

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – April 2022 Release¹

Key Points:

- There were 297,970 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in March 2022, this is a decrease of 1,375 claimants (-0.5%) since the previous month with the UK decreasing by 1.3%. Since March 2021, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 123,390 (-29.3% compared to a decrease of 34.5% for the UK). Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 76,430 (+34.5% compared to +38.2% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.5% compared to 3.2% for the UK in March 2022.
- There were 50,705 youth claimants (16 – 24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in March 2022, a decrease of 140 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to a decrease of 0.3% with the UK decreasing by 0.7%. Since March 2021, the number of youth claimants has decreased by 33,620 (-39.9% compared to -45.2% for the UK). Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 6,510 (+14.7% compared to +16.1% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.4% compared to 4.0% for the UK proportion in March 2022.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

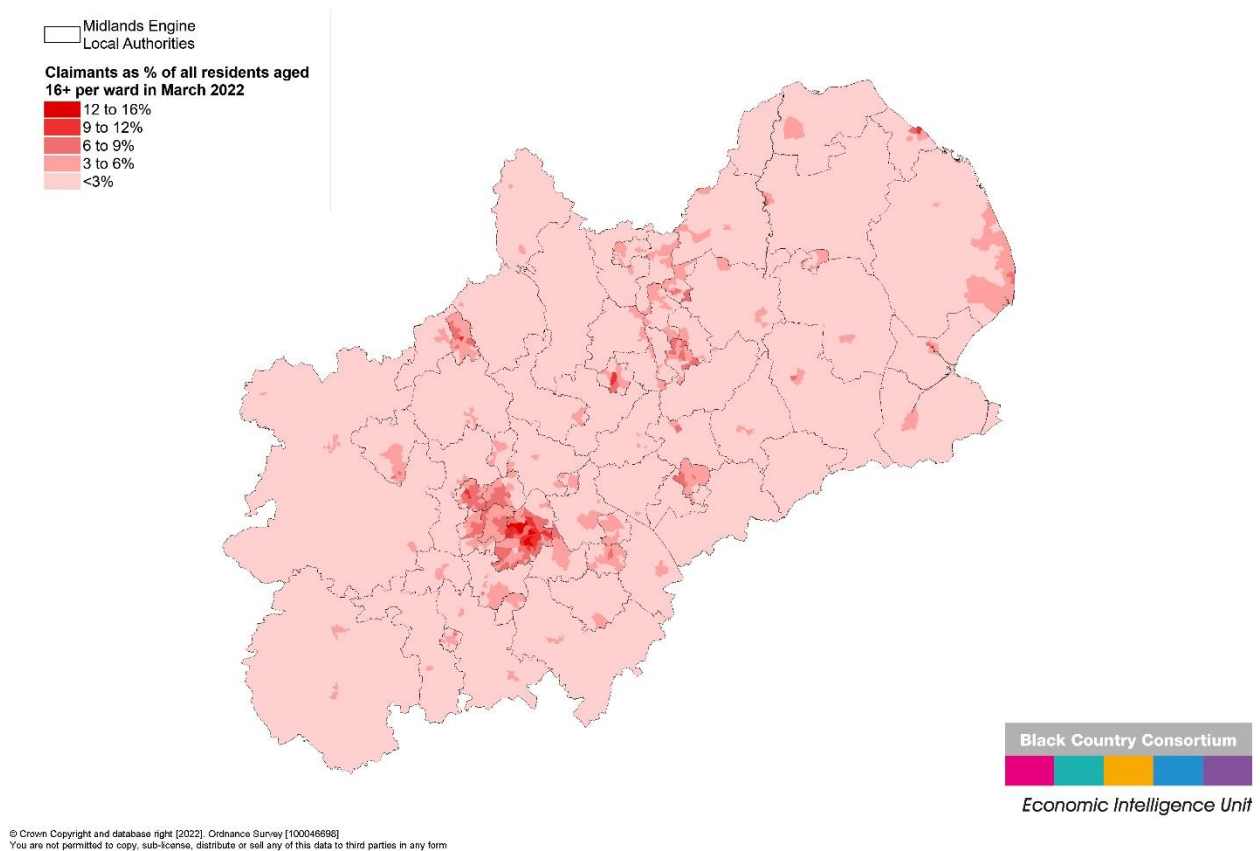
- There were 297,970 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in March 2022, this is a decrease of 1,375 claimants since the previous month. This equates to a decrease of 0.5% for the Midlands Engine area, compared to a 1.3% decrease across the UK. Out of the 65 local authorities within the Midlands Engine, 50 experienced a decrease, 12 increased and a further 3 remained the same level. The largest number increases were in Birmingham (+305), Sandwell (+155) and Wolverhampton (+100). In contrast, the largest decreases were in East Lindsey (-275), Shropshire (-175) and North East Lincolnshire (-170).
- Since March 2021, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 123,390 (-29.3% compared to a decrease of 34.5% for the UK).
- Since March 2020 (221,540 claimants), the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 76,430 (+34.5% compared to +38.2% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.5% compared to 3.2% for the UK in March 2022.

