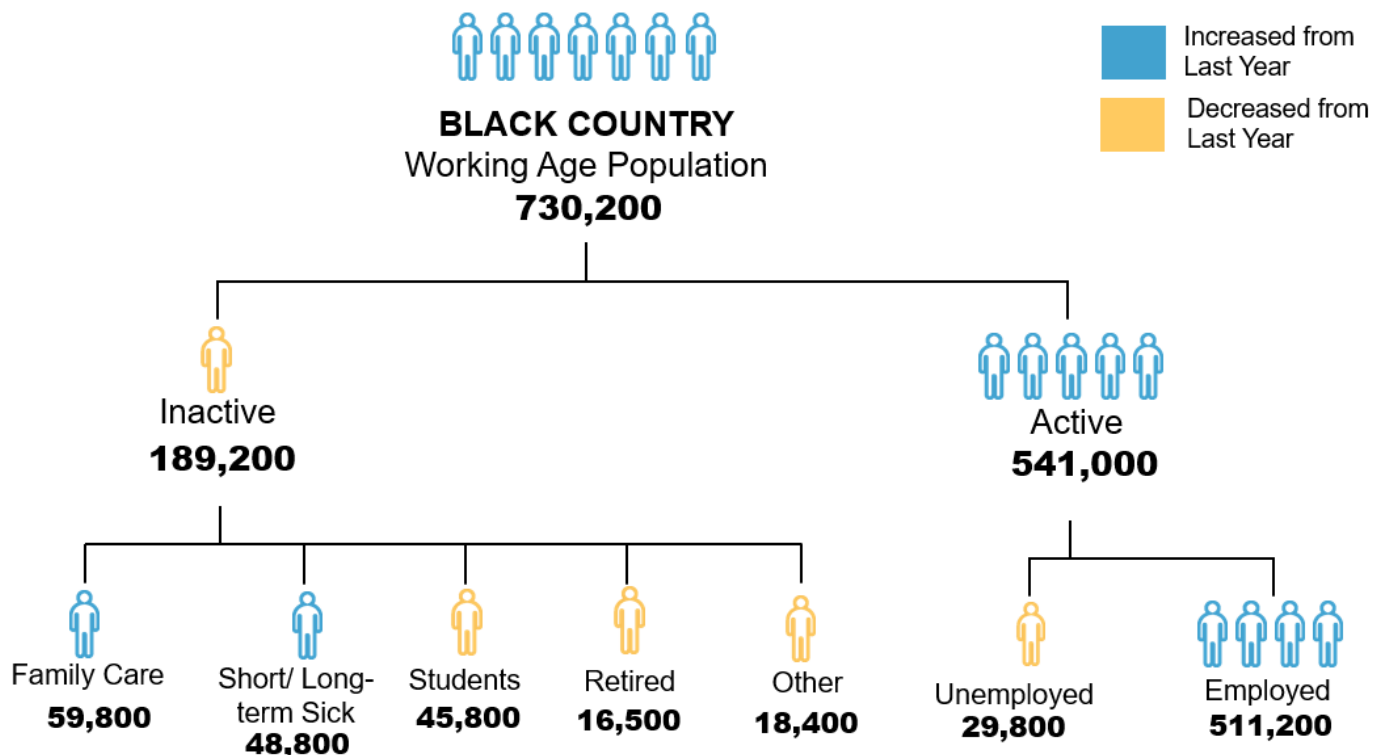


Annual Population Survey: Employment Activity: July 2018 – June 2019

Summary

- The increase in the employment rate for Black Country in the year ending June 2019 was the second highest across all the LEAs. The UK employment rate was 75.5% for the year ending June 2019, this has increased by 1.0% since the previous period.
- The Black Country unemployment rate has decreased by 18.1% (-6,600 people) to 5.5% (29,800 people) in the year ending June 2019 – this equates to a 1.4pp drop from 6.9%. Overall the UK decreased by 3.2% or 0.2pp to 4.1%.
- The Black Country LEP experienced a 2.4% (+12,900 people) increase in economic activity from the year ending June 2018 to reach 74.1% (541,000 people) in the year ending June 2019. Overall in the UK, the economic activity rate was 78.7%, with an increase of 0.9%.
- For economic inactivity, the Black Country rate was 25.9% for the year ending June 2019 (189,200 people), compared to 21.3% in the UK overall. This represents a net decrease of 8,600 people (-4.3%) in the Black Country from the previous period, resulting in a 1.3pp decrease in the economic inactivity rate from 27.2%. Over the same period, the UK decreased by 2.1% (or 0.5pp).

Black Country Working age population break down for year ending June 2019



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey for July 2018 – June 2019, Released October 2019

Full Briefing

Employment

- The Black Country has been the fastest growing WMCA LEP in the last year, increasing its employment rate from 67.7% to 70.0% (511,200 people) - a net increase of 19,500 people (+4.0%). Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's employment rate remains higher than the national average at 75.9%, despite a decrease in net employment (-4,700 people). Greater Birmingham and Solihull experienced a net employment increase of 200 people (+0.02%), to remain at an employment rate of 70.7% - matching June 2018.
- The UK employment rate was 75.5% for the year ending June 2019, this has increased by 1.0% since the previous period.
- The employment rate increased for all four local authorities within the Black Country, Sandwell had the highest increase at 7.5% (+10,100 people). While Dudley had the highest employment rate in the year ending June 2019 at 71.3%.

Figure 1: Employment rate for the years ending June 2018 and 2019

	Employment Year End June 18	Employment Rate (%) Year End June 18	Employment Year End June 19	Employment Rate (%) Year End June 19	Change	% Change
Dudley	133,100	69.2	136,200	71.3	3,100	2.3%
Sandwell	135,200	66.9	145,300	70.9	10,100	7.5%
Walsall	118,100	69.5	121,200	70.6	3,100	2.6%
Wolverhampton	105,300	65.1	108,600	66.7	3,300	3.1%
Black Country	491,700	67.7	511,200	70.0	19,500	4.0%
Coventry and Warwickshire	448,500	76.8	443,800	75.9	-4,700	-1.0%
Greater Birmingham and Solihull	893,100	70.7	893,300	70.7	200	0.0%
WMCA (3 LEP)	1,833,300	71.2	1,848,300	71.7	15,000	0.8%
United Kingdom	30,842,800	74.9	31,161,400	75.5	318,600	1.0%

Unemployment

- The Black Country unemployment rate has decreased by 18.1% (-6,600 people) to 5.5% (29,800 people) in the year ending June 2019. While Coventry and Warwickshire LEP increased by 12.9% (+2,000 people) to 3.8% (17,500 people) and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP increased by 18.3% (+9,700 people) to 6.5% (62,600). Overall, the UK decreased from 4.3% to 4.1% in June 2019.
- Significant decreases can be seen within the Black Country with the unemployment rate falling from 7.7% to 5.3% for the year ending June 2019 for Sandwell and from 8.4% to 6.6% in Wolverhampton.

Economic Activity

- The Black Country LEP experienced a 2.4% (+12,900 people) increase from the year ending June 2018 to reach 74.1% (541,000 people) in the year ending June 2019 and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP increased by 1.0% (+9,800 people) to 75.7% (955,900 people). While Coventry and Warwickshire LEP decreased by 0.6% (-2,700 people) to 78.9% (461,300 people).

- Overall in the UK, the economic activity rate was 78.7%, with an increase of 0.9%.
- Economic activity increased at a higher rate than the UK for all the local authorities within the Black Country, with Sandwell the highest at 4.6% (+6,800 people or 2.3pp). The economic activity rate was highest in Dudley at 75.1%.

Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Black Country rate was 25.9% for the year ending June 2019 (189,200 people), compared to 21.3% in the UK overall. This represents a net decrease of 8,600 people (-4.3%) from the previous period, resulting in a 1.3pp decrease in the economic inactivity rate from 27.2%.
- The following table provides a breakdown for economically inactive by reason for the Black Country and the UK for the year ending June 2019. The Black Country has on average for the year ending June 2019 a lower percentage of people in three categories when compared to the UK, these include those that are inactive due to being students (24.2% vs 26.8%), those classed as other (9.7% vs 11.5%) and retired (8.7% vs 12.9%)
- Within the Black Country, those classed as economically inactive due to looking after the family/home accounts for 31.6%, compared to 23.6% for the UK. In contrast, retired accounts for 8.7% of people being economically inactive in the Black Country, compared to 12.9% for the UK.

Figure 2: Economic Inactivity by reason¹

	<i>BC Economically Inactive No. Year End June 19</i>	<i>% of Total Economically Inactive Year End June</i>	<i>UK Economically Inactive No. Year End June 19</i>	<i>UK Economically Inactive Year End June 2019</i>
<i>% of economically inactive student</i>	45,800	24.2	2,358,000	26.8
<i>% of economically inactive looking after family/home</i>	59,800	31.6	2,076,300	23.6
<i>% of economically inactive sick</i>	48,800	25.8	2,215,000	25.2
<i>% of economically inactive retired</i>	16,500	8.7	1,129,400	12.9
<i>% of economically inactive other</i>	18,400	9.7	1,008,200	11.5
<i>Total economically inactive</i>	189,200		8,786,900	

¹ Please note, long-term and temporary sick has been classified into sick and economically inactive other also includes discouraged.