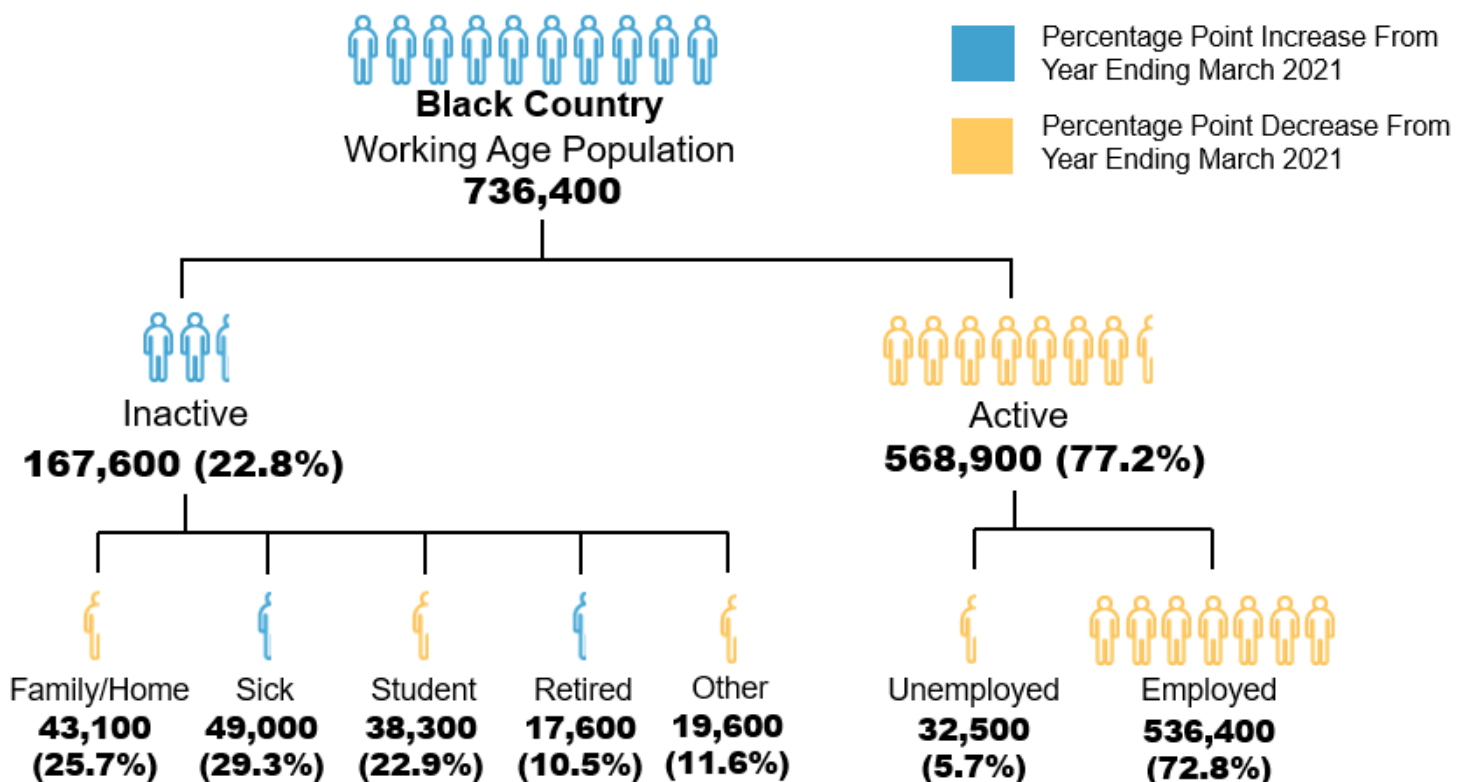


## Black Country - Annual Population Survey, Labour Market: Year Ending March 2022<sup>1</sup>

### Key Points:

- In the year ending March 2022, the employment rate in the Black Country was 72.8%, compared to 75.1% for UK overall. Since the year ending March 2021, for the Black Country, this decreased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.4pp increase nationally.
- In the year ending March 2022, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 5.7%, compared to 4.2% for UK overall. This has decreased by 0.4pp compared to a 0.7pp decrease nationally since the year ending March 2022.
- In the year ending March 2022, the economic activity rate in the Black Country was 77.2%, compared to 78.4% for UK overall. This has decreased by 0.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.1pp decrease nationally since year ending March 2021.
- In the year ending March 2022, the overall economic inactivity rate in the Black Country was 22.8%, compared to 21.6% for UK overall. This has increased by 0.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.1pp increase nationally since the year ending March 2021.

### The Black Country Working Age Population Breakdown for the year ending March 2022:



Please note, working age population change is percentage change.

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

## Full Briefing:

### Employment Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending March 2022, the employment rate in the Black Country was 72.8%, compared to 75.1% for UK overall. Since the year ending March 2021, for the Black Country, this decreased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.4pp increase nationally.
- Dudley was only local authority in the Black Country to increase during this period, increasing its employment rate from 72.5% in the year ending March 2021 to 78.7% in the year ending March 2022 (+6.2pp), this was also the highest rate within the Black Country and above the UK employment rate.
- Sandwell's employment rate decreased by 4.4pp over the year to 69.6% in the year ending March 2022.
- Walsall's employment rate decreased from 72.7% in the year ending March 2021 to 70.8% (-1.9pp) in the year ending March 2022.
- Wolverhampton's employment rate decreased by 0.5pp over the year to 72.3% in the year ending March 2022.

