

## Midlands Engine: Annual Population Survey: Labour Market Year Ending March 2023<sup>1</sup>

### In Summary:

- In the year ending March 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 73.9%, compared to 75.4% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending March 2022, the Midlands Engine area has remained the same, the UK rate increased by 0.3 percentage points (pp).
- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.2% compared to 78.3% for the UK in the year ending March 2023. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has decreased by 0.2pp since the year ending March 2022. The UK decreased by 0.1pp in the same period.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.8% compared to 21.7% for the UK overall in the year ending March 2023. Since the year ending March 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has increased by 0.2pp while the UK increased by 0.1pp.
- The modelled unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.1% compared to 3.7% for the England in the year ending March 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is a decrease of approximately 0.2pp compared to the England decrease of 0.5pp since the year ending March 2022.

### In Detail:

*In the appendix is a table containing Midlands Engine local authority data for economic activity rate, employment rate, economically inactive and modelled unemployment rate for the year ending March 2023 and also the change from the year ending March 2022.*

#### Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.2% compared to 78.3% for the UK in the year ending March 2023. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has decreased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) since the year ending March 2022. The UK decreased by 0.1pp in the same period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 37 local authority areas have economically active rates that are at or above the UK average (78.3%). Melton recorded the highest economic activity rate at 92.1%, down to East Lindsey with the lowest at 66.6%.
- Since the year ending March 2022, the economic activity rate in 31 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the economic activity rate was in Melton by 20.6pp (to 92.1%), in contrast the largest percentage point decrease in the economic activity rate was in Ashfield by 13.2pp (to 70.6%).

#### Employment Rate

- In the year ending March 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 73.9%, compared to 75.4% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending March 2022, the Midlands Engine area has remained the same, the UK rate increased by 0.3pp.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 42 local authority areas have employment rates that are at or above the UK average (75.4%). Blaby recorded the highest rate at 90.2%, down to East Lindsey and Sandwell which were joint lowest at 64.7%.
- Since the year ending March 2022, the employment rate for 36 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the employment rate was in Melton by 18.1pp (to 88.2%). In contrast, the highest percentage point decrease in the employment rate was in Ashfield by 14.1pp (to 68.0%).

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS): Annual Population Survey (APS), released August 2023.

## Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.8% compared to 21.7% for the UK overall in the year ending March 2023. Since the year ending March 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has increased by 0.2pp while the UK increased by 0.1pp.
- Economic inactivity can be broken down further into reasons of inactivity. For the year ending March 2023, the Midlands Engine had a higher percentage of people that were inactive when compared to the UK in: looking after the family/home (20.4%).

### Midlands Engine and UK Economic Inactivity by reason, Year Ending March 2023:

	Midlands Engine	UK
Student	25.4%	26.3%
Looking after family/home	20.4%	19.6%
Temporary Sick	1.2%	2.4%
Long-Term Sick	26.2%	26.8%
Discouraged	0.0%	0.3%
Retired	12.3%	13.2%
Other	9.6%	11.4%

Table may not equal 100% due to data gaps/rounding.

## Modelled Unemployment Rate<sup>2</sup>

- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.1% compared to 3.7% for the England in the year ending March 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is a decrease of approximately 0.2pp compared to the England decrease of 0.5pp since the year ending March 2022.
- Within the Midlands Engine area, the unemployment rate varies from Blaby and Rushcliffe where both recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 1.9% to Birmingham at 7.8%.
- The highest percentage point increase in the unemployment rate was in Wolverhampton by 1.3pp (to 7.2%), in contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the unemployment rate was in East Lindsey by 2.1pp (to 3.5%).

## Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation for the Midlands Engine and the UK for the year ending March 2023. The Midlands Engine have a higher than the UK average percentage of people employed in three of the nine occupations, these include: skilled trades occupations (9.7% vs 9.1%), process, plant & machine operatives (7.7% vs 5.8%) and elementary occupations (11.7% vs 9.5%). There were a further three occupations where the Midlands Engine matched the UK proportions, these were: administrative & secretarial occupations (9.6%), caring, leisure & other service occupations (8.1%) and sales & customer service occupations (6.3%).

### Midlands Engine and UK Employment by Occupation Proportions, Year Ending March 2023:

	Midlands Engine	UK
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	9.8%	10.7%
2: Professional occupations	23.6%	26.2%
3: Associate prof & tech occupations	12.7%	14.1%
4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.6%	9.6%
5: Skilled trades occupations	9.7%	9.1%
6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.1%	8.1%
7: Sales and customer service occupations	6.3%	6.3%
8: Process, plant and machine operatives	7.7%	5.8%
9: Elementary occupations	11.7%	9.5%

Table may not equal 100% due to data gaps/rounding.

