



Black Country Claimant Count: March 2022 - Released April 2022

In Summary:

- The Black Country had 48,975 claimants in March 2022, an increase of 255 claimants (+0.5%) since February 2022; the UK decreased by 1.3% over this period. Compared to March 2021, Black Country claimants decreased by 18,050 (-26.9%); the UK decreased by 34.5% over this period. The Black Country has 10,700 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase for the Black Country by 28.0%, while the UK increased by 38.2%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 5.2% compared to 3.2% for UK in March 2022.
- In March 2022, there were 8,525 youth (aged 16-24) claimants in the Black Country, an increase of 20 (+0.2%), while for the UK there was a decrease of 0.7% since February 2022. When compared to March 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 5,175 (-37.8%) in the Black Country, while UK-wide decreased by 45.2%. The Black Country had 775 more youth claimants when compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 10.0%, while the UK increased by 16.1%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 7.0% compared to 4.0% for the UK in March 2022.

In Full:

Claimant count for people aged 16 years and over¹

- The Black Country had 48,975 claimants in March 2022, an increase of 255 claimants (+0.5%) since February 2022; the UK decreased by 1.3% over this period. Compared to March 2021, Black Country claimants decreased by 18,050 (-26.9%); the UK decreased by 34.5% over this period. The Black Country has 10,700 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase for the Black Country by 28.0%, while the UK increased by 38.2%.
- Dudley had 10,315 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2022, a decrease of 35 (-0.3%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to March 2021, claimants in Dudley decreased by 4,085 (-28.4%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 1,800 (+21.1%).
- Sandwell had 14,680 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2022, an increase of 155 (+1.1%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to March 2021, claimants in Sandwell decreased by 5,195 (-26.1%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 3,900 (+36.2%).
- Walsall had 10,910 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2022, an increase of 25 (+0.2%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to March 2021, claimants in Walsall decreased by 4,400 (-28.7%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 2,305 (+26.8%).
- Wolverhampton had 13,065 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2022, an increase of 100 (+0.8%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to March 2021, claimants in Wolverhampton decreased by 4,370 (-25.1%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 2,685 (+26.9%).

¹ Source: ONS based off Department of Work and Pensions, Claimant Count, April 2022. Please note, the previous month figures have been revised.

The following table shows across the Black Country and for the UK the number of claimants for a selection of months and also the change when compared to March 2022:

	March 2020	March 2021	February 2022	March 2022	% change Since March 20	% change 1 year	% change 1 month
Dudley	8,515	14,400	10,350	10,315	21.1%	-28.4%	-0.3%
Sandwell	10,780	19,875	14,525	14,680	36.2%	-26.1%	1.1%
Walsall	8,605	15,310	10,885	10,910	26.8%	-28.7%	0.2%
Wolverhampton	10,380	17,435	12,965	13,065	25.9%	-25.1%	0.8%
Black Country LEP	38,275	67,025	48,720	48,975	28.0%	-26.9%	0.5%
United Kingdom	1,268,620	2,675,305	1,776,875	1,753,090	38.2%	-34.5%	-1.3%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 5.2% compared to 3.2% for UK in March 2022. The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 6.3%, Sandwell at 5.8%, Walsall at 4.9% and Dudley at 4.0%.

Ward Analysis

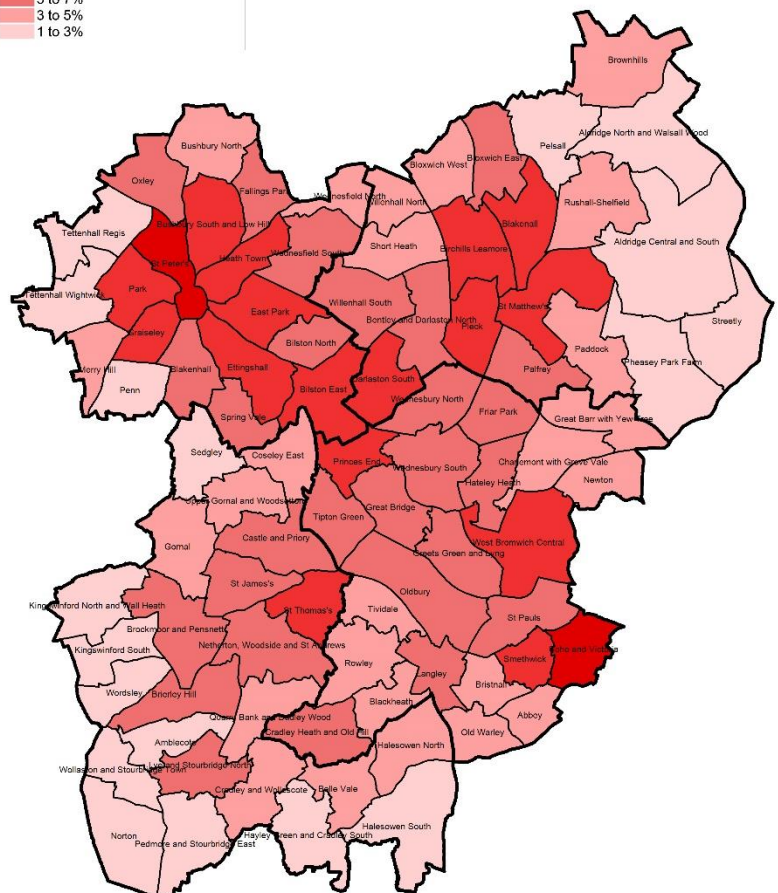
The map to the right shows at a ward level in the Black Country, claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2022.

CLAIMANTS

Claimants as % of all residents aged 16+ per ward (March 2022)

- 9 to 11%
- 7 to 9%
- 5 to 7%
- 3 to 5%
- 1 to 3%

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 69 were above the UK overall proportion of 3.2% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2022.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in February 2022 were St Peter's (Wolverhampton) at 10.6%, Soho and Victoria (Sandwell) at 9.7% and Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 8.8%.



Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In March 2022, there were 8,525 youth (aged 16-24) claimants in the Black Country, an increase of 20 (+0.2%), while for the UK there was a decrease of 0.7% since February 2022. When compared to March 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 5,175 (-37.8%) in the Black Country, while UK-wide decreased by 45.2%. The Black Country had 775 more youth claimants when compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 10.0%, while the UK increased by 16.1%.
- Dudley had 1,825 youth claimants in March 2022, a decrease of 20 (-1.1%) youth claimants since February 2022. When compared to March 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 1,250 (-40.7%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 70 (+4.0%).
- Sandwell had 2,525 youth claimants in March 2022, this is an increase of 25 claimants (+1.0%) since February 2022. When compared to March 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 1,520 (-37.6%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 395 (+18.5%).
- Walsall had 2,065 youth claimants in March 2022, a decrease of 5 (-0.2%) claimants since February 2022. When compared to March 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 1,220 (-37.1%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 125 (+6.4%).
- Wolverhampton had 2,105 youth claimants in March 2022, this is an increase of 10 (+0.5%) claimants since February 2022. When compared to March 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 1,185 (-36.0%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 180 (+9.4%).

The following table shows across the Black Country and for the UK the number of claimants aged 16-24 years old for a selection of months and also the change when compared to March 2022:

	March 2020	March 2021	February 2022	March 2022	% change Since March 20	% change 1 year	% change 1 month
Dudley	1,755	3,075	1,845	1,825	4.0%	-40.7%	-1.1%
Sandwell	2,130	4,045	2,500	2,525	18.5%	-37.6%	1.0%
Walsall	1,940	3,285	2,070	2,065	6.4%	-37.1%	-0.2%
Wolverhampton	1,925	3,290	2,095	2,105	9.4%	-36.0%	0.5%
Black Country LEP	7,750	13,700	8,505	8,525	10.0%	-37.8%	0.2%
United Kingdom	241,760	512,275	282,580	280,635	16.1%	-45.2%	-0.7%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 7.0% compared to 4.0% for the UK in March 2022. 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 7.9%, Sandwell at 7.3%, Walsall at 6.9% and Dudley at 5.9%.

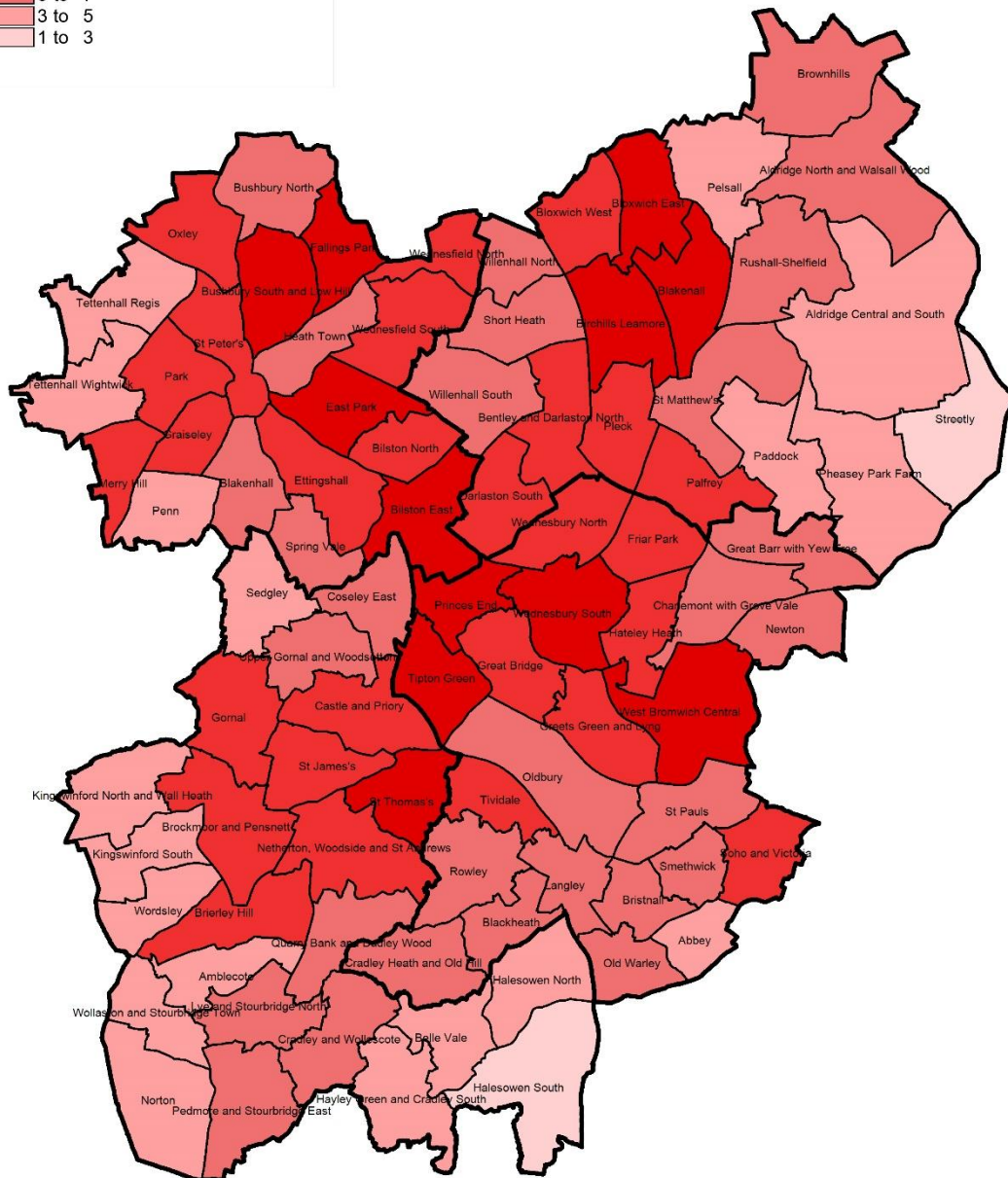
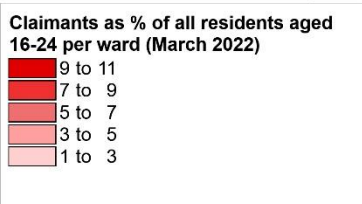
Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 80 were at or above the UK-wide rate of 4.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in March 2022.



The following map shows at a ward level in the Black Country, claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16-24 years old in March 2022:

YOUTH CLAIMANTS



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- The wards that had the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in March 2022 was Tipton Green (Sandwell) and Birchills Leamore (Walsall) both at 10.9%, and East Park (Wolverhampton) at 10.8%.

Alternative Claimant Count²

These statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013. Trends over time for local areas can be considered using the Claimant Count prior to 2013, and the Alternative Claimant Count from 2013. The figures cannot be directly compared as they are defined differently.

All Ages

- The alternative claimant count data estimated 47,575 claimants in the Black Country area in February 2022, a decrease of 29.7% (-20,100) when compared to February 2021. Over the same period the UK decreased by 35.2%. However, the figures were higher in February 2022 when compared to the monthly figures of February 2017-2020. Compared to February 2020, claimants in the Black Country area had increased by 19.6% (+7,798), the UK increased by 30.4%.

The following table shows the all-ages alternative claimant count, February 2017 – February 2022:

	Feb-17	Feb-18	Feb-19	Feb-20	Feb-21	Feb-22	% Change Since Feb. 20	% Change Since Feb. 21
Dudley	8,603	8,423	8,666	8,597	14,515	9,816	14.2%	-32.4%
Sandwell	11,692	11,186	10,875	11,575	20,326	14,401	24.4%	-29.1%
Walsall	8,562	8,254	8,301	8,957	15,459	10,506	17.3%	-32.0%
Wolverhampton	10,342	10,009	10,397	10,618	17,345	12,822	20.8%	-26.1%
Black Country LEP	39,199	37,872	38,239	39,747	67,645	47,545	19.6%	-29.7%
UK	1,297,045	1,267,835	1,292,655	1,330,888	2,678,569	1,735,090	30.4%	-35.2%

16-24 years old

- The alternative claimant count data estimated 7,902 youth claimants in the Black Country area in February 2022, a decrease of 39.4% (-5,139) when compared to February 2021. Over the same period the UK decreased by 45.9%. However, the youth claimant figures were higher in February 2022 when compared to the monthly figures of February 2017-2020. Compared to February 2020, youth claimants in the Black Country area had increased by 12.1% (+851), the UK increased by 20.5%.

The following table shows the 16–24-year-olds alternative claimant count, February 2017 – February 2022:

	Feb-17	Feb-18	Feb-19	Feb-20	Feb-21	Feb-22	% Change Since Feb. 20	% Change Since Feb. 21
Dudley	1,500	1,445	1,491	1,604	2,941	1,669	4.1%	-43.3%
Sandwell	1,796	1,625	1,540	1,929	3,843	2,354	22.0%	-38.7%
Walsall	1,436	1,400	1,380	1,713	3,110	1,886	10.1%	-39.4%
Wolverhampton	1,750	1,640	1,692	1,805	3,147	1,993	10.4%	-36.7%
Black Country LEP	6,482	6,110	6,103	7,051	13,041	7,902	12.1%	-39.4%
UK	197,570	187,599	198,455	218,748	487,472	263,486	20.5%	-45.9%

² Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Alternative claimant statistics, April 2022