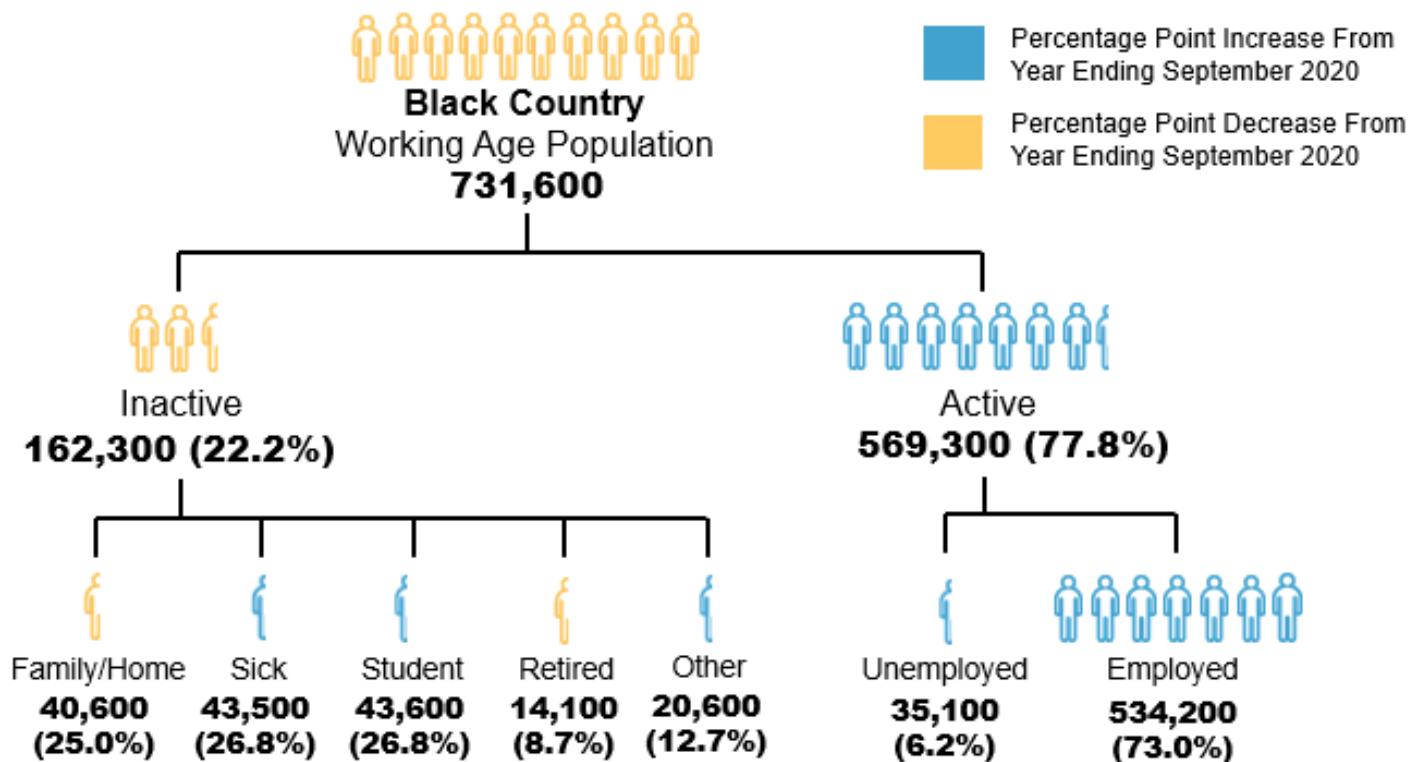


Black Country - Annual Population Survey: Year Ending September 2021¹

Key Points:

- In the year ending September 2021, the employment rate in the Black Country was 73.0%, compared to 74.9% for England overall. For the Black Country, this is the highest employment rate on record for when the year is ending September. Since the year ending September 2020, for the Black Country, this has increased by 1.2 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.9pp decrease nationally.
- In the year ending September 2021, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 6.2%, compared to 5.0% for England overall. This has increased by 0.7pp compared to a 0.6pp increase nationally since the year ending September 2020.
- In the year ending September 2021, the economic activity rate in the Black Country was 77.8%, compared to 78.8% for England overall. This has increased by 1.8pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.5pp decrease nationally since the year ending September 2020.
- For the economic inactivity rate, the Black Country LEP's rate was 22.2% compared to 21.2% in England overall in the year ending September 2021. For the Black Country LEP, this is a 1.8pp decrease compared to a 0.5pp increase nationally since the year ending September 2020.

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



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey (For Year Ending September 2021) - Released January 2022

¹ Source: ONS (Nomis): Annual Population Survey, January 2022

Full Briefing:

Employment Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending September 2021, the employment rate in the Black Country was 73.0%, compared to 74.9% for England overall. For the Black Country, this is the highest employment rate on record for when the year is ending September. Since the year ending September 2020, for the Black Country, this has increased by 1.2 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.9pp decrease nationally.
- Dudley was the fastest growing local authority in the Black Country during this period, increasing its employment rate from 71.9% in the year ending in September 2020 to 78.4% in the year ending September 2021 (+6.5pp), this was also the highest rate within the Black Country and above the England employment rate.
- Sandwell's employment rate increased by 3.5pp over the year to 73.8% for the year ending September 2021.
- Walsall's employment rate decreased from 73.1% in the year ending September 2020 to 68.9% in the year ending September 2021.
- Wolverhampton's employment rate decreased from 72.3% in the year ending September 2020 to 70.1% in the year ending September 2021.