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 431 were at or above the UK average of 3.2% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over in March 2022.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were based in Birmingham, with Handsworth the highest with 15.1%. This is followed by Birchfield at 14.9% and then Lozells at 14.4%.
- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine the wards with the lowest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were in Keele (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and Ashby Castle (North West Leicestershire), both at 0.2% and Biddulph Moor (Staffordshire Moorlands) at 0.3%.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS)/Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): Claimant Count – released April 2022

The following map shows claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2022 across the Midlands Engine:



Youth Claimants (Aged 16 – 24 Years Old)

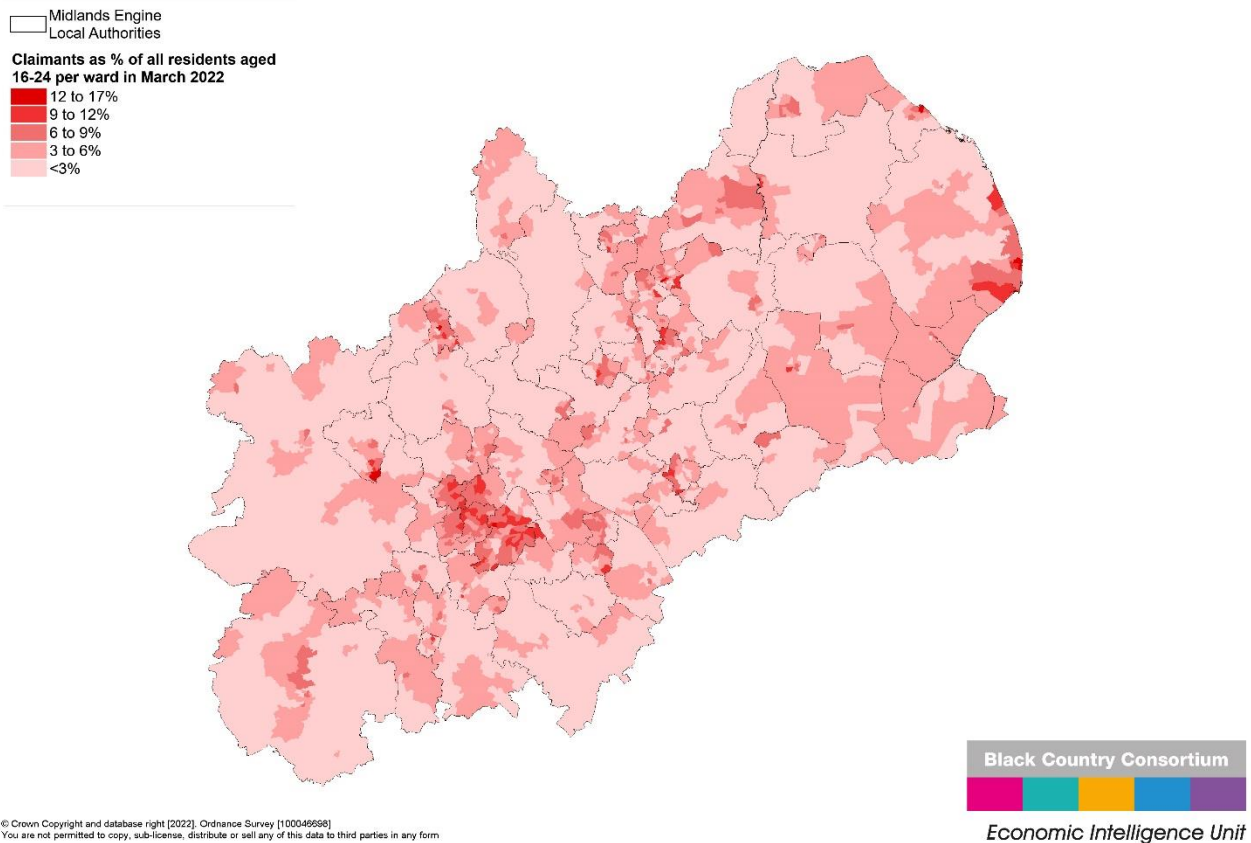
- There were 50,705 youth claimants (16 – 24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in March 2022, a decrease of 140 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to a decrease of 0.3% with the UK decreasing by 0.7%. Within the Midlands Engine, 30 local authorities decreased, 21 local authorities increased and 14 local authorities remained the same. The highest number increase seen in Birmingham (+75), Coventry (+75) and Derby (+50). In contrast, the highest number decreases were in East Lindsey (-50), Leicester (-50) and North Lincolnshire (-45).
- Since March 2021, the number of youth claimants has decreased by 33,620 (-39.9% compared to -45.2% for the UK).
- Since March 2020 (44,195 claimants), the number of youth claimants has increased by 6,510 (+14.7% compared to +16.1% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.4% compared to 4.0% for the UK proportion in March 2022.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 597 were at or above the UK average of 4.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 – 24 years and over in March 2022.
- The ward with the highest the number of claimants as a percentage of the population was based in Portland (Mansfield) at 16.8%. This is followed Handsworth (Birmingham) at 13.3% and then Joiners Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 12.7%.

- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 99 wards with no youth claimants in March 2022.

The following map shows youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in March 2022 across the Midlands Engine:



Alternative Claimant Count²

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. Trends over time for local areas can be considered using the Claimant Count prior to 2013, and the Alternative Claimant Count from 2013. The figures cannot be directly compared as they are defined differently.

All Ages

- The alternative claimant count data estimated 289,077 claimants in the Midlands Engine area in February 2022, a decrease of 31.8% (-134,613) when compared to February 2021. Over the same period the UK decreased by 35.2%. However, the figures were higher in February 2022 when compared to the monthly figures of February 2017-2020. Compared to February 2020, claimants in the Midlands Engine area had increased by 25.0% (+57,805), the UK increased by 30.4%.

² Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Alternative claimant statistics, April 2022

The following table shows the all-ages alternative claimant count, February 2017 – February 2022:

| | Feb-17 | Feb-18 | Feb-19 | Feb-20 | Feb-21 | Feb-22 | % Change Since Feb. 20 | % Change Since Feb. 21 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Midlands Engine | 216,201 | 215,660 | 220,412 | 231,272 | 423,690 | 289,077 | 25.0% | -31.8% |
| UK | 1,297,045 | 1,267,835 | 1,292,655 | 1,330,888 | 2,678,569 | 1,735,090 | 30.4% | -35.2% |

16-24 years old

- The alternative claimant count data estimated 47,017 claimants aged 16-24 in the Midlands Engine area in February 2022, a decrease of 41.4% (-33,156) when compared to February 2021. Over the same period the UK decreased by 45.9%. However, the claimant figures for those aged 16-24 were higher in February 2022 when compared to the monthly figures of February 2017-2020. Compared to February 2020, claimants aged 16-24 in the Midlands Engine area had increased by 17.0% (+6,848), the UK increased by 20.5%.

The following table shows the 16–24-year-olds alternative claimant count, February 2017 – February 2022:

| | Feb-17 | Feb-18 | Feb-19 | Feb-20 | Feb-21 | Feb-22 | % Change Since Feb. 20 | % Change Since Feb. 21 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Midlands Engine | 34,543 | 33,673 | 34,974 | 40,169 | 80,173 | 47,017 | 17.0% | -41.4% |
| UK | 197,570 | 187,599 | 198,455 | 218,748 | 487,472 | 263,486 | 20.5% | -45.9% |