

West Midlands State of the Group Report

Published December 2025, data up to November 2025.

Please note: The new West Midlands Group is now formed of three Districts:

- *Birmingham and Solihull (comprises Birmingham and Solihull local authority areas)*
- *Black Country and Coventry (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Coventry)*
- *The Shires (Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire)*

Herefordshire and Shropshire have now moved outside of our West Midlands Group boundary.

If you have any queries or feedback about this report, please contact Ian Mitchell
ian.mitchell3@dwp.gov.uk

Contents

Level	Next Release	Page
West Midlands State of the Group Report December 2025 Headlines	20 th January 2026	3
Employment rate – West Midlands region	20 th January 2026	4
Employment rate – West Midlands Group	20 th January 2026	5
Employment rate – Local Authorities	20 th January 2026	6
Employment by sector – West Midlands Group	20 th January 2026	7
Unemployment rate – West Midlands region	20 th January 2026	8
Unemployment rate – West Midlands Group	20 th January 2026	9
Claimant Count – West Midlands Group	20 th January 2026	10
Claimant Count – Local Authorities	20 th January 2026	11
Claimant Count rates – Parliamentary constituencies	20 th January 2026	12
Age 18-24 Claimant Count	20 th January 2026	13
Age 18-24 Claimant Count – Local Authorities	20 th January 2026	14
Age 18-24 Claimant Count Hotspots	20 th January 2026	15
Age 50+ Claimant Count	20 th January 2026	16
Age 50+ Claimant Count – Local Authorities	20 th January 2026	17
Age 50+ Claimant Count Hotspots	20 th January 2026	18
Economic inactivity – West Midlands region	20 th January 2026	19
Economic inactivity – West Midlands Group	20 th January 2026	20
Economic inactivity by reason	20 th January 2026	21
Economic inactivity by reason	20 th January 2026	22
Health and Disability – Disabled Employment rates	20 th January 2026	23

Level	Next Release	Page
In Work Progression	20 th January 2026	24
Universal Credit with earnings - local authorities	20 th January 2026	25
In Work Progression – Birmingham & Solihull	20 th January 2026	26
In Work Progression – Black Country and Coventry	20 th January 2026	27
In Work Progression – The Shires	20 th January 2026	28
Universal Credit – all claims	20 th January 2026	29
Universal Credit – health conditions	12 th March 2026	30
Universal Credit – health conditions	12 th March 2026	31
Universal Credit – health conditions hotspots	12 th March 2026	32
Ethnic minority employment rates	20 th January 2026	33
Ethnic minority employment rates	20 th January 2026	34
Legacy Benefits	20 th January 2026	35
Legacy Benefits – Jobseeker’s Allowance	20 th January 2026	36
Legacy Benefits – Employment and Support Allowance	17 th February 2026	37
Legacy Benefits – Employment and Support Allowance	17 th February 2026	38
Skills	April 2026	39

West Midlands State of the Group Report December 2025 Headlines

- The headline labour market figures published on 16 December 2025 use 13 November 2025 as a reference point for the Claimant Count and Universal Credit registers.

Claimant Count

West Midlands Group Claimant Count rose by 0.7% (1,260) to **187,390** in November 2025 – the peak of 249,830 reached in February 2021 was the highest figure since 1993. At District level:

- Birmingham & Solihull rose by 0.5% to 81,585
- Black Country and Coventry rose by 0.8% to 60,070
- The Shires rose by 0.8% to 45,730

The Claimant Count in West Midlands Group is down 3.9% on this time last year and remains 39.0% higher than it was in March 2020.

The Claimant Count has fallen by 25.0% from its peak in February 2021.

Read more about the Claimant Count in main report [here](#).

Youth Unemployment

West Midlands Group Claimant Count for young people aged 18-24 rose by 2.6% (1,000) to **39,165** in November 2025. The September 2020 peak of 49,955 was the highest figure since 2011. At District level:

- Birmingham & Solihull rose by 2.5% to 16,835
- Black Country and Coventry rose by 2.8% to 12,750
- The Shires rose by 2.7% to 9,585

The 18-24 Claimant Count in West Midlands Group is up 10.0% on this time last year and remains 51.2% higher than it was in March 2020.

The 18-24 Claimant Count has fallen by 22.6% from its peak in September 2020.

Read more about Youth Unemployment in main report [here](#).

Unemployment aged 50+

[Return to contents](#)

West Midlands Group Claimant Count for those aged 50+ rose by 0.1% (45) to **38,985** in November 2025. The February 2021 peak of 58,760 was highest figure since comparable records began in 1985. At District level:

- Birmingham & Solihull fell by 0.1% to 16,400
- Black Country and Coventry rose by 0.8% to 12,620
- The Shires fell by 0.4% to 9,965

The 50+ Claimant Count in West Midlands Group is down by 9.3% on this time last year and remains 22.3% higher than it was in March 2020.

The 50+ Claimant Count has fallen by 33.7% from its peak in February 2021.

Read more about unemployment among the over 50s in the main report [here](#).

Employment Rates

The West Midlands region shows an employment rate for the period August to October 2025 of **73.6%**, up 0.2 percentage point from the previous quarter. The employment rate across the UK is 74.9%, down 0.3 percentage point from the previous quarter.

Read more about employment rates in main report [here](#).

Universal Credit

The total number of all Universal Credit claims in West Midlands Group rose by 1.9% (14,601) in November 2025 to **796,512**. At District level:

- Birmingham & Solihull rose by 2.0% to 270,793
- Black Country and Coventry rose by 1.7% to 275,523
- The Shires rose by 1.9% to 250,195

The Universal Credit register in West Midlands Group is more than double (178%) its level of March 2020.

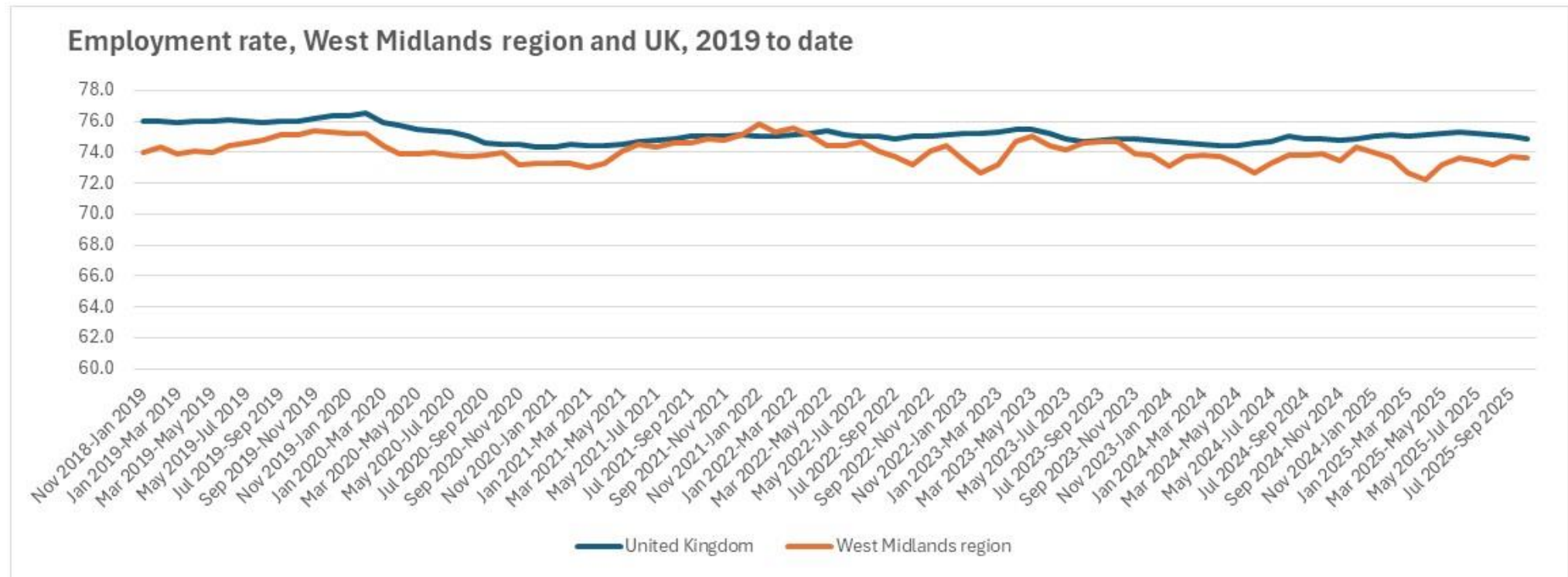
The Universal Credit register is now at its highest recorded level.

Read more about Universal Credit in main report [here](#).

Employment Rate – West Midlands region

- The latest data shows the employment rate for the West Midlands region is currently **73.6%** (August to October 2025).
- This equates to around 2,962,000 people in employment and is down 0.3 percentage point from this time last year.
- The employment rate has been steady in recent months after falling to a low of 72.2% in the quarter to April 2025. It is currently 1.3 percentage points behind the national rate. It is the 7th highest rate of the 12 UK regions. Across the UK the employment rate for the period August to October 2025 is **74.9%**, down 0.3 percentage point from the previous quarter.

[Return to contents](#)

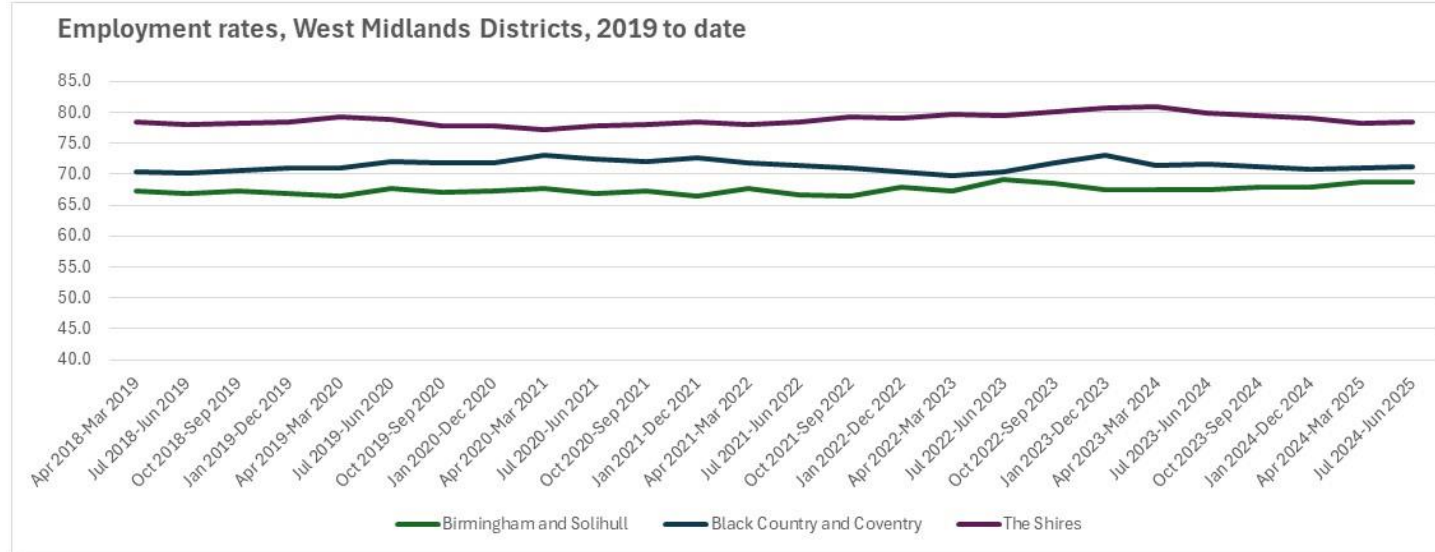


Employment Rate – West Midlands Group

- The employment rate for West Midlands Group is **73.6%** (Annual Population Survey July 2024 to June 2025).
- The new West Midlands Group differs from the West Midlands region in that Herefordshire and Shropshire are not included.
- This is up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter but down 0.4 percentage point from this time last year
- At District level, employment rates range from 68.8% in Birmingham & Solihull to 78.4% in The Shires.
- All Districts have maintained or improved their employment rates since the previous quarter.

[Return to contents](#)

Area	Jul 2023-Jun 2024			Apr 2024-Mar 2025			Jul 2024-Jun 2025		
	Working age in work	All working age	Employment rate (%)	Working age in work	All working age	Employment rate (%)	Working age in work	All working age	Employment rate (%)
Birmingham and Solihull	589,700	874,600	67.4	606,900	881,700	68.8	606,600	882,000	68.8
Black Country and Coventry	712,900	994,300	71.7	704,900	993,100	71.0	708,700	994,600	71.3
The Shires	1,100,800	1,377,700	79.9	1,082,300	1,382,100	78.3	1,085,100	1,383,800	78.4
West Midlands Group	2,403,400	3,246,600	74.0	2,394,100	3,256,900	73.5	2,400,300	3,260,400	73.6



Employment Rate – Local Authorities

- Employment rates among the local authorities within West Midlands Group range from 65.7% in Sandwell to 85.2% in Stratford-on-Avon (Annual Population Survey July 2024 to June 2025)
- The table below shows the employment rates for each local authority, and how they have changed from a year ago
- An additional 208,020 working age people would need to be in work if the Group were to achieve an employment rate of 80%
- This table shows this figure for each local authority – many in the Shires already have an employment rate of more than 80%.

Local authority	Jul 2023-Jun 2024	Jul 2024-Jun 2025				
	Employment rate (%)	Working age - in work	All working age	Employment rate (%)	How many in work to achieve 80%	Additional needed to achieve 80%
Stratford-on-Avon	81.3	59,200	69,400	85.2	55,520	-3,680
Cannock Chase	78.7	52,000	61,400	84.7	49,120	-2,880
East Staffordshire	82.7	59,300	70,200	84.5	56,160	-3,140
Warwick	86.0	71,900	85,300	84.3	68,240	-3,660
Rugby	82.3	55,300	67,900	81.5	54,320	-980
Bromsgrove	81.3	48,500	60,300	80.5	48,240	-260
Wyre Forest	91.5	48,000	60,300	79.7	48,240	240
South Staffordshire	71.7	55,100	69,300	79.6	55,440	340
Lichfield	77.5	46,800	58,900	79.4	47,120	320
Wychavon	75.3	58,300	74,000	78.7	59,200	900
Stafford	81.0	64,000	81,800	78.3	65,440	1,440
Nuneaton and Bedworth	78.3	61,900	79,700	77.7	63,760	1,860
Worcester	78.7	51,000	65,900	77.3	52,720	1,720
Solihull	77.4	97,700	126,800	77.0	101,440	3,740
Stoke-on-Trent	70.6	120,400	158,900	75.8	127,120	6,720
Tamworth	76.1	36,800	48,700	75.6	38,960	2,160
Dudley	76.7	143,700	191,400	75.1	153,120	9,420
Staffordshire Moorlands	79.2	43,600	58,000	75.1	46,400	2,800
Wolverhampton	64.6	122,900	163,600	75.1	130,880	7,980
Redditch	85.0	37,400	50,400	74.1	40,320	2,920
Malvern Hills	81.0	32,300	44,300	73.0	35,440	3,140
Walsall	75.0	126,000	175,400	71.8	140,320	14,320
North Warwickshire	70.7	27,600	38,700	71.2	30,960	3,360
Coventry	73.5	178,800	255,400	70.0	204,320	25,520
Newcastle-under-Lyme	94.7	55,700	80,400	69.3	64,320	8,620
Birmingham	65.7	508,900	755,200	67.4	604,160	95,260
Sandwell	67.6	137,300	208,900	65.7	167,120	29,820
West Midlands Group	74.0	2,400,300	3,260,400	73.6	2,608,320	208,020

[Return to contents](#)

Employment by sector - West Midlands Group

- Around 2.35 million people of working age are in employment across the West Midlands Group, a high figure by historical standards though slightly down on a year ago.
- Around one third of those work in public administration, education and health.
- The table below shows the sector breakdown and how it has changed over the past year and five years.
- Over the past five years, the largest growth has been in the public administration, education & health, and transport & communication sectors, although employment in the latter fell over the past year.
- Source: Annual Population Survey: Workplace Analysis, July 2024 to June 2025.

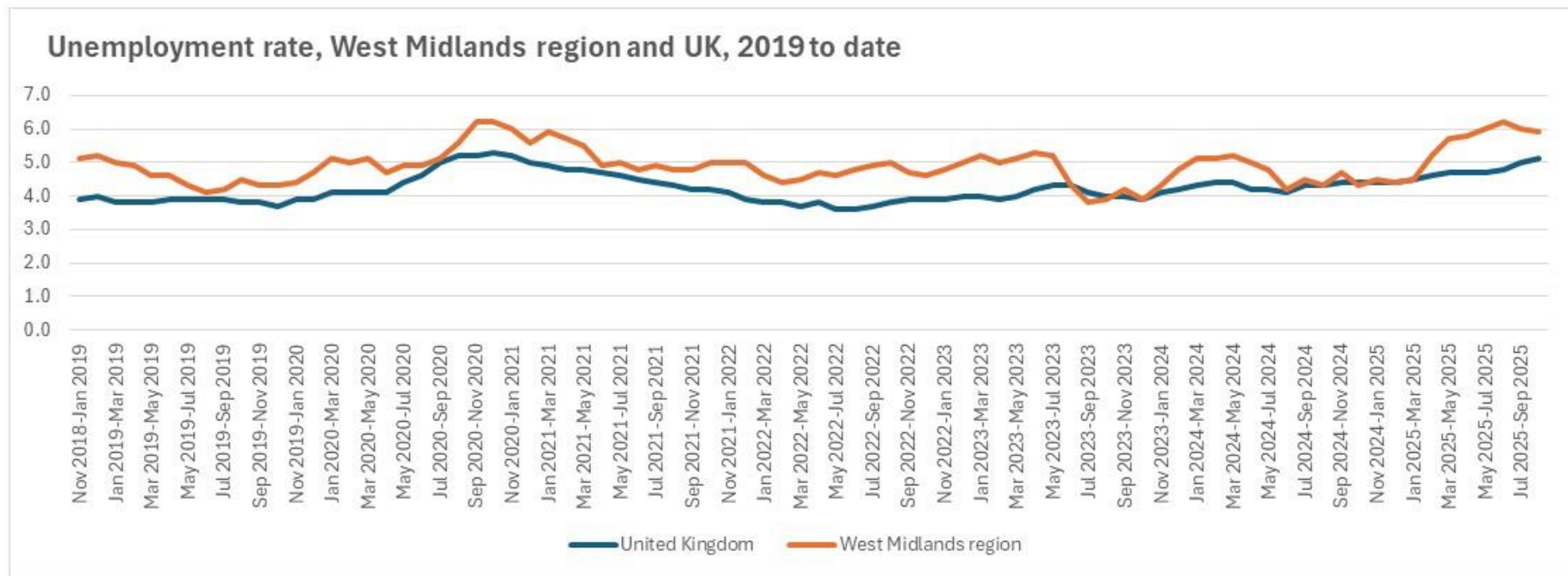
[Return to contents](#)

Cell	Jul 2019-Jun 2020		Jul 2023-Jun 2024		Jul 2024-Jun 2025		Change year	% Change year	Change 5 years	% Change 5 years
Agriculture & fishing	14,200	1%	5,300	0.2%	8,900	0.4%	3,600	68%	-5,300	-37%
Energy & water	40,500	2%	35,600	2%	31,000	1%	-4,600	-13%	-9,500	-23%
Manufacturing	281,100	12%	256,900	11%	251,600	11%	-5,300	-2%	-29,500	-10%
Construction	168,700	7%	176,800	7%	153,500	7%	-23,300	-13%	-15,200	-9%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	427,800	18%	369,700	16%	400,200	17%	30,500	8%	-27,600	-6%
Transport & Communication	205,500	9%	256,500	11%	227,000	10%	-29,500	-12%	21,500	10%
Banking finance & insurance etc.	341,800	15%	373,700	16%	362,500	15%	-11,200	-3%	20,700	6%
Public admin education & health	723,700	31%	785,700	33%	794,100	34%	8,400	1%	70,400	10%
Other services	120,100	5%	106,700	5%	125,000	5%	18,300	17%	4,900	4%
Total	2,323,400		2,366,900		2,353,800		-13,100	-1%	30,400	1%

Unemployment rate – West Midlands region

- Latest data shows that the unemployment rate across the West Midlands region is **5.9%** (August to October 2025). This is down 0.2 percentage point from the previous quarter and up 1.5 percentage points from this time last year. The recent trend has been upwards, but a fall was recorded in the latest quarter
- It equates to around 185,000 people
- The unemployment rate is the proportion of economically active people (i.e., those who are working or actively looking for work) who are not working
- The West Midlands has the third highest unemployment rate of the 12 UK regions behind London (6.8%) and Wales (6.1%)
- Across the UK the unemployment rate is 5.1%, up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter and 0.8 percentage points from a year ago.

[Return to contents](#)



Unemployment rate – West Midlands Group

- Across West Midlands Group the unemployment rate is **5.2%** (Annual Population Survey July 2024 to June 2025)
- Rates have risen in all three Districts compared to a year ago
- At District level, unemployment rates range from 3.3% in The Shires to 7.1% in the Birmingham and Solihull

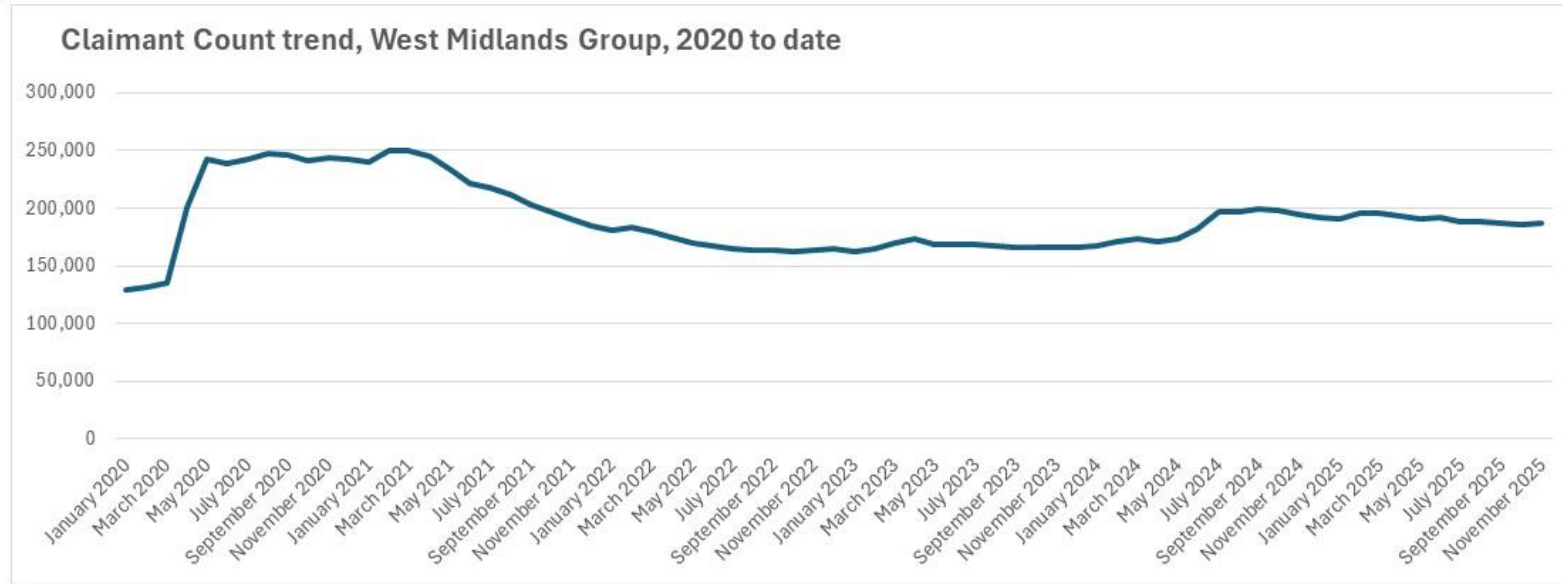
[Return to contents](#)

Area	Jul 2023-Jun 2024			Apr 2024-Mar 2025			Jul 2024-Jun 2025		
	Total unemployed	All economically active	Unemployment rate (%)	Total unemployed	All economically active	Unemployment rate (%)	Total unemployed	All economically active	Unemployment rate (%)
Birmingham and Solihull	39,500	648,300	6.1	45,900	676,200	6.8	47,700	676,300	7.1
Black Country and Coventry	43,000	778,600	5.5	44,700	773,800	5.8	49,600	783,000	6.3
The Shires	26,300	1,181,500	2.2	34,300	1,173,300	2.9	38,900	1,183,600	3.3
West Midlands Group	108,800	2,608,500	4.2	125,000	2,623,300	4.8	136,200	2,642,900	5.2

Claimant Count – West Midlands Group

- The Claimant Count in West Midlands Group is **187,390** (November 2025).
- These are people claiming Universal Credit who are required to look for work (intensive work search group) and those receiving Jobseeker’s Allowance
- The Claimant Count peaked in September last year following an increase earlier in the summer. This was fuelled in part by an increase in the Administrative Earnings Threshold in May 2024 (which moved more people into the intensive work search group for Universal Credit). There was a slow recovery from then, and the trend has been slowly downwards in recent months
- The Claimant Count remains well above pre-pandemic levels (39.0% higher than March 2020) but this is significantly linked to changes in eligibility and earnings thresholds: more people now fall within the intensive work search group for Universal Credit.

[Return to contents](#)



Area	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	change in month		change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha	change	%cha
Birmingham and Solihull	53,025	84,010	81,165	81,585	420	0.5	-2,425	-2.9	28,565	53.9
Black Country and Coventry	46,275	63,105	59,595	60,070	475	0.8	-3,035	-4.8	13,795	29.8
The Shires	35,505	47,795	45,365	45,730	365	0.8	-2,065	-4.3	10,230	28.8
West Midlands Group	134,800	194,910	186,125	187,390	1,260	0.7	-7,525	-3.9	52,585	39.0

Claimant Count – Local Authorities

- The table below shows the Claimant Count for local authorities in the West Midlands Group ranked by how far they have risen since the pandemic
- Stratford-on-Avon and Coventry have seen the largest % increase since March 2020 and Tamworth and Dudley the smallest
- Stratford-on-Avon has also seen the biggest % increase since this time last year – almost all other local authorities are down on last year’s total. Registers in Stratford are relatively low however so a small number of customers can make a big impact in percentage terms
- Much of the increase in Claimant Count levels since the pandemic can be attributed to changes in eligibility rules and earnings thresholds

[Return to contents](#)

Local Authority: district / unitary	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	change in month		change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha	change	%cha
Stratford-on-Avon	1,050	1,700	1,705	1,795	85	5.1	95	5.5	745	70.9
Coventry	8,000	13,515	13,375	13,455	80	0.6	-60	-0.5	5,455	68.2
Birmingham	49,370	79,325	76,540	76,875	335	0.4	-2,450	-3.1	27,505	55.7
East Staffordshire	1,720	2,805	2,630	2,660	30	1.1	-145	-5.2	935	54.4
Wychavon	1,320	2,245	2,030	2,015	-15	-0.8	-230	-10.3	695	52.7
Warwick	1,570	2,285	2,255	2,290	35	1.5	5	0.2	720	45.9
Sandwell	10,780	15,625	14,925	15,075	150	1.0	-550	-3.5	4,300	39.9
Bromsgrove	1,165	1,605	1,540	1,575	35	2.2	-30	-2.0	410	35.3
Redditch	1,535	2,155	2,040	2,080	40	1.9	-75	-3.5	540	35.3
Rugby	1,535	2,045	2,065	2,030	-35	-1.8	-20	-0.9	490	32.0
South Staffordshire	1,310	1,750	1,685	1,715	30	1.8	-35	-1.9	405	31.0
Worcester	1,780	2,595	2,325	2,315	-10	-0.5	-285	-10.9	530	29.9
Staffordshire Moorlands	920	1,230	1,195	1,190	-5	-0.4	-45	-3.5	270	29.4
Solihull	3,650	4,685	4,625	4,710	85	1.8	25	0.5	1,060	29.0
North Warwickshire	845	1,075	1,070	1,080	10	0.8	5	0.3	235	27.7
Nuneaton and Bedworth	2,830	3,455	3,605	3,560	-45	-1.2	105	3.0	730	25.8
Stoke-on-Trent	7,320	9,900	9,145	9,040	-110	-1.2	-860	-8.7	1,720	23.5
Stafford	1,655	2,110	1,955	2,040	85	4.4	-70	-3.3	385	23.3
Walsall	8,605	11,170	10,305	10,425	120	1.2	-745	-6.7	1,825	21.2
Wyre Forest	1,580	1,935	1,830	1,905	75	4.1	-35	-1.7	325	20.4
Cannock Chase	1,655	2,165	1,915	1,960	40	2.1	-205	-9.5	300	18.2
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,980	2,360	2,310	2,340	30	1.3	-20	-0.8	360	18.2
Malvern Hills	925	1,175	1,010	1,055	45	4.7	-120	-10.2	130	14.1
Wolverhampton	10,380	12,905	11,660	11,760	100	0.9	-1,145	-8.9	1,380	13.3
Lichfield	1,320	1,520	1,460	1,475	15	1.0	-45	-2.8	155	11.8
Dudley	8,515	9,885	9,330	9,350	20	0.2	-535	-5.4	835	9.8
Tamworth	1,490	1,680	1,590	1,625	35	2.3	-55	-3.2	140	9.3

Claimant Count rates – Parliamentary constituencies

- This table ranks parliamentary constituencies across the West Midlands region by Claimant Count rates (Claimant Count as a percentage of the working age population).
- In parts of Birmingham the rate is more than one in ten.
- As this is region-wide, Herefordshire and Shropshire constituencies appear in this table
- Birmingham holds seven of the top ten constituencies nationally with the highest Claimant Count rates including the top 6 places: Perry Barr is 1st (15.1%), Ladywood is 2nd (14.1%), Yardley is 3rd (11.5%), Hall Green & Moseley is 4th (11.2%), Erdington is 5th (10.7%), Hodge Hill & Solihull North is 6th (10.4%), and Edgbaston is joint 9th (9.2%). There are 650 constituencies nationally.

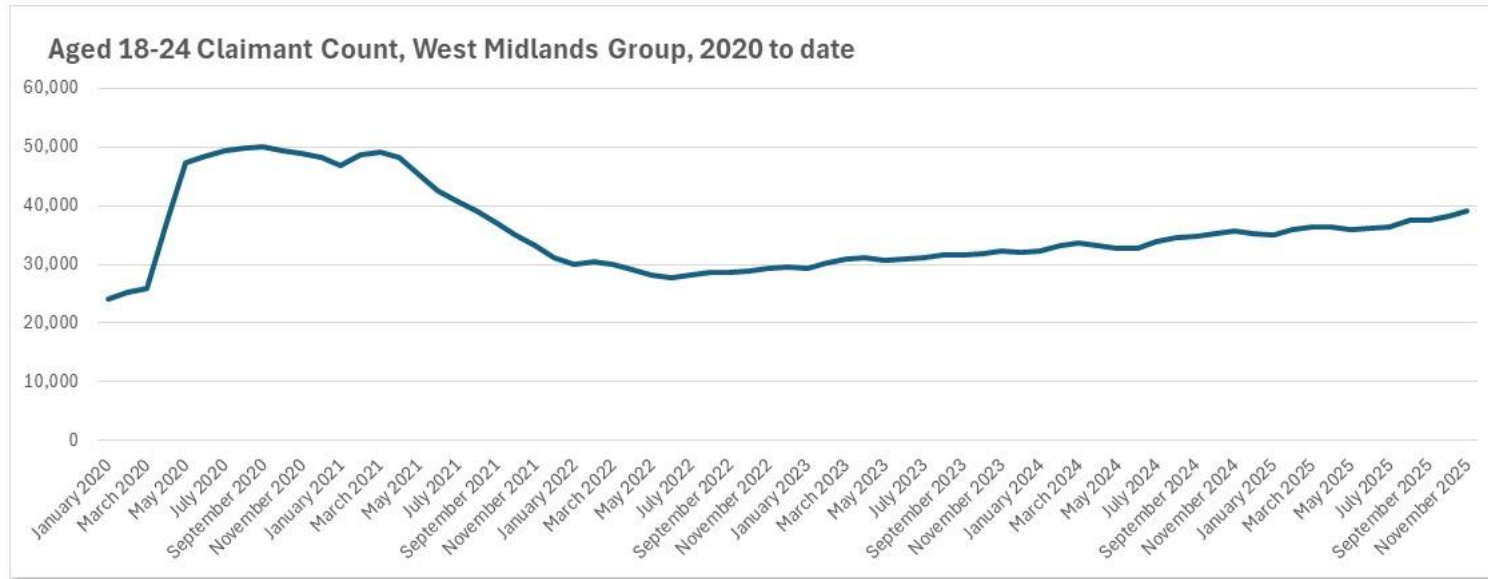
[Return to contents](#)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	November 2024		November 2025		Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	November 2024		November 2025	
	Claimant Count	Rate (%)	Claimant Count	Rate (%)		Claimant Count	Rate (%)	Claimant Count	Rate (%)
Birmingham Perry Barr	12,660	16.0	11,970	15.1	Stoke-on-Trent South	2,015	3.7	1,930	3.5
Birmingham Ladywood	15,515	14.5	15,020	14.1	Worcester	2,595	3.9	2,315	3.4
Birmingham Yardley	8,380	11.8	8,210	11.5	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,835	3.2	1,835	3.2
Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley	9,045	12.0	8,440	11.2	North Warwickshire and Bedworth	1,820	3.2	1,845	3.2
Birmingham Erdington	8,360	10.7	8,340	10.7	Wyre Forest	1,935	3.3	1,905	3.2
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	8,325	11.1	7,840	10.4	Cannock Chase	2,165	3.4	1,960	3.1
Birmingham Edgbaston	6,410	9.0	6,570	9.2	Tamworth	1,975	3.2	1,885	3.0
Walsall and Bloxwich	6,455	8.8	6,000	8.2	Rugby	1,990	2.9	1,975	2.9
Smethwick	5,795	7.9	5,635	7.7	Solihull West and Shirley	1,620	2.9	1,620	2.9
Birmingham Northfield	5,100	7.7	5,025	7.6	The Wrekin	2,020	3.0	1,945	2.9
Wolverhampton South East	5,930	7.9	5,565	7.4	Aldridge-Brownhills	1,770	3.2	1,580	2.8
Coventry East	5,640	7.5	5,475	7.3	Stafford	1,670	2.9	1,635	2.8
Wolverhampton West	5,365	7.6	4,835	6.8	Sutton Coldfield	1,540	2.7	1,570	2.8
West Bromwich	4,815	6.8	4,625	6.6	Bromsgrove	1,605	2.7	1,575	2.7
Tipton and Wednesbury	4,850	6.8	4,655	6.5	Droitwich and Evesham	1,815	3.0	1,630	2.7
Wolverhampton North East	4,560	7.1	4,210	6.5	Hereford and South Herefordshire	1,735	3.0	1,590	2.7
Birmingham Selly Oak	4,750	6.5	4,625	6.3	Kingswinford and South Staffordshire	1,420	2.8	1,350	2.7
Stoke-on-Trent Central	4,985	6.8	4,595	6.3	Warwick and Leamington	1,905	2.7	1,880	2.7
Dudley	3,860	6.2	3,695	5.9	North Shropshire	1,660	2.8	1,535	2.6
Coventry North West	3,570	5.2	3,585	5.3	Shrewsbury	1,655	2.7	1,510	2.5
Coventry South	4,305	5.2	4,400	5.3	North Herefordshire	1,340	2.6	1,230	2.4
Stoke-on-Trent North	3,595	5.9	3,190	5.2	West Worcestershire	1,455	2.6	1,305	2.4
Stourbridge	2,920	5.1	2,710	4.8	Lichfield	1,325	2.3	1,320	2.3
Telford	2,945	4.5	3,015	4.6	Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge	1,250	2.2	1,280	2.3
Halesowen	2,710	4.7	2,535	4.4	Stratford-on-Avon	1,200	2.2	1,295	2.3
Nuneaton	2,630	4.2	2,695	4.3	South Shropshire	1,315	2.5	1,145	2.2
Meriden and Solihull East	2,310	3.9	2,355	4.0	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,140	2.3	1,085	2.2
Burton and Uttoxeter	2,705	3.8	2,560	3.6	Kenilworth and Southam	1,020	1.8	1,055	1.9
Redditch	2,305	3.8	2,210	3.6					

Age 18-24 Claimant Count

- The trend graph below shows the age 18-24 Claimant Count across West Midlands Group since 2019
- There has been a slow upward trend over the past couple of years though is now stabilising
- The in-year rise was greater in Birmingham and Solihull compared to the Black Country and Coventry and the Shires.
- The age 18-24 Claimant Count in West Midlands Group is currently **39,165** (November 2025), up from 35,595 this time last year.

[Return to contents](#)



Area	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	change in month		change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha	change	%cha
Birmingham and Solihull	9,930	14,945	16,430	16,835	405	2.5	1,890	12.7	6,905	69.6
Black Country and Coventry	9,230	11,800	12,405	12,750	340	2.8	950	8.0	3,520	38.1
The Shires	6,750	8,850	9,330	9,585	255	2.7	730	8.3	2,830	41.9
West Midlands Group	25,910	35,595	38,165	39,165	1,000	2.6	3,570	10.0	13,255	51.2

Age 18-24 Claimant Count - Local Authorities

- This table shows the age 18-24 Claimant Count by Local Authority ranked by how much they have risen since the pandemic.
- Although Claimant Count levels generally have risen since the pandemic due to changes in eligibility rules and earnings thresholds, Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon have seen the largest % increases since then (though overall volumes are low). Malvern Hills and Dudley have seen the smallest increases.
- Stratford-on-Avon has seen the largest proportional increase over the past year

[Return to contents](#)

Local Authority: district / unitary	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	change in month		change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha	change	%cha
Warwick	230	380	425	435	10	2.8	55	14.7	210	91.7
Stratford-on-Avon	160	230	280	300	20	6.4	70	29.9	140	89.9
Coventry	1,535	2,380	2,625	2,690	65	2.6	310	13.1	1,155	75.1
Birmingham	9,105	14,005	15,375	15,725	355	2.3	1,720	12.3	6,625	72.7
Rugby	235	340	385	390	5	1.6	50	14.7	155	66.4
South Staffordshire	250	350	410	410	0	-0.5	60	17.8	160	64.0
Redditch	310	410	475	495	20	4.0	85	20.5	185	59.0
Wychavon	260	380	415	405	-5	-1.7	25	7.1	145	56.8
East Staffordshire	320	455	455	485	25	5.9	25	5.9	165	51.7
Nuneaton and Bedworth	555	705	840	835	-5	-0.6	130	18.6	280	50.9
Sandwell	2,115	2,840	3,095	3,155	60	2.0	315	11.1	1,040	49.3
North Warwickshire	160	205	225	235	10	4.0	25	12.6	70	44.7
Worcester	320	470	450	460	10	2.0	-10	-1.7	140	44.5
Staffordshire Moorlands	175	200	225	245	25	10.3	45	23.5	70	39.5
Stafford	315	410	410	435	25	5.6	25	5.6	120	37.7
Bromsgrove	215	295	285	295	10	3.5	0	0.0	80	36.4
Solihull	825	940	1,055	1,110	50	4.8	170	18.1	285	34.5
Newcastle-under-Lyme	425	520	540	560	20	3.7	45	8.3	140	32.5
Tamworth	295	380	375	390	15	4.3	10	2.6	95	31.4
Stoke-on-Trent	1,405	1,820	1,835	1,835	0	0.1	15	0.9	430	30.8
Walsall	1,915	2,320	2,325	2,440	115	4.9	120	5.1	520	27.2
Cannock Chase	365	450	440	455	15	3.9	5	1.6	90	24.9
Wyre Forest	310	350	370	390	20	4.9	35	10.5	75	24.7
Wolverhampton	1,910	2,360	2,320	2,380	60	2.7	20	0.8	470	24.5
Lichfield	270	295	300	325	30	9.4	35	11.6	60	22.0
Dudley	1,750	1,900	2,045	2,080	40	1.9	185	9.7	335	19.0
Malvern Hills	180	205	180	195	15	7.1	-10	-5.3	15	8.3

Age 18-24 Claimant Count - Hotspots

- As parliamentary constituencies are of broadly similar population sizes, youth unemployment hotspots can be identified by ranking them by their age 18-24 Claimant Count registers
- The table below shows the constituencies within the West Midlands region ranked by their age 18-24 Claimant Count registers (as this table is region-wide, Herefordshire and Shropshire constituencies appear) and compared to a year ago.
- The largest registers are concentrated in the Birmingham area

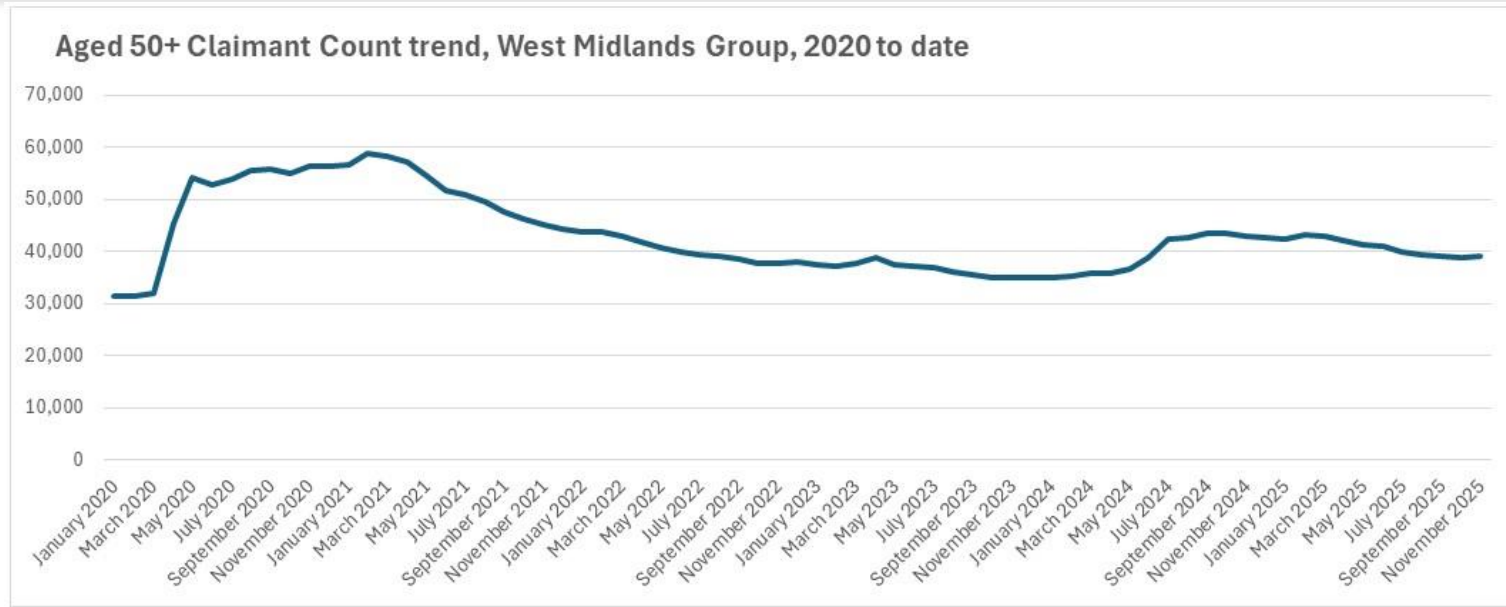
[Return to contents](#)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	November 2024	November 2025	change		Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	November 2024	November 2025	change	
	number	number	change	%cha		number	number	change	%cha
Birmingham Ladywood	2,470	2,790	320	13.0	Worcester	470	460	-10	-1.7
Birmingham Perry Barr	2,080	2,235	155	7.5	Cannock Chase	450	455	5	1.6
Birmingham Erdington	1,640	1,810	175	10.6	Stoke-on-Trent South	365	455	90	24.1
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	1,505	1,810	305	20.1	Newcastle-under-Lyme	415	450	40	9.2
Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley	1,560	1,710	145	9.4	Tamworth	440	445	5	1.1
Birmingham Yardley	1,430	1,695	265	18.7	North Warwickshire and Bedworth	375	435	55	15.1
Walsall and Bloxwich	1,315	1,340	25	1.9	The Wrekin	370	420	45	12.7
Wolverhampton South East	1,140	1,265	125	10.8	Aldridge-Brownhills	405	395	-10	-2.5
Birmingham Edgbaston	1,120	1,260	140	12.3	Wyre Forest	350	390	35	10.5
Birmingham Northfield	1,075	1,180	105	9.8	Rugby	330	380	50	14.8
Smethwick	980	1,120	140	14.3	Warwick and Leamington	320	360	40	11.8
Birmingham Selly Oak	980	1,085	100	10.4	Solihull West and Shirley	295	355	55	18.9
Coventry East	945	1,060	115	12.4	Stafford	335	345	5	2.1
Tipton and Wednesbury	980	1,040	60	6.2	Sutton Coldfield	305	340	35	11.1
Wolverhampton North East	920	955	40	4.2	Hereford and South Herefordshire	300	330	30	10.3
West Bromwich	865	950	80	9.5	Droitwich and Evesham	300	320	25	7.7
Stoke-on-Trent Central	940	915	-20	-2.3	Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge	250	315	65	27.0
Coventry South	815	895	80	9.9	North Shropshire	295	310	20	6.1
Dudley	785	880	95	11.8	Shrewsbury	345	310	-35	-10.1
Wolverhampton West	900	860	-40	-4.4	Kingswinford and South Staffordshire	295	305	10	3.4
Telford	650	750	100	15.4	Bromsgrove	295	295	0	0.0
Coventry North West	620	735	115	18.4	Lichfield	250	285	35	13.9
Stoke-on-Trent North	650	625	-25	-4.2	West Worcestershire	260	245	-10	-4.7
Nuneaton	525	620	95	17.9	South Shropshire	205	225	20	8.7
Stourbridge	530	570	40	7.4	Staffordshire Moorlands	190	220	30	14.7
Meriden and Solihull East	475	565	90	18.9	Stratford-on-Avon	155	215	60	40.0
Halesowen	460	550	90	19.1	North Herefordshire	180	205	25	13.3
Redditch	440	525	90	20.3	Kenilworth and Southam	155	190	30	20.5
Burton and Uttoxeter	440	470	30	7.0					

Age 50+ Claimant Count

- There was a notable increase in the Claimant Count for the over 50s in summer last year: this is mainly attributed to an increase in the Administrative Earnings Threshold in May 2024 (that moved more people into the intensive work search group for Universal Credit). The trend has been downwards in recent months.
- It is down 9.3% from this time last year.
- The graph below shows the age 50+ Claimant Count trend from 2020.
- The Claimant Count for the over 50s in West Midlands Group is currently **38,985** (November 2025), down from 42,985 this time last year.

[Return to contents](#)



Area	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	change in month		change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha	change	%cha
Birmingham and Solihull	12,340	18,285	16,415	16,400	-15	-0.1	-1,880	-10.3	4,065	32.9
Black Country and Coventry	10,680	13,745	12,520	12,620	100	0.8	-1,125	-8.2	1,940	18.2
The Shires	8,845	10,955	10,005	9,965	-40	-0.4	-990	-9.1	1,120	12.6
West Midlands Group	31,865	42,985	38,940	38,985	45	0.1	-4,000	-9.3	7,120	22.3

Age 50+ Claimant Count – Local Authorities

- This table shows the age 50+ Claimant Count by Local Authority ranked by how much they have changed since the pandemic.
- Although Claimant Count levels generally have risen since the pandemic due to changes in eligibility rules and earnings thresholds, Coventry and Stratford-on-Avon have seen the largest % increases. Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tamworth and Dudley have seen a decrease.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth is the only local authority that has not seen a decrease from this time last year.

[Return to contents](#)

Local Authority: district / unitary	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	change in month		change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha	change	%cha
Coventry	1,750	2,820	2,635	2,680	45	1.6	-140	-5.0	930	53.0
Stratford-on-Avon	320	485	450	485	30	7.1	-5	-0.6	160	50.5
Solihull	805	1,125	1,060	1,080	20	1.8	-45	-4.2	275	34.3
Birmingham	11,535	17,155	15,355	15,320	-35	-0.2	-1,835	-10.7	3,785	32.8
Wychavon	375	570	470	475	5	1.1	-100	-17.3	95	25.8
Rugby	375	530	490	470	-20	-4.1	-60	-11.7	95	25.7
Sandwell	2,550	3,425	3,155	3,200	45	1.5	-225	-6.5	655	25.6
Wyre Forest	385	495	445	470	25	5.2	-25	-5.1	80	20.9
Bromsgrove	315	405	375	380	5	1.3	-25	-6.7	65	20.8
East Staffordshire	455	605	560	550	-10	-2.0	-55	-9.4	95	20.7
Worcester	455	605	550	545	-10	-1.6	-60	-10.1	90	19.3
Warwick	450	575	515	535	20	3.5	-40	-7.3	85	18.9
Nuneaton and Bedworth	625	705	750	720	-30	-4.0	20	2.6	100	15.9
Stafford	425	515	445	475	30	7.0	-40	-7.4	50	12.0
Walsall	1,905	2,370	2,115	2,125	10	0.5	-245	-10.3	220	11.6
Wolverhampton	2,390	2,925	2,580	2,595	10	0.4	-335	-11.4	205	8.5
Staffordshire Moorlands	265	315	315	290	-25	-8.3	-25	-8.3	20	7.9
Malvern Hills	295	325	305	315	10	4.0	-10	-3.4	20	7.5
Redditch	380	445	420	410	-10	-2.1	-35	-8.1	30	7.3
Stoke-on-Trent	1,550	1,895	1,690	1,650	-40	-2.4	-250	-13.1	100	6.3
South Staffordshire	390	450	395	415	20	4.6	-40	-8.4	25	6.2
North Warwickshire	230	270	245	240	-5	-1.6	-30	-10.8	10	5.3
Cannock Chase	410	485	425	420	-5	-0.9	-65	-13.8	10	2.4
Lichfield	345	385	365	350	-15	-3.9	-35	-9.4	5	0.9
Newcastle-under-Lyme	475	530	485	465	-20	-4.1	-65	-12.6	-10	-1.7
Tamworth	330	360	320	320	0	0.6	-40	-10.6	-10	-3.0
Dudley	2,090	2,205	2,035	2,025	-10	-0.4	-185	-8.3	-65	-3.1

Age 50+ Claimant Count – Hotspots

- As parliamentary constituencies are of broadly similar population sizes, age 50+ unemployment hotspots can be identified by ranking them by their age 50+ Claimant Count registers.
- The table below shows the constituencies within the West Midlands region ranked by their age 50+ Claimant Count registers (as this table is region-wide, Herefordshire and Shropshire constituencies appear) and how they compare to a year ago.
- The largest registers are concentrated in the Birmingham area

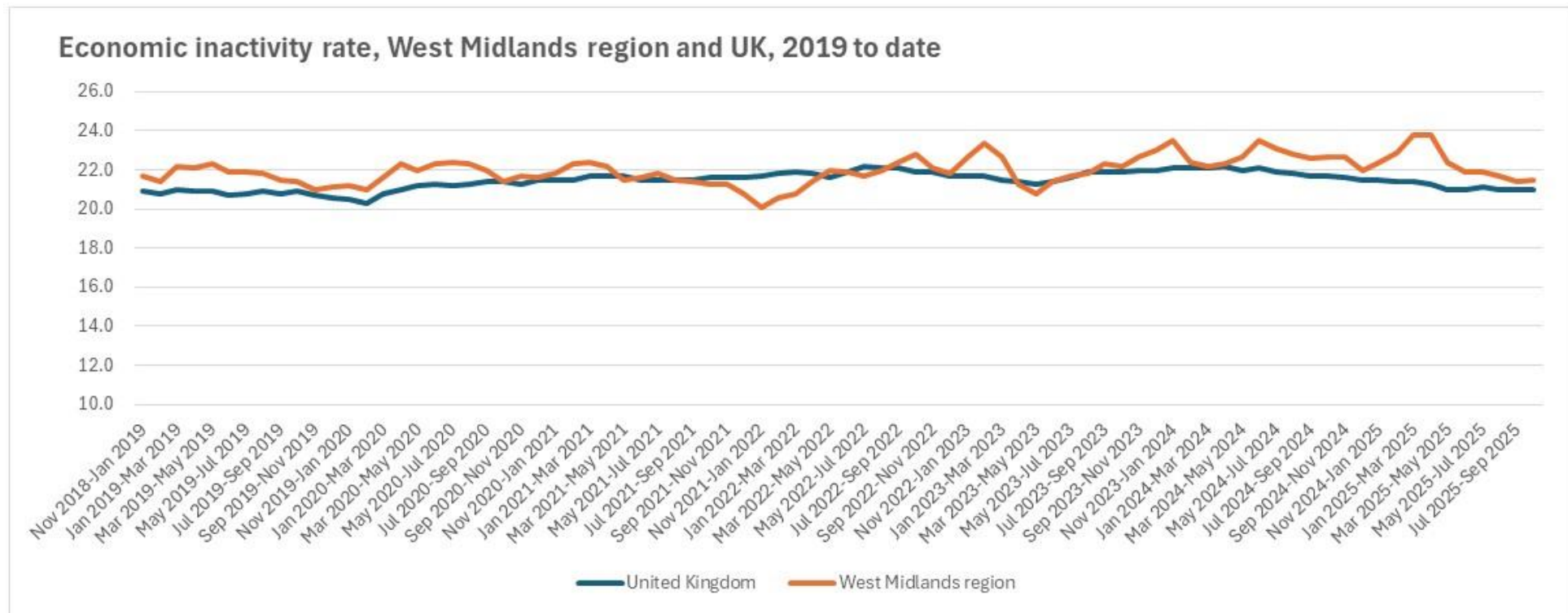
[Return to contents](#)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (July 2024)	November 2024	November 2025	change		Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (July 2024)	November 2024	November 2025	change	
	number	number	change	%cha		number	number	change	%cha
Birmingham Ladywood	3,335	3,000	-340	-10.1	Wyre Forest	495	470	-25	-5.1
Birmingham Perry Barr	2,900	2,565	-335	-11.6	Rugby	520	465	-55	-10.4
Birmingham Yardley	1,855	1,670	-185	-10.1	Redditch	490	445	-45	-9.4
Birmingham Erdington	1,700	1,600	-100	-6.0	Hereford and South Herefordshire	460	440	-20	-4.6
Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley	1,995	1,590	-405	-20.2	Cannock Chase	485	420	-65	-13.8
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	1,790	1,550	-235	-13.2	Warwick and Leamington	465	420	-45	-9.5
Birmingham Edgbaston	1,375	1,295	-80	-5.7	The Wrekin	445	410	-35	-8.3
Smethwick	1,320	1,230	-90	-6.9	Solihull West and Shirley	420	400	-20	-5.2
Wolverhampton South East	1,345	1,210	-135	-10.0	North Shropshire	435	395	-45	-9.9
Walsall and Bloxwich	1,320	1,190	-130	-9.9	North Warwickshire and Bedworth	400	385	-10	-3.0
Coventry East	1,170	1,140	-30	-2.6	Bromsgrove	405	380	-25	-6.7
Wolverhampton West	1,235	1,090	-145	-11.8	Droitwich and Evesham	460	375	-85	-18.4
Birmingham Northfield	1,050	1,020	-30	-2.9	Tamworth	425	375	-50	-12.2
West Bromwich	1,015	985	-30	-2.9	West Worcestershire	390	375	-15	-3.8
Tipton and Wednesbury	1,070	965	-100	-9.5	Stafford	395	370	-25	-6.5
Wolverhampton North East	955	870	-85	-9.1	North Herefordshire	455	365	-90	-19.6
Stoke-on-Trent Central	950	850	-100	-10.6	Stoke-on-Trent South	420	365	-55	-13.1
Birmingham Selly Oak	920	820	-95	-10.5	Sutton Coldfield	395	365	-30	-7.8
Coventry South	830	815	-15	-1.7	Aldridge-Brownhills	440	360	-80	-18.4
Dudley	845	770	-75	-8.9	Newcastle-under-Lyme	410	355	-60	-14.1
Coventry North West	820	725	-95	-11.8	Shrewsbury	385	350	-35	-9.4
Stourbridge	660	605	-55	-8.5	Stratford-on-Avon	335	345	10	3.0
Stoke-on-Trent North	690	585	-105	-15.4	South Shropshire	420	340	-80	-18.6
Telford	560	570	10	1.6	Kingswinford and South Staffordshire	380	335	-45	-11.6
Nuneaton	555	555	0	0.0	Lichfield	355	325	-25	-7.6
Worcester	605	545	-60	-10.1	Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge	320	300	-20	-6.5
Halesowen	580	540	-40	-6.9	Kenilworth and Southam	295	280	-20	-6.1
Meriden and Solihull East	545	525	-20	-3.5	Staffordshire Moorlands	280	260	-20	-6.8
Burton and Uttoxeter	570	515	-50	-9.1					

Economic inactivity – West Midlands region

- The latest data shows the economic inactivity rate across the West Midlands region currently at **21.5%** (August to October 2025): this is the percentage of working-age people who are out of work and not looking for work. This can be for a variety of reasons e.g., sickness or disability, education or training, caring responsibilities etc. It equates to around 820,000 people of working age.
- It has fallen by 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter and by 1.1 percentage points from a year ago. The recent trend is one of improvement.
- The region has the 7th highest inactivity rate of the 12 regions and is above the UK figure of 21.0%.
- The graph below shows the trend since 2019 and how it compares to the whole of the UK.

