

Midlands Engine: Annual Population Survey: Labour Market Year Ending September 2024¹

In Summary:

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 78.0% compared to 78.4% for the UK in the year ending September 2024. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 0.1 percentage points (pp) since the year ending September 2023. The UK decreased by 0.3pp in the same period.
- In the year ending September 2024, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.7%, compared to 75.4% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending September 2023, the Midlands Engine area increased by 0.1pp and the UK decreased by 0.3pp.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.0% compared to 21.6% for the UK overall in the year ending September 2024. Since the year ending September 2023, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.1pp while the UK increased by 0.3pp.
- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.2% compared to 3.8% for England in the year ending September 2024. The unemployment rate remained the same as the previous annual period for both the Midlands Engine area and England.

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 September 2024 and also the change from the year ending September 2023.

Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 78.0% compared to 78.4% for the UK in the year ending September 2024. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 0.1 percentage points (pp) since the year ending September 2023. The UK decreased by 0.3pp in the same period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 41 local authority areas have economically active rates that were above the UK average (78.4%). Wyre Forest recorded the highest economic activity rate at 90.2%, down to West Lindsey with the lowest at 65.3%.
- Since the year ending September 2023, the economic activity rate in 33 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the economic activity rate was in North Kesteven by 14.2pp (to 88.4%). In contrast the largest percentage point decrease in the economic activity rate was in South Holland by 15.4pp (to 73.8%).

Employment Rate

- In the year ending September 2024, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.7%, compared to 75.4% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending September 2023, the Midlands Engine area increased by 0.1pp and the UK decreased by 0.3pp.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 41 local authority areas have employment rates that are at or above the UK average (75.4%). Wyre Forest recorded the highest rate at 88.8%, down to West Lindsey at 60.2%.
- Since the year ending September 2023, the employment rate for 31 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the employment rate was in Stafford by 15.9pp (to 88.4%), while Newark and Sherwood remained unchanged (at 77.4%). In contrast, the highest percentage point decrease in the employment rate was in South Holland by 15.9pp (to 73.3%).

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS): Annual Population Survey (APS), released January 2025.

Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.0% compared to 21.6% for the UK overall in the year ending September 2024. Since the year ending September 2023, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.1pp while the UK increased by 0.3pp.
- Economic inactivity can be broken down by reason, as seen in the following table. For the year ending September 2024, the Midlands Engine had a higher percentage of people that were inactive when compared to the UK in: students (26.9% vs 26.8%), looking after family/home (19.8% compared to 18.5%), long-term sick (29.4% vs 28.5%) and discouraged (0.5% vs 0.4%).

Midlands Engine and UK Economic Inactivity by reason, Year Ending September 2024:

	Midlands Engine	UK
Student	26.9%	26.8%
Looking after family/home	19.8%	18.5%
Temporary Sick	1.4%	2.0%
Long-Term Sick	29.4%	28.5%
Discouraged	0.5%	0.4%
Retired	11.6%	12.9%
Other	10.3%	10.9%

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

Modelled Unemployment Rate²

- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.2% compared to 3.8% for England in the year ending September 2024. The unemployment rate remained the same as the previous annual period for both the Midlands Engine area and England.
- Within the Midlands Engine area, the unemployment rate varies from 2.1% in Stratford-on-Avon to 7.2% in Leicester.
- The largest percentage point increase in the unemployment rate was in West Lindsey by 1.6pp (to 5.2%), in contrast the highest percentage point decreases in the unemployment rate were in Walsall and Warwick by 1.4pp (to 4.6% and 2.2% respectively).

Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation for the Midlands Engine and the UK for the year ending September 2024. The Midlands Engine have a higher than the UK average percentage of people employed in four of the nine occupations, these are: administrative and secretarial occupations (9.6% vs 9.3%), skilled trades occupations (9.0% vs 8.7%), process, plant & machine operatives (6.5% vs 5.5%) and elementary occupations (10.3% vs 8.8%).

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+.

