

Midlands Engine: Annual Population Survey: Year Ending September 2021¹

Key Points:

- In the year ending September 2021, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 73.7%, compared to 74.5% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending September 2020, the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 0.5 percentage points (pp). The UK employment rate decreased by 0.9pp over the same time period.
- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 5.0% compared to 4.8% for the UK in year ending September 2021. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of approximately 0.4pp compared to the year ending September 2020, the UK increased by 0.5pp.
- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.7% in the year ending September 2021, compared to 78.3% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has decreased by 0.3pp since the year ending September 2020, while the UK has decreased by 0.5pp in the same period.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.3% for year ending September 2021, compared to 21.7% for the UK overall. Since the year ending September 2020, for the Midlands Engine area, this has increased by 0.4pp while the UK increased by 0.5pp in the same period.

In Detail:

In the appendix is a table containing Midlands Engine local authority data for employment rate, unemployment rate, economic activity rate and economically inactive for year ending September 2021 and also the change from the year ending September 2020.

Employment Rate

- In the year ending September 2021, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 73.7%, compared to 74.5% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending September 2020, the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 0.5 percentage points (pp). The UK employment rate decreased by 0.9pp over the same time period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 37 local authority areas have employment rates that are at or above the UK average (74.5%). Bromsgrove recorded the highest rate at 84.9%, down to Birmingham with the lowest at 65.0%.
- Since the year ending September 2020, the employment rate in 28 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the employment rate was in Newcastle-under-Lyme by 7.1pp (to 74.0%), in contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the employment rate was in Derbyshire Dales by 13.0pp (to 65.7%).

Unemployment Rate

- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 5.0% compared to 4.8% for the UK in year ending September 2021. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of approximately 0.4pp compared to the year ending September 2020, the UK increased by 0.5pp.
- Where data is available across the Midlands Engine area, the unemployment rate varies from Blaby which recorded the highest unemployment rate at 14.5%, down to Shropshire at 1.6%².
- Where data is available, the highest percentage point increase in the unemployment rate was in Harborough by 4.3pp (to 7.1%), in contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the unemployment rate was in Newcastle-under-Lyme by 6.8pp (to 5.4%).

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS): Annual Population Survey, released January 2022

² Please note, some estimates within the Midlands Engine are not available since the group sample size is zero or disclosive (0-2).

Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.7% in the year ending September 2021, compared to 78.3% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has decreased by 0.3pp since the year ending September 2020, while the UK has decreased by 0.5pp in the same period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 34 local authority areas have economically active rates that are at or above the UK average (78.3%). Charnwood recorded the highest rate at 87.5%, down to Mansfield with the lowest at 67.3%.
- Since the year ending September 2020, the economic activity rate in 30 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the economic activity rate was in North Kesteven by 10.0pp (to 85.8%), in contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the economic activity rate was in Oadby & Wigston by 15.0pp (to 73.2%).

Economic Inactivity²

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.3% for year ending September 2021, compared to 21.7% for the UK overall. Since the year ending September 2020, for the Midlands Engine area, this has increased by 0.4pp while the UK increased by 0.5pp in the same period.
- Economic inactivity can be broken down further into reasons of inactivity. For the year ending September 2021, the Midlands Engine had a higher percentage of people that were inactive when compared to the UK in two categories; sick (26.7% vs 26.4%) and retired (13.8% vs 13.5%).

Midlands Engine and UK Economic Inactivity by reason, Year Ending September 2021:

	Midlands Engine	UK
Student	28.3%	28.4%
Looking after family/home	19.1%	19.2%
Sick	26.7%	26.4%
Retired	13.9%	13.5%
Other	12.1%	12.4%

Table may not equal 100% due to data gaps. Sick covers temporary and long-term sick and other includes other and discouraged.

Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation for the Midlands Engine and the UK for the year ending September 2021. The Midlands Engine have a higher than the UK average percentage of people employed in four of the nine occupations, these include: skilled trades occupations (9.6% vs 8.9%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (10.1% vs 9.1%), process, plant and machine operatives (7.4% vs 5.6%) and elementary occupations (10.9% vs 9.3%).