[Return to contents](#)



Economic inactivity – West Midlands Group

- Economic inactivity has fallen across all Districts in West Midlands Group since the last quarter.
- At District level, economic inactivity rates range from 18.9% in The Shires to 25.9% in Birmingham and Solihull (Annual Population Survey, July 2024 to June 2025).

[Return to contents](#)

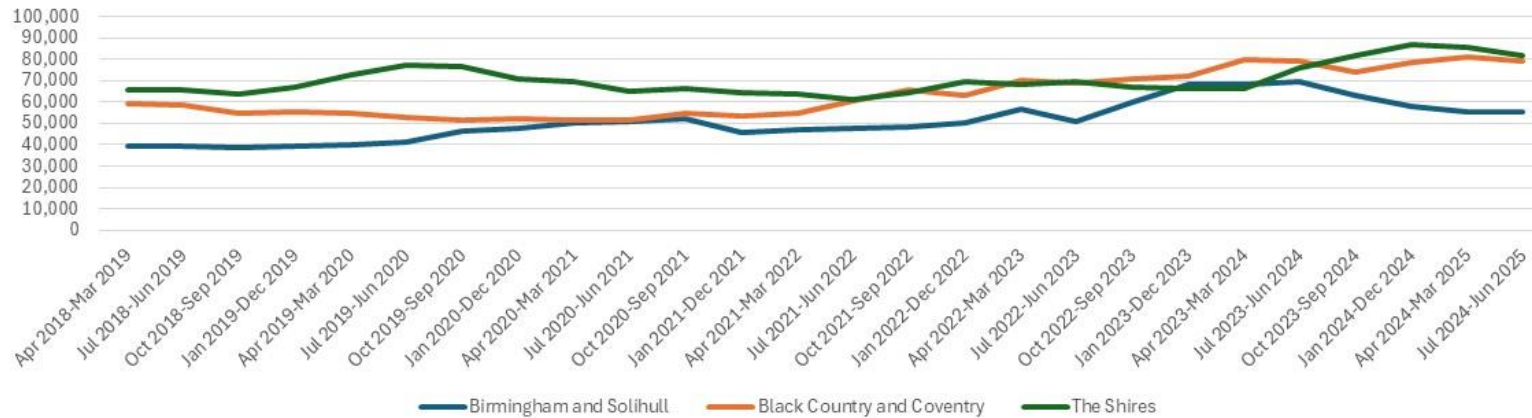
Area	Jul 2023-Jun 2024			Apr 2024-Mar 2025			Jul 2024-Jun 2025		
	Economically inactive - working age	All working age	Economic inactivity rate (%)	Economically inactive - working age	All working age	Economic inactivity rate (%)	Economically inactive - working age	All working age	Economic inactivity rate (%)
Birmingham and Solihull	245,600	874,600	28.1	229,600	881,700	26.0	228,500	882,000	25.9
Black Country and Coventry	239,000	994,300	24.0	244,900	993,100	24.7	238,000	994,600	23.9
The Shires	251,900	1,377,700	18.3	266,400	1,382,100	19.3	261,200	1,383,800	18.9
West Midlands Group	736,500	3,246,600	22.7	740,900	3,256,900	22.7	727,600	3,260,400	22.3

Economic inactivity by reason

- Economic inactivity rates due to long-term health conditions had been rising since the pandemic – however the trend now seems to be downwards.
- There are around **216,400** working age people in West Midlands Group who are economically inactive due to long-term health conditions or disabilities. This level has been slowly reducing over the last 12 months. This downward trend has been stronger in Birmingham & Solihull.
- This compares to a Claimant Count of around 191,000 (economically active). Many of these people will be claiming Employment and Support Allowance (see Legacy Benefits) or will fall within the ‘no work requirements’ group for Universal Credit.

[Return to contents](#)

Economically inactive due to long-term sickness (volumes), West Midlands Districts, 2019 to date



Area	Jul 2023-Jun 2024			Apr 2024-Mar 2025			Jul 2024-Jun 2025		
	Economically inactive due to long-term sickness	All economically inactive	Long-term sickness as % of all inactivity	Economically inactive due to long-term sickness	All economically inactive	Long-term sickness as % of all inactivity	Economically inactive due to long-term sickness	All economically inactive	Long-term sickness as % of all inactivity
Birmingham and Solihull	69,500	245,600	28.3	55,200	229,600	24.1	55,300	228,500	24.2
Black Country and Coventry	79,500	239,000	33.3	81,200	244,900	33.2	79,200	238,000	33.3
The Shires	76,200	251,900	30.2	86,000	266,400	32.3	81,900	261,200	31.4
West Midlands Group	225,200	736,500	30.6	222,400	740,900	30.0	216,400	727,600	29.7

Economic inactivity by reason

- The table below shows the quarterly trend of those who are economically inactive because they are a) students, b) have caring responsibilities and c) long-term sickness across the West Midlands Group.

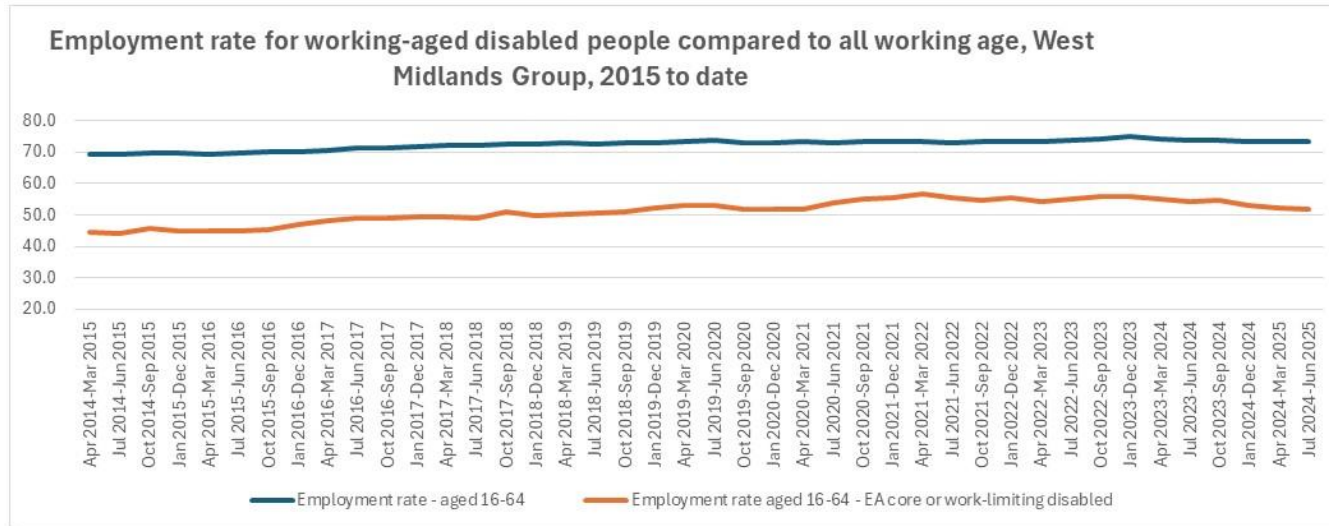
[Return to contents](#)

Date	% of economically inactive student			% of economically inactive looking after family/home			% of economically inactive long-term sick		
	Economically inactive - students	All economically inactive	Students as % of all inactive	Economically inactive - carers	All economically inactive	Carers as % of all inactive	Economically inactive - long-term sick	All economically inactive	Long-term sick as % of all inactive
Apr 2017-Mar 2018	224,600	762,900	29.4	185,900	762,900	24.4	156,200	762,900	20.5
Jul 2017-Jun 2018	223,600	766,900	29.2	188,400	766,900	24.6	161,000	766,900	21.0
Oct 2017-Sep 2018	228,400	758,200	30.1	181,700	758,200	24.0	164,400	758,200	21.7
Jan 2018-Dec 2018	216,100	753,900	28.7	185,900	753,900	24.7	166,700	753,900	22.1
Apr 2018-Mar 2019	213,600	741,400	28.8	191,200	741,400	25.8	164,400	741,400	22.2
Jul 2018-Jun 2019	220,300	750,400	29.4	195,800	750,400	26.1	163,200	750,400	21.7
Oct 2018-Sep 2019	216,900	745,000	29.1	196,300	745,000	26.3	156,800	745,000	21.0
Jan 2019-Dec 2019	216,300	735,500	29.4	188,800	735,500	25.7	162,000	735,500	22.0
Apr 2019-Mar 2020	213,000	726,600	29.3	186,500	726,600	25.7	167,300	726,600	23.0
Jul 2019-Jun 2020	202,100	717,700	28.2	175,000	717,700	24.4	171,100	717,700	23.8
Oct 2019-Sep 2020	205,000	727,300	28.2	176,200	727,300	24.2	174,200	727,300	23.9
Jan 2020-Dec 2020	207,200	722,600	28.7	170,500	722,600	23.6	170,700	722,600	23.6
Apr 2020-Mar 2021	202,100	709,800	28.5	166,300	709,800	22.0	171,700	709,800	24.2
Jul 2020-Jun 2021	213,000	713,700	29.8	151,200	713,700	21.2	167,200	713,700	23.4
Oct 2020-Sep 2021	217,400	721,000	30.2	151,800	721,000	21.0	173,000	721,000	24.0
Jan 2021-Dec 2021	226,700	720,700	31.5	151,800	720,700	21.1	163,500	720,700	22.7
Apr 2021-Mar 2022	224,800	728,000	30.9	156,700	728,000	21.5	165,700	728,000	22.8
Jul 2021-Jun 2022	225,300	736,900	30.6	168,100	736,900	22.8	168,900	736,900	22.9
Oct 2021-Sep 2022	210,600	733,600	28.7	167,500	733,600	22.8	178,600	733,600	24.4
Jan 2022-Dec 2022	205,600	736,600	27.9	166,100	736,600	22.6	183,800	736,600	25.0
Apr 2022-Mar 2023	198,800	736,600	27.0	167,700	736,600	22.8	195,200	736,600	26.5
Jul 2022-Jun 2023	196,000	717,000	27.3	162,000	717,000	22.6	189,900	717,000	26.5
Oct 2022-Sep 2023	195,000	705,900	27.6	151,200	705,900	21.4	197,300	705,900	28.0
Jan 2023-Dec 2023	178,000	696,500	25.6	157,400	696,500	22.6	206,700	696,500	29.7
Apr 2023-Mar 2024	202,500	725,500	27.9	158,200	725,500	21.8	215,200	725,500	29.7
Jul 2023-Jun 2024	203,800	736,500	27.7	165,900	736,500	22.5	225,200	736,500	30.6
Oct 2023-Sep 2024	197,200	738,300	26.7	168,100	738,300	22.8	219,400	738,300	29.7
Jan 2024-Dec 2024	206,500	741,000	27.9	159,900	741,000	21.6	223,800	741,000	30.2
Apr 2024-Mar 2025	190,300	740,900	25.7	164,200	740,900	22.2	222,400	740,900	30.0
Jul 2024-Jun 2025	192,400	727,600	26.4	153,700	727,600	21.1	216,400	727,600	29.7

Health and Disability: Disabled Employment Rates

- The employment rate for disabled people of working age in West Midlands Group is currently **51.8%** (Annual Population Survey July 2024 to June 2025).
- This compares to a rate of 73.6% for all working age people.
- The graph below shows the trend for both rates since 2015 –progress has been made in reducing the gap from around 25% ten years ago to around 21% today, though progress has stalled since the pandemic. The trend over the past year is downwards although Birmingham and Solihull is bucking this trend (up from 43.4% to 53.0%)
- The current employment rate for working age disabled people of 51.8% is down from 54.2% this time last and 52.9% five years ago.
- For more information about the health and disability agenda, please see the sections on economic inactivity and legacy benefits (Employment and Support Allowance).

[Return to contents](#)

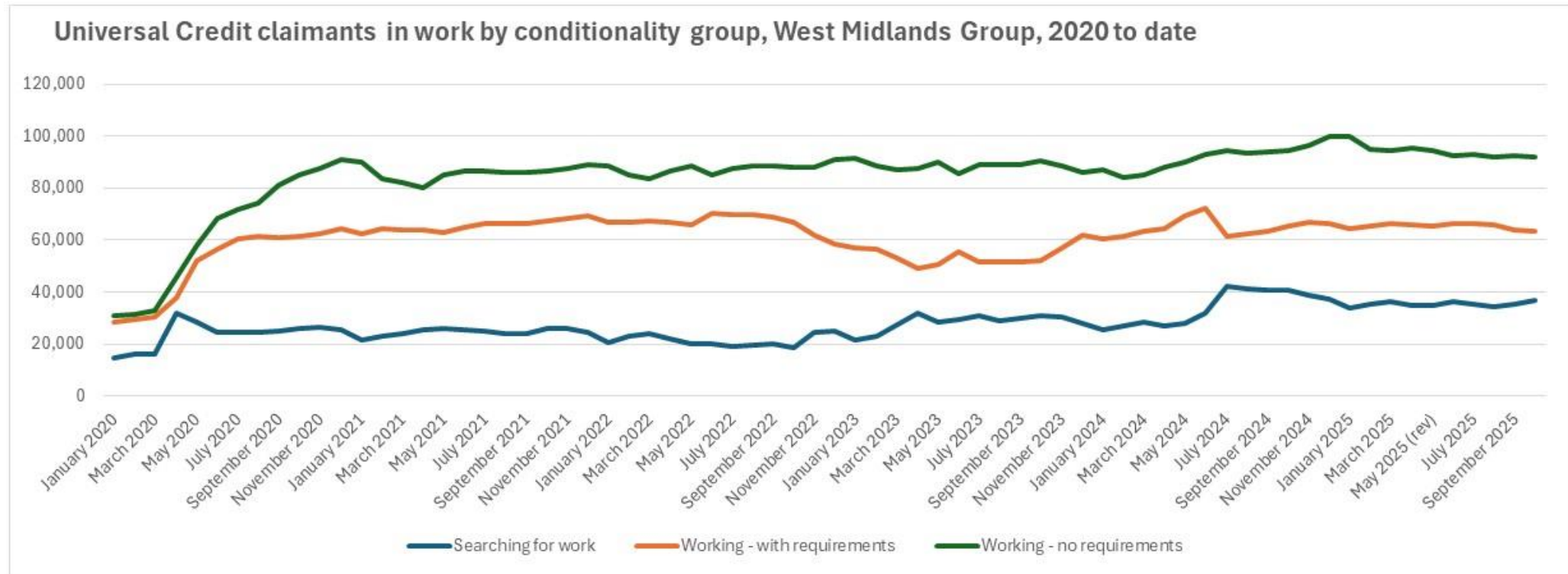


Area	Jul 2023-Jun 2024			Apr 2024-Mar 2025			Jul 2024-Jun 2025		
	Working age disabled in work	All working age disabled	Employment rate for disabled people (%)	Working age disabled in work	All working age disabled	Employment rate for disabled people (%)	Working age disabled in work	All working age disabled	Employment rate for disabled people (%)
Birmingham and Solihull	92,700	213,600	43.4	100,800	201,300	50.1	108,600	204,800	53.0
Black Country and Coventry	136,600	271,700	50.3	127,300	266,700	47.7	120,200	262,400	45.8
The Shires	236,000	373,100	63.2	224,000	395,100	56.7	210,700	380,800	55.3
West Midlands Group	465,300	858,500	54.2	452,100	863,100	52.4	439,600	847,900	51.8

In-work progression

- As well as moving people into employment, we are also supporting people to progress to better paid, sustained employment (in-work progression).
- Of those Universal Credit claimants with earnings, the proportion who are now above the level at which conditionality applies (the 'working – no requirements' group) has grown significantly in recent years and remained high, reflecting the migration of Tax Credits claimants – now completed.
- A rise in the Administrative Earnings Threshold in May 2024 moved many people from 'working – with requirements' (light-touch) into 'searching for work' (intensive work search).
- Since then, the levels of Universal Credit claims with earnings in each conditionality group have remained fairly consistent.
- As of October 2025, there are **777,441** people receiving Universal Credit in West Midlands Group, **237,507** (31%) of whom are receiving earnings.

[Return to contents](#)



Universal Credit with earnings – local authorities

- 31% of Universal Credit claimants in West Midlands Group are currently receiving earnings, 35% a year earlier
- The number of Universal Credit claims with earnings has remained fairly consistent indicating the overall growth in claims is being driven by inactive customers
- At local authority level, the proportion of Universal Credit claimants receiving earnings ranges from 26% in Birmingham to 40% in Rugby.

	October 2024				October 2025 (r)			
	Not in employment	In employment	% in employment	Total	Not in employment	In employment	% in employment	Total
Rugby	5,705	4,410	44%	10,112	6,617	4,390	40%	11,014
Stratford-on-Avon	5,299	4,064	43%	9,359	6,405	4,009	38%	10,414
Tamworth	4,994	3,655	42%	8,646	6,029	3,531	37%	9,562
Worcester	6,182	4,395	42%	10,584	7,509	4,306	36%	11,818
Lichfield	4,599	3,242	41%	7,847	5,703	3,244	36%	8,946
East Staffordshire	7,648	5,515	42%	13,164	9,320	5,292	36%	14,610
North Warwickshire	3,496	2,460	41%	5,957	4,305	2,420	36%	6,729
Redditch	5,857	4,029	41%	9,880	6,985	3,925	36%	10,915
Wychavon	6,230	4,506	42%	10,732	7,712	4,308	36%	12,024
Stafford	6,151	4,466	42%	10,616	7,749	4,252	35%	11,999
Warwick	5,913	4,053	41%	9,967	7,374	4,043	35%	11,419
Bromsgrove	3,800	2,508	40%	6,306	4,756	2,527	35%	7,279
Cannock Chase	6,485	4,224	39%	10,703	8,014	4,210	34%	12,225
South Staffordshire	4,895	3,117	39%	8,008	5,906	3,090	34%	8,991
Staffordshire Moorlands	3,616	2,578	42%	6,191	4,724	2,440	34%	7,163
Malvern Hills	3,698	2,350	39%	6,046	4,560	2,344	34%	6,903
Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,783	4,664	41%	11,443	8,982	4,599	34%	13,577
Nuneaton and Bedworth	10,119	6,144	38%	16,265	12,443	6,112	33%	18,552
Wyre Forest	6,367	3,993	39%	10,363	8,004	3,903	33%	11,903
Solihull	12,320	7,218	37%	19,533	15,021	7,282	33%	22,301
Coventry	30,217	17,106	36%	47,325	37,009	16,929	31%	53,936
Dudley	25,914	13,828	35%	39,741	31,072	13,914	31%	44,990
Sandwell	35,804	20,023	36%	55,828	43,694	19,433	31%	63,125
Wolverhampton	29,318	15,314	34%	44,629	33,714	14,735	30%	48,447
Walsall	29,088	15,392	35%	44,479	34,894	15,083	30%	49,981
Stoke-on-Trent	25,477	13,727	35%	39,207	31,814	13,347	30%	45,164
Birmingham	151,529	63,659	30%	215,190	179,612	63,851	26%	243,463
West Midlands Group	447,509	240,627	35%	688,132	539,935	237,507	31%	777,441

[Return to contents](#)

In-work progression – Birmingham & Solihull

- The table below shows the Universal Credit claims for each jobcentre in Birmingham & Solihull broken down by conditionality group, and how they compare to a year ago.
- Although provisional figures are available for November 2025 earnings data from HMRC is still coming through, so we have used the final confirmed October 2025 data here.

[Return to contents](#)

	October 2024							October 2025 (r)						
	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total
Birmingham Central	6,227	1,420	4,236	1,620	251	689	14,443	10,440	2,745	9,589	2,805	394	1,230	27,204
Birmingham South West	3,695	1,216	5,925	1,921	223	831	13,805	4,475	1,504	9,897	2,405	253	1,215	19,749
Birmingham Summer Hill Road	10,321	3,069	7,868	2,592	478	1,139	25,468	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chelmsley Wood	3,403	1,422	6,348	2,070	201	852	14,297	3,329	1,315	8,304	2,070	188	950	16,155
Erdington	10,662	3,170	11,075	4,020	532	1,702	31,167	11,339	3,437	16,154	4,617	534	2,095	38,169
Handsworth	6,455	1,646	4,066	1,566	219	685	14,637	6,326	1,508	5,439	1,642	197	685	15,789
Kings Heath	3,908	1,253	4,624	1,486	204	707	12,186	3,999	1,319	7,146	1,730	169	852	15,213
Kings Norton Facet Road	2,060	733	2,843	1,104	113	446	7,302	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perry Barr	6,969	2,075	5,623	2,407	357	857	18,282	6,860	2,048	8,005	2,610	318	1,036	20,880
Selly Oak	5,610	1,567	5,955	2,016	263	901	16,308	6,659	1,779	10,158	2,625	265	1,293	22,784
Solihull	3,842	1,479	5,288	2,202	180	731	13,722	3,802	1,531	7,380	2,272	188	783	15,955
Sparkhill	6,632	2,191	5,559	1,838	331	823	17,378	8,347	2,749	10,021	2,762	436	1,155	25,469
Washwood Heath	5,990	1,982	5,529	1,808	316	771	16,398	8,264	2,805	10,829	3,064	367	1,232	26,555
Yardley	5,669	2,123	7,289	2,476	366	1,183	19,111	5,692	2,068	9,515	2,705	326	1,224	21,530
Birmingham & Solihull	81,547	25,357	82,295	29,144	4,039	12,318	234,722	79,529	24,802	112,427	31,303	3,630	13,755	265,456

In-work progression – Black Country and Coventry

- The table below shows the Universal Credit claims for each jobcentre in the Black Country and Coventry broken down by conditionality group, and how they compare to a year ago.
- Although provisional figures are available for November 2025, earnings data from HMRC is still coming through, so we have used the final confirmed October 2025 data here.

[Return to contents](#)

	October 2024							October 2025 (r)						
	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total
Bilston	2,065	1,033	3,734	1,592	157	554	9,140	1,867	1,036	4,880	1,561	169	656	10,169
Brownhills	1,100	702	2,539	1,107	93	316	5,860	1,010	669	3,606	1,167	92	378	6,921
Coventry Cofa Court	13,304	5,674	17,540	7,832	865	2,790	48,005	13,106	5,459	24,509	8,021	793	3,078	54,967
Coventry West Orchard Shopping Centre	155	36	44	46	11	23	321	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dudley	4,372	1,894	7,316	2,707	314	1,109	17,722	4,132	1,874	9,621	2,868	305	1,237	20,041
Halesowen	2,942	1,432	5,327	2,218	221	822	12,958	2,701	1,384	7,152	2,344	224	922	14,721
Oldbury	2,462	1,090	3,325	1,634	210	543	9,271	2,361	1,091	4,545	1,672	182	586	10,430
Smethwick	3,743	1,579	3,353	1,654	197	555	11,079	3,528	1,466	4,630	1,787	201	604	12,210
Stourbridge	3,071	1,531	5,334	2,362	199	823	13,328	2,915	1,482	7,243	2,376	187	894	15,104
Tipton	2,097	923	3,367	1,355	184	544	8,464	1,882	928	4,581	1,375	151	628	9,551
Walsall Bridle Court	3,383	1,629	4,777	1,788	228	696	12,504	3,062	1,518	6,449	1,836	242	770	13,874
Walsall Crown Wharf	4,843	2,339	7,883	3,376	430	1,129	20,005	4,542	2,288	10,697	3,362	366	1,379	22,633
West Bromwich	6,756	3,107	8,539	3,671	395	1,347	23,823	6,616	2,933	12,045	3,813	389	1,549	27,353
Willenhall	1,637	837	2,707	1,191	133	464	6,969	1,543	785	3,683	1,166	122	528	7,822
Wolverhampton Molineux House	7,656	2,876	9,096	3,966	488	1,485	25,565	6,833	2,697	12,113	4,076	435	1,616	27,776
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Centre	4,250	1,917	5,806	2,700	237	887	15,795	3,851	1,850	7,764	2,692	248	967	17,373
Black Country and Coventry	63,919	28,609	90,803	39,226	4,384	14,129	241,080	59,951	27,461	123,508	40,116	4,105	15,783	270,934

In-work progression – The Shires

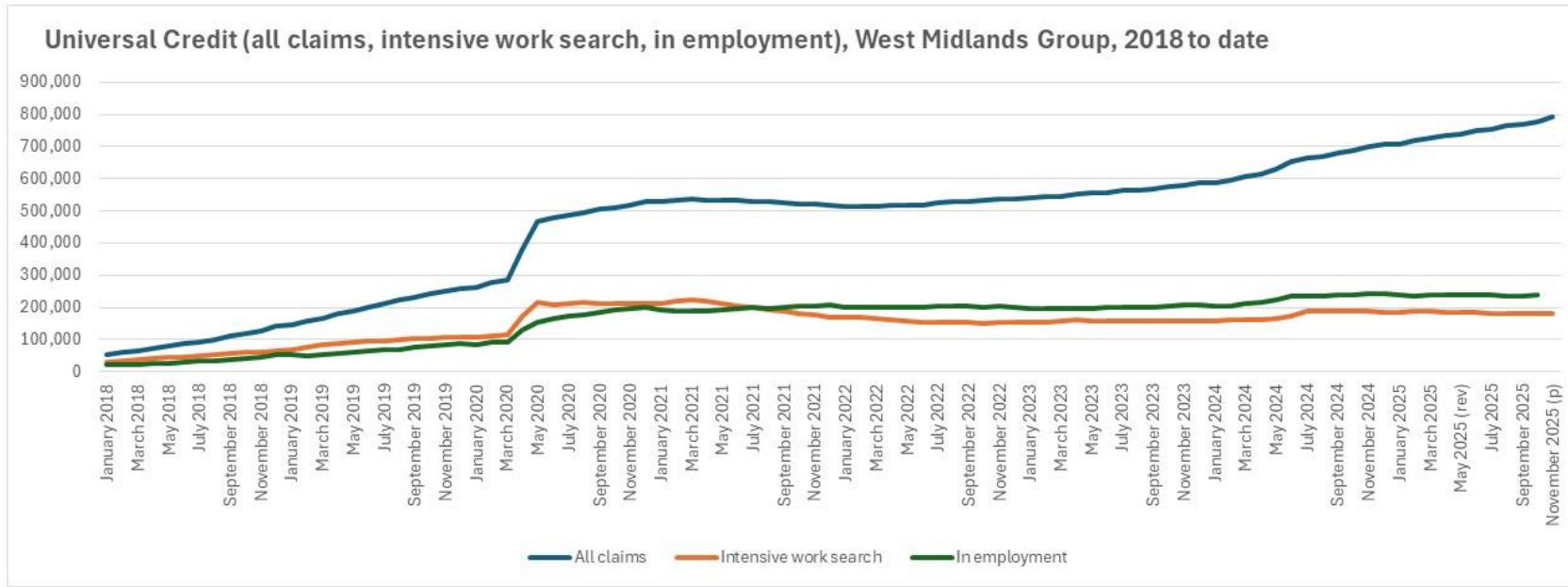
- The table below shows the Universal Credit claims for each jobcentre in The Shires broken down by conditionality group, and how they compare to a year ago.
- Although provisional figures are available for November 2025, earnings data from HMRC is still coming through, so we have used the final confirmed October 2025 data here.

[Return to contents](#)

	October 2024							October 2025 (r)						
	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total
Atherstone	433	384	1,407	669	45	173	3,112	436	360	1,929	632	44	207	3,608
Bedworth	858	508	2,028	827	84	350	4,649	817	484	2,718	865	84	381	5,347
Bromsgrove	892	468	1,617	835	63	242	4,128	845	445	2,240	849	55	295	4,727
Burton on Trent	8	..	21	..	..	..	39	2,680	2,161	7,577	3,135	196	704	16,455
Burton upon Trent Union Street	3,008	2,101	5,472	3,145	204	702	14,632	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cannock	2,471	1,553	5,271	2,564	239	829	12,931	2,230	1,576	7,304	2,536	200	977	14,818
Evesham	1,336	919	2,303	1,540	97	273	6,471	1,198	895	3,241	1,521	87	306	7,252
Hanley	7,169	3,256	10,702	4,536	511	1,789	27,964	6,373	3,327	15,343	4,588	467	2,005	32,105
Kidderminster	2,317	1,448	5,523	2,254	152	709	12,401	2,059	1,321	7,473	2,349	184	861	14,249
Kidsgrove	1,233	786	2,398	1,138	81	387	6,018	1,131	736	3,441	1,152	94	469	7,023
Leamington Spa	2,337	1,426	4,483	2,400	165	757	11,571	2,254	1,388	6,159	2,432	172	804	13,213
Lichfield	1,075	724	2,477	1,197	86	351	5,917	1,018	746	3,380	1,231	82	389	6,843
Longton	2,126	1,173	4,449	1,930	217	696	10,584	2,054	1,152	6,208	1,933	186	842	12,375
Malvern	859	594	2,051	864	56	268	4,688	695	615	2,835	879	61	285	5,365
Newcastle-Under-Lyme	2,663	1,612	4,951	2,615	190	749	12,774	2,624	1,620	7,251	2,527	153	907	15,090
Nuneaton Ropewalk	2,745	1,384	5,542	2,425	170	818	13,082	2,753	1,269	7,343	2,410	153	901	14,828
Redditch	2,438	1,426	4,697	2,494	211	753	12,015	2,273	1,385	6,168	2,422	180	824	13,260
Rugby	1,896	1,364	3,759	2,198	153	611	9,981	1,921	1,198	4,696	2,303	139	646	10,906
Stafford	2,124	1,323	4,460	2,387	183	635	11,116	1,883	1,381	6,126	2,270	162	752	12,577
Stratford-upon-Avon	1,033	783	2,563	1,468	79	360	6,282	1,024	774	3,295	1,466	94	370	7,013
Tamworth	1,888	1,384	4,253	2,125	183	540	10,372	1,730	1,411	5,502	1,944	145	576	11,310
Worcester	3,486	1,878	5,786	2,977	253	808	15,176	2,946	1,929	8,047	3,113	236	870	17,134
The Shires	44,475	26,500	86,289	42,606	3,416	12,801	216,098	40,934	26,185	118,278	42,552	3,170	14,385	245,527

Universal Credit – all claims

- As of November 2025, there are **796,512** current Universal Credit claims in West Midlands Group
- Nearly a quarter of these claimants – 182,137 (23%) – are required to look for work
- Overall volumes of Universal Credit claims continue to rise, but this is being driven by inactive customers: for those actively looking for work (the intensive work search group) levels have been stable for some time. Some of the increase is being driven by customers who have migrated from Employment and Support Allowance over to Universal Credit
- There are more Universal Credit claimants with earnings than there are actively looking for work.



