

## Claimant Count- April 2021 Release<sup>1</sup>

### Key Points:

- There were 424,115 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in March 2021, this is an increase of 1,760 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 0.4% for the Midlands Engine area while the UK increased by 0.5%. Since March 2020 (221,540 claimants), the number of claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 202,575 (+91.4% compared to +112.3% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 5.1% compared to 5.0% for the UK in March 2021.
- There were 84,875 youth claimants (16-24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in March 2021, an increase of 1,080 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 1.3% with the UK increasing by 1.2%. Since March 2020 (44,195 claimants), the number of youth claimants has increased by 40,680 (+92.0% compared to +113.4% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16-24 years old was 7.3% which matched the UK average in March 2021.

### In Detail:

#### Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

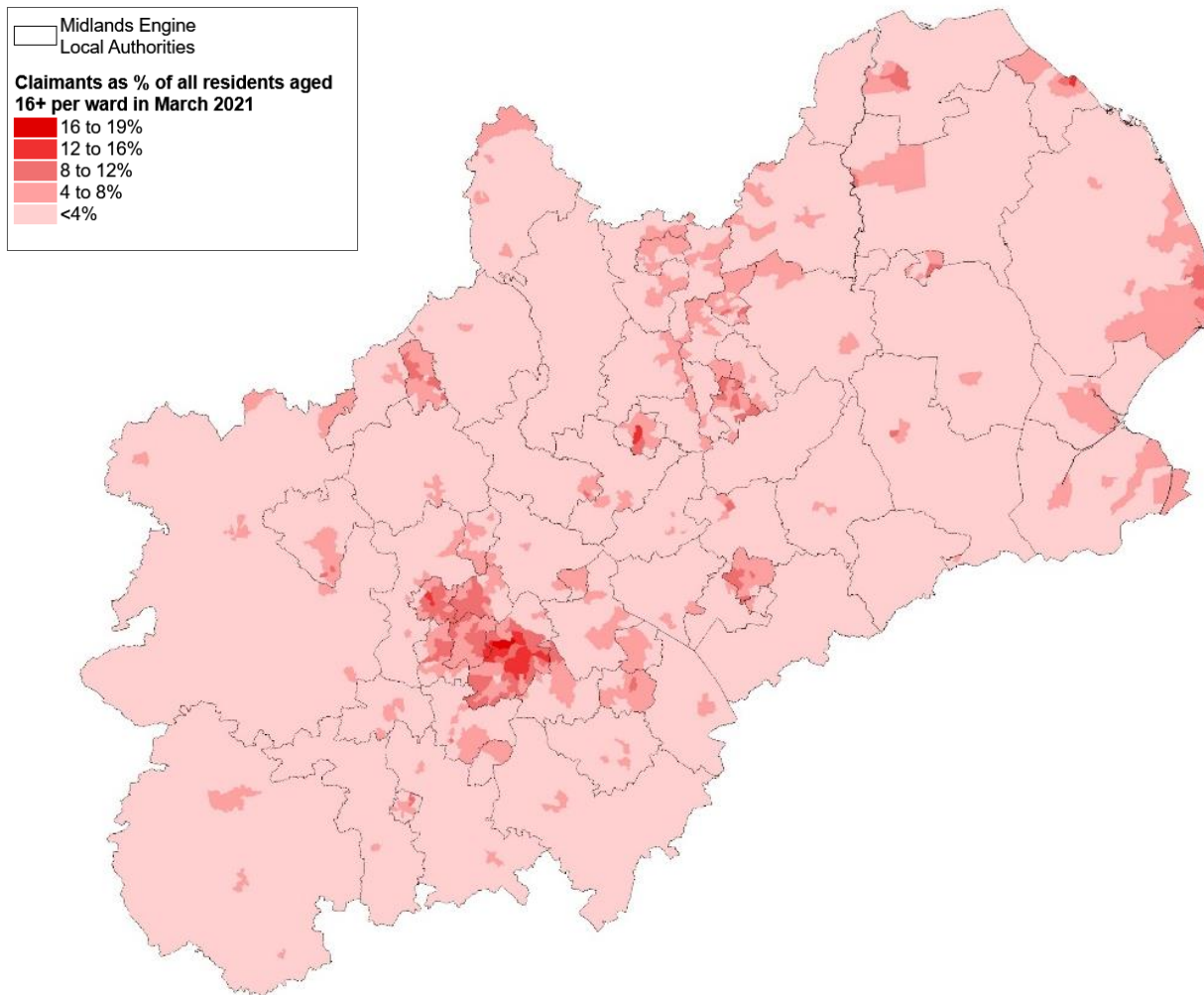
- There were 424,115 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in March 2021, this is an increase of 1,760 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 0.4% for the Midlands Engine area while the UK increased by 0.5%.
- Since March 2020 (221,540 claimants), the number of claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 202,575 (+91.4% compared to +112.3% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 5.1% compared to 5.0% for the UK in March 2021.

#### Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 405 were at or above the UK average of 5.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over in March 2021.
- The top wards for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population were based in Birmingham, with Lozells the highest with 18.1%. This is followed by Handsworth at 18.0% and then Aston and Birchfield both at 16.9%.

<sup>1</sup> ONS/Department for Work and Pensions: Claimant Count – released April 2021

The following map shows claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2021 across the Midlands Engine:



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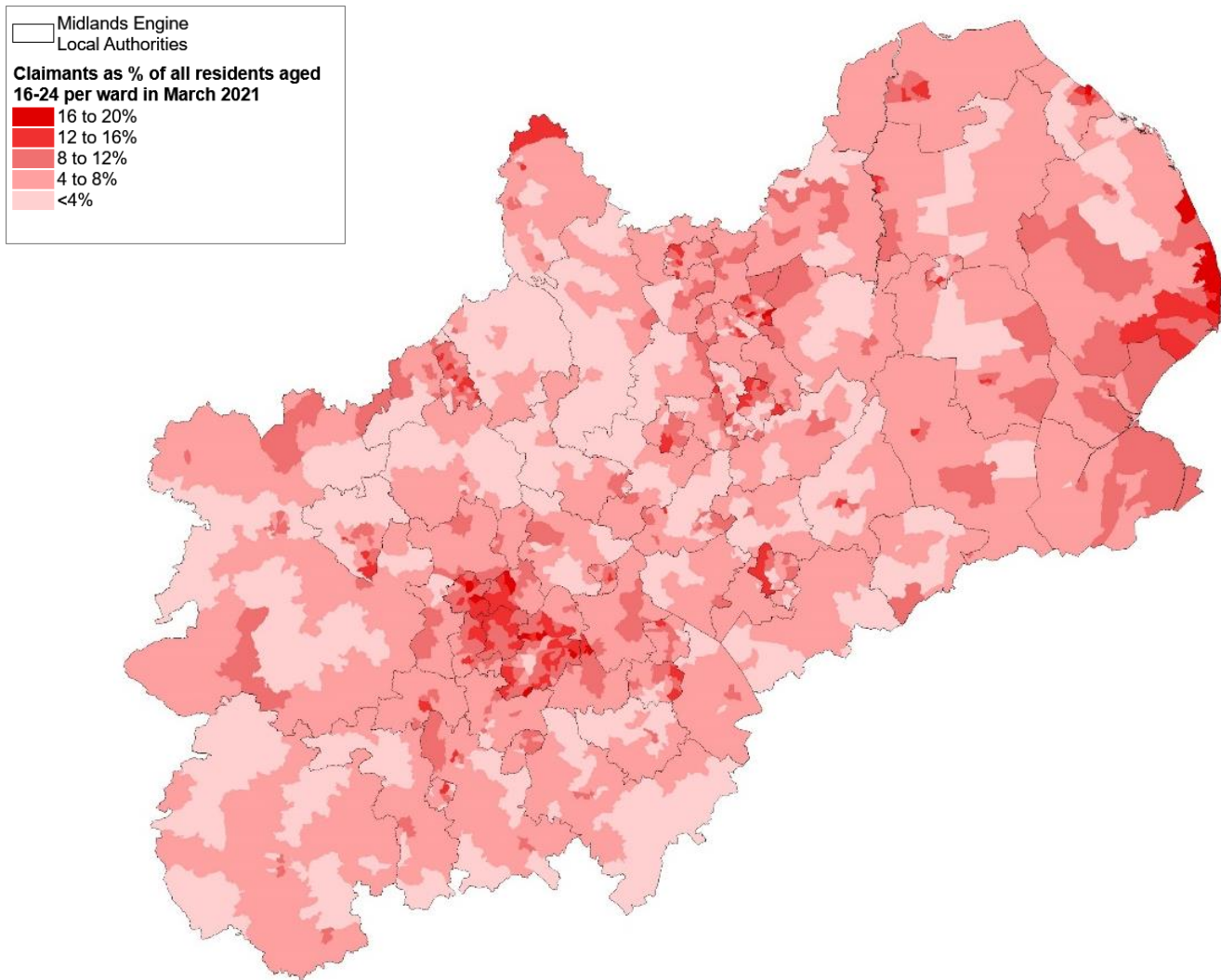
### Youth Claimant (Aged 16 – 24 Years Old)

