

Midlands Engine: Annual Population Survey: Labour Market Year Ending June 2023¹

In Summary:

- In the year ending June 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.3%, compared to 75.5% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending June 2022, the Midlands Engine area matched the UK growth rate of 0.1 percentage points (pp).
- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.6% compared to 78.5% for the UK in the year ending June 2023. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) since the year ending June 2022. The UK increased by 0.1pp in the same period.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.4% compared to 21.5% for the UK overall in the year ending June 2023. Since the year ending June 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.2pp while the UK decreased by 0.1pp.
- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.3% compared to 3.8% for the England in the year ending June 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is a increase of approximately 0.2pp compared to the England decrease of 0.1pp since the year ending June 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 June 2023 and also the change from the year ending June 2022.

Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.6% compared to 78.5% for the UK in the year ending June 2023. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) since the year ending June 2022. The UK increased by 0.1pp in the same period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 37 local authority areas have economically active rates that were above the UK average (78.5%). Malvern Hills recorded the highest economic activity rate at 91.4%, down to Nottingham, with the lowest at 66.9%.
- Since the year ending June 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 East Lindsey by 18.9pp (to 78.4%), while Harborough remained unchanged (at 81.1%) and in contrast the largest percentage point decrease in the economic activity rate was in North Kesteven by 9.3pp (to 72.4%).

Employment Rate

- In the year ending June 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.3%, compared to 75.5% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending June 2022, the Midlands Engine area matched the UK growth rate of 0.1pp.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 40 local authority areas have employment rates that are at or above the UK average (75.5%). South Staffordshire recorded the highest rate at 89.5%, down to Leicester at 64.6%.
- Since the year ending June 2022, the employment rate for 31 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the employment rate was in East Lindsey by 21.2pp (to 76.8%) and while Harborough remained unchanged (at 79.4%). In contrast, the highest percentage point decrease in the employment rate was in Ashfield by 12.2pp (to 67.0%).

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS): Annual Population Survey (APS), released October 2023.

Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.4% compared to 21.5% for the UK overall in the year ending June 2023. Since the year ending June 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.2pp while the UK decreased by 0.1pp.
- Economic inactivity can be broken down by reason, as seen in the following table. For the year ending June 2023, the Midlands Engine had a higher percentage of people that were inactive when compared to the UK in: looking after the family/home (20.3% compared to 19.5%).

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

	Midlands Engine	UK
Student	24.9%	26.7%
Looking after family/home	20.3%	19.5%
Temporary Sick	1.2%	2.3%
Long-Term Sick	26.2%	26.9%
Discouraged	0.0%	0.3%
Retired	11.5%	13.0%
Other	9.7%	11.4%

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

Modelled Unemployment Rate²

- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.3% compared to 3.8% for the England in the year ending June 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is a increase of approximately 0.2pp compared to the England decrease of 0.1pp since the year ending June 2022.
- Within the Midlands Engine area, the unemployment rate varies from Blaby at 2.1% to Birmingham at 7.5%.
- The highest percentage point increases in the unemployment rate were in Ashfield and Nottingham both by 2.0pp (to 4.6% and 6.0% respectively), in contrast the highest percentage point decreases in the unemployment rate were in Solihull and East Lindsey both by 1.3pp (to 3.3% and 3.4% respectively).

Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation for the Midlands Engine and the UK for the year ending June 2023. The Midlands Engine have a higher than the UK average percentage of people employed in four of the nine occupations, these include: skilled trades occupations (9.6% vs 8.9%), sales & customer service occupations (6.4% vs 6.2%) process, plant & machine operatives (7.2% vs 5.8%) and elementary occupations (11.2% vs 9.5%). There was a further occupation where the Midlands Engine matched the UK proportions, this was: caring, leisure & other service occupations (8.0%).

