

## Black Country Claimant Count: November 2021 - Released December 2021

### In Summary:

- The Black Country had 55,255 claimants in November 2021, a decrease of 825 claimants (-1.6%) from October 2021; the UK decreased by 2.0% over this period. Compared to the same month in 2020, Black Country claimants decreased by 13,265 (-20.2%); the UK decreased by 26.3% over this period. The Black Country has 13,980 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase for the Black Country by 36.5%, while the UK increased by 51.3%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 5.5% compared to 3.5% for UK in November 2021.
- In November 2021, there were 9,625 youth claimants in the Black Country, a decrease of 270 (-2.7%) from October 2021, while for the UK there was a decrease of 3.2%. When compared to November 2020, the number of youth claimants decreased by 4,010 (-29.4%) in the Black Country, while UK-wide decreased by 36.9%. The Black Country had 1,875 more youth claimants when compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 24.2%, while the UK increased by 32.7%.
- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 82 were at or above the UK-wide rate of 4.5% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in November 2021.

### In Full:

#### Claimant count for people aged 16 years and over<sup>1</sup>

- The Black Country had 55,255 claimants in November 2021, a decrease of 825 claimants (-1.6%) from October 2021; the UK decreased by 2.0% over this period. Compared to the same month in 2020, Black Country claimants decreased by 13,265 (-20.2%); the UK decreased by 26.3% over this period. The Black Country has 13,980 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase for the Black Country by 36.5%, while the UK increased by 51.3%.
- Dudley had 11,040 claimants aged 16 years and over in November 2021, a decrease of 265 (-2.3%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in Dudley decreased by 3,350 (-23.3%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 2,525 (+29.7%).
- Sandwell had 15,575 claimants aged 16 years and over in November 2021, a decrease of 175 (-1.1%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in Sandwell decreased by 3,835 (-19.8%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 4,795 (+44.5%).
- Walsall had 11,835 claimants aged 16 years and over in November 2021, a decrease of 130 (-1.1%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in Walsall decreased by 3,020 (-20.3%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 3,230 (+37.5%).
- Wolverhampton had 13,805 claimants aged 16 years and over in November 2021, a decrease of 250 (-1.8%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants

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<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS based off Department of Work and Pensions, Claimant Count, December 2021. Please note, October 2021 figures have been revised.

in Wolverhampton decreased by 3,060 (-18.1%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 3,425 (+33.0%).

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	November 2020	October 2021	November 2021	% Change (Nov 21 - Mar 20)	% Change (Nov 21 - Nov 20)	% Change (Nov 21 - Oct 21)
Dudley	8,515	14,390	11,305	11,040	29.7%	-23.3%	-2.3%
Sandwell	10,780	19,410	15,750	15,575	44.5%	-19.8%	-1.1%
Walsall	8,605	14,855	11,965	11,835	37.5%	-20.3%	-1.1%
Wolverhampton	10,380	16,865	14,055	13,805	33.0%	-18.1%	-1.8%
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>38,275</b>	<b>65,520</b>	<b>53,080</b>	<b>52,255</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>-20.2%</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
United Kingdom	1,268,620	2,604,825	1,957,735	1,919,105	51.3%	-26.3%	-2.0%

