

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – March 2024 Release¹

For an interactive version click [here](#).

Key Points:

- There were 282,160 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in February 2024, an increase of 10,660 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 3.9% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 4.0%.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.3% compared to 3.0% for the UK in February 2024.
- There were 54,690 youth claimants (16–24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in February 2024, an increase of 1,800 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 3.4% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 3.1%.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.8% compared to 4.1% for the UK in February 2024.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

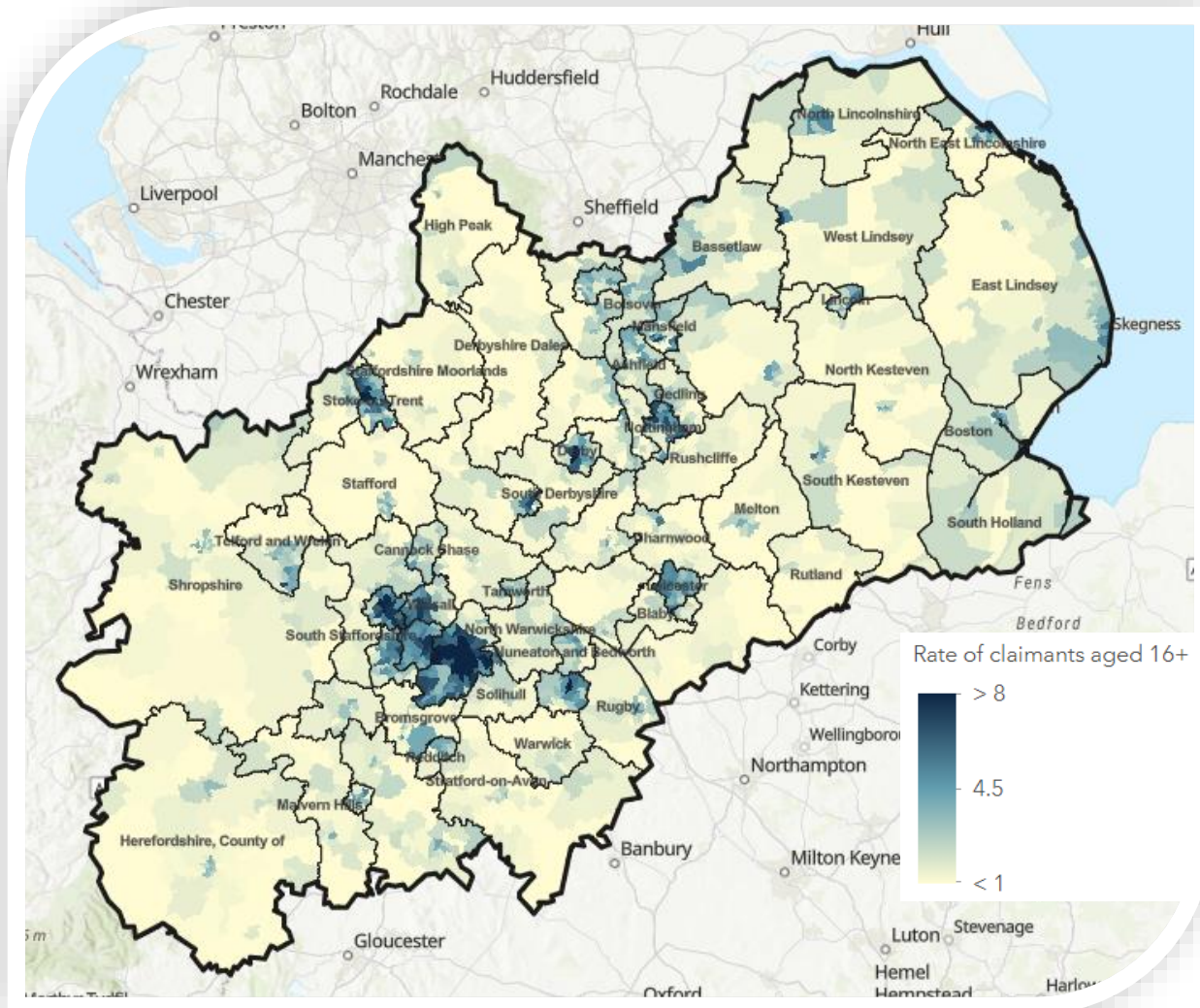
- There were 282,160 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in February 2024, an increase of 10,660 claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 3.9% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 4.0%.
- The latest monthly change shows that across the Midlands Engine geography, 3 local authorities decreased (Wychavon, Charnwood and North East Lincolnshire) while 62 increased.
- Since February 2023, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 13,510 (+5.0% compared to an increase of 5.7% for the UK). Within the Midlands Engine, 48 local authorities increased, 4 remained the same (Rugby, Wyre Forest, Melton and West Lindsey) and 13 decreased.
- Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 60,620 (+27.4% compared to +27.2% for the UK). East Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire have lower levels of claimants now than in March 2020 (-325 and -115 respectively).
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 3.3% compared to 3.0% for the UK in February 2024.

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 425 were at or above the UK average of 3.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16 years and over in February 2024.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population were based in Birmingham, with Handsworth and Lozells highest at 16.5% and 16.4% respectively. This was followed by Aston at 15.6% and then Birchfield at 15.4%. In contrast, the lowest proportion was in Keele (Newcastle-Under-Lyme) at 0.2%.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS)/Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): Claimant Count – released March 2024

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



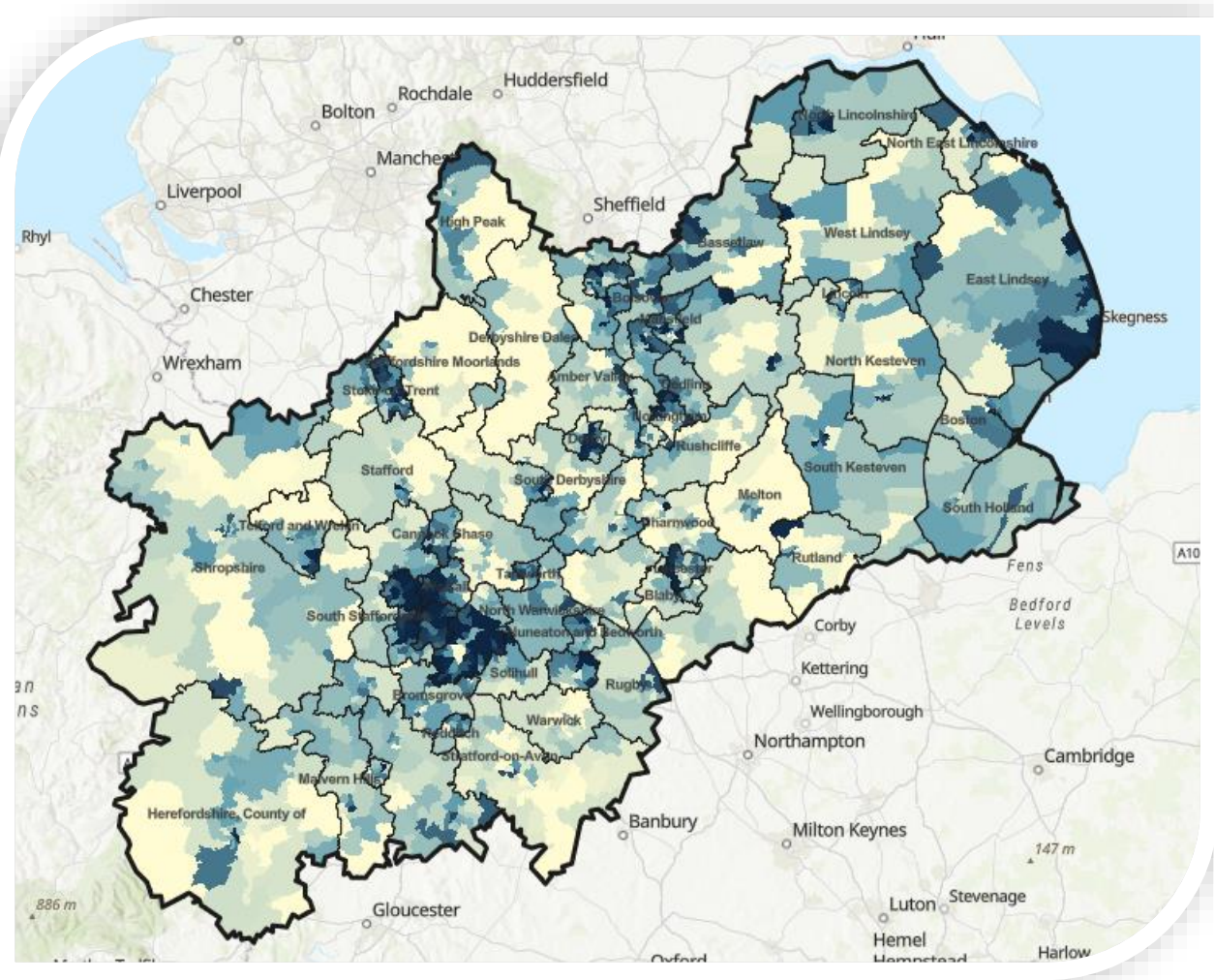
Youth Claimants (Aged 16–24 Years Old)

- There were 54,690 youth claimants (16–24 years old) in the Midlands Engine area in February 2024, an increase of 1,800 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 3.4% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 3.1%.
- The latest monthly change shows that within the Midlands Engine, 49 local authorities increased, 9 decreased and 7 remained at the same levels.
- Since February 2023, the number of youth claimants has increased by 4,765 (+9.5% compared to +7.9% for the UK). Within the Midlands Engine, 50 local authorities increased, 13 decreased and 2 remained the same levels (North West Leicestershire and Telford & Wrekin).
- Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 10,495 (+23.7% compared to 18.7% for the UK). There were 6 local authorities that were lower than March 2020 levels and a further 3 that were the same level.
- Overall, for the Midlands Engine area the number of youth claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 4.8% compared to 4.1% for the UK in February 2024.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 607 were at or above the UK average of 4.1% for the number of claimants as a percentage of the population aged 16–24 years and over in February 2024.
- The ward with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of the population was Handsworth (Birmingham) at 17.0%, followed by Joiner’s Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 15.5% and Portland (Mansfield) at 14.9%. In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 99 wards with no youth claimants in February 2024.

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



Ward claimant rate per population for 16-24