Black Country employment rate and percentage point (pp) change for year ending September 2020 and year ending September 2021:

	Employment Rate Year Ending September 2020	Employment Rate Year Ending September 2021	PP Change
Dudley	71.9%	78.4%	6.5pp
Sandwell	70.3%	73.8%	3.5pp
Walsall	73.1%	68.9%	-4.2pp
Wolverhampton	72.3%	70.1%	-2.2pp
Black Country LEP	71.8%	73.0%	1.2pp
England	75.8%	74.9%	-0.9pp

Unemployment Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending September 2021, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 6.2%, compared to 5.0% for England overall. This has increased by 0.7pp compared to a 0.6pp increase nationally since the year ending September 2020.
- Within the Black Country, Dudley was the only local authority to decrease from the year ending September 2020 (-2.0pp), down to 4.4% in year ending September 2021 which was below the national proportion.
- Sandwell's unemployment rate increased by 1.7pp to 6.2% in the year ending September 2021.
- Walsall's unemployment rate increased from 6.3% in the year ending September 2020 to 7.7% in the year ending September 2021.
- Wolverhampton's unemployment rate increased from 4.7% in the year ending September 2020 to 6.8% in the year ending September 2021.

Black Country unemployment rate and percentage point (pp) change for year ending September 2020 and year ending September 2021:

	Unemployment Rate Year Ending September 2020	Unemployment Rate Year Ending September 2021	PP Change
Dudley	6.4%	4.4%	-2.0pp
Sandwell	4.5%	6.2%	1.7pp
Walsall	6.3%	7.7%	1.4pp
Wolverhampton	4.7%	6.8%	2.1pp
Black Country LEP	5.5%	6.2%	0.7pp
England	4.4%	5.0%	0.6pp

Economic Activity Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending September 2021, the economic activity rate in the Black Country was 77.8%, compared to 78.8% for England overall. This has increased by 1.8pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.5pp decrease nationally since the year ending September 2020.
- Dudley's economic activity rate increased from 76.8% in year ending in September 2020 to 82.0% in the year ending September 2021 (+5.2pp), this was also the highest rate within the Black Country and above the national proportion.
- Sandwell's economic activity rate increased by 5.0pp over the year to 78.6% for the year ending September 2021.
- Walsall's economic activity rate decreased from 77.9% in the year ending September 2020 to 74.6% in the year ending September 2021.
- Wolverhampton's economic activity rate decreased from 75.9% in the year ending September 2020 to 75.3% in the year ending September 2021.

Black Country economic activity rate and percentage point (pp) change for year ending September 2020 and year ending September 2021:

	Economic Activity Rate Year Ending September 2020	Economic Activity Rate Year Ending September 2021	PP Change
Dudley	76.8%	82.0%	5.2pp
Sandwell	73.6%	78.6%	5.0pp
Walsall	77.9%	74.6%	-3.3pp
Wolverhampton	75.9%	75.3%	-0.6pp
Black Country LEP	76.0%	77.8%	1.8pp
England	79.3%	78.8%	-0.5pp

Economic Inactivity Rate (Aged 16-64)

- For the economic inactivity rate, the Black Country LEP's rate was 22.2% compared to 21.2% in England overall in the year ending September 2021. For the Black Country LEP, this is a 1.8pp decrease compared to a 0.5pp increase nationally since the year ending September 2020.
- The following table provides a breakdown for the economic inactivity rate by reason for the Black Country and England for the year ending September 2021. In the year ending September 2021, the Black Country had a higher percentage of people that are inactive due to looking after family/home (25.0% vs 19.7%), sick (26.8% vs 25.3%).

Black Country and England economic inactivity by reason, year ending September 2021:

	Black Country	England
Student	26.8%	28.8%
Looking after family/home	25.0%	19.7%
Sick	26.8%	25.3%
Retired	8.7%	13.5%
Other	12.7%	12.8%

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 England for the year ending September 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 (10.5% vs 10.3%), skilled trades occupations (10.7% vs 8.8%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (11.9% vs 9.0%), process, plant and machine operatives (9.1% vs 5.6%) and elementary occupations (11.9% vs 9.2%).

Black Country and England employment proportions by occupations, year ending September 2021:

	Black Country	England
1: managers, directors and senior officials	8.3%	10.9%
2: professional occupations	18.3%	23.4%
3: associate prof & tech occupations	14.0%	15.6%
4: administrative and secretarial occupations	10.5%	10.3%
5: skilled trades occupations	10.7%	8.8%
6: caring, leisure and other service occupations	11.9%	9.0%
7: sales and customer service occupations	5.1%	6.9%
8: process, plant and machine operatives	9.1%	5.6%
9: elementary occupations	11.9%	9.2%