

Black Country Claimant Count Summary: Released April 2021

In Summary:

- The Black Country had 67,375 claimants in March 2021, an increase of 315 claimants (+0.5%) from February 2021; the UK also increased by 0.5% over this period. The Black Country now has 29,100 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase of 76.0%, while the UK increased by 112.3%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 7.1% compared to 5.0% for UK in March 2021.
- In March 2021, there were 13,765 youth claimants in the Black Country, an increase of 1.4% (+190) from February 2021, while for the UK there was an increase of 1.2%. The Black Country has 6,015 more youth claimants compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 77.6%, while the UK increased by 113.4%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 11.2% compared to 7.3% for the UK in March 2021.

In Full:

Claimant count for people aged 16 years and over¹

- The Black Country had 67,375 claimants in March 2021, an increase of 315 claimants (+0.5%) from February 2021; the UK also increased by 0.5% over this period. The Black Country now has 29,100 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase of 76.0%, while the UK increased by 112.3%.
- Dudley had 14,485 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2021, a decrease of 55 (-0.4%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 5,970 (+70.1%).
- Sandwell had 20,025 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2021, an increase of 95 (+0.5%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 9,245 (+85.8%).
- Walsall had 15,380 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2021, an increase of 60 (+0.4%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,775 (+78.7%).
- Wolverhampton had 17,485 claimants aged 16 years and over in March 2021, an increase of 215 (+1.2%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 7,105 (+68.4%).

¹ Source: ONS based off Department of Work and Pensions, Claimant Count, April 2021



The following table shows across the Black Country and for the UK for selected months the number of claimants and change for selected months:

	March 2020	February 2021	March 2021	% Change (Feb 21 - Mar 21)	% Change (Mar 20 - Mar 21)
Dudley	8,515	14,540	14,485	-0.4%	70.1%
Sandwell	10,780	19,930	20,025	0.5%	85.8%
Walsall	8,605	15,320	15,380	0.4%	78.7%
Wolverhampton	10,380	17,270	17,485	1.2%	68.4%
Black Country	38,275	67,060	67,375	0.5%	76.0%
UK	1,268,620	2,678,280	2,692,940	0.5%	112.3%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 7.1% compared to 5.0% for UK in March 2021.
- The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 8.5%, Sandwell at 7.9%, Walsall at 6.9% and Dudley at 5.6%.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 68 were above the UK overall proportion of 5.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2021.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2021 were Soho and Victoria (Sandwell) at 13.5%, followed by St Peter's (Wolverhampton) at 13.2% and Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 11.7%.

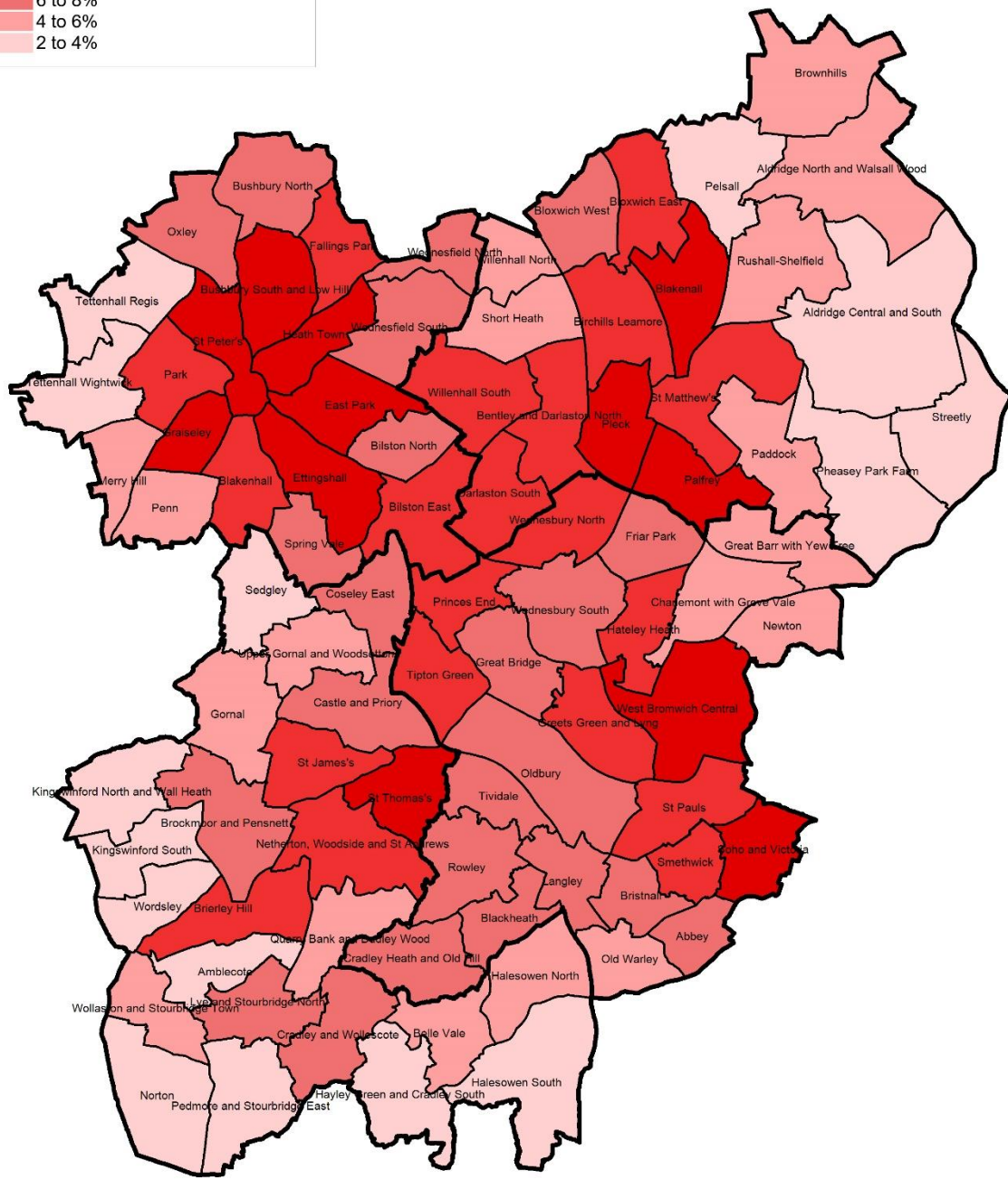


The following map shows at a ward level in the Black Country, claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in March 2021:

CLAIMANTS

Claimants as % of all residents aged 16+ per ward (March 2021)

- 10 to 14%
- 8 to 10%
- 6 to 8%
- 4 to 6%
- 2 to 4%



Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In March 2021, there were 13,765 youth claimants in the Black Country, an increase of 1.4% (+190) from February 2021, while for the UK there was an increase of 1.2%. The Black Country has 6,015 more youth claimants compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 77.6%, while the UK increased by 113.4%.
- Dudley had 3,090 youth claimants in March in 2021, this has remained the same since February 2021. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,335 (+76.1%).
- Sandwell had 4,070 youth claimants in March 2021, this is an increase of 70 (+1.8%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,940 (+91.1%).
- Walsall had 3,300 youth claimants in March 2021, an increase of 60 (+1.9%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,360 (+70.1%).
- Wolverhampton had 3,300 youth claimants in March 2021, this is an increase of 50 (+1.5%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,375 (+71.4%).

The following table shows across the Black Country and for the UK for selected months the number of youth claimants and change for selected months:

	March 2020	February 2021	March 2021	% Change (Feb 21 - Mar 21)	% Change (Mar 20 - Mar 21)
Dudley	1,755	3,090	3,090	0.0%	76.1%
Sandwell	2,130	4,000	4,070	1.8%	91.1%
Walsall	1,940	3,240	3,300	1.9%	70.1%
Wolverhampton	1,925	3,250	3,300	1.5%	71.4%
Black Country	7,750	13,575	13,765	1.4%	77.6%
UK	241,760	509,610	515,945	1.2%	113.4%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 11.2% compared to 7.3% for the UK in March 2021.
- 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 12.2%, Sandwell at 11.8%, Walsall at 11.1% and Dudley at 9.9%.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 80 were at or above the UK average of 7.3% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in March 2021.
- The ward that had the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in March 2021 was East Park (Wolverhampton) at 17.3%. This was followed by Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 16.6% and then Bloxwich East at 16.3%.

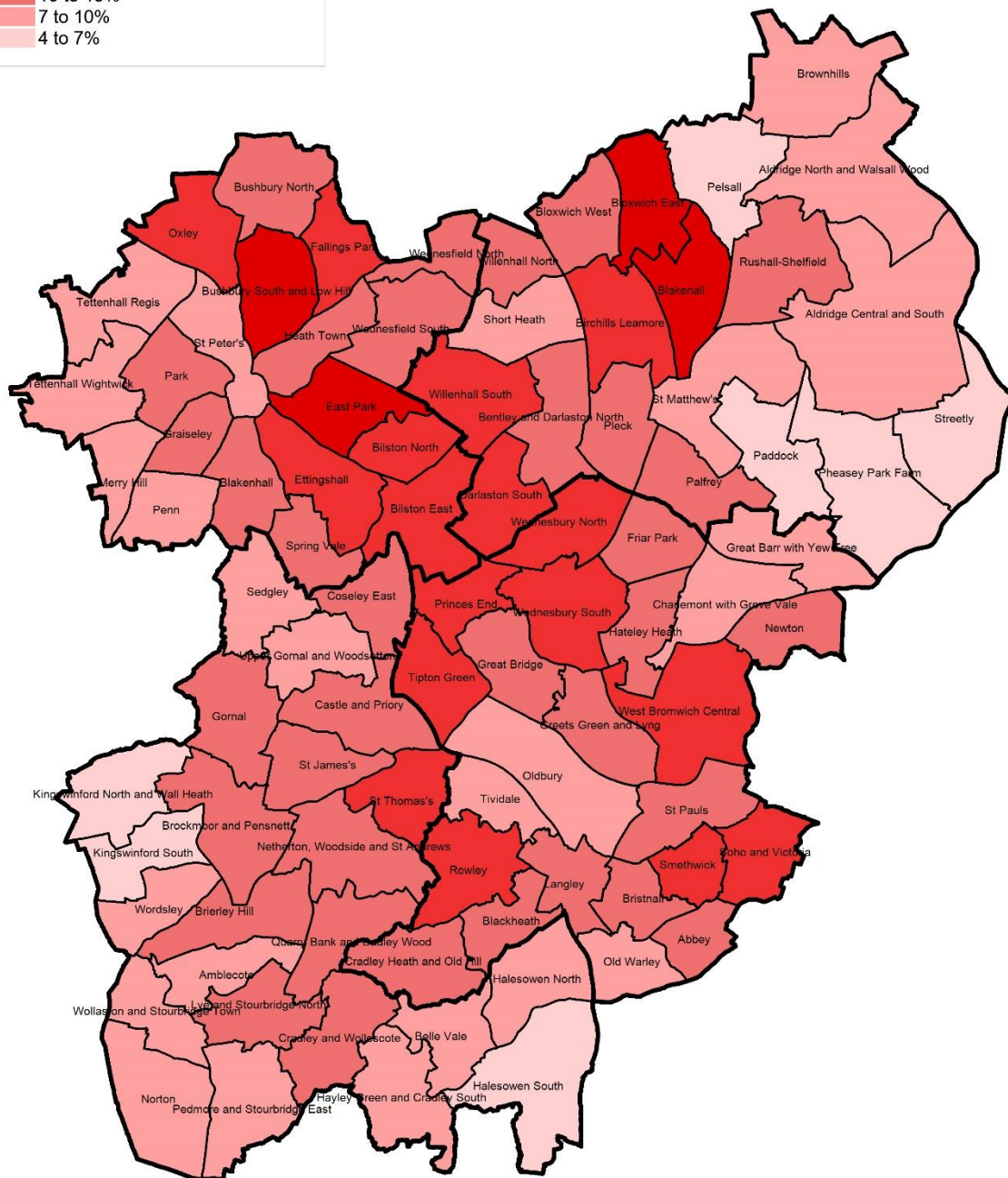


The following map shows at a ward level in the Black Country, claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16-24 years old in March 2021:

YOUTH CLAIMANTS

Claimants as % of all residents aged 16-24 per ward (March 2021)

- 16 to 18%
- 13 to 16%
- 10 to 13%
- 7 to 10%
- 4 to 7%



Alternative Claimant Count²

An experimental quarterly alternative claimant count was released that covers the yearly month of February 2016 to February 2021. These statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began).

Trends over time for local areas can be considered using the Claimant Count prior to 2013, and the Alternative Claimant Count from 2013. However, the figures cannot be directly compared as they are defined differently.

Figures and rates from April 2020 onwards show higher levels of claimant unemployment given the impact of coronavirus and the UK Government's response.

All Ages

- The alternative claimant count data estimates 67,960 claimants in the Black Country area in February 2021, an increase of 71.0% (+28,213) when compared to February 2020. Over the same period the UK increased by 102.4%.

All Ages Alternative Claimant Count, February 2016 – February 2021:

	February 2016	February 2017	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020	February 2021	Num. Change since Feb 20	% Change since Feb 20
Dudley	8,545	8,603	8,423	8,666	8,597	14,563	5,966	69.4%
Sandwell	11,584	11,692	11,186	10,875	11,575	20,454	8,879	76.7%
Walsall	8,445	8,562	8,254	8,301	8,957	15,513	6,556	73.2%
Wolverhampton	10,290	10,342	10,009	10,397	10,618	17,430	6,812	64.2%
Black Country	38,864	39,199	37,872	38,239	39,747	67,960	28,213	71.0%
UK	1,354,921	1,297,045	1,267,835	1,292,655	1,330,888	2,694,140	1,363,252	102.4%

Alternative Claimant Count - 16 – 24-years old

- The alternative claimant count data estimates that there were 13,115 youth claimants in the Black Country area in February 2021, an increase of 86.0% (+6,064) when compared to February 2020. Over the same period the UK increased by 124.5%.

16- 24 years old Alternative Claimant Count, February 2016 – February 2021:

	February 2016	February 2017	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020	February 2021	Num. Change since Feb 20	% Change since Feb 20
Dudley	1,531	1,500	1,445	1,491	1,604	2,948	1,344	83.8%
Sandwell	1,863	1,796	1,625	1,540	1,929	3,868	1,939	100.5%
Walsall	1,471	1,436	1,400	1,380	1,713	3,129	1,416	82.7%
Wolverhampton	1,811	1,750	1,640	1,692	1,805	3,170	1,365	75.6%
Black Country	6,676	6,482	6,110	6,103	7,051	13,115	6,064	86.0%
UK	219,766	197,570	187,599	198,455	218,748	490,980	272,232	124.5%

² Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Alternative claimant statistics, April 2021