



Black Country Claimant Count - Released August 2022

In Summary:

- The Black Country had 44,790 claimants in July 2022, an increase of 70 claimants (+0.2%) since June 2022; the UK decreased by 0.5% over this period. Compared to July 2021, Black Country claimants decreased by 13,795 (-23.5%); the UK decreased by 31.0% over this period. The Black Country has 6,515 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase for the Black Country by 17.0%, while the UK increased by 21.5%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 4.7% compared to 2.8% for the UK in July 2022.
- In July 2022, there were 7,865 youth (aged 16-24) claimants in the Black Country, an increase of 185 (+2.4%) – matching the UK increase since June 2022. When compared to July 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 3,660 (-31.8%) in the Black Country, while UK-wide decreased by 37.6%. The Black Country had 115 more youth claimants when compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 1.5%, while the UK increased by 3.8%.
- Notably, in July 2022, when compared to pre-Coronavirus levels (March 2020), Dudley had 105 fewer youth claimants and Walsall had 100 fewer youth claimants.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 6.4% compared to 3.6% for the UK in July 2022.

In Full:

Claimant count for people aged 16 years and over¹

- The Black Country had 44,790 claimants in July 2022, an increase of 70 claimants (+0.2%) since June 2022; the UK decreased by 0.5% over this period. Compared to July 2021, Black Country claimants decreased by 13,795 (-23.5%); the UK decreased by 31.0% over this period. The Black Country has 6,515 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase for the Black Country by 17.0%, while the UK increased by 21.5%.
- Dudley had 9,500 claimants aged 16 years and over in July 2022, remaining the same level from the previous month. Compared to July 2021, claimants in Dudley decreased by 2,835 (-23.0%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 985 (+11.6%).
- Sandwell had 13,515 claimants aged 16 years and over in July 2022, an increase of 35 (+0.3%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to July 2021, claimants in Sandwell decreased by 3,805 (-22.0%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 2,735 (+25.4%).
- Walsall had 9,705 claimants aged 16 years and over in July 2022, an increase of 15 (+0.2%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to July 2021, claimants in Walsall decreased by 3,655 (-27.4%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 1,100 (+12.8%).
- Wolverhampton had 12,070 claimants aged 16 years and over in July 2022, an increase of 20 (+0.2%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to July 2021, claimants in Wolverhampton decreased by 3,500 (-22.5%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 1,690 (+16.3%).

¹ Source: ONS based off Department of Work and Pensions, Claimant Count, August 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 July 2022:

	March 2020	July 2021	June 2022	July 2022	% change Since March 20	% change 1 year	% change 1 month
Dudley	8,515	12,335	9,500	9,500	11.6%	-23.0%	0.0%
Sandwell	10,780	17,320	13,480	13,515	25.4%	-22.0%	0.3%
Walsall	8,605	13,360	9,690	9,705	12.8%	-27.4%	0.2%
Wolverhampton	10,380	15,570	12,050	12,070	16.3%	-22.5%	0.2%
Black Country	38,275	58,585	44,720	44,790	17.0%	-23.5%	0.2%
United Kingdom	1,268,620	2,232,760	1,548,500	1,541,090	21.5%	-31.0%	-0.5%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 4.7% compared to 2.8% for the UK in July 2022. The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 5.8%, Sandwell at 5.3%, Walsall at 4.3% and Dudley at 3.7%.