<sup>2</sup> The model-based estimate improves on the APS estimate by borrowing strength from the claimant count to produce an estimate that is more precise, i.e. has a smaller confidence interval. The claimant count is not itself a measure of unemployment but is strongly correlated with unemployment, and, as it is an administrative count, is known without sampling error. The gain in precision is greatest for areas with smaller sample sizes. Modelled unemployment rate is based on all people aged 16+ without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their interview and who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. The unemployment count as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16+.

## Appendix

Labour market activity across the Midlands Engine local authorities for the year March 2023 and percentage point (pp) change since the year ending March 2022:

	Economic Activity Rate		Employment Rate		Economically Inactive		Modelled Unemployment Rate	
	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change
Amber Valley	79.9%	0.3pp	77.8%	-0.7pp	20.1%	-0.3pp	2.6%	-0.2pp
Ashfield	70.6%	-13.2pp	68.0%	-14.1pp	29.4%	13.2pp	4.3%	1.2pp
Bassetlaw	80.0%	3.9pp	78.0%	3.3pp	20.0%	-3.9pp	2.6%	-0.6pp
Birmingham	71.0%	-0.7pp	65.6%	-0.6pp	29.0%	0.7pp	7.8%	0.5pp
Blaby	90.8%	-0.4pp	90.2%	5.1pp	9.2%	0.4pp	1.9%	-0.7pp
Bolsover	83.2%	7.9pp	77.3%	4.9pp	16.8%	-7.9pp	3.0%	-0.1pp
Boston	78.5%	-0.9pp	74.3%	4.1pp	21.5%	0.9pp	4.2%	-0.2pp
Bromsgrove	85.3%	1.8pp	84.4%	4.1pp	14.7%	-1.8pp	2.8%	-0.6pp
Broxtowe	70.8%	-7.1pp	67.8%	-8.4pp	29.2%	7.1pp	3.5%	0.1pp
Cannock Chase	84.0%	-2.4pp	84.0%	7.5pp	16.0%	2.4pp	3.3%	-0.7pp
Charnwood	80.3%	-5.9pp	78.6%	-5.4pp	19.7%	5.9pp	2.6%	-0.1pp
Chesterfield	77.7%	-1.2pp	77.1%	0.8pp	22.3%	1.2pp	2.8%	-0.7pp
Coventry	74.4%	-0.3pp	71.0%	1.8pp	25.6%	0.3pp	4.9%	-1.0pp
Derby	77.7%	0.5pp	74.7%	0.5pp	22.3%	-0.5pp	3.7%	-1.1pp
Derbyshire Dales	73.8%	3.1pp	73.8%	5.9pp	26.2%	-3.1p	2.0%	-1.0pp
Dudley	80.7%	-1.4pp	76.5%	-2.2pp	19.3%	1.4pp	4.7%	0.7pp
East Lindsey	66.6%	5.5pp	64.7%	8.9pp	33.4%	-5.5pp	3.5%	-2.1pp
East Staffordshire	80.2%	-0.4pp	77.8%	0.8pp	19.8%	0.4pp	3.3%	-0.3pp
Erewash	81.3%	7.2pp	76.0%	2.4pp	18.7%	-7.2pp	3.0%	-0.1pp
Gedling	78.1%	-2.2pp	74.7%	-0.1pp	21.9%	2.2pp	3.5%	-0.4pp
Harborough	77.3%	-5.8pp	76.5%	-4.0pp	22.7%	5.8pp	2.2%	-0.3pp
Herefordshire, County of	77.5%	-1.6pp	75.9%	-0.7pp	22.5%	1.6pp	2.9%	-0.1pp
High Peak	77.0%	-7.5pp	75.0%	-7.3pp	23.0%	7.5pp	2.8%	0.0pp
Hinckley and Bosworth	79.1%	-3.6pp	77.5%	-2.6pp	20.9%	3.6pp	2.6%	-0.5pp
Leicester	71.5%	2.2pp	66.7%	1.6pp	28.5%	-2.2pp	5.1%	-0.8pp
Lichfield	85.0%	11.1pp	85.0%	13.0pp	15.0%	-11.1pp	2.9%	-0.5pp
Lincoln	73.8%	-7.8pp	73.0%	-7.9pp	26.2%	7.8pp	4.2%	-0.1pp
Malvern Hills	85.4%	7.6pp	77.3%	4.2pp	14.6%	-7.6pp	3.0%	-0.8pp
Mansfield	75.4%	9.7pp	75.4%	12.9pp	24.6%	-9.7pp	3.2%	-1.8pp
Melton	92.1%	20.6pp	88.2%	18.1pp	7.9%	-20.6pp	2.3%	-0.8pp
Newark and Sherwood	77.9%	4.6pp	77.9%	9.2pp	22.1%	-4.6pp	2.8%	-1.5pp
Newcastle-under-Lyme	73.8%	-4.5pp	71.5%	-3.0pp	26.2%	4.5pp	3.6%	-0.1pp
North East Derbyshire	74.5%	-3.8pp	71.8%	-5.6pp	25.5%	3.8pp	2.8%	0.2pp
North East Lincolnshire	74.1%	-0.4pp	72.9%	1.3pp	25.9%	0.4pp	3.3%	-0.8pp
North Kesteven	77.5%	-4.5pp	77.5%	-1.6pp	22.5%	4.5pp	2.4%	-0.4pp
North Lincolnshire	79.2%	3.8pp	76.8%	2.6pp	20.8%	-3.8pp	3.2%	-0.2pp
North Warwickshire	89.2%	6.8pp	83.6%	2.3pp	10.8%	-6.8pp	3.0%	-0.2pp
North West Leicestershire	80.1%	-2.6pp	78.2%	-1.7pp	19.9%	2.6pp	2.3%	-0.8pp
Nottingham	70.6%	-3.6pp	66.2%	-4.1pp	29.4%	3.6pp	5.1%	-0.2pp
Nuneaton and Bedworth	79.6%	-3.3pp	77.9%	-4.1pp	20.4%	3.3pp	4.2%	0.8pp
Oadby and Wigston	80.3%	1.9pp	73.0%	-5.4pp	19.7%	-1.9pp	3.6%	0.7pp
Redditch	79.6%	4.3pp	77.3%	3.4pp	20.4%	-4.3pp	4.1%	0.3pp
Rugby	87.9%	5.2pp	86.4%	4.6pp	12.1%	-5.2pp	2.9%	-0.3pp
Rushcliffe	84.0%	2.8pp	82.4%	2.3pp	16.0%	-2.8pp	1.9%	-0.5pp
Rutland	77.9%	-0.2pp	77.1%	1.2pp	22.1%	0.2pp	2.1%	-0.9pp
Sandwell	69.1%	-5.7pp	64.7%	-4.9pp	30.9%	5.7pp	6.0%	-0.1pp
Shropshire	80.5%	2.1pp	77.3%	1.1pp	19.5%	-2.1pp	3.2%	-0.1pp
Solihull	79.5%	-1.5pp	76.7%	-0.3pp	20.5%	1.5pp	3.7%	-0.4pp
South Derbyshire	81.0%	-2.0pp	75.4%	-3.4pp	19.0%	2.0pp	3.1%	0.0pp
South Holland	84.1%	8.1pp	84.1%	9.1pp	15.9%	-8.1pp	2.4%	-0.6pp
South Kesteven	73.2%	-5.0pp	72.4%	-3.8pp	26.8%	5.0pp	2.5%	-0.4pp
South Staffordshire	90.0%	7.7pp	90.0%	7.7pp	10.0%	-7.7pp	3.0%	0.1pp
Stafford	82.5%	2.9pp	77.4%	-0.6pp	17.5%	-2.9pp	3.5%	0.4pp
Staffordshire Moorlands	81.0%	-5.2pp	78.6%	-4.3pp	19.0%	5.2pp	3.2%	0.3pp
Stoke-on-Trent	76.8%	-3.3pp	73.6%	-4.2pp	23.2%	3.3pp	4.6%	0.5pp