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

	Midlands Engine	UK
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	9.2%	10.6%
2: Professional occupations	24.8%	26.7%
3: Associate prof & tech occupations	13.1%	14.4%
4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.3%	9.6%
5: Skilled trades occupations	9.6%	8.9%
6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.0%	8.0%
7: Sales and customer service occupations	6.4%	6.2%
8: Process, plant and machine operatives	7.2%	5.5%
9: Elementary occupations	11.2%	9.5%

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

² 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 June 2023 and percentage point (pp) change since the year ending June 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	77.5%	-0.1pp	77.3%	2.2pp	22.5%	0.1pp	2.6%	-0.2pp
Ashfield	71.5%	-8.4pp	67.0%	-12.2pp	28.5%	8.4pp	4.6%	2.0pp
Bassetlaw	76.2%	-2.3pp	74.3%	-2.5pp	23.8%	2.3pp	2.7%	-0.2pp
Birmingham	72.9%	2.4pp	67.3%	2.2pp	27.1%	-2.4pp	7.5%	0.0pp
Blaby	88.8%	-4.1pp	88.2%	0.7pp	11.2%	4.1pp	2.1%	0.0pp
Bolsover	84.8%	14.2pp	78.9%	8.3pp	15.2%	-14.2pp	3.4%	0.9pp
Boston	79.7%	-2.4pp	76.8%	5.6pp	20.3%	2.4pp	4.1%	0.5pp
Bromsgrove	85.0%	3.9pp	83.9%	5.9pp	15.0%	-3.9pp	2.7%	-1.0pp
Broxtowe	72.0%	-6.0pp	70.5%	-5.0pp	28.0%	6.0pp	3.6%	0.3pp
Cannock Chase	85.4%	-3.4pp	85.4%	4.5pp	14.6%	3.4pp	3.3%	-0.7pp
Charnwood	80.9%	-4.0pp	78.8%	-4.6pp	19.1%	4.0pp	3.0%	0.8pp
Chesterfield	70.7%	-8.2pp	70.0%	-6.6pp	29.3%	8.2pp	3.3%	0.1pp
Coventry	75.9%	0.5pp	71.8%	1.0pp	24.1%	-0.5pp	5.4%	-0.2pp
Derby	79.2%	3.2pp	75.3%	1.4pp	20.8%	-3.2pp	4.6%	0.9pp
Derbyshire Dales	73.8%	2.0pp	73.8%	3.1pp	26.2%	-2.0pp	2.7%	0.0pp
Dudley	81.2%	1.3pp	76.5%	-0.1pp	18.8%	-1.3pp	4.4%	0.0pp
East Lindsey	78.4%	18.9pp	76.8%	21.2pp	21.6%	-18.9pp	3.4%	-1.3pp
East Staffordshire	79.9%	-1.3pp	77.7%	0.5pp	20.1%	1.3pp	3.3%	-0.6pp
Erewash	80.6%	2.9pp	76.3%	0.9pp	19.4%	-2.9pp	3.2%	0.6pp
Gedling	74.3%	-3.9pp	70.3%	-5.0pp	25.7%	3.9pp	3.9%	0.6pp
Harborough	81.1%	0.0pp	79.4%	0.0pp	18.9%	0.0pp	2.2%	-0.1pp
Herefordshire, County of	79.3%	-1.7pp	78.2%	-0.2pp	20.7%	1.7pp	2.8%	-0.3pp
High Peak	81.6%	-2.5pp	79.8%	-3.7pp	18.4%	2.5pp	2.8%	0.4pp
Hinckley and Bosworth	77.1%	-5.9pp	76.0%	-4.4pp	22.9%	5.9pp	3.0%	0.3pp
Leicester	70.7%	0.7pp	64.6%	-2.0pp	29.3%	-0.7pp	6.1%	1.4pp
Lichfield	81.9%	3.2pp	81.9%	4.9pp	18.1%	-3.2pp	3.1%	-0.5pp
Lincoln	83.6%	4.6pp	83.6%	5.8pp	16.4%	-4.6pp	4.6%	1.0pp
Malvern Hills	91.4%	13.7pp	83.3%	8.5pp	8.6%	-13.7pp	2.9%	-0.9pp
Mansfield	74.7%	7.7pp	74.7%	10.0pp	25.3%	-7.7pp	3.4%	-0.7pp
Melton	80.9%	2.6pp	76.8%	-0.2pp	19.1%	-2.6pp	3.1%	0.3pp
Newark and Sherwood	80.2%	5.2pp	78.7%	6.0pp	19.8%	-5.2pp	3.1%	-0.4pp
Newcastle-under-Lyme	80.6%	-0.5pp	79.0%	1.2pp	19.4%	0.5pp	3.3%	-0.6pp
North East Derbyshire	76.7%	-0.3pp	72.2%	-4.0pp	23.3%	0.3pp	3.2%	0.7pp
North East Lincolnshire	75.2%	-0.6pp	72.5%	-1.1pp	24.8%	0.6pp	3.5%	-0.3pp
North Kesteven	72.4%	-9.3pp	72.4%	-8.1pp	27.6%	9.3pp	3.1%	0.8pp
North Lincolnshire	77.8%	-0.2pp	75.4%	-1.3pp	22.2%	0.2pp	2.9%	-0.3pp
North Warwickshire	89.0%	8.2pp	85.9%	9.5pp	11.0%	-8.2pp	2.5%	-1.2pp
North West Leicestershire	81.6%	-1.2pp	78.8%	-2.1pp	18.4%	1.2pp	2.5%	-0.1pp
Nottingham	69.9%	-4.7pp	65.3%	-6.4pp	30.1%	4.7pp	6.0%	2.0pp
Nuneaton and Bedworth	80.5%	-1.4pp	79.7%	-0.4pp	19.5%	1.4pp	3.9%	0.0pp
Oadby and Wigston	75.3%	-5.5pp	68.0%	-11.2pp	24.7%	5.5pp	4.2%	1.7pp
Redditch	77.1%	0.3pp	77.1%	4.9pp	22.9%	-0.3pp	3.9%	-0.3pp
Rugby	84.9%	1.1pp	81.4%	-1.6pp	15.1%	-1.1pp	3.0%	-0.5pp
Rushcliffe	84.1%	1.9pp	83.0%	2.0pp	15.9%	-1.9pp	2.5%	0.4pp
Rutland	81.6%	1.0pp	79.0%	0.7pp	18.4%	-1.0pp	2.5%	0.0pp
Sandwell	70.3%	0.6pp	65.4%	-0.4pp	29.7%	-0.6pp	6.3%	0.3pp
Shropshire	79.4%	-0.2pp	76.1%	-0.2pp	20.6%	0.2pp	3.2%	-0.5pp
Solihull	82.1%	1.4pp	80.0%	4.0pp	17.9%	-1.4pp	3.3%	-1.3pp
South Derbyshire	79.0%	-4.0pp	74.4%	-4.9pp	21.0%	4.0pp	3.6%	1.0pp
South Holland	86.0%	5.7pp	86.0%	5.7pp	14.0%	-5.7pp	2.5%	0.1pp
South Kesteven	78.4%	3.1pp	75.9%	2.5pp	21.6%	-3.1pp	2.6%	0.0pp
South Staffordshire	89.5%	4.2pp	89.5%	4.2pp	10.5%	-4.2pp	2.9%	-0.2pp
Stafford	75.3%	-5.5pp	72.0%	-5.9pp	24.7%	5.5pp	3.6%	0.4pp
Staffordshire Moorlands	79.8%	-4.5pp	77.5%	-3.0pp	20.2%	4.5pp	3.6%	0.6pp
Stoke-on-Trent	77.5%	-3.2pp	74.4%	-4.1pp	22.5%	3.2pp	4.2%	-0.2pp

