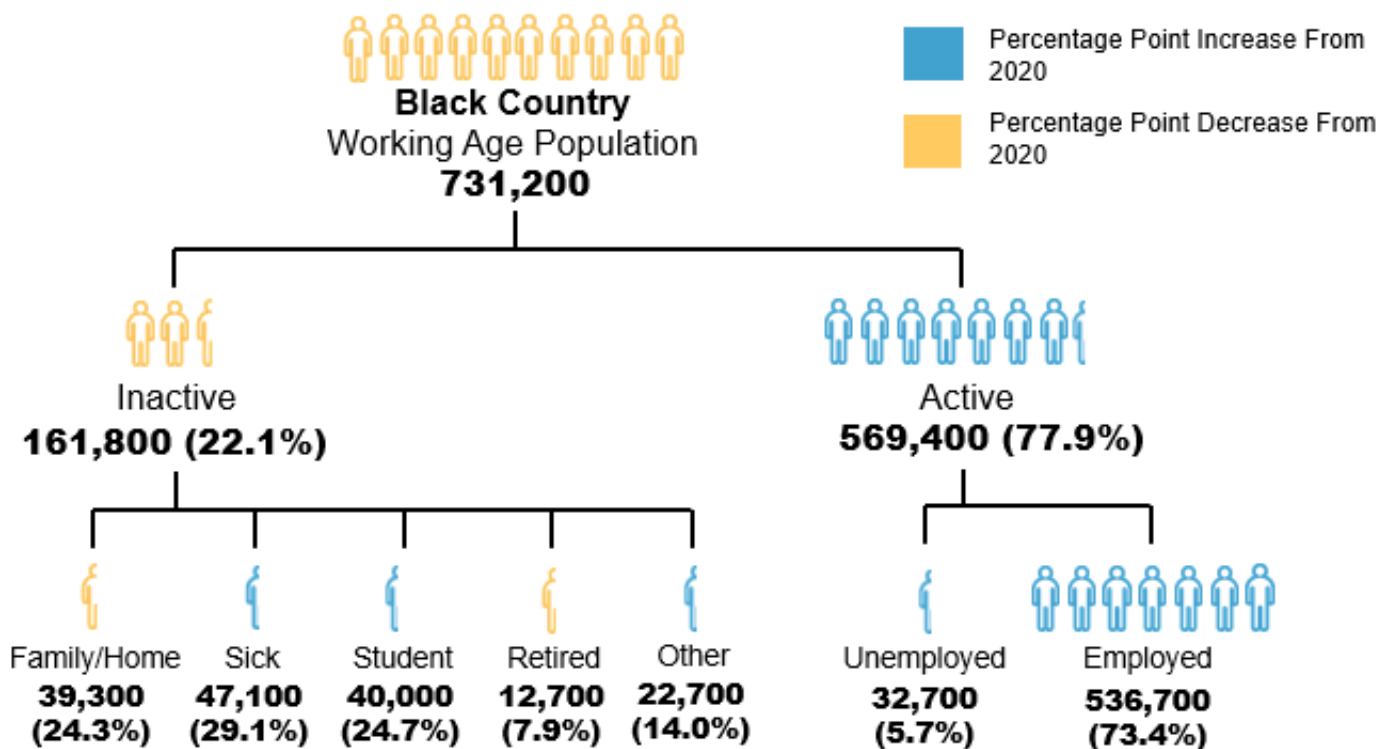


## Black Country - Annual Population Survey, Labour Market: 2021<sup>1</sup>

### Key Points:

- In 2021, the employment rate in the Black Country was 73.4%, compared to 74.7% for UK overall. For the Black Country, this is the highest employment rate on record for full annual analysis. Since 2020, for the Black Country, this has increased by 1.4 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.4pp decrease nationally.
- In 2021, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 5.7%, compared to 4.5% for UK overall. This has increased by 0.1pp compared to a 0.2pp decrease nationally since 2020.
- In 2021, the economic activity rate in the Black Country was 77.9%, compared to 78.2% for UK overall. This has increased by 1.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.6pp decrease nationally since 2020.
- In 2021, the economic inactivity rate in the Black Country was 22.1%, compared to 21.8% for UK overall. This has decreased by 1.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.6pp increase nationally since 2020.

### The Black Country Working Age Population Breakdown for 2021:



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey (For 2021) - Released April 2022  
Please note, working age population change is percentage change.

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS (Nomis): Annual Population Survey, April 2022

## Full Briefing:

### Employment Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In 2021, the employment rate in the Black Country was 73.4%, compared to 74.7% for UK overall. For the Black Country, this is the highest employment rate on record for full annual analysis. Since 2020, for the Black Country, this has increased by 1.4 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.4pp decrease nationally.
- Dudley was the fastest growing local authority in the Black Country during this period, increasing its employment rate from 71.6% in 2020 to 78.6% in 2021 (+7.0pp), this was also the highest rate within the Black Country and above the UK employment rate.
- Sandwell's employment rate increased by 2.1pp over the year to 73.2% in 2021.
- Walsall's employment rate decreased from 72.5% in 2020 to 70.1% in 2021.
- Wolverhampton's employment rate decreased from 73.1% in 2020 to 71.1% in 2021.

### Black Country and UK employment rate and percentage point (pp) change for 2020 and 2021:

	Employment Rate 2020	Employment Rate 2021	PP Change
Dudley	71.6%	78.6%	7.0pp
Sandwell	71.1%	73.2%	2.1pp
Walsall	72.5%	70.1%	-2.4pp
Wolverhampton	73.1%	71.1%	-2.0pp
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>1.4pp</b>
UK	75.1%	74.7%	-0.4pp

### Unemployment Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In 2021, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 5.7%, compared to 4.5% for UK overall. This has increased by 0.1pp compared to a 0.2pp decrease nationally since 2020.
- Within the Black Country, Dudley's unemployment rate decreased from 6.7% in 2020 down to 4.4% in 2021, which was below the national proportion.
- Sandwell's unemployment rate decreased by 0.3pp to 5.2% in 2021.
- Walsall's unemployment rate increased from 5.3% in 2020 to 7.3% in 2021.
- Wolverhampton's unemployment rate increased from 4.9% in 2020 to 6.5% in 2021.

### Black Country and UK unemployment rate and percentage point (pp) change for 2020 and 2021:

	Unemployment Rate 2020	Unemployment Rate 2021	PP Change
Dudley	6.7%	4.4%	-2.3pp
Sandwell	5.5%	5.2%	-0.3pp
Walsall	5.3%	7.3%	2.0pp
Wolverhampton	4.9%	6.5%	1.6pp
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>0.1pp</b>
UK	4.7%	4.5%	-0.2pp

### Economic Activity Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In 2021, the economic activity rate in the Black Country was 77.9%, compared to 78.2% for UK overall. This has increased by 1.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.6pp decrease nationally since 2020.
- Dudley's economic activity rate increased from 76.8% in 2020 to 82.2% in 2021 (+5.4pp), this was also the highest rate within the Black Country and above the national proportion.
- Sandwell's economic activity rate increased by 2.0pp over the year to 77.2% in 2021.
- Walsall's economic activity rate decreased from 76.6% in 2020 to 75.6% in 2021.

- Wolverhampton's economic activity rate decreased from 76.9% in 2020 to 76.1% in 2021.

### Black Country and UK economic activity rate and percentage point (pp) change for 2020 and 2021:

	Economic Activity Rate 2020	Economic Activity Rate 2021	PP Change
Dudley	76.8%	82.2%	5.4pp
Sandwell	75.2%	77.2%	2.0pp
Walsall	76.6%	75.6%	-1.0pp
Wolverhampton	76.9%	76.1%	-0.8pp
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>76.3%</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	<b>1.6pp</b>
UK	78.8%	78.2%	-0.6pp

### Economic Inactivity Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In 2021, the economic inactivity rate in the Black Country was 22.1%, compared to 21.8% for UK overall. This has decreased by 1.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.6pp increase nationally since 2020.
- The following table provides a breakdown for the economic inactivity rate by reason for the Black Country and UK for 2021. In 2021, the Black Country had a higher percentage of people that are inactive due to looking after family/home (24.3% vs 19.1%), sick (29.1% vs 26.8) and other (14.0% vs 12.2%).

### Black Country and UK economic inactivity by reason, 2021:

	Black Country	UK
Student	24.7%	28.1%
Looking after family/home	24.3%	19.1%
Sick	29.1%	26.8%
Retired	7.9%	13.8%
Other	14.0%	12.2%

Sick covers temporary and long-term sick and other includes other and discouraged.

### Employment by Occupation (Aged 16+)

- The following table shows employment proportions by occupation across the Black Country LEP and UK for 2021. The Black Country LEP have a higher than national average for percentage of people employed in five of the nine areas, these include; administrative and secretarial occupations (11.5% vs 10.2%), skilled trades occupations (10.9% vs 8.8%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (12.3% vs 9.2%), process, plant and machine operatives (8.6% vs 5.5%) and elementary occupations (10.6% vs 9.5%).

### Black Country and UK employment proportions by occupations, 2021:

	Black Country	UK
1: managers, directors and senior officials	8.9%	10.5%
2: professional occupations	18.3%	23.7%
3: associate prof & tech occupations	14.0%	15.3%
4: administrative and secretarial occupations	11.5%	10.2%
5: skilled trades occupations	10.8%	8.8%
6: caring, leisure and other service occupations	12.3%	9.2%
7: sales and customer service occupations	4.9%	7.0%
8: process, plant and machine operatives	8.6%	5.5%
9: elementary occupations	10.6%	9.5%