



Claimant Count Summary: Released 23rd February 2021

In Summary:

- The Black Country had 64,890 claimants in January 2021, a decrease of 0.2% (-115) from December 2020, while the UK decreased by 0.7%. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 26,615 in the Black Country. This is an increase of 69.5%, while the UK increased by 102.7%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 6.9% compared to 4.8% for UK in January 2021.
- The Black Country had 13,290 youth claimants in January 2021, a decrease of 1.8% (-240) from December 2020; the UK decreased by 0.6%. When compared to March 2020, there were 5,540 more claimants in the Black Country. This is an increase of 71.5%, while the UK increased by 105.8%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old was 10.9% in compared to 7.0% for the UK in January 2021.

In Full:

Claimant count for people aged 16 years and over¹

- The Black Country had 64,890 claimants in January 2021, a decrease of 115 claimants (-0.2%) from December 2020; the UK decreased by 0.7%.
- The Black Country has 26,615 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase of 69.5%, while the UK increased by 102.7%.
- The Black Country has 29,110 more claimants when compared to January 2020, an increase of 81.4%, this is below the UK average increase of 111.6%.
- Dudley had 14,110 claimants aged 16 years and over in January 2021, this is a decrease of 110 (-0.8%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 5,595 (+65.7%). When compared to January 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 5,955 (+73.0%).
- Sandwell had 19,325 claimants aged 16 years and over in January 2021, this is a decrease of 60 (-0.3%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 8,545 (+79.3%). When compared to January 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 9,335 (+93.4%).
- Walsall had 14,705 claimants aged 16 years and over in January 2021, this is an increase of 20 (+0.1%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,100 (+70.9%). When compared to January 2021, the number of claimants has increased by 6,735 (+84.5%).

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



- Wolverhampton had 16,750 claimants aged 16 years and over in January 2021, this is an increase of 30 (+0.2%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,370 (+61.4%). When compared to January 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 7,080 (+73.2%).

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

	January 2020	March 2020	December 2020	January 2021	% Change (Jan 21 - Jan 20)	% Change (Jan 21 - Mar 20)	% Change (Jan 21 - Dec 20)
Dudley	8,155	8,515	14,220	14,110	73.0%	65.7%	-0.8%
Sandwell	9,990	10,780	19,385	19,325	93.4%	79.3%	-0.3%
Walsall	7,970	8,605	14,685	14,705	84.5%	70.9%	0.1%
Wolverhampton	9,670	10,380	16,720	16,750	73.2%	61.4%	0.2%
Black Country	35,780	38,275	65,005	64,890	81.4%	69.5%	-0.2%
UK	1,215,555	1,268,620	2,589,740	2,572,015	111.6%	102.7%	-0.7%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 6.9% compared to 4.8% for UK in January 2021.
- The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 8.1%, Sandwell at 7.6%, Walsall at 6.6% and Dudley at 5.4% in January 2021.

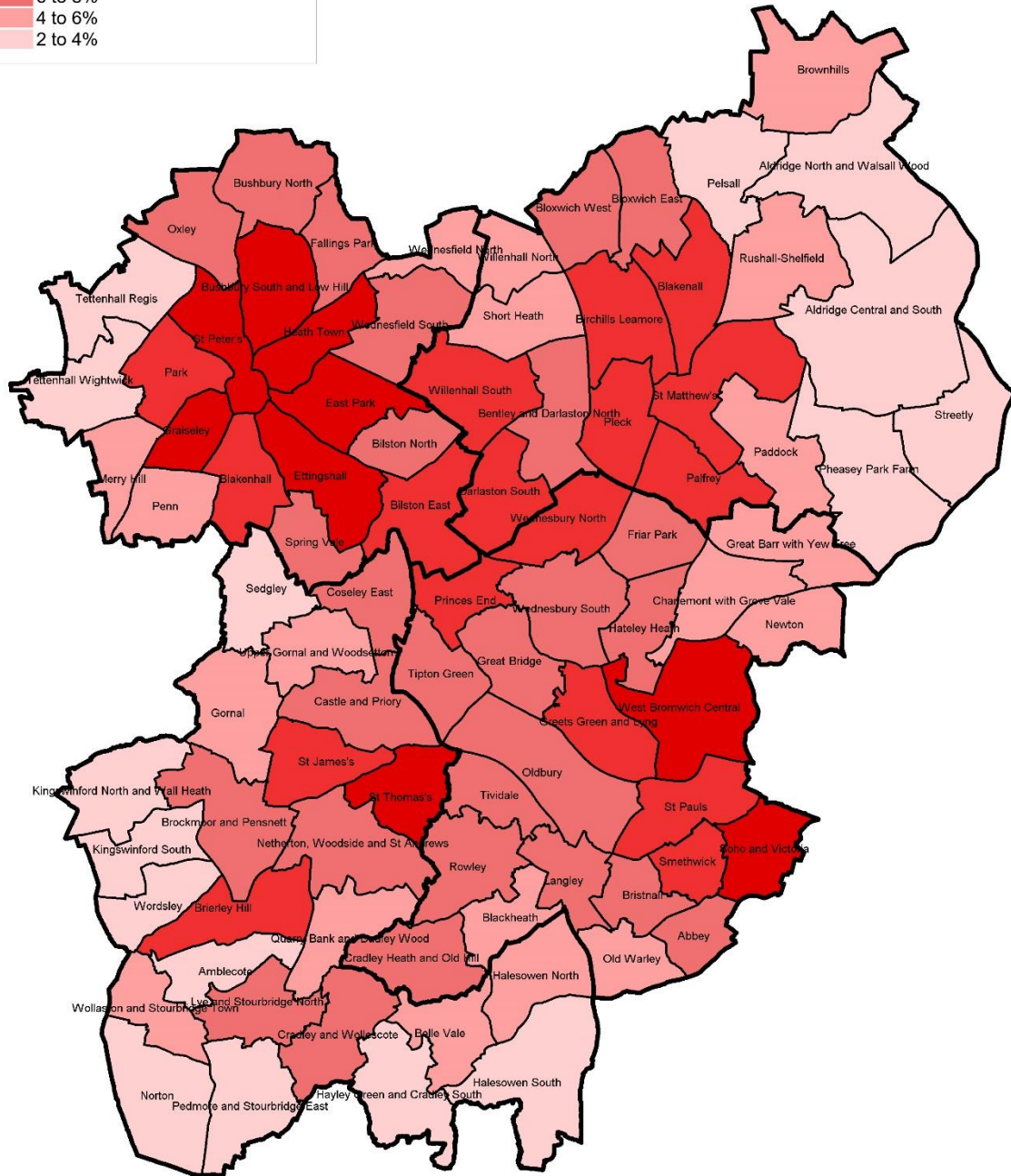
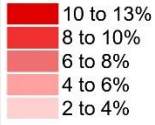
Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 69 were the same or above the UK proportion of 4.8% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in January 2021.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in January 2021 were Soho and Victoria at 12.9%, followed by St Peter's at 12.6% and Bushbury South and Low Hill at 11.2%.

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

CLAIMANTS

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





Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In January 2021, there were 13,290 youth claimants in the Black Country a decrease of 1.8% (-240) from December 2020, while for the UK there was a decrease of 0.6%.
- The Black Country has 5,540 more youth claimants compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 71.5%, while the UK increased by 105.8%.
- The Black Country has 6,105 more youth claimants when compared to the same month from the previous year, an increase of 85.0%, this is below the UK average increase of 119.5%.
- Dudley had 3,020 youth claimants in January 2021, this is a decrease of 75 (-2.4%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,265 (+72.1%). When compared to January 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,360 (+81.9%).
- Sandwell had 3,925 youth claimants in January 2021, this is a decrease of 95 (-2.4%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,795 (+84.3%). When compared to January 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,985 (+102.3%).
- Walsall had 3,140 youth claimants in January 2021, a decrease of 30 (-0.9%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,200 (+61.9%). When compared to January 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,375 (+77.9%).
- Wolverhampton had 3,200 youth claimants in January 2021, this is a decrease of 45 (-1.4%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,275 (+66.2%). When compared to January 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,380 (+75.8%).

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:

	January 2020	March 2020	December 2020	January 2021	% Change (Jan 21 - Jan 20)	% Change (Jan 21 - Mar 20)	% Change (Jan 21 - Dec 20)
Dudley	1,660	1,755	3,095	3,020	81.9%	72.1%	-2.4%
Sandwell	1,940	2,130	4,020	3,925	102.3%	84.3%	-2.4%
Walsall	1,765	1,940	3,170	3,140	77.9%	61.9%	-0.9%
Wolverhampton	1,820	1,925	3,245	3,200	75.8%	66.2%	-1.4%
Black Country	7,185	7,750	13,530	13,290	85.0%	71.5%	-1.8%
UK	226,650	241,760	500,660	497,605	119.5%	105.8%	-0.6%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 10.9% compared to 7.0% for the UK in January 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 11.8%, Sandwell at 11.4%, Walsall at 10.5% and Dudley at 9.7% in January 2021.



Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 80 were above the UK average of 7.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in January 2021.
- The ward that had the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in January 2021 was East Park at 17.3%. This was followed by Bushbury South and Low Hill at 15.7% and then Blakenall and Bloxwich East both at 15.1%.

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

YOUTH CLAIMANTS

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