Ward Analysis

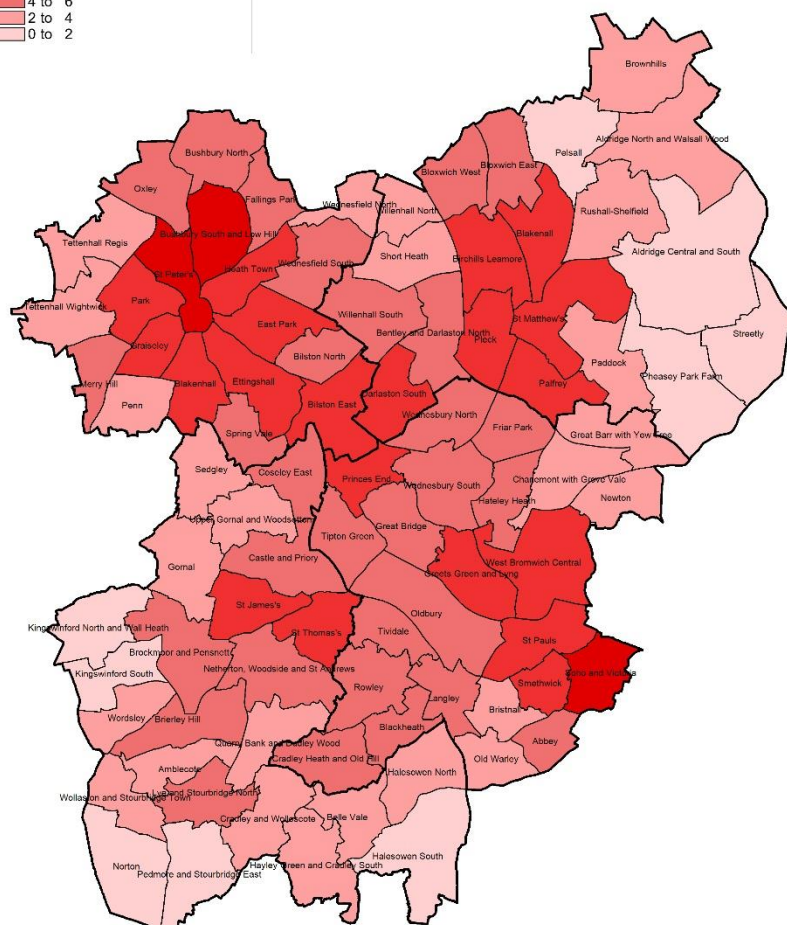
The map to the right shows at a ward level in the Black Country, claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in July 2022.

CLAIMANTS

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



- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 70 were above the UK overall proportion of 2.8% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in July 2022.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in May 2022 were St Peter's (Wolverhampton) at 9.8%, Soho and Victoria (Sandwell) at 8.9% and Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 8.1%.
- In contrast, the lowest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in July 2022 were in Streetly (Walsall) at 0.9%, followed by Kingswinford North and Wall Heath (Dudley) at 1.4% and then Halesowen South (Dudley) at 1.5%.



Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In July 2022, there were 7,865 youth (aged 16-24) claimants in the Black Country, an increase of 185 (+2.4%) – matching the UK increase since June 2022. When compared to July 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 3,660 (-31.8%) in the Black Country, while UK-wide decreased by 37.6%. The Black Country had 115 more youth claimants when compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 1.5%, while the UK increased by 3.8%.
- Dudley had 1,650 youth claimants in July 2022, an increase of 10 (+0.6%) youth claimants since June 2022. When compared to July 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 815 (-33.1%). When compared to pre-Coronavirus levels (March 2020), Dudley had 105 less claimants (-6.0%).
- Sandwell had 2,365 youth claimants in July 2022, this is an increase of 55 claimants (+2.4%) since June 2022. When compared to July 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 995 (-29.6%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 235 (+11.0%).
- Walsall had 1,840 youth claimants in July 2022, an increase of 45 (+2.5%) claimants since June 2022. When compared to July 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 960 (-34.3%). When compared to pre-Coronavirus levels (March 2020), Walsall had 100 less claimants (-5.2%).
- Wolverhampton had 2,010 youth claimants in July 2022, an increase of 75 (+3.9%) claimants since June 2022. When compared to July 2021, the number of youth claimants decreased by 890 (-30.7%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 85 (+4.4%).

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 July 2022:

	March 2020	July 2021	June 2022	July 2022	% change Since March 20	% change 1 year	% change 1 month
Dudley	1,755	2,465	1,640	1,650	-6.0%	-33.1%	0.6%
Sandwell	2,130	3,360	2,310	2,365	11.0%	-29.6%	2.4%
Walsall	1,940	2,800	1,795	1,840	-5.2%	-34.3%	2.5%
Wolverhampton	1,925	2,900	1,935	2,010	4.4%	-30.7%	3.9%
Black Country	7,750	11,525	7,680	7,865	1.5%	-31.8%	2.4%
United Kingdom	241,760	401,860	245,090	250,875	3.8%	-37.6%	2.4%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 6.4% compared to 3.6% for the UK in July 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 7.5%, Sandwell at 6.9%, Walsall at 6.2% and Dudley at 5.3%.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 77 were above or the same as UK-wide rate of 3.6% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in July 2022.



- The wards that had the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in July 2022 was East Park (Wolverhampton) at 10.8%, West Bromwich Central (Sandwell) at 10.0% and Bilston East (Walsall) at 9.9%.
- In contrast, the lowest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in July 2022 were in Streetly (Walsall) at 1.4%, Halesowen South (Dudley) at 1.9% and Norton (Dudley) at 2.0%.

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

YOUTH CLAIMANTS

Claimants as % of all residents aged 16-24 per ward (July 2022)

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