Midlands Engine and UK Employment by Occupation Proportions, Year Ending September 2024:

	Midlands Engine	UK
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	10.2%	11.0%
2: Professional occupations	24.8%	26.7%
3: Associate prof & tech occupations	14.6%	15.2%
4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.6%	9.3%
5: Skilled trades occupations	9.0%	8.7%
6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.0%	8.4%
7: Sales and customer service occupations	6.0%	6.1%
8: Process, plant and machine operatives	6.5%	5.5%
9: Elementary occupations	10.3%	8.8%

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

Appendix

Labour market activity across the Midlands Engine local authorities for the year September 2024 and percentage point (pp) change since the year ending September 2023:

	Economic Activity Rate		Employment Rate		Economically Inactive		Modelled Unemployment Rate	
	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change
Amber Valley	84.5%	5.7pp	80.2%	2.6pp	15.5%	-5.7pp	3.7%	0.8pp
Ashfield	77.1%	10.1pp	72.1%	9.5pp	22.9%	-10.1pp	4.8%	-0.4pp
Bassetlaw	78.3%	2.5pp	77.5%	3.9pp	21.7%	-2.5pp	4.2%	1.4pp
Birmingham	71.5%	-0.9pp	66.4%	-0.5pp	28.5%	0.9pp	6.7%	-0.6pp
Blaby	88.4%	0.1pp	85.9%	-2.4pp	11.6%	-0.1pp	2.8%	0.5pp
Bolsover	84.5%	4.9pp	79.1%	6.8pp	15.5%	-4.9pp	3.8%	0.4pp
Boston	79.9%	1.7pp	76.9%	1.6pp	20.1%	-1.7pp	3.8%	-0.3pp
Bromsgrove	82.5%	-6.1pp	80.9%	-6.6pp	17.5%	6.1pp	2.8%	0.4pp
Broxtowe	88.6%	11.3pp	82.1%	4.8pp	11.4%	-11.3pp	4.0%	0.8pp
Cannock Chase	86.3%	1.7pp	82.8%	-1.8pp	13.7%	-1.7pp	2.9%	-0.7pp
Charnwood	79.8%	-4.0pp	79.2%	-2.2pp	20.2%	4.0pp	3.0%	0.3pp
Chesterfield	83.7%	7.2pp	82.5%	6.9pp	16.3%	-7.2pp	3.4%	0.5pp
Coventry	78.0%	0.8pp	72.7%	0.3pp	22.0%	-0.8pp	5.0%	-0.4pp
Derby	79.2%	-2.0pp	74.4%	-4.4pp	20.8%	2.0pp	5.5%	1.4pp
Derbyshire Dales	79.1%	0.7pp	77.4%	-1.0pp	20.9%	-0.7pp	3.2%	0.8pp
Dudley	76.0%	-4.6pp	73.4%	-4.1pp	24.0%	4.6pp	4.2%	0.2pp
East Lindsey	66.6%	-9.6pp	63.2%	-13.0pp	33.4%	9.6pp	4.4%	1.3pp
East Staffordshire	83.0%	2.9pp	83.0%	3.4pp	17.0%	-2.9pp	3.0%	0.0pp
Erewash	90.0%	9.0pp	87.3%	9.9pp	10.0%	-9.0pp	3.4%	0.2pp
Gedling	82.0%	7.7pp	75.9%	4.9pp	18.0%	-7.7pp	3.8%	-0.1pp
Harborough	76.5%	-5.9pp	73.5%	-6.6pp	23.5%	5.9pp	3.1%	0.8pp
Herefordshire, County of	81.9%	3.2pp	80.3%	2.6pp	18.1%	-3.2pp	2.5%	-0.2pp
High Peak	75.4%	-5.3pp	73.7%	-5.0pp	24.6%	5.3pp	3.2%	0.6pp
Hinckley and Bosworth	85.0%	4.9pp	82.0%	2.4pp	15.0%	-4.9pp	2.5%	-0.4pp
Leicester	74.4%	2.8pp	70.1%	4.6pp	25.6%	-2.8pp	7.2%	1.1pp
Lichfield	83.9%	5.8pp	81.8%	3.7pp	16.1%	-5.8pp	3.3%	-0.3pp
Lincoln	84.8%	10.2pp	81.5%	6.9pp	15.2%	-10.2pp	4.5%	-0.5pp
Malvern Hills	82.1%	-10.6pp	82.1%	-1.0pp	17.9%	10.6pp	2.9%	0.0pp
Mansfield	83.0%	8.4pp	77.5%	2.9pp	17.0%	-8.4pp	4.7%	1.4pp
Melton	79.7%	-0.5pp	79.7%	3.4pp	20.3%	0.5pp	4.1%	0.8pp
Newark and Sherwood	80.3%	1.2pp	77.4%	0.0pp	19.7%	-1.2pp	3.3%	0.2pp
Newcastle-under-Lyme	82.1%	-3.9pp	79.4%	-6.6pp	17.9%	3.9pp	3.0%	0.1pp
North East Derbyshire	73.6%	-1.0pp	73.6%	3.1pp	26.4%	1.0pp	4.1%	0.8pp
North East Lincolnshire	76.0%	0.3pp	71.0%	-2.2pp	24.0%	-0.3pp	3.3%	-0.2pp