[Return to contents](#)

	March 2020	November 2024	October 2025 (r)	November 2025 (p)	Change in month	% Change in month	Change in year	% Change in year	Change since March 2020	% Change since March 2020
Birmingham & Solihull	100,785	238,676	265,456	270,793	5,337	2.0%	32,117	13.5%	170,008	168.7%
Black Country and Coventry	100,022	244,484	270,934	275,523	4,589	1.7%	31,039	12.7%	175,501	175.5%
The Shires	86,010	219,327	245,527	250,195	4,668	1.9%	30,868	14.1%	164,185	190.9%
West Midlands Group	286,822	702,486	781,911	796,512	14,601	1.9%	94,026	13.4%	509,690	177.7%

Universal Credit – health conditions

- There are **278,440** Universal Credit claimants in West Midlands Group who have a health condition or disability that impacts on their ability to work (September 2025).
- These are claimants who have submitted a fit note and are waiting for a work capability assessment or have had an assessment and been found to have either limited capability for work or limited capability for work and work-related activity.
- This total has risen by 40% in past year (and more than doubled over the past three years) – much of this increase will be driven by the migration of legacy Employment and Support Allowance claims.

[Return to contents](#)

	Sep-24	Sep-25			Total	Change in year	% Change in year
	Total	Live fit note (Pre-wca)	Limited capability for work	Limited capability for work and work-			
Birmingham	57,042	12,370	11,687	56,122	80,177	23,135	40.6%
Solihull	6,092	871	1,418	6,100	8,387	2,295	37.7%
Birmingham and Solihull	63,134	13,241	13,105	62,222	88,564	25,430	40.3%
Coventry	13,341	1,551	3,038	14,005	18,587	5,246	39.3%
Dudley	12,228	1,629	2,936	11,978	16,546	4,318	35.3%
Sandwell	15,246	2,087	3,645	15,597	21,326	6,080	39.9%
Walsall	13,131	1,959	3,143	13,141	18,247	5,116	39.0%
Wolverhampton	12,563	1,976	2,772	12,247	16,995	4,432	35.3%
Black Country and Coventry	66,509	9,202	15,534	66,968	91,701	25,192	37.9%
Bromsgrove	2,053	276	471	2,106	2,856	803	39.1%
Cannock Chase	3,389	554	914	3,435	4,905	1,516	44.7%
East Staffordshire	3,796	659	705	3,943	5,305	1,509	39.8%
Lichfield	2,543	311	577	2,546	3,425	882	34.7%
Malvern Hills	2,144	256	430	2,180	2,866	722	33.7%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,719	558	945	4,126	5,630	1,911	51.4%
North Warwickshire	1,931	241	418	1,971	2,632	701	36.3%
Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,284	635	1,399	5,264	7,288	2,004	37.9%
Redditch	3,018	361	798	2,839	3,998	980	32.5%
Rugby	3,201	344	752	2,900	3,996	795	24.8%
South Staffordshire	2,467	348	589	2,538	3,478	1,011	41.0%
Stafford	3,289	487	794	3,454	4,740	1,451	44.1%
Staffordshire Moorlands	2,027	259	450	2,278	2,992	965	47.6%
Stoke-on-Trent	12,317	2,131	3,088	12,780	18,001	5,684	46.1%
Stratford-on-Avon	2,893	377	652	2,849	3,876	983	34.0%
Tamworth	2,587	361	588	2,560	3,510	923	35.7%
Warwick	3,324	423	849	3,351	4,622	1,298	39.0%
Worcester	3,111	450	669	3,294	4,417	1,306	42.0%
Wychavon	3,193	527	620	3,332	4,488	1,295	40.6%
Wyre Forest	3,631	513	948	3,698	5,155	1,524	42.0%
The Shires	69,917	10,071	16,656	71,444	98,180	28,263	40.4%
West Midlands Group	199,548	32,513	45,291	200,634	278,440	78,892	39.5%

Universal Credit – health conditions

- Universal Credit claimants who have a health condition or disability that impacts their ability to work make over a third (36%) of the total Universal Credit register (March 2025).
- This proportion is rising – three years ago the proportion was 24%.
- The migration of legacy Employment and Support Allowance claims will have contributed to much of this increase

[Return to contents](#)

	September 2022			September 2024			September 2025		
	Total UC Caseload	Total UC Health Caseload	% UC on Health Caseload	Total UC Caseload	Total UC Health Caseload	% UC on Health Caseload	Total UC Caseload	Total UC Health Caseload	% UC on Health Caseload
Birmingham	159,269	36,142	22.7%	212,179	57,042	26.9%	241,455	80,177	33.2%
Solihull	15,806	4,025	25.5%	19,401	6,092	31.4%	22,073	8,387	38.0%
Birmingham and Solihull	175,075	40,167	22.9%	231,580	63,134	27.3%	263,528	88,564	33.6%
Coventry	36,950	7,403	20.0%	46,827	13,341	28.5%	53,335	18,587	34.8%
Dudley	31,115	8,261	26.5%	39,387	12,228	31.0%	44,544	16,546	37.1%
Sandwell	42,592	9,814	23.0%	55,139	15,246	27.7%	62,553	21,326	34.1%
Walsall	33,433	8,247	24.7%	43,825	13,131	30.0%	49,540	18,247	36.8%
Wolverhampton	36,721	8,235	22.4%	44,103	12,563	28.5%	48,126	16,995	35.3%
Black Country and Coventry	180,811	41,960	23.2%	229,281	66,509	29.0%	258,098	91,701	35.5%
Bromsgrove	5,052	1,254	24.8%	6,247	2,053	32.9%	7,178	2,856	39.8%
Cannock Chase	8,417	2,159	25.7%	10,548	3,389	32.1%	12,069	4,905	40.6%
East Staffordshire	9,748	2,229	22.9%	13,019	3,796	29.2%	14,515	5,305	36.5%
Lichfield	6,364	1,615	25.4%	7,767	2,543	32.7%	8,805	3,425	38.9%
Malvern Hills	4,776	1,274	26.7%	6,021	2,144	35.6%	6,830	2,866	42.0%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	8,629	2,346	27.2%	11,319	3,719	32.9%	13,426	5,630	41.9%
North Warwickshire	4,775	1,291	27.0%	5,896	1,931	32.8%	6,655	2,632	39.5%
Nuneaton and Bedworth	12,696	3,533	27.8%	16,149	5,284	32.7%	18,400	7,288	39.6%
Redditch	8,120	1,979	24.4%	9,795	3,018	30.8%	10,798	3,998	37.0%
Rugby	8,678	2,138	24.6%	10,107	3,201	31.7%	11,007	3,996	36.3%
South Staffordshire	6,401	1,594	24.9%	7,959	2,467	31.0%	8,895	3,478	39.1%
Stafford	8,232	2,120	25.8%	10,564	3,289	31.1%	11,881	4,740	39.9%
Staffordshire Moorlands	4,579	1,292	28.2%	6,135	2,027	33.0%	7,053	2,992	42.4%
Stoke-on-Trent	30,108	8,137	27.0%	38,561	12,317	31.9%	44,725	18,001	40.2%
Stratford-on-Avon	7,631	1,884	24.7%	9,303	2,893	31.1%	10,320	3,876	37.6%
Tamworth	7,131	1,656	23.2%	8,588	2,587	30.1%	9,538	3,510	36.8%
Warwick	7,878	2,103	26.7%	9,859	3,324	33.7%	11,277	4,622	41.0%
Worcester	8,575	2,035	23.7%	10,569	3,111	29.4%	11,803	4,417	37.4%
Wychavon	8,285	1,923	23.2%	10,647	3,193	30.0%	11,914	4,488	37.7%
Wyre Forest	7,906	2,343	29.6%	10,184	3,631	35.7%	11,866	5,155	43.4%
The Shires	173,981	44,905	25.8%	219,237	69,917	31.9%	248,955	98,180	39.4%
West Midlands Group	529,879	127,030	24.0%	680,110	199,548	29.3%	770,570	278,440	36.1%

Universal Credit – health conditions hotspots

- This table displays the constituencies across the West Midlands region ranked by the size of their Universal Credit customers with health condition that impact on their ability to work or look for work. The change over the year is also recorded.
- As this covers the whole region, constituencies in Herefordshire and Shropshire are included.

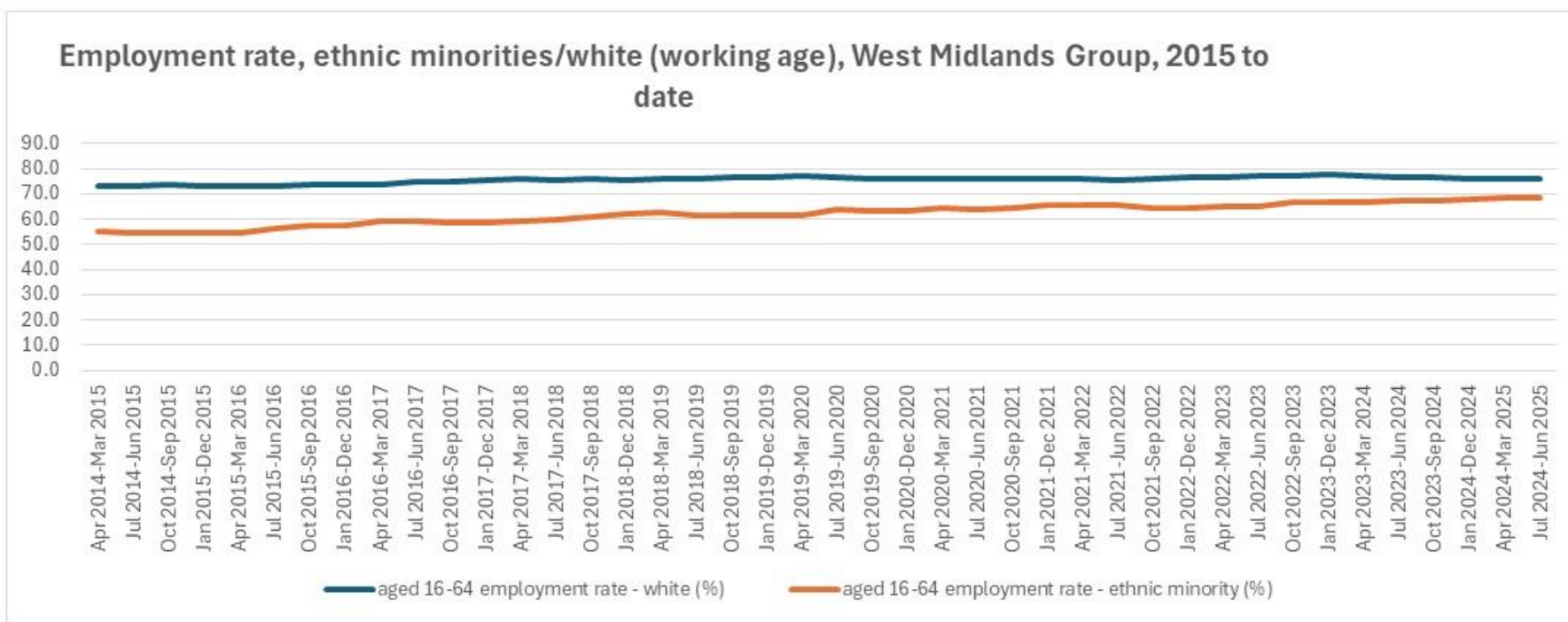
[Return to contents](#)

