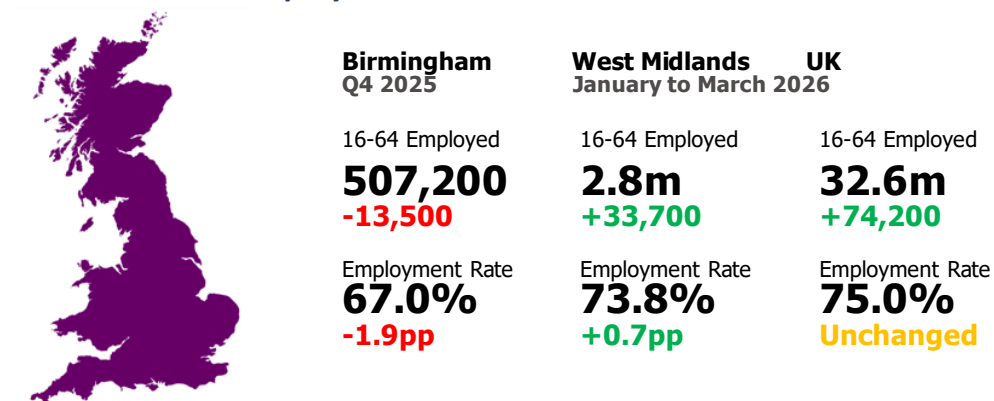
Oscott	880	6.8	-10	0.0
Perry Barr	1,375	10.3	-15	-0.2
Perry Common	640	8.5	10	0.1
Pype Hayes	605	8.4	5	0.1
Quinton	925	6.9	5	0.1
Rubery & Rednal	500	7.7	20	0.3
Shard End	655	8.6	5	0.1
Sheldon	835	6.5	-15	-0.1
Small Heath	2,135	14.9	55	0.4
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,740	13.0	10	0.0
South Yardley	720	9.9	0	0.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	3,165	17.0	60	0.3
Sparkhill	2,255	15.3	30	0.2
Stirchley	445	6.4	-5	-0.1
Stockland Green	2,155	13.1	45	0.3
Sutton Four Oaks	95	1.9	-5	0.0
Sutton Mere Green	140	2.5	5	0.1
Sutton Reddicap	290	4.8	0	0.0
Sutton Roughley	165	2.3	-15	-0.3
Sutton Trinity	140	2.4	-5	-0.1
Sutton Vesey	330	2.8	0	0.0
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	265	2.9	20	0.3
Sutton Wylde Green	150	3.0	10	0.2
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,055	13.6	0	0.0
Ward End	1,405	15.1	30	0.3
Weoley & Selly Oak	1,245	8.3	15	0.1
Yardley East	550	7.8	0	0.0
Yardley West & Stechford	1,030	11.3	-5	-0.1
Birmingham	77,325	10.0	750	0.1

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

Ward	Claimant Count	Claimant Proportion %	Monthly Change in Claimants	Monthly Change in Proportion %
Acocks Green	375	15.0	5	0.2
Allens Cross	125	13.8	0	0.0
Alum Rock	600	14.5	-15	-0.4
Aston	535	17.0	15	0.5
Balsall Heath West	205	10.5	10	0.5
Bartley Green	270	13.5	0	0.0
Billesley	255	14.2	-10	-0.6
Birchfield	300	18.7	0	0.0
Bordesley & Highgate	295	9.8	5	0.2
Bordesley Green	300	15.6	10	0.5
Bournbrook & Selly Park	265	2.0	25	0.2
Bournville & Cotteridge	120	6.2	5	0.3
Brandwood & King's Heath	170	12.5	0	0.0
Bromford & Hodge Hill	350	12.9	5	0.2
Castle Vale	130	13.5	0	0.0
Druids Heath & Monyhull	160	15.6	0	0.0
Edgbaston	115	2.2	-5	-0.1
Erdington	285	15.7	-5	-0.3
Frankley Great Park	180	16.3	-5	-0.5
Garretts Green	180	14.3	-5	-0.4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	370	14.6	-10	-0.4
Gravelly Hill	245	20.2	0	0.0
Hall Green North	280	10.7	0	0.0
Hall Green South	85	8.9	5	0.5
Handsworth	320	18.2	0	0.0
Handsworth Wood	210	9.2	5	0.2
Harborne	180	8.7	10	0.5
Heartlands	235	12.7	-5	-0.3
Highter's Heath	100	12.8	10	1.3
Holyhead	240	17.0	10	0.7
King's Norton North	105	10.4	5	0.5
King's Norton South	130	13.9	10	1.1
Kingstanding	350	16.2	10	0.5
Ladywood	320	5.9	5	0.1
Longbridge & West Heath	195	11.5	10	0.6
Lozells	275	15.5	0	0.0
Moseley	200	11.4	0	0.0
Nechells	270	4.6	10	0.2
Newtown	265	4.6	10	0.2
North Edgbaston	530	18.0	15	0.5

