

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

### In Summary:

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.9% compared to 78.7% for the UK in the year ending September 2023. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 0.4 percentage points (pp) since the year ending September 2022. The UK increased by 0.5pp in the same period.
- In the year ending September 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.7%, compared to 75.7% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending September 2022, the Midlands Engine area increased by 0.4pp and the UK increased by 0.3pp.
- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.1% compared to 21.3% for the UK overall in the year ending September 2023. Since the year ending September 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.4pp while the UK decreased by 0.5pp.
- The unemployment rate for the Midlands Engine was approximately 4.2% compared to 3.8% for the England in the year ending September 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of approximately 0.1pp which matched the England growth rate since the year ending September 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 September 2023 and also the change from the year ending September 2022.*

#### Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Midlands Engine area was 77.9% compared to 78.7% for the UK in the year ending September 2023. For the Midlands Engine area, the economic activity rate has increased by 0.4 percentage points (pp) since the year ending September 2022. The UK increased by 0.5pp in the same period.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 37 local authority areas have economically active rates that were above the UK average (78.7%). Malvern Hills recorded the highest economic activity rate at 92.7%, down to Ashfield, with the lowest at 67.0%.
- Since the year ending June 2022, the economic activity rate in 32 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the economic activity rate was in East Lindsey by 17.5pp (to 76.2%), while Redditch remained unchanged (at 79.5%) and in contrast the largest percentage point decrease in the economic activity rate were in Ashfield and West Lindsey by 11.6pp (to 67.0% and 73.7% respectively).

#### Employment Rate

- In the year ending September 2023, the employment rate in the Midlands Engine area was 74.7%, compared to 75.7% for the UK overall. When compared to the year ending September 2022, the Midlands Engine area increased by 0.4pp and the UK increased by 0.3pp.
- Within the Midlands Engine, 39 local authority areas have employment rates that are at or above the UK average (75.7%). South Holland recorded the highest rate at 89.2%, down to Ashfield at 62.6%.
- Since the year ending September 2022, the employment rate for 33 of the Midlands Engine local authorities increased. The highest percentage point increase in the employment rate was in East Lindsey by 22.6pp (to 76.2%) and while North East Lincolnshire remained unchanged (at 73.2%). In contrast, the highest percentage point decrease in the employment rate was in West Lindsey by 17.6pp (to 66.9%).

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS): Annual Population Survey (APS), released January 2024.

## Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Midlands Engine rate was 22.1% compared to 21.3% for the UK overall in the year ending September 2023. Since the year ending September 2022, for the Midlands Engine area, this has decreased by 0.4pp while the UK decreased by 0.5pp.
- Economic inactivity can be broken down by reason, as seen in the following table. For the year ending September 2023, the Midlands Engine had a higher percentage of people that were inactive when compared to the UK in: looking after the family/home (19.6% compared to 19.4%).

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

	Midlands Engine	UK
Student	24.1%	26.8%
Looking after family/home	19.6%	19.4%
Temporary Sick	0.8%	2.3%
Long-Term Sick	26.5%	27.2%
Discouraged	0.0%	0.2%
Retired	10.5%	12.7%
Other	9.3%	11.3%

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 4.2% compared to 3.8% for the England in the year ending September 2023. For the Midlands Engine, this is an increase of approximately 0.1pp which matched the England growth rate since year ending September 2022.
- Within the Midlands Engine area, the unemployment rate varies from Blaby and Harborough both at 2.3% to Birmingham at 7.3%.
- The highest percentage point increases in the unemployment rate was in Ashfield by 2.5pp (to 5.2%), in contrast the highest percentage point decreases in the unemployment rate was in East Lindsey by 2.0pp (to 3.1%).

## Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation for the Midlands Engine and the UK for the year ending September 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 (9.8% vs 8.8%), caring, leisure & other service occupations (8.3% vs 8.0%) process, plant & machine operatives (7.1% vs 5.4%) and elementary occupations (10.8% vs 9.5%).

