

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – May 2023 Release¹

Key Points:

- There were 283,280 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in April 2023, an increase of 8,495 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 3.1% 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 61,740 (+27.9% compared to +26.1% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.4% compared to 2.9% for the UK in April 2023.
- There were 51,780 youth claimants (16–24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in April 2023, an increase of 720 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 1.4% with the UK increasing by 0.8%. Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 7,585 (+17.2% compared to +13.5% for the UK).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.6% compared to 3.9% for the UK in April 2023.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- There were 283,280 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in April 2023, an increase of 8,495 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 3.1% for the Midlands Engine area, the UK increased by 2.7%.
- The latest monthly change shows a mixed picture within the Midlands Engine as 56 local authorities increased, 8 decreased (East Lindsey, Wychavon, North Kesteven, Staffordshire Moorlands, Melton, North East Lincolnshire, South Kesteven and Rutland) and 1 remained at the same level (Harborough).
- Since April 2022, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has decreased by 2,410 (+0.9% compared to a decrease of 2.0% for the UK).
- Change over the year shows that within the Midlands Engine, 32 local authorities increased, 1 remained the same (Malvern Hills) and 32 decreased.
- Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 61,740 (+27.9% compared to +26.1% for the UK).
- Notably, East Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire had lower levels of claimants than March 2020 (-860, and -80 respectively).

The following table shows the number of claimants aged 16+ and change on selected months for the overall Midlands Engine area and the UK:

	Mar 2020	Apr 2022	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	% Change Since Mar 20	% Change Since Apr 22	% Change Since Mar 23
Midlands Engine	221,540	280,870	274,785	283,280	27.9%	0.9%	3.1%
UK	1,268,620	1,632,180	1,557,915	1,599,545	26.1%	-2.0%	2.7%

- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.4% compared to 2.9% for the UK in April 2023.

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

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 453 were at or above the UK average of 2.9% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over in April 2023.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were based in Birmingham, with Lozells the highest at 15.7%. This was followed by Handsworth at 15.3% and then Aston at 14.8%.
- In contrast, the lowest proportion was in Keele (Newcastle-Under-Lyme) at 0.1% in April 2023.

Youth Claimants (Aged 16–24 Years Old)

- There were 51,780 youth claimants (16–24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in April 2023, an increase of 720 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 1.4% with the UK increasing by 0.8%.
- The latest monthly change shows that within the Midlands Engine, 41 local authorities increased, 9 remained the same level and 15 decreased.
- Since April 2022, the number of youth claimants has increased by 4,405 (+9.3% compared to +6.2% for the UK).
- Change over the year shows that within the Midlands Engine, 59 local authorities increased, 2 remained the same (Malvern Hills and South Derbyshire) and 4 (Solihull, Lichfield, Bromsgrove and Harborough) decreased.
- Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 7,585 (+17.2% compared to +13.5% for the UK). Notably, 10 local authorities are lower and 2 are the same as March 2020 levels.

The following table shows the number of claimants aged 16-24 and change on selected months for the overall Midlands Engine area and the UK:

	Mar 2020	Apr 2022	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	% Change Since Mar 20	% Change Since Apr 22	% Change Since Mar 23
Midlands Engine	44,195	47,375	51,060	51,780	17.2%	9.3%	1.4%
UK	241,760	258,510	272,315	274,490	13.5%	6.2%	0.8%

- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.6% compared to 3.9% for the UK in April 2023.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 642 were at or above the UK average of 3.9% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16–24 years and over in April 2023.
- The ward with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population was Oak Tree (Mansfield) at 14.2%. This was followed by Joiner’s Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 13.8% and then Portland (Mansfield) and Handsworth (Birmingham) both at 13.1%.
- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 105 wards with no youth claimants in April 2023.