

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – February 2023 Release¹

Key Points:

- There were 267,440 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in January 2023, an increase of 2,080 claimants since the previous month. This equated to an increase of 0.8% for the Midlands Engine area, the UK increased by 0.5%. Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 45,900 (+20.7% compared to +20.0% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.2% compared to 2.8% for the UK in January 2023.
- There were 48,910 youth claimants (16 – 24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in January 2023, an increase of 350 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 0.7% with the UK increasing by 0.2%. Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 4,715 (+10.7% compared to +8.2% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.3% compared to 3.7% for the UK in January 2023.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

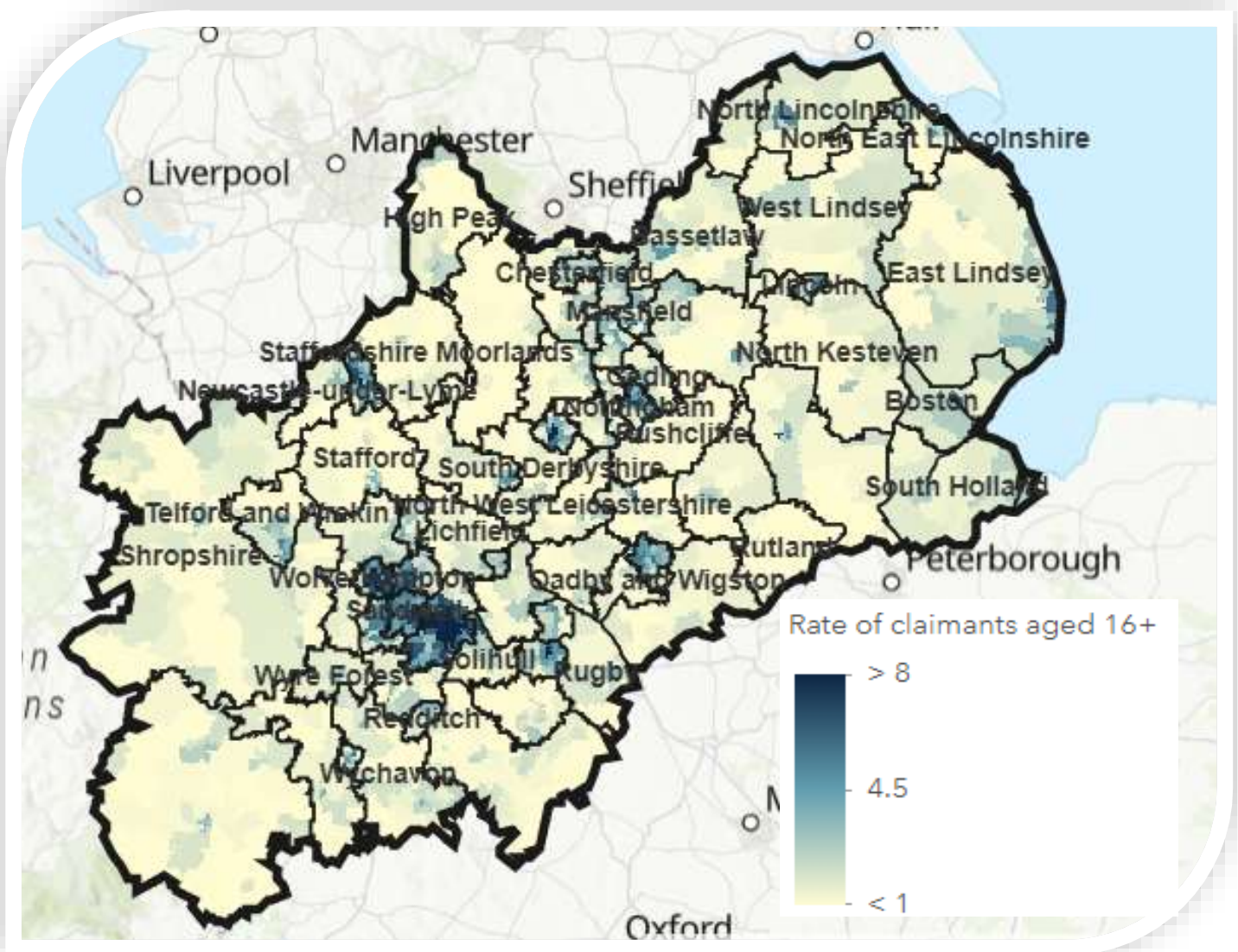
- There were 267,440 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in January 2023, an increase of 2,080 claimants since the previous month. This equated to an increase of 0.8% for the Midlands Engine area, the UK increased by 0.5%. Within the Midlands Engine, 44 local authorities increased and 2 remained at the same level (Erewash and High Peak) and 19 decreased since December 2022.
- Since January 2022, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 29,955 (-10.1% compared to a decrease of 14.4% for the UK).
- Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 45,900 (+20.7% compared to +20.0% for the UK). Notably, East Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire had lower levels of claimants than March 2020 (-425, and -300 respectively).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.2% compared to 2.8% for the UK in January 2023.

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 439 were at or above the UK average of 2.8% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over in January 2023.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over were based in Birmingham, with Lozells the highest at 14.2%. This was followed by Birchfield (13.8%) and Aston (13.7%).
- 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) at 0.1%, Ashby Castle (North West Leicestershire) at 0.2%, and Biddulph Moor (Staffordshire Moorlands) both at 0.3%.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS)/Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): Claimant Count – released February 2023

The following map shows claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in January 2023 across the Midlands Engine:



Youth Claimants (Aged 16 – 24 Years Old)

- There were 48,910 youth claimants (16 – 24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in January 2023, an increase of 350 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 0.7% with the UK increasing by 0.2%. Within the Midlands Engine, 20 local authorities decreased, 9 local authorities remained the same and 36 increased.
- Since January 2022, the number of youth claimants has decreased by 1,155 (-2.3% compared to -6.9% for the UK).
- Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 4,715 (+10.7% compared to +8.2% for the UK). Notably, 14 local authorities are lower than March 2020 levels and a further 4 were at the same level.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.3% compared to 3.7% for the UK in January 2023.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 646 were at or above the UK average of 3.7% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 – 24 years and over in January 2023.
- The ward with the highest the number of claimants as a percentage of the population was Joiner’s Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 13.3%. This is by followed by East Park (Wolverhampton) and Stockland Green (Birmingham) both at 12.0%.
- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 117 wards with no youth claimants in January 2023.

The following map shows youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in January 2023 across the Midlands Engine:

