

Midlands Engine: Annual Population Survey - Labour Market 2023¹

Key Points:

- In 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 75.0%, compared to 75.7% for the UK overall. When compared to 2022, the Midlands Engine area has increased by 0.9 percentage points (pp). The UK employment rate increased by 0.2pp over the same time period.
- In 2023, the economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 78.3%, compared to 78.7% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 1.1pp since 2022, with the UK increasing by 0.4pp.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 21.7% in 2023, compared to 21.3% for the UK overall. Since 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 1.1pp while the UK remained at the same rate.
- The modelled unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was 4.4% compared to 3.7% for England in 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of 0.5pp whereas nationally increased by 0.1pp.

In Detail:

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

Employment Rate

- In 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 75.0%, compared to 75.7% for the UK overall. When compared to 2022, the Midlands Engine area has increased by 0.9 percentage points (pp). The UK employment rate increased by 0.2pp over the same time period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 41 local authority areas have employment rates that were above the UK average (75.7%). Newcastle-under-Lyme recorded the highest rate at 89.6%, down to West Lindsey with the lowest at 61.7%.
- Since 2022, the employment rate in 36 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the employment rate was in Newcastle-under-Lyme by 17.2pp (to 89.6%), in contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the employment rate was in South Holland by 23.0pp (to 61.7%).

Economic Activity Rate

- In 2023, the economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 78.3%, compared to 78.7% for the UK. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 1.1pp since 2022, with the UK increasing by 0.4pp.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 40 local authority areas have economically active rates that were at or above the UK average (78.7%). Malvern Hills recorded the highest rate at 92.7%, down to North Lincolnshire with the lowest at 68.7%.
- Since 2022, the economic activity rate in 40 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the economic activity rate was in Newcastle-under-Lyme by 15.1pp (to 89.6%). In contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the economic activity rate was in South Holland by 13.6pp (to 72.2%).

Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 21.7% in 2023, compared to 21.3% for the UK overall. Since 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 1.1pp while the UK decreased by 0.4pp.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS): Annual Population Survey, released April 2024

- Economic inactivity can be broken down further by reasons. In 2023, the Midlands Engine had a higher percentage of people that were inactive when compared to the UK in one category; Long-term sick (27.7% compared to 27.5%).

Midlands Engine and UK Economic Inactivity by Reason, 2023:

Reason	Midlands Engine	UK
Student	22.5%	26.8%
Looking after family/home	18.5%	19.2%
Temporary sick	0.7%	1.9%
Long-term sick	27.7%	27.5%
Retired	11.3%	13.4%
Other	8.2%	11.1%

Table may not equal 100% due to data gaps. The 'other' category also included discouraged.

Modelled Unemployment Rate²

- The modelled unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was 4.4% compared to 3.7% for England in 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of 0.5pp whereas nationally increased by 0.1pp.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 23 local authority areas have modelled unemployment rates that were at or above the England average (3.7%). Across the Midlands Engine area, the unemployment rate varies from Birmingham which recorded the highest rate at 7.2%, down to North Lincolnshire at 2.8%.
- The highest percentage point increase in the unemployment rate was in South Holland by 2.3pp (to 4.4%), in contrast the highest percentage point decrease in the unemployment rate was in Telford and Wrekin by 0.9pp (to 3.4%).

Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation for the Midlands Engine and the UK for 2023. The Midlands Engine has a higher than the UK average percentage of people employed in four of the nine occupations, these include: skilled trades occupations (9.3% compared to 8.8%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (8.3% compared to 8.0%), process, plant & machine operatives (7.1% compared to 5.4%) and elementary occupations (10.3% compared to 9.2%).

Midlands Engine and UK Employment by Occupation Proportions, 2023:

	Midlands Engine	UK
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	9.5%	10.7%
2: Professional occupations	24.6%	26.8%
3: Associate prof & tech occupations	13.6%	15.0%
4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.2%	9.6%
5: Skilled trades occupations	9.3%	8.8%
6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.3%	8.0%
7: Sales and customer service occupations	6.0%	6.3%
8: Process, plant and machine operatives	7.1%	5.4%
9: Elementary occupations	10.3%	9.2%

Table may not equal 100% due to data gaps

² Due to data gaps, modelled unemployment rate has been used. The model-based estimate improves on the APS unemployment 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

Employment activity for the working age population across the Midlands Engine local authorities for 2023 and percentage point (pp) change since 2022:

	Economic Activity Rate		Employment Rate		Economically Inactive		Modelled Unemployment Rate	
	2023	PP Change since 2022	2023	PP Change since 2022	2023	PP Change since 2022	2023	PP Change since 2022
Birmingham	71.7%	0.3pp	65.9%	-0.4pp	28.3%	-0.3pp	7.2%	-0.1pp
Bromsgrove	85.9%	6.0pp	85.9%	7.9pp	14.1%	-6.0pp	2.8%	-0.3pp
Cannock Chase	84.8%	-3.9pp	84.8%	-0.2pp	15.2%	3.9pp	2.9%	-0.5pp
Coventry	77.6%	1.9pp	71.9%	-0.2pp	22.4%	-1.9pp	5.8%	0.9pp
Dudley	82.3%	1.0pp	79.7%	1.8pp	17.7%	-1.0pp	3.7%	-0.6pp
East Staffordshire	81.2%	-0.6pp	80.5%	1.0pp	18.8%	0.6pp	3.3%	0.2pp
Herefordshire, County of	81.6%	5.0pp	80.5%	5.2pp	18.4%	-5.0pp	3.0%	0.4pp
Lichfield	85.3%	1.7pp	85.3%	1.7pp	14.7%	-1.7pp	3.6%	0.7pp
Malvern Hills	92.7%	15.0pp	84.6%	10.6pp	7.3%	-15.0pp	3.2%	0.5pp
Newcastle-under-Lyme	89.6%	15.1pp	89.6%	17.2pp	10.4%	-15.1pp	3.1%	-0.7pp
North Warwickshire	74.5%	-11.4pp	74.5%	-4.9pp	25.5%	11.4pp	3.0%	-0.1pp
Nuneaton and Bedworth	81.0%	0.5pp	80.4%	1.6pp	19.0%	-0.5pp	3.5%	-0.8pp
Redditch	83.4%	2.0pp	81.8%	3.0pp	16.6%	-2.0pp	2.9%	-0.8pp
Rugby	87.1%	1.1pp	85.6%	1.7pp	12.9%	-1.1pp	3.1%	0.1pp
Sandwell	74.3%	6.3pp	69.8%	5.9pp	25.7%	-6.3pp	6.0%	-0.2pp
Shropshire	82.0%	-0.1pp	78.8%	-0.8pp	18.0%	0.1pp	3.3%	0.3pp
Solihull	80.4%	-1.3pp	77.6%	-0.3pp	19.6%	1.3pp	3.7%	-0.1pp
South Staffordshire	84.4%	-5.0pp	81.3%	-8.1pp	15.6%	5.0pp	3.0%	0.3pp
Stafford	78.0%	-2.4pp	76.5%	-0.7pp	22.0%	2.4pp	3.3%	0.5pp
Staffordshire Moorlands	82.7%	0.6pp	80.9%	0.7pp	17.3%	-0.6pp	2.8%	-0.1pp
Stoke-on-Trent	78.1%	2.4pp	75.0%	3.1pp	21.9%	-2.4pp	3.9%	-0.9pp
Stratford-on-Avon	88.3%	5.0pp	85.3%	4.3pp	11.7%	-5.0pp	3.1%	0.0pp
Tamworth	83.1%	-3.7pp	83.1%	-1.4pp	16.9%	3.7pp	3.3%	-0.3pp
Telford and Wrekin	77.5%	-1.2pp	74.6%	-0.1pp	22.5%	1.2pp	3.4%	-0.9pp
Walsall	79.0%	0.8pp	73.5%	1.9pp	21.0%	-0.8pp	5.5%	0.0pp
Warwick	79.4%	-5.0pp	75.5%	-7.0pp	20.6%	5.0pp	3.7%	0.7pp
Wolverhampton	76.6%	5.3pp	70.3%	4.3pp	23.4%	-5.3pp	6.2%	-0.1pp
Worcester	81.7%	2.3pp	78.4%	1.2pp	18.3%	-2.3pp	3.4%	-0.4pp
Wychavon	76.6%	-10.5pp	76.6%	-6.1pp	23.4%	10.5pp	3.5%	0.8pp
Wyre Forest	81.5%	7.8pp	81.5%	10.4pp	18.5%	-7.8pp	3.7%	0.6pp
North East Lincolnshire	80.8%	3.7pp	78.0%	4.0pp	19.2%	-3.7pp	3.2%	0.8pp
North Lincolnshire	68.7%	-8.3pp	64.4%	-12.0pp	31.3%	8.3pp	4.9%	1.7pp
Amber Valley	78.9%	-2.6pp	77.9%	-0.5pp	21.1%	2.6pp	3.0%	0.5pp
Ashfield	86.9%	-3.3pp	85.3%	-2.2pp	13.1%	3.3pp	3.0%	1.3pp
Bassetlaw	77.8%	3.7pp	71.0%	-3.1pp	22.2%	-3.7pp	3.6%	1.1pp
Blaby	78.7%	0.5pp	72.2%	-2.4pp	21.3%	-0.5pp	4.2%	0.7pp
Bolsover	85.9%	14.6pp	83.3%	15.4pp	14.1%	-14.6pp	3.1%	0.0pp
Boston	84.0%	3.1pp	82.2%	3.9pp	16.0%	-3.1pp	3.1%	0.9pp
Broxtowe	71.1%	-11.1pp	69.9%	-10.9pp	28.9%	11.1pp	3.4%	0.8pp
Charnwood	82.8%	6.0pp	79.8%	5.3pp	17.2%	-6.0pp	4.9%	1.5pp
Chesterfield	80.5%	11.8pp	80.5%	11.8pp	19.5%	-11.8pp	3.0%	0.9pp
Derby	74.3%	10.5pp	74.3%	12.5pp	25.7%	-10.5pp	3.6%	-0.2pp
Derbyshire Dales	82.9%	3.3pp	80.1%	4.9pp	17.1%	-3.3pp	3.5%	0.9pp
East Lindsey	77.9%	0.8pp	75.9%	0.7pp	22.1%	-0.8pp	4.1%	0.9pp