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

	Midlands Engine	UK
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	9.2%	10.5%
2: Professional occupations	24.4%	27.0%
3: Associate prof & tech occupations	13.5%	14.8%
4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.4%	9.6%
5: Skilled trades occupations	9.8%	8.8%
6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.3%	8.0%
7: Sales and customer service occupations	6.0%	6.2%
8: Process, plant and machine operatives	7.1%	5.4%
9: Elementary occupations	10.8%	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 September 2023 and percentage point (pp) change since the year ending September 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	78.8%	2.3pp	77.6%	3.6pp	21.2%	-2.3pp	2.9%	0.4pp
Ashfield	67.0%	-11.6pp	62.6%	-15.2pp	33.0%	11.6pp	5.2%	2.5pp
Bassetlaw	75.8%	-7.9pp	73.6%	-8.2pp	24.2%	7.9pp	2.8%	0.3pp
Birmingham	72.4%	1.6pp	66.9%	1.9pp	27.6%	-1.6pp	7.3%	-0.7pp
Blaby	88.3%	-0.9pp	88.3%	2.1pp	11.7%	0.9pp	2.3%	0.5pp
Bolsover	79.6%	7.8pp	72.3%	0.5pp	20.4%	-7.8pp	3.4%	0.7pp
Boston	78.2%	-4.3pp	75.3%	0.9pp	21.8%	4.3pp	4.1%	0.5pp
Bromsgrove	88.6%	11.0pp	87.5%	13.6pp	11.4%	-11.0pp	2.4%	-1.5pp
Broxtowe	77.3%	3.1pp	77.3%	7.6pp	22.7%	-3.1pp	3.2%	-0.3pp
Cannock Chase	84.6%	-3.0pp	84.6%	1.5pp	15.4%	3.0pp	3.6%	0.0pp
Charnwood	83.8%	2.0pp	81.4%	1.1pp	16.2%	-2.0pp	2.7%	0.3pp
Chesterfield	76.5%	-5.2pp	75.6%	-4.0pp	23.5%	5.2pp	2.9%	0.2pp
Coventry	77.2%	2.4pp	72.4%	1.9pp	22.8%	-2.4pp	5.4%	-0.1pp
Derby	81.2%	5.2pp	78.8%	5.4pp	18.8%	-5.2pp	4.1%	0.6pp
Derbyshire Dales	78.4%	10.2pp	78.4%	11.2pp	21.6%	-10.2pp	2.4%	-0.1pp
Dudley	80.6%	-0.3pp	77.5%	0.2pp	19.4%	0.3pp	4.0%	-0.3pp
East Lindsey	76.2%	17.5pp	76.2%	22.6pp	23.8%	-17.5pp	3.1%	-2.0pp
East Staffordshire	80.1%	-1.3pp	79.6%	2.2pp	19.9%	1.3pp	3.0%	-0.6pp
Erewash	81.0%	0.9pp	77.4%	1.4pp	19.0%	-0.9pp	3.2%	0.7pp
Gedling	74.3%	-3.8pp	71.0%	-4.5pp	25.7%	3.8pp	3.9%	0.5pp
Harborough	82.4%	0.8pp	80.1%	-0.7pp	17.6%	-0.8pp	2.3%	0.2pp
Herefordshire, County of	78.7%	-0.2pp	77.7%	0.9pp	21.3%	0.2pp	2.7%	-0.4pp
High Peak	80.7%	-2.8pp	78.7%	-4.1pp	19.3%	2.8pp	2.6%	0.3pp
Hinckley and Bosworth	80.1%	-1.8pp	79.6%	-1.0pp	19.9%	1.8pp	2.9%	0.6pp
Leicester	71.6%	2.1pp	65.5%	-0.1pp	28.4%	-2.1pp	6.1%	1.1pp
Lichfield	78.1%	-6.7pp	78.1%	-5.0pp	21.9%	6.7pp	3.6%	0.6pp
Lincoln	74.6%	-4.7pp	74.6%	-4.0pp	25.4%	4.7pp	5.0%	1.5pp
Malvern Hills	92.7%	15.2pp	83.1%	7.1pp	7.3%	-15.2pp	2.9%	-0.2pp
Mansfield	74.6%	6.6pp	74.6%	9.0pp	25.4%	-6.6pp	3.3%	-0.4pp
Melton	80.2%	-2.1pp	76.3%	-4.5pp	19.8%	2.1pp	3.3%	0.5pp
Newark and Sherwood	79.1%	0.4pp	77.4%	-0.7pp	20.9%	-0.4pp	3.1%	-0.2pp
Newcastle-under-Lyme	86.0%	7.6pp	86.0%	9.6pp	14.0%	-7.6pp	2.9%	-0.8pp
North East Derbyshire	74.6%	1.1pp	70.5%	-2.1pp	25.4%	-1.1pp	3.3%	1.0pp
North East Lincolnshire	75.7%	0.1pp	73.2%	0.0pp	24.3%	-0.1pp	3.5%	0.0pp
North Kesteven	74.2%	-9.8pp	72.8%	-10.6pp	25.8%	9.8pp	2.6%	0.3pp
North Lincolnshire	77.9%	-2.1pp	74.3%	-4.5pp	22.1%	2.1pp	3.1%	0.4pp
North Warwickshire	83.4%	-2.9pp	80.3%	-1.4pp	16.6%	2.9pp	2.5%	-0.7pp
North West Leicestershire	82.8%	3.8pp	80.9%	3.9pp	17.2%	-3.8pp	2.5%	-0.1pp
Nottingham	68.2%	-7.4pp	64.0%	-7.7pp	31.8%	7.4pp	5.9%	1.7pp
Nuneaton and Bedworth	83.7%	3.4pp	83.0%	4.4pp	16.3%	-3.4pp	3.4%	-0.6pp
Oadby and Wigston	79.5%	-4.9pp	74.4%	-5.8pp	20.5%	4.9pp	3.4%	0.5pp
Redditch	79.5%	0.0pp	79.5%	2.3pp	20.5%	0.0pp	3.5%	-0.1pp
Rugby	81.2%	-6.6pp	78.5%	-8.0pp	18.8%	6.6pp	3.3%	0.1pp
Rushcliffe	85.7%	0.6pp	83.2%	-1.9pp	14.3%	-0.6pp	2.5%	0.7pp
Rutland	81.9%	-1.3pp	79.9%	-2.2pp	18.1%	1.3pp	2.6%	0.5pp
Sandwell	74.5%	6.5pp	70.2%	6.2pp	25.5%	-6.5pp	5.6%	-0.6pp
Shropshire	81.9%	1.9pp	78.8%	2.2pp	18.1%	-1.9pp	3.1%	-0.4pp
Solihull	80.9%	1.0pp	77.9%	2.8pp	19.1%	-1.0pp	3.6%	-1.0pp
South Derbyshire	79.8%	-5.0pp	77.9%	-1.9pp	20.2%	5.0pp	3.3%	0.7pp
South Holland	89.2%	8.9pp	89.2%	8.9pp	10.8%	-8.9pp	2.5%	0.3pp
South Kesteven	75.0%	0.6pp	72.8%	-0.3pp	25.0%	-0.6pp	3.2%	0.9pp
South Staffordshire	87.0%	-0.1pp	84.5%	-2.6pp	13.0%	0.1pp	2.7%	-0.5pp
Stafford	74.5%	-3.8pp	72.5%	-3.1pp	25.5%	3.8pp	3.3%	0.2pp
Staffordshire Moorlands	84.5%	0.2pp	83.2%	2.8pp	15.5%	-0.2pp	2.6%	-0.7pp
Stoke-on-Trent	77.1%	-2.0pp	73.8%	-2.8pp	22.9%	2.0pp	4.3%	0.0pp