	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	91.0%	8.3pp	88.6%	9.0pp	9.0%	-8.3pp	2.7%	-0.8pp
Tamworth	87.3%	5.6pp	86.4%	7.0pp	12.7%	-5.6pp	3.0%	-1.1pp
Telford and Wrekin	80.2%	0.7pp	77.6%	2.0pp	19.8%	-0.7pp	3.7%	-0.4pp
Walsall	77.7%	-1.1pp	71.7%	-2.6pp	22.3%	1.1pp	6.1%	0.7pp
Warwick	79.9%	-1.6pp	75.3%	-3.3pp	20.1%	1.6pp	3.8%	0.2pp
West Lindsey	77.6%	-3.5pp	75.5%	-4.6pp	22.4%	3.5pp	3.2%	0.7pp
Wolverhampton	72.0%	-5.1pp	66.4%	-4.6pp	28.0%	5.1pp	6.6%	0.6pp
Worcester	83.4%	-1.3pp	78.3%	-4.3pp	16.6%	1.3pp	3.7%	0.3pp
Wychavon	80.5%	1.0pp	76.5%	-1.3pp	19.5%	-1.0pp	3.0%	-0.4pp
Wyre Forest	73.4%	4.0pp	73.4%	7.6pp	26.6%	-4.0pp	3.5%	-0.6pp
Midlands Engine	77.6%	0.2pp	74.3%	0.1pp	22.4%	-0.2pp	4.3%	0.2pp
United Kingdom	78.5%	0.1pp	75.5%	0.1pp	21.5%	-0.1pp	-	-
England	78.8%	0.0pp	75.8%	0.1pp	21.2%	0pp	3.8%	-0.1pp