

Claimant Count Summary for August 2020: Released 15th September 2020¹

In Summary:

- The **Black Country had 66,820 claimants** in August 2020, an increase of 3.1% (+2,030) from July 2020, the UK increase was 3.2%. The **Black Country have 28,545 more claimants** since March 2020. This is an increase of 74.6%, while the UK increased by 114.9%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over is 7.1% in August 2020 compared to 5.0% for UK.
- In August 2020, there were **13,830 youth claimants in the Black Country** an increase of 1.8% (+250) from July 2020, while for the UK there was an increase of 0.6%. The **Black Country have 6,080 more youth claimants** since March 2020. This is an increase of 78.5%, while the UK increased by 121.6%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 11.2% in August 2020 compared to 7.5% for the UK.

Claimant count for people aged 16+:

- The **Black Country had 66,820 claimants** in August 2020, an increase of 3.1% (+2,030) from July 2020, the UK increase was 3.2%.
- The **Black Country have 28,545 more claimants** since March 2020. This is an increase of 74.6%, while the UK increased by 114.9%.
- The **Black Country have 32,090 more claimants** when compared to August 2019, an increase of 92.4%, this is below the UK average increase of 134.2%.
- Dudley had 14,865 claimants aged 16 years and over in August 2020, this is an increase of 555 (+3.9%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,350 (+74.6%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 6,730 (+82.7%).
- Sandwell had 19,355 claimants aged 16 years and over in August 2020, this is an increase of 650 (+3.5%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 8,575 (+79.5%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 9,935 (+105.5%).
- Walsall had 15,320 claimants aged 16 years and over in August 2020, this is an increase of 350 (+2.3%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,715 (+78.0%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 7,725 (+101.7%).
- Wolverhampton had 17,280 claimants aged 16 years and over in August 2020, this is an increase of 470 (+2.8%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,900 (+66.5%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 7,700 (+80.4%).

¹ Source: ONS based off Department of Work and Pensions, Claimant Count, September 2020

The following table shows across the Black Country and for the UK for selected months the number of claimants and change for selected months:

	August 2019	March 2020	July 2020	August 2020	% Change (Jul 20 – Aug 20)	% Change (Mar 20 – Aug 20)	% Change (Aug 19 – Aug 20)
Dudley	8,135	8,515	14,310	14,865	3.9%	74.6%	82.7%
Sandwell	9,420	10,780	18,705	19,355	3.5%	79.5%	105.5%
Walsall	7,595	8,605	14,970	15,320	2.3%	78.0%	101.7%
Wolverhampton	9,580	10,380	16,810	17,280	2.8%	66.5%	80.4%
Black Country	34,730	38,275	64,790	66,820	3.1%	74.6%	92.4%
UK	1,163,945	1,268,620	2,642,815	2,726,510	3.2%	114.9%	134.2%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over is 7.1% in August 2020 compared to 5.0% for UK.
- The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 8.4%, Sandwell at 7.6%, Walsall at 6.9% and Dudley at 5.7% in August 2020.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 69 were the same or above the UK average of 5.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in August 2020.
- The top three wards that have the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in August 2020 was St Peter's (Wolverhampton) at 13.0%, followed by Soho and Victoria (Sandwell) at 12.4% and Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 11.3%.
- The highest number change between July 2020 and August 2020 for claimants aged 16 years and over was 65 which was in Great Bridge and Cradley Health and Old Hill both in Sandwell (reaching 845 and 830 claimants respectively).

Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In August 2020, there were **13,830 youth claimants in the Black Country** an increase of 1.8% (+250) from July 2020, while for the UK there was an increase of 0.6%.
- The **Black Country have 6,080 more youth claimants** since March 2020. This is an increase of 78.5%, while the UK increased by 121.6%.
- The **Black Country have 6,725 more youth claimants** when compared to the same month from the previous year, an increase of 94.7%, this is below the UK average increase of 138.8%.
- Dudley had 3,180 claimants aged 16-24 in August 2020, this is an increase of 65 (+2.1%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 1,425 (+81.2%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 1,475 (+86.5%).
- Sandwell had 3,885 claimants aged 16-24 in August 2020, this is an increase of 55 (+1.4%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has



increased by 1,755 (+82.4%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 2,065 (+113.5%).

- Walsall had 3,390 claimants aged 16-24 in August 2020, this is an increase of 35 (+1.0%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 1,450 (+74.7%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 1,680 (+98.2%).
- Wolverhampton had 3,375 claimants aged 16-24 in August 2020, this is an increase of 90 (+2.7%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 1,450 (+75.3%). Also, when compared to August 2019, the number of claimants has increased by 1,505 (+80.5%).

The following table shows across the Black Country and for the UK for selected months the number of youth claimants and change for selected months:

	August 2019	March 2020	July 2020	August 2020	% Change (Jul 20 – Aug 20)	% Change (Mar 20 – Aug 20)	% Change (Aug 19 – Aug 20)
Dudley	1,705	1,755	3,115	3,180	2.1%	81.2%	86.5%
Sandwell	1,820	2,130	3,830	3,885	1.4%	82.4%	113.5%
Walsall	1,710	1,940	3,355	3,390	1.0%	74.7%	98.2%
Wolverhampton	1,870	1,925	3,285	3,375	2.7%	75.3%	80.5%
Black Country	7,105	7,750	13,580	13,830	1.8%	78.5%	94.7%
UK	224,315	241,760	532,400	535,730	0.6%	121.6%	138.8%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 11.2% in August 2020 compared to 7.5% for the UK.
- The number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 to 24 years old varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 12.5%, Walsall at 11.4%, Sandwell at 11.3% and Dudley at 10.2% in August 2020.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 79 were the same or above the UK average of 7.5% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in August 2020.
- The top wards that have the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in July were in East Park (Wolverhampton) at 16.4%, Blakenall (Walsall) and Bushbury South and Low Hill both (Wolverhampton) at 16.1%.
- The highest number change for youth claimants between July 2020 and August 2020 was in Merry Hill (Wolverhampton) and Bushbury North with both increasing by 15 claimants (to reach 145 and 135 claimants respectively).