	Economic Activity Rate		Employment Rate		Economically Inactive		Modelled Unemployment Rate	
	2023	PP Change since 2022	2023	PP Change since 2022	2023	PP Change since 2022	2023	PP Change since 2022
Erewash	83.0%	2.5pp	80.0%	-0.5pp	17.0%	-2.5pp	3.0%	1.2pp
Gedling	74.8%	-7.1pp	74.8%	-5.2pp	25.2%	7.1pp	3.3%	1.1pp
Harborough	84.9%	6.5pp	82.3%	5.0pp	15.1%	-6.5pp	3.4%	1.3pp
High Peak	71.9%	-1.4pp	65.1%	-4.6pp	28.1%	1.4pp	6.7%	2.3pp
Hinckley and Bosworth	75.5%	-1.5pp	75.5%	-0.7pp	24.5%	1.5pp	5.6%	2.2pp
Leicester	71.9%	-0.7pp	71.9%	0.5pp	28.1%	0.7pp	3.6%	0.5pp
Lincoln	78.1%	-10.5pp	78.1%	-7.1pp	21.9%	10.5pp	3.9%	1.8pp
Mansfield	79.0%	-0.6pp	77.5%	-1.5pp	21.0%	0.6pp	3.7%	1.0pp
Melton	73.2%	-1.6pp	68.4%	-5.4pp	26.8%	1.6pp	3.6%	1.4pp
Newark and Sherwood	82.0%	2.3pp	80.8%	1.8pp	18.0%	-2.3pp	2.8%	0.7pp
North East Derbyshire	81.0%	2.8pp	80.1%	3.3pp	19.0%	-2.8pp	3.1%	0.7pp
North Kesteven	70.3%	2.3pp	66.1%	2.4pp	29.7%	-2.3pp	6.5%	1.9pp
North West Leicestershire	84.3%	0.3pp	79.8%	1.2pp	15.7%	-0.3pp	3.8%	0.8pp
Nottingham	82.9%	0.5pp	80.7%	-1.7pp	17.1%	-0.5pp	3.2%	1.6pp
Oadby and Wigston	82.2%	0.3pp	80.3%	1.6pp	17.8%	-0.3pp	3.4%	1.6pp
Rushcliffe	81.5%	0.1pp	81.5%	5.3pp	18.5%	-0.1pp	3.8%	1.2pp
Rutland	85.8%	2.5pp	85.8%	2.5pp	14.2%	-2.5pp	3.2%	1.2pp
South Derbyshire	72.1%	-1.6pp	66.2%	-6.2pp	27.9%	1.6pp	4.4%	2.2pp
South Holland	72.2%	-13.6pp	61.7%	-23.0pp	27.8%	13.6pp	4.4%	2.3pp
South Kesteven	77.1%	3.0pp	73.5%	1.8pp	22.9%	-3.0pp	3.1%	-0.6pp
West Lindsey	77.3%	-2.9pp	75.0%	-3.3pp	22.7%	2.9pp	2.8%	-0.3pp
Midlands Engine	78.3%	1.1pp	75.0%	0.9pp	21.7%	-1.1pp	4.4%	0.5pp
England	79.0%	0.3pp	76.0%	0.2pp	21.0%	-0.3pp	3.7%	0.1pp
UK	78.7%	0.4pp	75.7%	0.2pp	21.3%	-0.4pp	-	-

- Denotes missing data