	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	88.3%	5.5pp	85.2%	5.3pp	11.7%	-5.5pp	2.7%	-0.7pp
Tamworth	86.7%	1.7pp	85.7%	3.1pp	13.3%	-1.7pp	3.1%	-0.3pp
Telford and Wrekin	79.5%	-1.0pp	77.3%	0.8pp	20.5%	1.0pp	3.3%	-0.9pp
Walsall	77.2%	-3.7pp	70.2%	-5.3pp	22.8%	3.7pp	6.0%	0.6pp
Warwick	78.3%	-4.4pp	73.8%	-6.6pp	21.7%	4.4pp	3.6%	0.1pp
West Lindsey	73.7%	-11.6pp	66.9%	-17.6pp	26.3%	11.6pp	3.6%	1.4pp
Wolverhampton	73.8%	-0.5pp	68.4%	-0.5pp	26.2%	0.5pp	6.2%	-0.1pp
Worcester	86.4%	3.7pp	82.4%	2.7pp	13.6%	-3.7pp	3.1%	-0.8pp
Wychavon	77.0%	-9.8pp	74.7%	-9.1pp	23.0%	9.8pp	3.1%	0.0pp
Wyre Forest	80.8%	11.2pp	80.8%	13.6pp	19.2%	-11.2pp	3.3%	-0.4pp
<b>Midlands Engine</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	<b>0.4pp</b>	<b>74.7%</b>	<b>0.4pp</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>-0.4pp</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>0.1pp</b>
United Kingdom	78.7%	0.5pp	75.7%	0.3pp	21.3%	-0.5pp	-	-
England	78.9%	0.2pp	75.9%	0.2pp	21.1%	-0.2pp	3.8%	0.1pp