

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – March 2023 Release¹

Key Points:

- There were 271,695 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in February 2023, an increase of 7,605 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 2.9% for the Midlands Engine area, the UK increased by 2.7%. Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 50,155 (+22.6% compared to +21.6% 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 February 2023.
- There were 50,345 youth claimants (16 – 24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in February 2023, an increase of 1,955 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 4.0% with the UK increasing by 3.6%. Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 6,150 (+13.9% compared to +10.9% 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 3.8% for the UK in February 2023.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

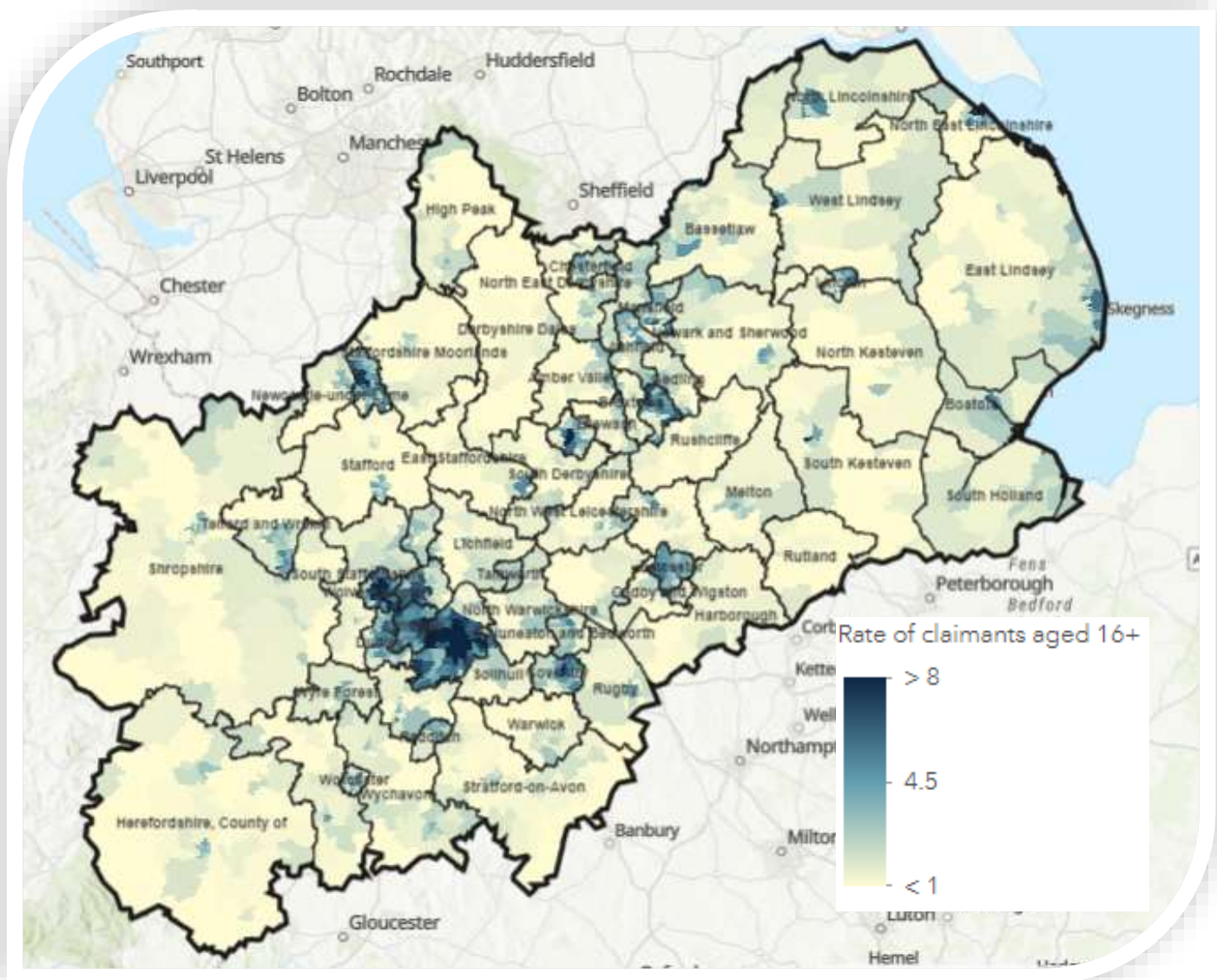
- There were 271,695 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in February 2023, an increase of 7,605 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 2.9% for the Midlands Engine area, the UK increased by 2.7%. Within the Midlands Engine, 61 local authorities increased, with 4 decreasing.
- Since February 2022, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 27,650 (-9.2% compared to a decrease of 13.2% for the UK).
- Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 50,155 (+22.6% compared to +21.6% for the UK). Notably, East Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire had lower levels of claimants than March 2020 (-440, and -175 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 February 2023.

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 452 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 February 2023.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were based in Birmingham, with Lozells the highest at 14.8%. This was followed by Handsworth (14.1%) and Birchfield (13.9%).
- 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%, Cottesmore (Rutland) and Ashby Castle (North West Leicestershire) at 0.2%.

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

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



Youth Claimants (Aged 16 – 24 Years Old)

- There were 50,345 youth claimants (16 – 24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in February 2023, an increase of 1,955 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 4.0% with the UK increasing by 3.6%. Within the Midlands Engine, 5 local authorities decreased, 5 local authorities remained the same and 55 increased.
- Since February 2022, the number of youth claimants has decreased by 500 (-1.0% compared to -5.2% for the UK).
- Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 6,150 (+13.9% compared to +10.9% for the UK). Notably, 13 local authorities are lower than March 2020 levels and a further 1 was 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 4.4% compared to 3.8% for the UK in February 2023.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 648 were at or above the UK average of 3.8% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 – 24 years and over in February 2023.
- The ward with the highest the number of claimants as a percentage of the population was Joiner’s Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 13.8%. This is by followed Oak Tree (Mansfield) at 12.8%, and Aston (Birmingham) at 12.6%.
- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 105 wards with no youth claimants in February 2023.

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