Midlands Engine and UK Employment by Occupation Proportions, Year Ending September 2021:

	Midlands Engine	UK
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	10.3%	10.6%
2: Professional occupations	21.1%	23.4%
3: Associate prof & tech occupations	13.8%	15.4%
4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.8%	10.3%
5: Skilled trades occupations	9.6%	8.9%
6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	10.1%	9.1%
7: Sales and customer service occupations	6.9%	7.1%
8: Process, plant and machine operatives	7.4%	5.6%
9: Elementary occupations	10.9%	9.3%

Table may not equal 100% due to data gaps

Appendix

Employment Activity across the Midlands Engine local authorities for the year ending September 2021 and percentage point change since year ending September 2020:

	Economic activity rate		Employment rate		Unemployment rate		Economically inactive	
	Oct 20-Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20	Oct 20-Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20	Oct 20-Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20	Oct 20-Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20
Birmingham	72.2%	0.6pp	65.0%	-0.9pp	9.9%	2.0pp	27.8%	-0.6pp
Bromsgrove	86.0%	4.3 pp	84.9%	5.8pp	-	-	14.0%	-4.3pp
Cannock Chase	83.8%	-5.5 pp	75.7%	-9.6pp	9.7%	-	16.2%	5.5pp
Coventry	73.7%	-3.1 pp	69.8%	-2.0pp	5.3%	-1.3pp	26.3%	3.1pp
Dudley	82.0%	5.2 pp	78.4%	6.5pp	4.4%	-2.0pp	18.0%	-5.2pp
East Staffordshire	82.4%	3.7 pp	79.0%	2.5pp	4.1%	-	17.6%	-3.7pp
Herefordshire, County of	81.3%	-0.4 pp	78.7%	-0.5pp	3.3%	0.3pp	18.7%	0.4pp
Lichfield	76.0%	-5.6 pp	73.5%	-1.6pp	3.3%	-4.8pp	24.0%	5.6pp
Malvern Hills	78.1%	0 pp	71.6%	-1.7pp	8.3%	2.1pp	21.9%	0.0pp
Newcastle-under-Lyme	78.2%	2 pp	74.0%	7.1pp	5.4%	-6.8pp	21.8%	-2.0pp
North Warwickshire	83.0%	5.5 pp	82.0%	5.9pp	-	-	17.0%	-5.5pp
Nuneaton and Bedworth	82.6%	0.8 pp	80.2%	-1.0pp	3.0%	-	17.4%	-0.8pp
Redditch	78.3%	-4.9 pp	76.5%	0.7pp	2.3%	-6.6pp	21.7%	4.9pp
Rugby	81.0%	-1.9 pp	78.5%	-1.2pp	3.1%	-0.8pp	19.0%	1.9pp
Sandwell	78.6%	5 pp	73.8%	3.5pp	6.2%	1.7pp	21.4%	-5.0pp
Shropshire	77.4%	-3.3 pp	76.2%	-1.8pp	1.6%	-1.8pp	22.6%	3.3pp
Solihull	82.7%	3.4 pp	79.6%	3.4pp	3.8%	-0.1pp	17.3%	-3.4pp
South Staffordshire	78.7%	-1.5 pp	78.7%	3.6pp	-	-	21.3%	1.5pp
Stafford	75.3%	-6.6 pp	73.9%	-4.4pp	1.9%	-2.5pp	24.7%	6.6pp
Staffordshire Moorlands	85.1%	3 pp	84.5%	4.7pp	-	-	14.9%	-3.0pp
Stoke-on-Trent	79.4%	2.3 pp	76.4%	2.1pp	3.7%	0.1pp	20.6%	-2.3pp
Stratford-on-Avon	79.5%	-5.5 pp	75.9%	-7.4pp	4.5%	2.4pp	20.5%	5.5pp
Tamworth	75.5%	-9.7 pp	75.5%	-7.3pp	-	-	24.5%	9.7pp
Telford and Wrekin	75.9%	-1.3 pp	72.3%	-0.8pp	4.8%	-0.5pp	24.1%	1.3pp
Walsall	74.6%	-3.3 pp	68.9%	-4.2pp	7.7%	1.4pp	25.4%	3.3pp
Warwick	85.9%	2.7 pp	82.4%	1.3pp	4.0%	1.4pp	14.1%	-2.7pp
Wolverhampton	75.3%	-0.6 pp	70.1%	-2.2pp	6.8%	2.1pp	24.7%	0.6pp
Worcester	82.2%	3.2 pp	80.3%	3.8pp	-	-	17.8%	-3.2pp
Wychavon	81.9%	2.6 pp	81.6%	3.6pp	-	-	18.1%	-2.6pp
Wyre Forest	80.3%	-3.1 pp	76.4%	-3.5pp	4.9%	0.8pp	19.7%	3.1pp
Amber Valley	80.7%	-1 pp	79.0%	-0.3pp	2.2%	-0.8pp	19.3%	1.0pp
Ashfield	82.8%	3.6 pp	80.0%	3.3pp	3.3%	0.2pp	17.2%	-3.6pp
Bassetlaw	71.8%	-7.1 pp	71.2%	-4.5pp	-	-	28.2%	7.1pp
Blaby	86.3%	3.6 pp	73.7%	-7.6pp	14.5%	-	13.7%	-3.6pp
Bolsover	75.7%	1.4 pp	71.4%	2.8pp	5.6%	-2.1pp	24.3%	-1.4pp
Boston	83.7%	5.9 pp	72.7%	-5.1pp	13.2%	-	16.3%	-5.9pp
Broxtowe	79.1%	-0.3 pp	75.9%	0.8pp	4.0%	-1.4pp	20.9%	0.3pp
Charnwood	87.5%	6.5 pp	83.7%	4.0pp	4.3%	2.7pp	12.5%	-6.5pp
Chesterfield	80.5%	2.7 pp	75.8%	5.3pp	5.8%	-3.5pp	19.5%	-2.7pp
Derby	78.5%	-1.2 pp	75.4%	-0.5pp	3.9%	-0.9pp	21.5%	1.2pp
Derbyshire Dales	68.7%	-11.2 pp	65.7%	-13.0pp	-	-	31.3%	11.2pp
East Lindsey	73.4%	3.4 pp	69.0%	4.1pp	6.0%	-1.3pp	26.6%	-3.4pp

	Economic activity rate		Employment rate		Unemployment rate		Economically inactive	
	Oct 20- Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20	Oct 20- Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20	Oct 20- Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20	Oct 20- Sep 21	PP change Oct 19- Sep 20
Erewash	78.0%	-5.5pp	75.8%	-7.7pp	2.8%	-	22.0%	5.5pp
Gedling	77.8%	-4pp	71.2%	-6.1pp	8.4%	3.0pp	22.2%	4.0pp
Harborough	85.7%	1pp	79.6%	-2.7pp	7.1%	4.3pp	14.3%	-1.0pp
High Peak	76.3%	-4.3pp	71.0%	-5.2pp	6.9%	1.4pp	23.7%	4.3pp
Hinckley and Bosworth	84.7%	1.1pp	80.7%	1.1pp	4.8%	0.0pp	15.3%	-1.1pp
Leicester	71.8%	-5.8pp	66.4%	-8.0pp	7.6%	3.4pp	28.2%	5.8pp
Lincoln	73.5%	-4.8pp	69.8%	-2.1pp	5.1%	-3.0pp	26.5%	4.8pp
Mansfield	67.3%	-11.1pp	65.2%	-7.9pp	3.1%	-3.7pp	32.7%	11.1pp
Melton	81.0%	1.2pp	76.4%	-3.4pp	5.6%	-	19.0%	-1.2pp
Newark and Sherwood	74.0%	-6.6pp	67.3%	-8.7pp	9.1%	3.4pp	26.0%	6.6pp
North East Derbyshire	84.1%	4.7pp	82.8%	5.7pp	-	-	15.9%	-4.7pp
North Kesteven	85.8%	10pp	80.7%	6.8pp	6.0%	3.5pp	14.2%	-10.0pp
North West Leicestershire	77.7%	1.3pp	75.1%	4.3pp	3.3%	-4.1pp	22.3%	-1.3pp
Nottingham	77.9%	5.9pp	73.0%	5.5pp	6.2%	-0.1pp	22.1%	-5.9pp
Oadby and Wigston	73.2%	-15pp	73.2%	-12.9pp	-	-	26.8%	15.0pp
Rushcliffe	82.6%	4.6pp	79.9%	5.7pp	3.3%	-1.7pp	17.4%	-4.6pp
Rutland	76.1%	0.1pp	72.4%	-0.1pp	4.8%	0.2pp	23.9%	-0.1pp
South Derbyshire	81.0%	-2.5pp	76.0%	-5.5pp	6.1%	-	19.0%	2.5pp
South Holland	77.6%	-1.5pp	75.7%	1.8pp	-	-	22.4%	1.5pp
South Kesteven	77.0%	-1.3pp	75.4%	0.6pp	2.1%	-2.5pp	23.0%	1.3pp
West Lindsey	67.5%	-9.4pp	67.5%	-6.5pp	-	-	32.5%	9.4pp
North East Lincolnshire	74.0%	-4.5pp	70.5%	-4.8pp	4.7%	0.6pp	26.0%	4.5pp
North Lincolnshire	74.4%	-2.9pp	72.1%	-0.8pp	3.1%	-2.6pp	25.6%	2.9pp
Midlands Engine	77.7%	-0.3pp	73.7%	-0.5pp	5.0%	0.4pp	22.3%	0.4pp
East Midlands Region	78.3%	-1.3pp	74.2%	-1.9pp	5.1%	0.8pp	21.7%	1.3pp
West Midlands Region	77.7%	0.1pp	73.6%	0.0pp	5.2%	-0.1pp	22.3%	-0.1pp
UK	78.3%	-0.5pp	74.5%	-0.9pp	4.8%	0.5pp	21.7%	0.5pp

- Denotes missing data