	Economic Activity Rate		Employment Rate		Economically Inactive		Modelled Unemployment Rate	
	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change
Stratford-on-Avon	87.2%	4.8pp	84.6%	4.3pp	12.8%	-4.8pp	3.1%	0.1pp
Tamworth	87.4%	6.6pp	86.6%	7.9pp	12.6%	-6.6pp	3.2%	-0.6pp
Telford and Wrekin	79.6%	1.6pp	76.0%	1.4pp	20.4%	-1.6pp	4.3%	0.3pp
Walsall	77.6%	2.6pp	71.2%	0.4pp	22.4%	-2.6pp	5.8%	-0.1pp
Warwick	81.6%	-1.5pp	79.1%	-1.0pp	18.4%	1.5pp	3.3%	0.1pp
West Lindsey	83.0%	5.9pp	82.3%	6.1pp	17.0%	-5.9pp	2.4%	-0.9pp
Wolverhampton	71.9%	-5.2pp	65.2%	-7.1pp	28.1%	5.2pp	7.2%	1.3pp
Worcester	81.4%	-2.9pp	76.2%	-6.5pp	18.6%	2.9pp	4.3%	1.1pp
Wychavon	86.5%	5.8pp	83.0%	4.6pp	13.5%	-5.8pp	2.9%	-0.2pp
Wyre Forest	74.3%	5.9pp	72.6%	6.1pp	25.7%	-5.9pp	3.4%	-0.5pp
<b>Midlands Engine</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>-0.2pp</b>	<b>73.9%</b>	<b>0.0pp</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>0.2pp</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>-0.2pp</b>
United Kingdom	78.3%	-0.1pp	75.4%	0.3pp	21.7%	0.1pp		
England	78.6%	-0.2pp	75.7%	0.3pp	21.4%	0.2pp	3.7%	-0.5pp