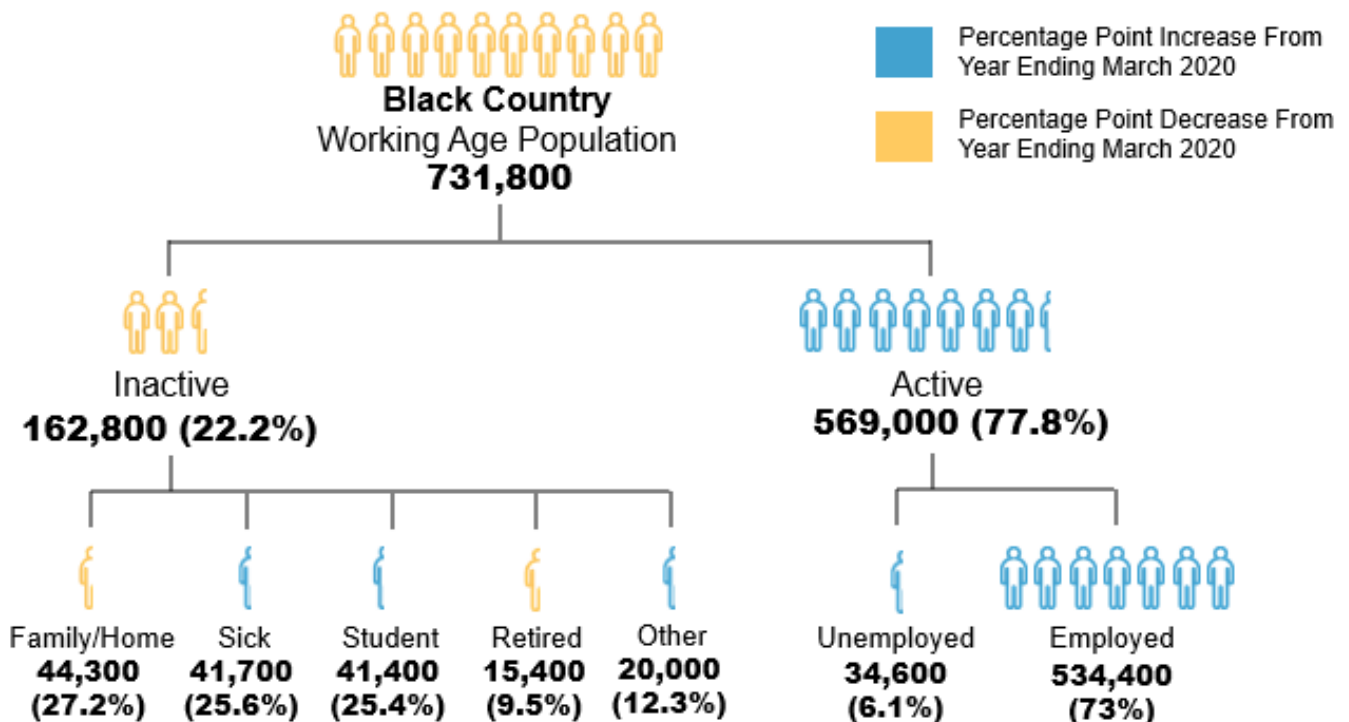


## Black Country - Annual Population Survey, Employment Activity: Year Ending March 2021<sup>1</sup>

### Summary

- In year ending March 2021, the employment rate in the Black Country was 73%, compared to 75.1% for England overall. This has increased by 2.2 percentage points (pp) compared to a 1.1pp decrease nationally since year ending March 2020.
- In year ending March 2021, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 6.1%, compared to 5.1% for England overall. This has increased by 0.5pp compared to a 1.1pp increase nationally since year ending March 2020.
- The economic activity rate for the Black Country was 77.8% compared to 79.1% for England in year ending March 2021. For the Black Country LEP this is a 2.8pp increase compared to the England decrease of 0.3pp since year ending March 2020.
- For economic inactivity, the Black Country's rate was 22.2% compared to 20.9% in England overall in year ending March 2021. For the Black Country LEP, this is a 2.8pp decrease compared to a 0.3pp increase nationally since year ending March 2020.

### The Black Country Working Age Population Breakdown for the year ending March 2021:



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey (For Year Ending March 2021) - Released September 2021

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS (Nomis): Annual Population Survey, April 2021

## Full Briefing

### Employment Rate

- In the year ending March 2021, the employment rate in the Black Country was 73.0%, compared to 75.1% for England overall. This has increased by 2.2 percentage points (pp) compared to a 1.1pp decrease nationally since year ending March 2020.
- Wolverhampton was the fastest growing local authority in the Black Country during this period, increasing its employment rate from 68.2% in year ending in March 2020 to 72.8% in year ending March 2021 (+4.6pp). Sandwell has the highest employment rate of the four local authorities at 74%, increasing by 4.4pp since March 2020. Walsall's employment rate increased from 71.5% in March 2020 to 72.7% in March 2021. Dudley had the only decrease, at -1.3pp to reach 72.5%.

#### Black Country employment rate for year ending March 2020 and year ending March 2021:

	Employment Num. March 2020	Employment Rate March 2020	Employment Num. March 2021	Employment Rate March 2021	PP Change
Dudley	140,700	73.8%	138,400	72.5%	-1.3pp
Sandwell	142,900	69.6%	151,700	74.0%	4.4pp
Walsall	123,700	71.5%	124,700	72.7%	1.2pp
Wolverhampton	112,000	68.2%	119,600	72.8%	4.6pp
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>519,300</b>	<b>70.8%</b>	<b>534,400</b>	<b>73.0%</b>	<b>2.2pp</b>
England	26,561,800	76.2%	26,186,300	75.1%	-1.1pp

### Unemployment Rate

- In the year ending March 2021, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 6.1%, compared to 5.1% for England overall. This has increased by 0.5pp compared to a 1.1pp increase nationally since year ending March 2020.
- Within the Black Country, Wolverhampton experienced a decrease in the unemployment rate. Wolverhampton's unemployment rate decreased by 1.8pp to 5.2%. Dudley's unemployment rate increased by 2.2pp to 6.7% in year ending March 2021. Walsall's unemployment rate increased from 6.4% in year ending March 2020 to 7.2% in year ending March 2021, and Sandwell increased from 4.7% to 5.3%.

#### Black Country unemployment rate for year ending March 2020 and year ending March 2021:

	Unemployment Num. March 2020	Unemployment Rate March 2020	Unemployment Num. March 2021	Unemployment Rate March 2021	PP Change
Dudley	6,600	4.5%	9,900	6.7%	2.2pp
Sandwell	7,100	4.7%	8,400	5.3%	0.6pp
Walsall	8,500	6.4%	9,700	7.2%	0.8pp
Wolverhampton	8,400	7.0%	6,600	5.2%	-1.8pp
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>34,600</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>0.5pp</b>
England	1,119,400	4.0%	1,395,800	5.1%	1.1pp

### Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Black Country LEP was 77.8% compared to 79.1% for England in the year ending March 2021. For the Black Country LEP this is a 2.8pp increase compared to the England decrease of 0.3pp since March 2020.

- All the local authorities in the Black Country experienced an increase in economic activity between year ending March 2020 and year ending March 2021. Sandwell had the highest increase in the economic activity rate by 5.0pp to reach 78.1%. Walsall's economic activity was the highest in March 2021 at 78.3%. Wolverhampton's economic activity rate increased by 3.5pp to 76.8% in year ending March 2021. Dudley increased by 0.5pp to 77.7%.

### Black Country Economic activity rate for year ending March 2020 and year ending March 2021:

	Economically Active Num. March 2020	Economically Active Rate March 2020	Economically Active Num. March 2021	Economically Active Rate March 2021	pp Change
Dudley	147,300	77.2%	148,400	77.7%	0.5pp
Sandwell	150,000	73.1%	160,100	78.1%	5.0pp
Walsall	132,100	76.4%	134,400	78.3%	1.9pp
Wolverhampton	120,400	73.3%	126,100	76.8%	3.5pp
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>549,800</b>	<b>75.0%</b>	<b>569,000</b>	<b>77.8%</b>	<b>2.8pp</b>
England	27,681,300	79.4%	27,582,100	79.1%	-0.3pp

### Economic Inactivity Rate

- For the economic inactivity rate, the Black Country LEP's rate was 22.2% compared to 20.9% in England overall in the year ending March 2021. For the Black Country LEP, this is a 2.8pp decrease compared to a 0.3pp increase nationally since year ending March 2020.
- The following table provides a breakdown for the economic inactivity rate by reason for the Black Country and England for year ending March 2021. The Black Country had on average for the year ending March 2021 a lower percentage of people that are inactive due to being a student (24.5% vs 27.5%), retirement (9.5% vs 13.5%), and those classed as other (12.3% vs 13.3%).

### Black Country and England economic inactivity by reason, March 2021:

	Black Country Economically Inactive Num. March 2021	% of Black Country Total Economically Inactive March 2021	England Economically Inactive % March 2021
% of economically inactive student	41,400	25.4%	27.5%
% of economically inactive looking after family/home	44,300	27.2%	20.4%
% of economically inactive sick	41,700	25.6%	24.5%
% of economically inactive retired	15,400	9.5%	13.5%
% of economically inactive other	20,000	12.3%	14.1%

### Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment by occupation across the Black Country LEP and England for March 2021. The Black Country LEP have a higher than national average for percentage of people employed in 5 of the 9 areas, these include: administrative and secretarial occupations (10.6% vs 10.2%), skilled trades occupations (8.9% vs 8.8%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (11.4% vs 8.9%), process, plant and machine operatives (8.5% vs 5.6%) and elementary occupations (13.4% vs 9.0%).

**Black Country and England occupations, March 2021:**

	Black Country March 2021	Black Country % March 2021	England % March 2021
1: managers, directors and senior officials	48,400	8.9%	11.4%
2: professional occupations	100,600	18.5%	23.2%
3: associate prof & tech occupations	76,300	14.0%	15.6%
4: administrative and secretarial occupations	57,500	10.6%	10.2%
5: skilled trades occupations	48,400	8.9%	8.8%
6: caring, leisure and other service occupations	61,800	11.4%	8.9%
7: sales and customer service occupations	30,100	5.5%	6.9%
8: process, plant and machine operatives	46,100	8.5%	5.6%
9: elementary occupations	72,700	13.4%	9.0%