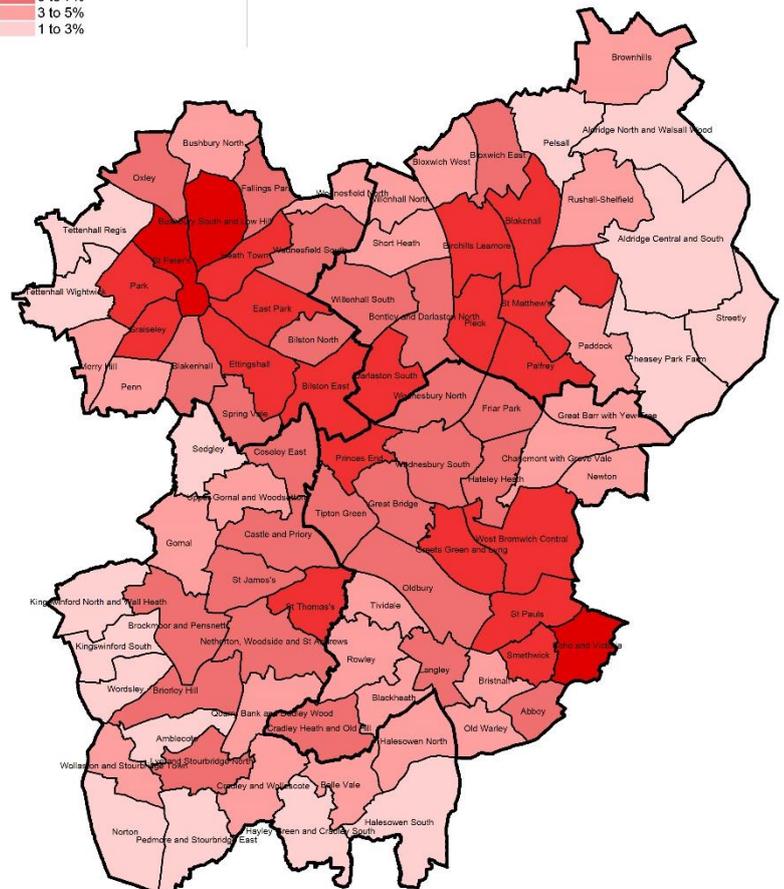
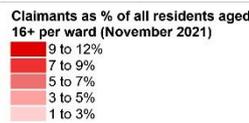
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 5.5% compared to 3.5% for UK in November 2021. The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 6.7%, Sandwell at 6.1%, Walsall at 5.3% and Dudley at 4.2%.

### 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 November 2021.

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 69 were above the UK overall proportion of 3.5% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in November 2021.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in November 2021 were St Peter's (Wolverhampton) at 11.1%, Soho and Victoria (Sandwell) at 10.2% and Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 9.4%.

### CLAIMANTS



## Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In November 2021, there were 9,625 youth claimants in the Black Country, a decrease of 270 (-2.7%) from October 2021, while for the UK there was a decrease of 3.2%. When compared to November 2020, the number of youth claimants decreased by 4,010 (-29.4%) in the Black Country, while UK-wide decreased by 36.9%. The Black Country had 1,875 more youth claimants when compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 24.2%, while the UK increased by 32.7%.
- Dudley had 2,100 youth claimants in November 2021, a decrease of 55 (-2.6%) youth claimants since October 2021. When compared to November 2020, the number of youth claimants decreased by 1,005 (-32.4%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 345 (+19.7%).
- Sandwell had 2,810 youth claimants in November 2021, this is a decrease of 35 claimants (-1.2%) from the previous month. When compared to November 2020, the number of youth claimants decreased by 1,195 (-29.8%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 680 (+31.9%).
- Walsall had 2,325 youth claimants in November 2021, a decrease of 75 (-3.1%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to November 2020, the number of youth claimants decreased by 860 (-27.0%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 385 (+19.8%).
- Wolverhampton had 2,390 youth claimants in November 2021, this is a decrease of 105 (-4.2%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to November 2020, the number of youth claimants decreased by 945 (-28.3%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 465 (+24.2%).

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	November 2020	October 2021	November 2021	% Change (Nov 21 - Mar 20)	% Change (Nov 21 - Nov 20)	% Change (Nov 21 - Oct 21)
Dudley	1,755	3,105	2,155	2,100	19.7%	-32.4%	-2.6%
Sandwell	2,130	4,005	2,845	2,810	31.9%	-29.8%	-1.2%
Walsall	1,940	3,185	2,400	2,325	19.8%	-27.0%	-3.1%
Wolverhampton	1,925	3,335	2,495	2,390	24.2%	-28.3%	-4.2%
<b>Black Country LEP</b>	<b>7,750</b>	<b>13,635</b>	<b>9,895</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>-29.4%</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>
United Kingdom	241,760	508,200	331,355	320,800	32.7%	-36.9%	-3.2%