Northfield	95	12.9	0	0.0
Oscott	195	12.2	10	0.6
Perry Barr	265	14.3	-5	-0.3
Perry Common	145	14.2	5	0.5
Pype Hayes	130	14.9	10	1.1
Quinton	220	13.0	10	0.6
Rubery & Rednal	120	14.7	5	0.6
Shard End	155	15.8	5	0.5
Sheldon	160	9.0	-10	-0.6
Small Heath	420	13.4	25	0.8
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	460	11.7	10	0.3
South Yardley	145	15.1	-10	-1.0
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	625	16.1	-20	-0.5
Sparkhill	460	15.3	-5	-0.2
Stirchley	90	11.8	-5	-0.7
Stockland Green	455	17.4	10	0.4
Sutton Four Oaks	15	2.5	-5	-0.8
Sutton Mere Green	25	3.8	0	0.0
Sutton Reddicap	65	8.7	-5	-0.7
Sutton Roughley	40	5.4	-5	-0.7
Sutton Trinity	35	5.6	0	0.0
Sutton Vesey	60	4.6	5	0.4
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	40	3.9	0	0.0
Sutton Wylde Green	40	6.9	5	0.9
Tyseley & Hay Mills	235	18.4	0	0.0
Ward End	290	14.1	15	0.7
Weoley & Selly Oak	305	12.1	-10	-0.4
Yardley East	125	12.0	5	0.5
Yardley West & Stechford	240	14.7	-5	-0.3
Birmingham	15,760	10.9	145	0.1

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 January to March 2026 show that the number of working age people employed has decreased by 33,700 compared with the previous quarter (October to December). The employment rate regionally increased by 0.7% points compared to the previous quarter to stand at 73.8%.

Nationally, there was a small increase in employment but the employment rate was unchanged at 75.0%. The employment rate nationally is still below pre-pandemic levels.

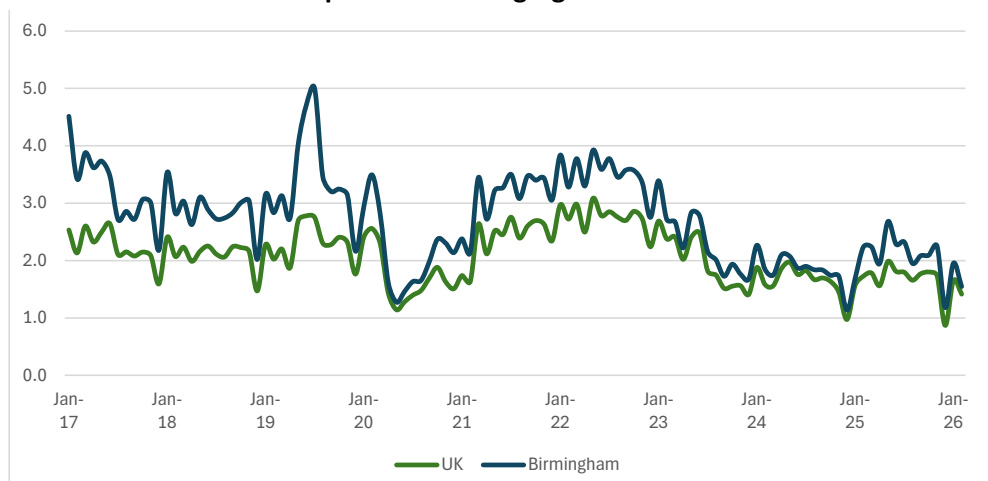
Vacancies

The latest data on online job adverts from the ONS/Textkernel show 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 2: New Job Adverts per 100 Working Age Residents Jan 2017 to Feb 2026



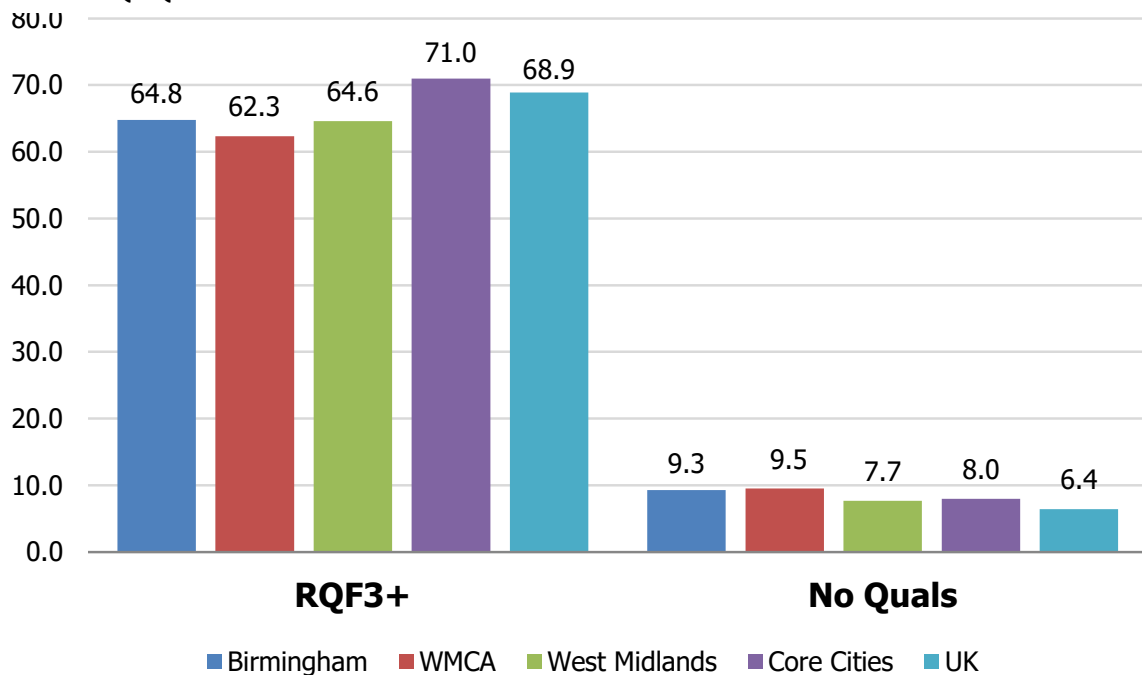
Skill Levels

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 3: RQF Qualification Levels 2025



Development Policy
Place, Prosperity, Sustainability



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](#).