	Economic Activity Rate		Employment Rate		Economically Inactive		Modelled Unemployment Rate	
	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change	Percent	PP change
North Kesteven	88.4%	14.2pp	87.6%	14.8pp	11.6%	-14.2pp	2.2%	-0.4pp
North Lincolnshire	73.1%	-4.8pp	71.0%	-3.3pp	26.9%	4.8pp	2.9%	-0.2pp
North Warwickshire	74.8%	-8.6pp	74.8%	-5.5pp	25.2%	8.6pp	2.8%	0.3pp
North West Leicestershire	87.0%	4.2pp	87.0%	6.1pp	13.0%	-4.2pp	2.8%	0.3pp
Nottingham	71.3%	3.1pp	66.3%	2.3pp	28.7%	-3.1pp	6.6%	0.7pp
Nuneaton and Bedworth	79.5%	-4.2pp	77.1%	-5.9pp	20.5%	4.2pp	3.8%	0.4pp
Oadby and Wigston	87.2%	7.7pp	81.2%	6.8pp	12.8%	-7.7pp	3.6%	0.2pp
Redditch	84.5%	5.0pp	79.4%	-0.1pp	15.5%	-5.0pp	3.2%	-0.3pp
Rugby	83.7%	2.5pp	81.5%	3.0pp	16.3%	-2.5pp	2.4%	-0.9pp
Rushcliffe	82.1%	-3.6pp	80.2%	-3.0pp	17.9%	3.6pp	2.6%	0.1pp
Rutland	79.1%	-2.8pp	69.2%	-10.7pp	20.9%	2.8pp	3.6%	1.0pp
Sandwell	71.2%	-3.3pp	66.4%	-3.8pp	28.8%	3.3pp	5.7%	0.1pp
Shropshire	80.9%	-1.0pp	79.2%	0.4pp	19.1%	1.0pp	2.6%	-0.5pp
Solihull	80.4%	-0.5pp	79.6%	1.7pp	19.6%	0.5pp	2.7%	-0.9pp
South Derbyshire	86.8%	7.0pp	85.8%	7.9pp	13.2%	-7.0pp	3.1%	-0.2pp
South Holland	73.8%	-15.4pp	73.3%	-15.9pp	26.2%	15.4pp	3.9%	1.4pp
South Kesteven	67.8%	-7.2pp	61.4%	-11.4pp	32.2%	7.2pp	4.3%	1.1pp
South Staffordshire	72.5%	-14.5pp	70.5%	-14.0pp	27.5%	14.5pp	2.5%	-0.2pp
Stafford	88.4%	13.9pp	88.4%	15.9pp	11.6%	-13.9pp	2.5%	-0.8pp
Staffordshire Moorlands	82.6%	-1.9pp	80.4%	-2.8pp	17.4%	1.9pp	2.5%	-0.1pp
Stoke-on-Trent	74.3%	-2.8pp	70.9%	-2.9pp	25.7%	2.8pp	4.7%	0.4pp
Stratford-on-Avon	85.8%	-2.5pp	83.1%	-2.1pp	14.2%	2.5pp	2.1%	-0.6pp
Tamworth	78.8%	-7.9pp	76.4%	-9.3pp	21.2%	7.9pp	3.5%	0.4pp
Telford and Wrekin	77.6%	-1.9pp	75.2%	-2.1pp	22.4%	1.9pp	3.5%	0.2pp
Walsall	78.4%	1.2pp	76.0%	5.8pp	21.6%	-1.2pp	4.6%	-1.4pp
Warwick	88.5%	10.2pp	86.9%	13.1pp	11.5%	-10.2pp	2.2%	-1.4pp
West Lindsey	65.3%	-8.4pp	60.2%	-6.7pp	34.7%	8.4pp	5.2%	1.6pp
Wolverhampton	69.9%	-3.9pp	63.7%	-4.7pp	30.1%	3.9pp	5.8%	-0.4pp
Worcester	81.0%	-5.4pp	79.3%	-3.1pp	19.0%	5.4pp	3.0%	-0.1pp
Wychavon	74.3%	-2.7pp	73.8%	-0.9pp	25.7%	2.7pp	3.0%	-0.1pp
Wyre Forest	90.2%	9.4pp	88.8%	8.0pp	9.8%	-9.4pp	2.7%	-0.6pp
Midlands Engine	78.0%	0.1pp	74.7%	0.1pp	22.0%	-0.1pp	4.2%	0.0pp
United Kingdom	78.4%	-0.3pp	75.4%	-0.3pp	21.6%	0.3pp	-	-
England	78.8%	-0.1pp	75.7%	-0.2pp	21.2%	0.1pp	3.8%	0.0pp