

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – January 2025 Release¹

Key Points:

- There were 310,035 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in December 2024, an increase of 0.1% (+450) since the previous month, while the UK increased by 0.2%.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.7% compared to 3.2% for the UK in December 2024.
- There were 58,485 youth claimants in the Midlands Engine area in December 2024, an increase of 455 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 0.8% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 1.1%.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 5.2% compared to 4.3% for the UK in December 2024.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

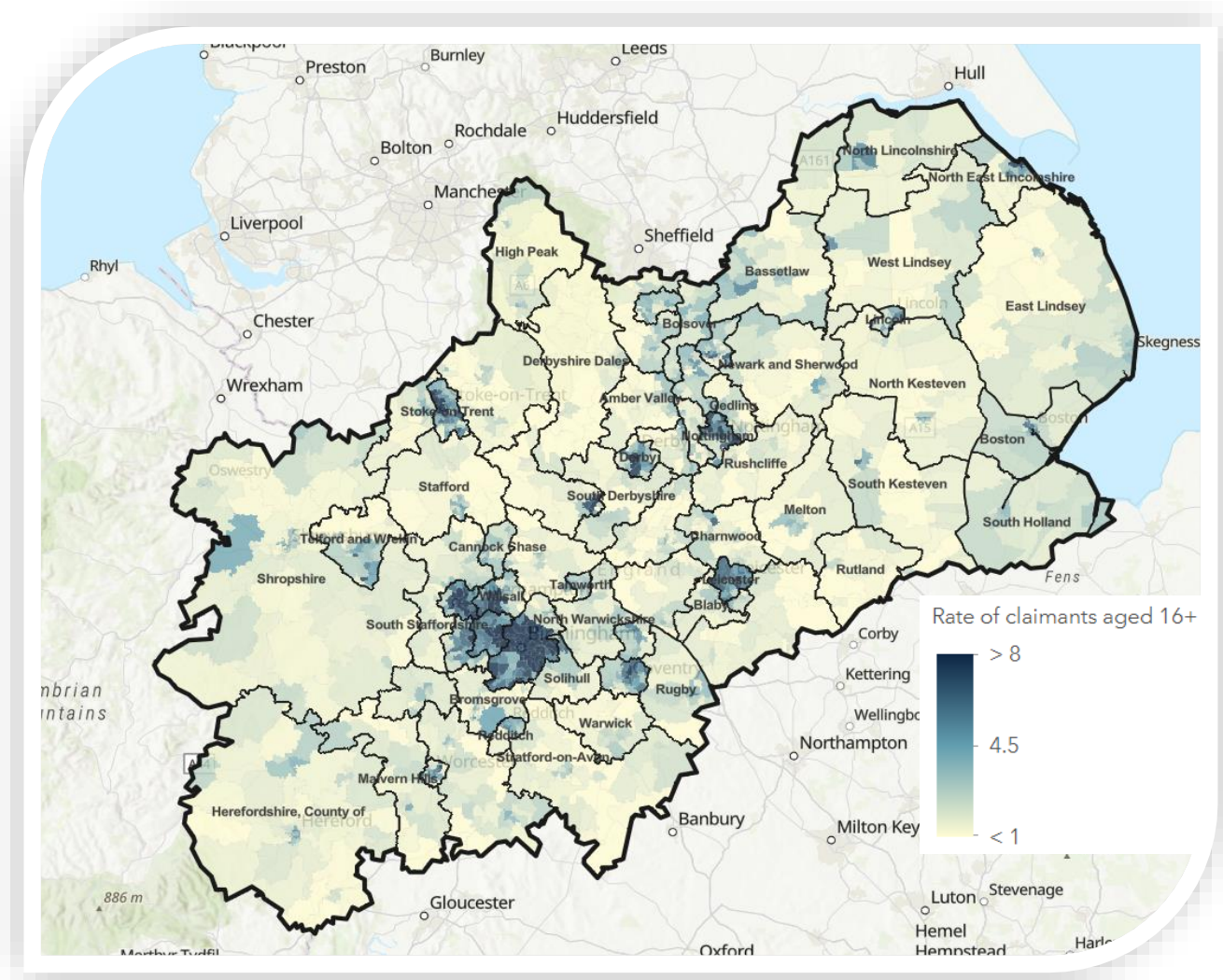
- There were 310,035 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in December 2024, a slight increase of 405 claimants since the previous month (+0.1%), while the UK increased by 0.2%. The latest monthly change shows across the Midlands Engine geography that 25 local authorities increased, 36 decreased and 4 remained the same.
- Since December 2023, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 40,575 (+15.1% compared to an increase of 12.1% for the UK). Within the Midlands Engine geography 61 local authorities increased and 4 decreased.
- Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 88,495 (+39.9% compared to +36.4% for the UK). East Lindsey (-560) and North East Lincolnshire (-255) and West Lindsey (-10) had lower levels of claimants now than in March 2020.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.7% compared to 3.2% for the UK in December 2024.

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 403 were at or above the UK average of 3.2% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over in December 2024.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were based in Birmingham, with Lozells at 21.4%, Aston at 19.5% and Handsworth at 19.3%.
- In contrast, the wards with the lowest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were Keele (Newcastle-Under-Lyme) at 0.1%, Ashby Castle (North West Leicestershire) at 0.2% and Brailsford (Derbyshire Dales) at 0.3%.

¹ Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) based off Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Claimant Count, released January 2025. Please note, the previous month's figures have been revised. The UK Claimant Count for December 2024 increased on the month and on the year, to 1.730 million. Commencing in May 2024, the DWP are rolling out an increase in the administrative earnings threshold for full work search conditionality. This change is likely to affect around 180,000 claimants over a period of around six months, increasing the Claimant Count over that time.

The following map shows claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in December 2024 across the Midlands Engine:



Youth Claimants (Aged 16–24 Years Old)

- There were 58,485 youth claimants in the Midlands Engine area in December 2024, an increase of 455 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 0.8% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 1.1%. The latest monthly change shows that within the Midlands Engine area, 33 local authorities increased, 22 decreased and 10 were unchanged.
- Since December 2023, the number of youth claimants has increased by 5,895 (+11.2% compared to +8.6% for the UK). Within the Midlands Engine, 58 local authorities increased, 6 decreased and 1 was unchanged.
- Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 14,290 (+32.3% compared to +24.7% for the UK). There were 4 local authorities that were lower than March 2020 levels, 1 unchanged and 60 that were higher.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 5.2% compared to 4.3% for the UK in December 2024.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 642 were at or above the UK average of 4.3% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16–24 years and over in December 2024.
- The ward with the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of the population was Handsworth (Birmingham) at 18.2%, followed by Birchfield (Birmingham) at 16.4% and Joiner’s Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 15.5%.
- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 93 wards with no youth claimants in December 2024.

The following map shows claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16–24 years old in December 2024 across the Midlands Engine:

