

Midlands Engine Claimant Count – December 2024 Release¹

Key Points:

- There were 315,200 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in November 2024, a slight increase of 40 claimants since the previous month (+0.01%), 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 November 2024.
- There were 58,945 youth claimants in the Midlands Engine area in November 2024, an increase of 1,455 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 2.5% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 2.7%.
- 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 November 2024.

In Detail:

Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

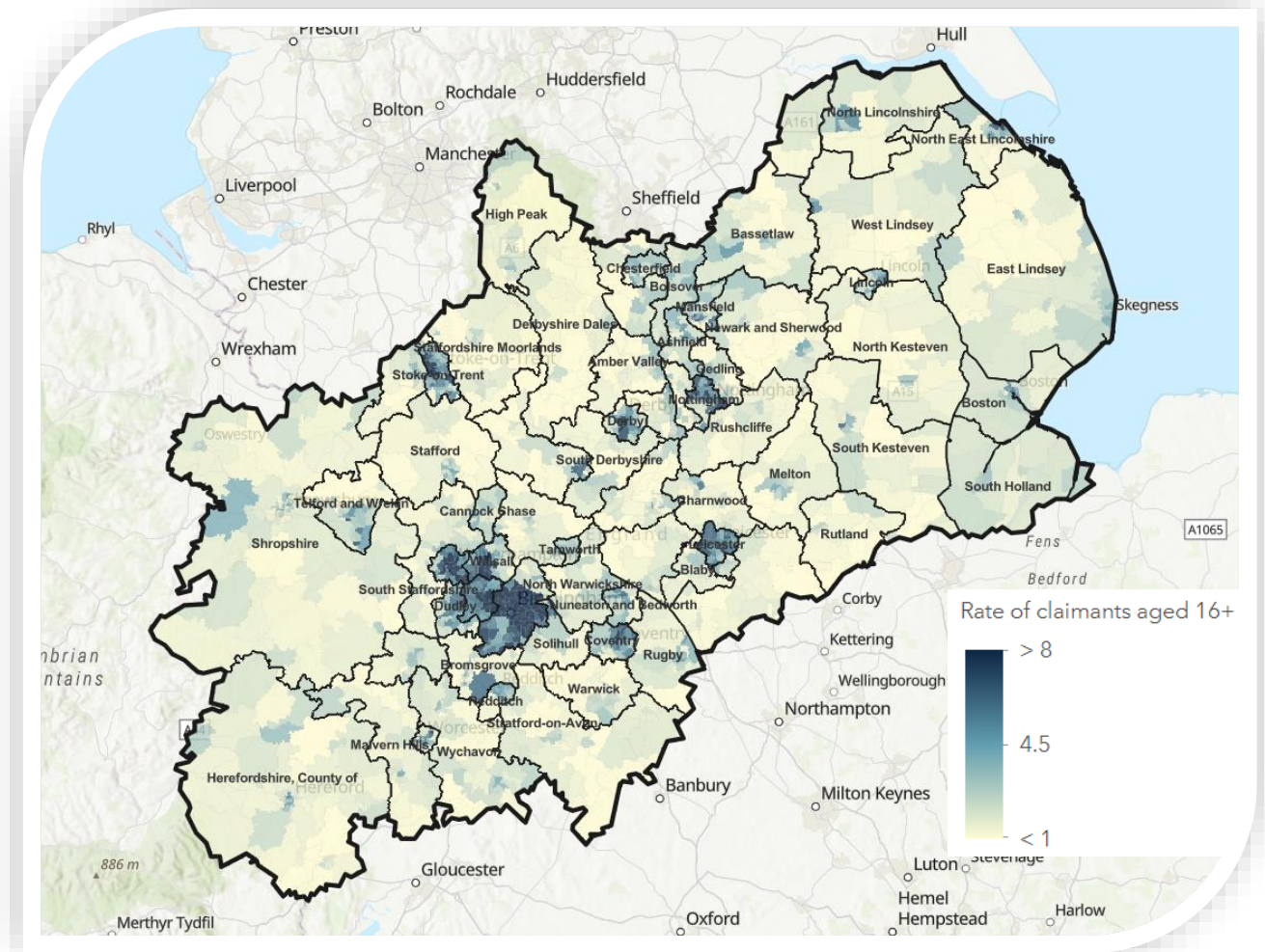
- There were 315,200 claimants aged 16 years and over in the Midlands Engine area in November 2024, a slight increase of 40 claimants since the previous month (+0.01%), while the UK increased by 0.2%. The latest monthly change shows across the Midlands Engine geography that 27 local authorities increased, 35 decreased and 3 remained the same.
- Since November 2023, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 46,800 (+17.4% compared to an increase of 14.4% for the UK). Within the Midlands Engine, Bassetlaw (-100) and North East Lincolnshire (-10) were the only local authorities to decrease.
- Since March 2020, the number of claimants in the Midlands Engine area has increased by 93,660 (+42.3% compared to +38.5% for the UK). East Lindsey (-620) and North East Lincolnshire (-165) 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 November 2024.

Ward Analysis – Claimants Aged 16 Years and Over

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 416 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 November 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 19.7% and Handsworth at 19.2%.
- 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 Biddulph Moor (Staffordshire Moorlands) at 0.3%.

¹ Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) based off Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Claimant Count, released December 2024. Please note, the previous month's figures have been revised. The UK Claimant Count for November 2024 increased on the month and on the year, to 1.757 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 November 2024 across the Midlands Engine:



Youth Claimants (Aged 16–24 Years Old)

- There were 58,945 youth claimants in the Midlands Engine area in November 2024, an increase of 1,455 youth claimants since the previous month. This equates to an increase of 2.5% for the Midlands Engine area, while the UK increased by 2.7%. The latest monthly change shows that within the Midlands Engine area, 45 local authorities increased, 11 decreased and 9 were unchanged.
- Since November 2023, the number of youth claimants has increased by 6,245 (+11.9% compared to +8.8% for the UK). Within the Midlands Engine, 58 local authorities increased, 4 decreased and 3 were unchanged.
- Since March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 14,750 (+33.4% compared to +25.4% 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 November 2024.

Ward Analysis – Youth Claimants

- Out of the 1,511 wards within the Midlands Engine, 658 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 November 2024.
- The ward with the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of the population was Handsworth (Birmingham) at 18.4%, followed by Birchfield (Birmingham) at 15.9% and Joiner’s Square (Stoke-on-Trent) at 15.5%.
- In contrast, within the Midlands Engine there were 89 wards with no youth claimants in November 2024.

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