### Black Country and UK employment rate and percentage point (pp) change for year ending March 2021 and year ending March 2022:

	Employment Rate Year to Mar 2021	Employment Rate Year to Mar 2022	PP Change
Dudley	72.5%	78.7%	6.2pp
Sandwell	74.0%	69.6%	-4.4pp
Walsall	72.7%	70.8%	-1.9pp
Wolverhampton	72.8%	72.3%	-0.5pp
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>73.0%</b>	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>-0.2pp</b>
UK	74.7%	75.1%	0.4pp

### Unemployment Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending March 2022, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 5.7%, compared to 4.2% for UK overall. This has decreased by 0.4pp compared to a 0.7pp decrease nationally since the year ending March 2022.
- Within the Black Country, Dudley's unemployment rate decreased from 6.7% in the year ending March 2021 down to 4.2% in the year ending March 2022, which matched the national proportion.
- Sandwell's unemployment rate increased by 1.6pp to 6.9% in the year ending March 2022.
- Walsall's unemployment rate decreased from 7.2% in the year ending March 2021 to 5.7% (-1.5pp) in the year ending March 2022.
- Wolverhampton's unemployment rate increased from 5.2% in the year ending March 2021 to 6.2% (+1.0pp) in the year ending March 2022.

### Black Country and UK unemployment rate and percentage point (pp) change for year ending March 2021 and year ending March 2022:

	Unemployment Rate Year to Mar 2021	Unemployment Rate Year to Mar 2022	PP Change
Dudley	6.7%	4.2%	-2.5pp
Sandwell	5.3%	6.9%	1.6pp
Walsall	7.2%	5.7%	-1.5pp
Wolverhampton	5.2%	6.2%	1.0pp
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>-0.4pp</b>
UK	4.9%	4.2%	-0.7pp

## Economic Activity Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending March 2022, the economic activity rate in the Black Country was 77.2%, compared to 78.4% for UK overall. This has decreased by 0.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.1pp decrease nationally since year ending March 2021.
- Dudley's economic activity rate increased from 77.7% in the year ending March 2021 to 82.1% (+4.4pp) in the year ending March 2022, this was also the highest rate within the Black Country and above the national proportion.
- Sandwell's economic activity rate decreased by 3.3pp over the year to 74.8% in the year ending March 2022.
- Walsall's economic activity rate decreased by 3.3pp over the year to 75.0% in the year ending March 2022.
- Wolverhampton's economic activity rate increased from 76.8% in the year ending March 2021 to 77.1% (+0.3pp) in the year ending March 2022.

### Black Country and UK economic activity rate and percentage point (pp) change for year ending March 2021 and year ending March 2022:

	Economic Activity Rate Year to Mar 2021	Economic Activity Rate Year to Mar 2022	PP Change
Dudley	77.7%	82.1%	4.4pp
Sandwell	78.1%	74.8%	-3.3pp
Walsall	78.3%	75.0%	-3.3pp
Wolverhampton	76.8%	77.1%	0.3pp
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>77.8%</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>-0.6pp</b>
UK	78.5%	78.4%	-0.1pp

## Economic Inactivity Rate (Aged 16-64)

- In the year ending March 2022, the overall economic inactivity rate in the Black Country was 22.8%, compared to 21.6% for UK overall. This has increased by 0.6pp for the Black Country compared to a 0.1pp increase nationally since the year ending March 2021.
- The increase in economic activity in the Black Country can mainly be linked to increases in those classed as sick, increasing by 3.7pp (or 7,300 people).
- The following table provides a breakdown for the economic inactivity rate by reason for the Black Country and UK for the year ending March 2022. In the year ending March 2022, the Black Country had a higher percentage of people that are inactive due to looking after family/home (25.7% vs 19.5%) and sick (29.3% vs 27.3).

### Black Country and UK economic inactivity by reason, year ending March 2022:

	Black Country	UK
Student	22.9%	27.6%
Looking after family/home	25.7%	19.5%
Sick	29.3%	27.3%
Retired	10.5%	13.5%
Other	11.6%	12.1%

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 the year ending March 2022. The Black Country LEP have a higher than national average for percentage of people employed in six of the nine areas, these include; associate prof & tech occupations (15.1% vs 14.8%), administrative & secretarial occupations (13.1% vs 10.3%), skilled trades occupations (10.5% vs 8.7%), caring, leisure & other service occupations (9.7% vs 8.1%), process, plant & machine operatives (9.4% vs 5.6%) and elementary occupations (10.2% vs 9.5%).

**Black Country and UK employment proportions by occupations, year ending March 2022:**

	Black Country	UK
1: managers, directors and senior officials	7.7%	10.3%
2: professional occupations	18.6%	25.5%
3: associate prof & tech occupations	15.1%	14.8%
4: administrative and secretarial occupations	13.1%	10.3%
5: skilled trades occupations	10.5%	8.7%
6: caring, leisure and other service occupations	9.7%	8.1%
7: sales and customer service occupations	5.4%	6.7%
8: process, plant and machine operatives	9.4%	5.6%
9: elementary occupations	10.2%	9.5%