- There were 84,875 youth claimants (16-24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in March 2021, an increase of 1,080 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 1.3% with the UK increasing by 1.2%.
- Since March 2020 (44,195 claimants), the number of youth claimants has increased by 40,680 (+92.0% compared to +113.4% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16-24 years old was 7.3% which matched the UK average in March 2021.

### Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 591 were at or above the UK average of 7.3% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged between 16 – 24 years old in March 2021.
- The top wards for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population was in Chapel St Leonards at 19.6%, Winthorpe and Mablethorpe both at 18.5% and then Handsworth at 18.1%.

The following map shows claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16-24 years old in March 2021:



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## Alternative Claimant Count<sup>2</sup>

### All Ages

- The alternative claimant count data estimates 425,989 claimants in the Midlands Engine area in February 2021, an increase of 84.2% (+194,717) when compared to February 2020. Over the same period the UK increased by 102.4%.

### All Ages Alternative Claimant Count, February 2016 – February 2021

	February 2016	February 2017	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020	February 2021	Change since 2020	% Change since 2020
<b>Midlands Engine</b>	<b>222,370</b>	<b>216,201</b>	<b>215,660</b>	<b>220,412</b>	<b>231,272</b>	<b>425,989</b>	<b>+194,717</b>	<b>+84.2%</b>
United Kingdom	1,354,921	1,297,045	1,267,835	1,292,655	1,330,888	2,694,140	+1,363,252	+102.4%

### 16 – 24-years old

- The alternative claimant count data estimates that there were 80,652 youth claimants in the Midlands Engine area in February 2021, an increase of 100.8% (+40,483) when compared to February 2020. Over the same period the UK increased by 124.5%.

### 16- 24 years old Alternative Claimant Count, February 2016 – February 2021

Local Authority	February 2016	February 2017	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020	February 2021	Change since 2020	% Change since 2020
<b>Midlands Engine</b>	<b>37,509</b>	<b>34,543</b>	<b>33,673</b>	<b>34,974</b>	<b>40,169</b>	<b>80,652</b>	<b>+40,483</b>	<b>+100.8%</b>
United Kingdom	219,766	197,570	187,599	198,455	218,748	490,980	+272,232	+124.5%

<sup>2</sup> Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Alternative claimant statistics, April 2021

An experimental quarterly alternative claimant count was released that covers the yearly month of February 2016 to February 2021. These statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began). Trends over time for local areas can be considered using the Claimant Count prior to 2013, and the Alternative Claimant Count from 2013. However, the figures cannot be directly compared as they are defined differently. Figures and rates from April 2020 onwards show higher levels of claimant unemployment given the impact of coronavirus and the UK Government's response.