

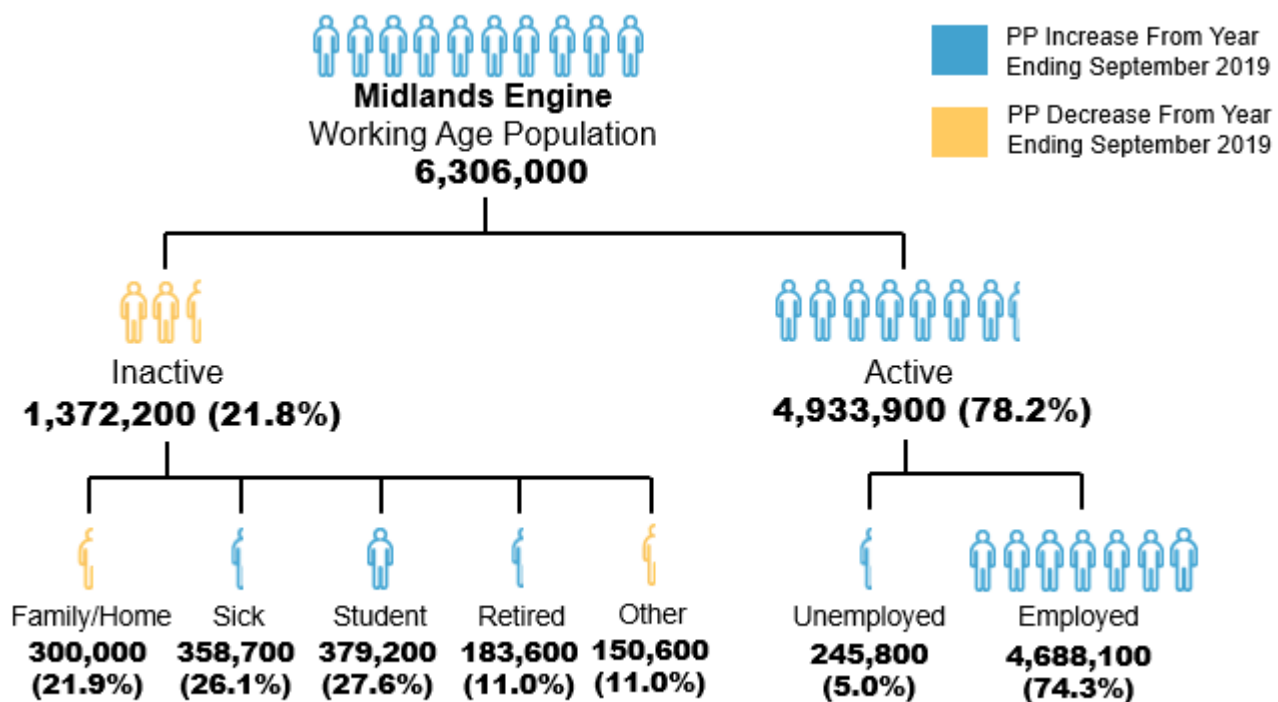
Annual Population Survey: Employment Activity: October 2019 – September 2020

Key Points:

- In the year ending September 2020, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.3%, compared to 75.5% for the UK overall. This was a 0.1pp increase in the employment rate from 74.2% in the Midlands Engine and for the UK employment rate decreased by 0.1pp when compared to the year ending September 2019.
- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was 5.0% (245,800 people) in the year ending September 2020, compared to 4.2% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine, this was a 0.4pp increase and for the UK a 0.2pp increase from the year ending September 2019.
- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 78.2% (4,933,900 people) in the year ending September 2020, compared to 78.9% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine area, there has been a 0.4pp increase in the economic activity rate compared to a 0.1pp increase for the UK since the year ending September 2019.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 21.8% for the year ending September 2020 (1,372,200 people), compared to 21.1% in the UK overall. For the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.4pp compared to a 0.2pp decrease for the UK when compared to the year ending September 2019.

In Detail:

The Midlands Engine Working Age Population Breakdown for Year Ending September 2020



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey (Year Ending September 2020) - Released January 2021

Employment

- In the year ending September 2020, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.3%, compared to 75.5% for the UK overall. This meant that for the Midlands Engine area there were 4,688,100 people employed in the year ending September 2020, this is an increase of 16,100 people compared to the previous year and a 0.1pp increase in the employment rate from 74.2%. The UK employment rate decreased by 0.1pp over the same time period.

- Within the Midlands Engine, 35 local authority areas have employment rates that are above the UK average (75.5%). Cannock Chase recorded the highest rate – 84.9% (53,300 people) – and Birmingham the lowest – 66.0% (484,600 people).

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was 5.0% (245,800 people) in the year ending September 2020, compared to 4.2% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of 19,600 people unemployed from the previous year and the unemployment rate changing from 4.6%. Overall, the UK increased from 4.0% to 4.2% in year ending September 2020.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 15 local authority areas have lower unemployment than the UK average (4.2%). Newcastle-under-Lyme recorded the highest rate at 11.4% (7,100 people) – and Charnwood the lowest at 1.9% (1,900 people).

Economic Activity

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 78.2% (4,933,900 people) in the year ending September 2020, compared to 78.9% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine area, there has been a 0.4pp increase in the economic activity rate compared to a 0.1pp increase for the UK since the year ending September 2019.
- Economic activity varies from 89.0% (55,900 people) to 71.9% (55,800 people) in East Lindsay.

Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 21.8% for the year ending September 2020 (1,372,200 people), compared to 21.1% in the UK overall. For the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.4pp compared to a 0.2pp decrease for the UK when compared to the year ending September 2019.
- The Midlands Engine has on average for the year ending September 2020 a lower percentage of people that are inactive due to retirement (12.8% vs 13.4%), those classed as other (9.3% vs 12.5%) and sick (24.6% vs 26.0%). Within the Midlands Engine, students account for 27.2% for those economically inactive, which is above the UK average of 26.7%.

Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment by occupation across the Midlands Engine and the UK for the year ending September 2020. The Midlands Engine have a higher than the UK average percentage of people employed in 5 of the 9 occupations, examples include: elementary occupations (11.1% vs 9.7%), process, plant and machine operatives (7.3% vs 5.7%) and skilled trades occupations (10.6% vs 9.6%).

Midlands Engine and UK Occupations, year ending September 2020

	<i>ME Numerator Year Ending September 2020</i>	<i>ME Percentage Year Ending September 2020</i>	<i>UK Numerator Year Ending September 2020</i>	<i>UK Percentage Year Ending September 2020</i>
1: managers, directors and senior officials	531,600	10.9%	3,726,400	11.4%
2: professional occupations	975,700	20.1%	7,267,200	22.3%
3: associate prof & tech occupations	672,800	13.8%	4,920,600	15.1%
4: administrative and secretarial occupations	469,900	9.7%	3,239,900	9.9%
5: skilled trades occupations	518,700	10.7%	3,128,200	9.6%
6: caring, leisure and other service occupations	450,700	9.3%	2,936,400	9.0%
7: sales and customer service occupations	338,200	7.0%	2,258,400	6.9%
8: process, plant and machine operatives	353,500	7.3%	1,844,900	5.7%
9: elementary occupations	541,700	11.1%	3,145,700	9.7%

Source: ONS (Nomis): Annual Population Survey, January 2021