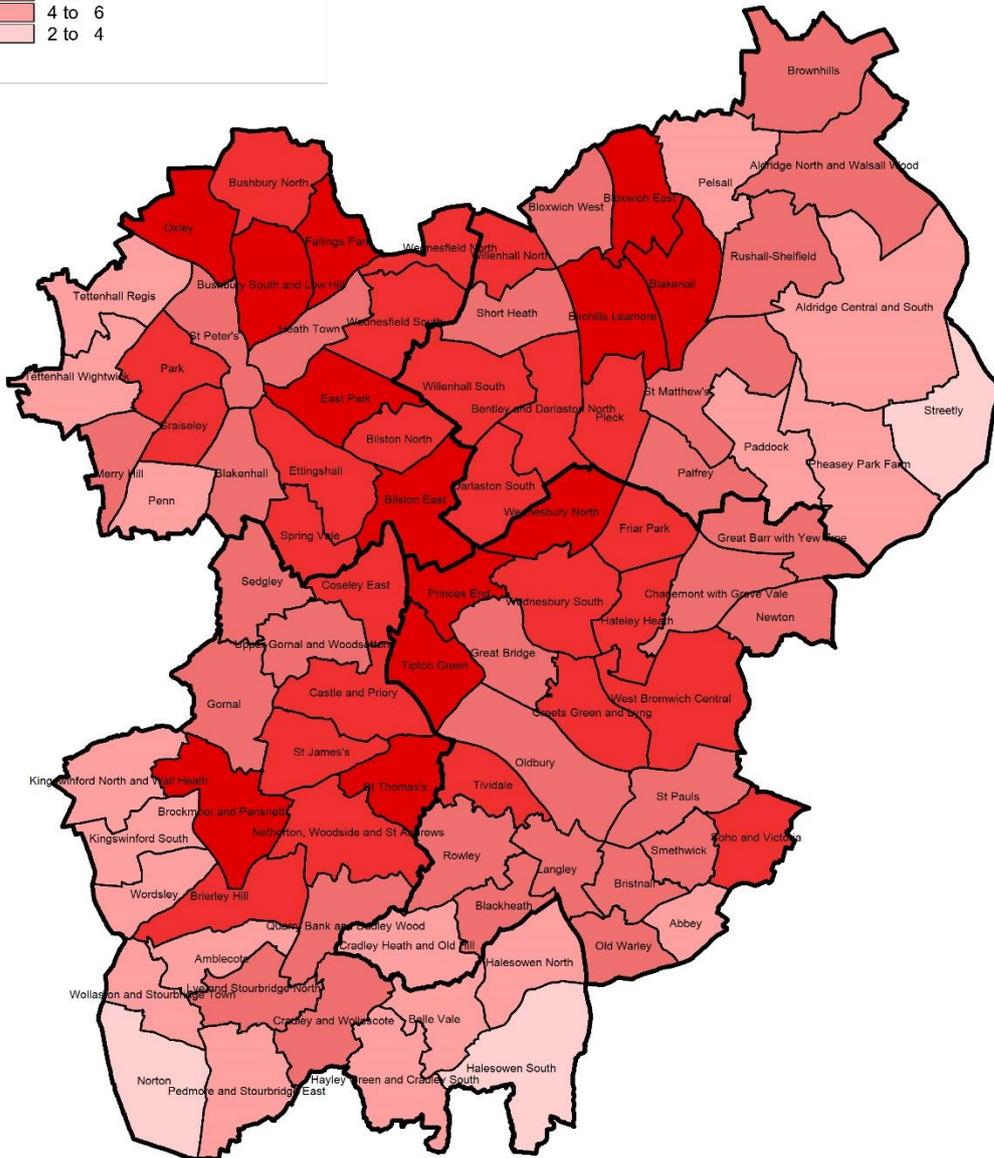
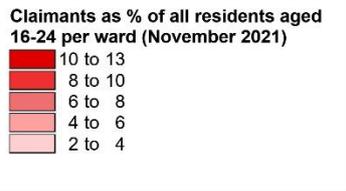
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 7.9% compared to 4.5% for the UK in November 2021. The number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 to 24 years old varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 8.9%, Sandwell at 8.2%, Walsall at 7.8% and Dudley at 6.7%.

## Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 82 were at or above the UK-wide rate of 4.5% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in November 2021.

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

### YOUTH CLAIMANTS



- The wards that had the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in November 2021 was Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 12.9%, Fallings Park (Wolverhampton) at 12.8% and Blakenall (Walsall) at 12.6%.