Parliamentary Constituency	Sep-24	Sep-25	Change in year	% Change in year	Parliamentary Constituency	Sep-24	Sep-25	Change in year	% Change in year
Birmingham Ladywood	8,145	11,330	3,185	39.1%	Stoke-on-Trent South	3,263	4,619	1,356	41.6%
Birmingham Erdington	7,425	10,274	2,849	38.4%	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,908	4,487	1,579	54.3%
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	7,140	10,003	2,863	40.1%	Meriden and Solihull East	3,299	4,471	1,172	35.5%
Birmingham Perry Barr	6,921	9,493	2,572	37.2%	Worcester	3,111	4,417	1,306	42.0%
Walsall and Bloxwich	6,821	9,479	2,658	39.0%	North Warwickshire and Bedworth	3,210	4,382	1,172	36.5%
Wolverhampton South East	6,881	9,380	2,499	36.3%	The Wrekin	2,981	4,348	1,367	45.9%
Birmingham Yardley	6,233	8,551	2,318	37.2%	Redditch	3,233	4,314	1,081	33.4%
Stoke-on-Trent Central	5,708	8,412	2,704	47.4%	Tamworth	2,998	4,041	1,043	34.8%
Tipton and Wednesbury	5,904	8,321	2,417	40.9%	Rugby	3,124	3,916	792	25.4%
Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley	5,795	8,266	2,471	42.6%	Warwick and Leamington	2,740	3,831	1,091	39.8%
Coventry East	5,844	8,232	2,388	40.9%	North Shropshire	2,791	3,809	1,018	36.5%
Birmingham Northfield	5,666	8,073	2,407	42.5%	Shrewsbury	2,688	3,792	1,104	41.1%
Telford	4,862	6,966	2,104	43.3%	Hereford and South Herefordshire	2,534	3,700	1,166	46.0%
Wolverhampton North East	5,035	6,857	1,822	36.2%	Droitwich and Evesham	2,590	3,630	1,040	40.2%
Birmingham Edgbaston	4,779	6,830	2,051	42.9%	Stafford	2,503	3,603	1,100	43.9%
Stoke-on-Trent North	4,479	6,589	2,110	47.1%	Aldridge-Brownhills	2,522	3,583	1,061	42.1%
Smethwick	4,740	6,585	1,845	38.9%	West Worcestershire	2,537	3,403	866	34.1%
Dudley	4,807	6,395	1,588	33.0%	Lichfield	2,261	3,088	827	36.6%
Birmingham Selly Oak	4,348	6,378	2,030	46.7%	South Shropshire	2,135	2,922	787	36.9%
West Bromwich	4,354	6,092	1,738	39.9%	Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge	2,078	2,907	829	39.9%
Wolverhampton West	4,431	5,943	1,512	34.1%	North Herefordshire	2,048	2,892	844	41.2%
Coventry South	3,848	5,342	1,494	38.8%	Bromsgrove	2,053	2,856	803	39.1%
Nuneaton	3,864	5,338	1,474	38.1%	Stratford-on-Avon	2,070	2,783	713	34.4%
Wyre Forest	3,631	5,155	1,524	42.0%	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,851	2,735	884	47.8%
Burton and Uttoxeter	3,662	5,115	1,453	39.7%	Sutton Coldfield	1,737	2,509	772	44.4%
Coventry North West	3,646	5,019	1,373	37.7%	Kingswinford and South Staffordshire	1,712	2,441	729	42.6%
Cannock Chase	3,389	4,905	1,516	44.7%	Solihull West and Shirley	1,645	2,392	747	45.4%
Stourbridge	3,547	4,826	1,279	36.1%	Kenilworth and Southam	1,628	2,167	539	33.1%
Halesowen	3,449	4,687	1,238	35.9%					

Ethnic Minority Employment Rates

- The employment rate for ethnic minorities of working age in West Midlands Group is **68.6%** (Annual Population Survey July 2024 to June 2025)
- This compares to a rate of 75.8% for those from a white ethnicity
- Significant progress has been made in reducing this disparity in employment: the gap between white and ethnic minority employment rates has reduced considerably over the past ten years: from 18.6 percentage points to 7.2 percentage points currently.

[Return to contents](#)



Ethnic Minority Employment Rates

- The long-term trend for employment rates for ethnic minorities has been one of growth in the Group – up 4.8 percentage points over the past five years from 63.8% to 68.6%. Long-term growth has been particularly strong in The Shires (up from 73.0% five years ago to 79.3% today).
- Over the past year, the employment rate for ethnic minorities has risen by 1.4 percentage points. At District level changes over the year range from a fall of 4.7 percentage points in the Shires (though from a very high level) to a rise of 2.8 percentage points in the Black Country and Coventry.

[Return to contents](#)

Area	Jul 2023-Jun 2024			Apr 2024-Mar 2025			Jul 2024-Jun 2025		
	Working age ethnic minorities in work	All working age ethnic minorities	Employment rate for ethnic minorities (%)	Working age ethnic minorities in work	All working age ethnic minorities	Employment rate for ethnic minorities (%)	Working age ethnic minorities in work	All working age ethnic minorities	Employment rate for ethnic minorities (%)
Birmingham and Solihull	261,900	420,500	62.3	294,500	458,500	64.2	280,600	442,000	63.5
Black Country and Coventry	207,500	308,000	67.4	240,600	349,300	68.9	271,200	386,000	70.2
The Shires	102,700	122,300	84.0	111,600	139,400	80.1	119,300	150,500	79.3
West Midlands Group	572,100	850,800	67.2	646,700	947,200	68.3	671,000	978,500	68.6

Legacy benefits

[Return to contents](#)

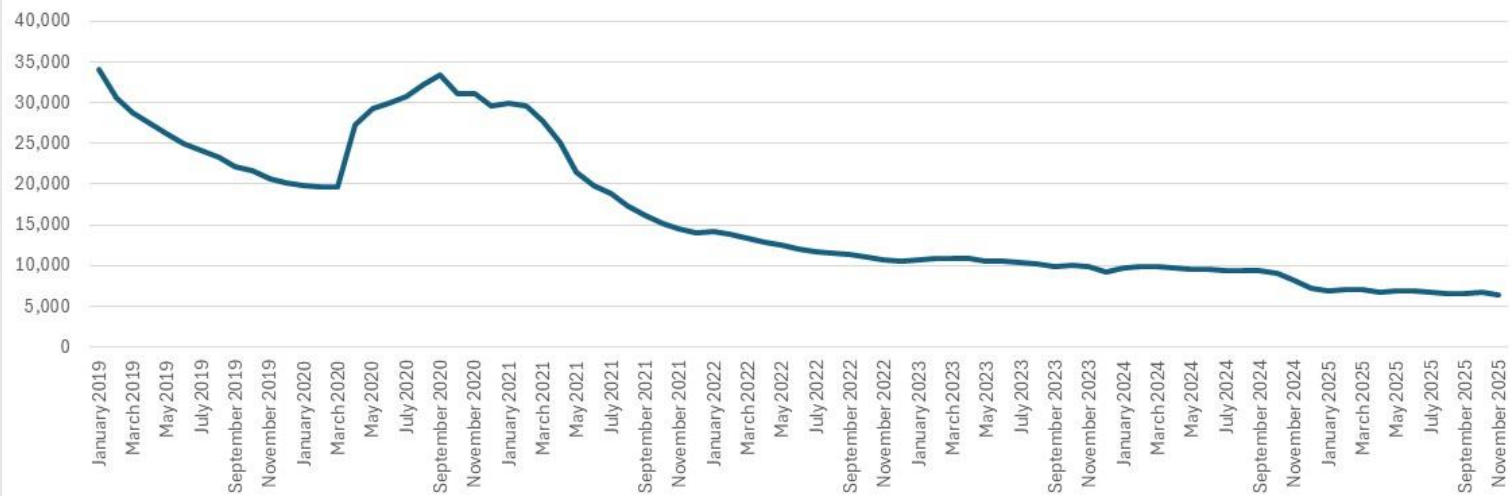
- Managed Migration (known as Move to UC) is the process by which households claiming legacy benefits – such as Tax Credits, Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support etc. - are informed of the need to make a claim to Universal Credit if they have not already done so through making a voluntary move or a change of circumstances.
- At the end of 2024, except for Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), all legacy benefit claimants will have been issued with a Migration Notice to inform them they have to make a claim to Universal Credit as their legacy benefit will be terminated.
- On 12 November 2024, the Minister for Social Security and Disability confirmed that migration notices are now being issued to people receiving Employment and Support Allowance with final notices being sent by September 2025. By the end of March 2026 all people should be fully moved to Universal Credit and legacy benefits closed.
- As of March 2025, only a very small number of legacy claims other than Employment and Support Allowance remain in payment.

Jobseeker's Allowance

- People are still able to claim time-limited new-style Jobseeker's Allowance based on their national insurance contributions even if they are not entitled to Universal Credit, for example due to savings or other income
- Virtually all legacy income-based Jobseeker's Allowance claims have now migrated over to Universal Credit. The register has now stabilised so these will be almost wholly new-style Jobseeker's Allowance claims.
- There are currently **6,389** Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in West Midlands Group (November 2025) – these are included in the Claimant Count totals.

[Return to contents](#)

Jobseeker's Allowance register, West Midlands Group, 2019 to date



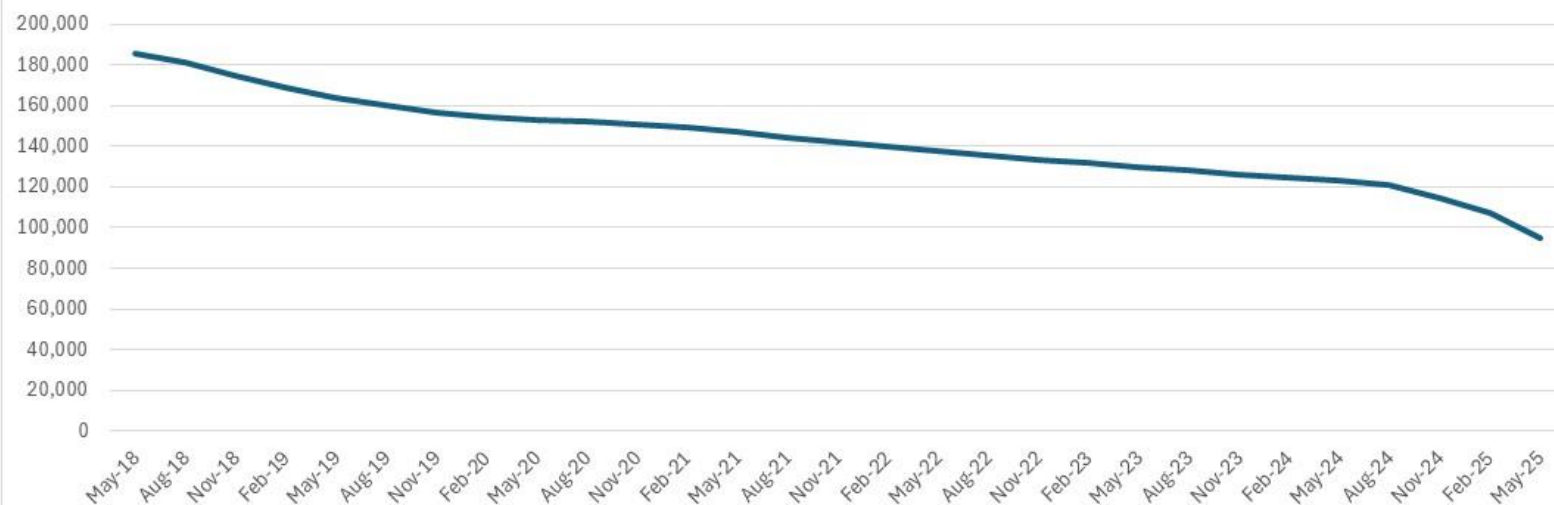
Area	November 2020	November 2024	November 2025	change in year		change in five years	
	number	number	number	change	%cha	change	%cha
Birmingham and Solihull	10,159	2,766	1,676	-1,090	-39.4	-8,483	-83.5
Black Country and Coventry	10,809	2,575	1,936	-639	-24.8	-8,873	-82.1
The Shires	10,102	2,860	2,777	-83	-2.9	-7,325	-72.5
West Midlands Group	31,070	8,201	6,389	-1,812	-22.1	-24,681	-79.4

Legacy benefits – Employment and Support Allowance

- People can still claim new-style Employment and Support Allowance based on their national insurance contributions
- In November 2024 the Minister for Social Security and Disability confirmed that migration notices are now being issued for legacy income-based Employment and Support Allowance with final notices being sent by September 2025.
- They will make up a significant proportion of the economically inactive cohort in the West Midlands
- The chart below plots the ESA claim volumes over the past seven years – currently there are **94,734** claims (May 2025). There is a notable time lag before figures are published.

[Return to contents](#)

Employment and Support Allowance claims, West Midlands Group, 2018 to date



	May-24	Feb-25	May-25	Change in quarter	% Change in quarter	Change in year	% Change in year
Birmingham and Solihull	33,691	28,806	24,779	-4,027	-14.0%	-8,912	-26.5%
Black Country and Coventry	40,762	35,256	30,942	-4,314	-12.2%	-9,820	-24.1%
The Shires	48,444	43,367	39,013	-4,354	-10.0%	-9,431	-19.5%
West Midlands Group	122,898	107,425	94,734	-12,691	-11.8%	-28,164	-22.9%

Legacy benefits – Employment and Support Allowance

- 85% of claims fall within the ‘support group’ – these are claimants who are not required to take part in work-related activity but can voluntarily access support if they wish to do so.
- Over two-thirds of ESA claimants are aged over 50; claims from people under 25 are minimal
- 76% have been claiming for more than 5 years, and nearly half are claiming because of mental health conditions.

[Return to contents](#)

	May-24		May-25	
Assessment phase	3,357	3%	3,584	4%
Work Related Activity group	12,476	10%	6,720	7%
Support group	103,027	84%	80,784	85%
Unknown	4,032	3%	3,648	4%
Total	122,898		94,734	

<i>ESA medical conditions, West Midlands Group, May 2025</i>		
Mental and Behavioural disorders	43,751	46%
Disease of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	13,079	14%
Diseases of the Nervous System	8,379	9%
Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	7,514	8%
Diseases of the Circulatory System	4,015	4%
Neoplasms	3,537	4%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	2,189	2%
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	2,073	2%
Factors influencing Health Status and contact with Health Services	1,968	2%
Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	1,573	2%

Employment and Support Allowance claims

Age and Duration

West Midlands Group, May 2025

Under 18	22	
Aged 18-24	359	0.4%
Aged 25-49	30,992	33%
Aged 50+	63,162	67%
Unknown	197	
Total	94,734	
Up to 3 months	1,873	2%
3 months up to 6 months	2,042	2%
6 months up to 1 year	2,900	3%
1 year and up to 2 years	4,686	5%
2 years and up to 5 years	11,012	12%
5 years and over	72,225	76%
Total	94,734	

Skills

Qualifications data for the period January to December 2024 is now available – this is updated once per year. The RQF (previously NVQ) is now the standard qualification measure: as a guide, a level 1 qualification might be an introductory award, level 2 equal to a GCSE, level 3 equivalent to an A-level etc.

This data shows that people across the West Midlands Group have generally lower levels of qualifications than the national average although there is some variation at District level.

8.7% of the working age population of West Midlands Group have no qualifications – this is up from 7.2% a year ago. At a local level, Sandwell has the highest proportion of working age people with no qualifications in the region (14.9%)

[Return to contents](#)

Area	% with RQF4+ aged 16-64	% with RQF3+ aged 16-64	% with RQF2+ aged 16-64	% with RQF1+ aged 16-64	% with other qualifications (RQF) - aged 16-64	% with no qualifications (RQF) - aged 16-64
Birmingham and Solihull	45.0	64.7	81.4	84.4	4.8	10.8
Black Country and Coventry	39.1	58.9	82.2	84.3	5.2	10.5
The Shires	44.7	65.8	86.9	90.3	3.5	6.1
West Midlands Group	43.1	63.4	84.0	86.9	4.4	8.7
United Kingdom	47.1	67.5	86.4	88.8	4.2	6.9

Despite an increase from 7.8% to 8.5% over the past year, the proportion of working age people in West Midlands Group with no qualifications has more than halved since the early 2000s – down from 18.8% in 2004 to 8.7% in 2024.

