

Black Country Claimant Count Summary: Released May 2021

In Summary:

- The Black Country had 66,240 claimants in April 2021, a decrease of 785 claimants (-1.2%) from March 2021; the UK decreased by 1.0% over this period. When compared to April 2020, the proportion of claimants increased by 20.5% (+11,275) in the Black Country, while UK-wide increased by 25.3%. The Black Country now has 27,965 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase of 73.1%, while the UK increased by 108.7%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 7.0% compared to 4.9% for UK in April 2021.
- In April 2021, there were 13,510 youth claimants in the Black Country, a decrease of 1.4% (-190) from March 2021, while for the UK there was a decrease of 1.6%. When compared to April 2020, the proportion of youth claimants increased by 26.0% (+2,790) in the Black Country, while UK-wide increased by 31.8%. The Black Country has 5,760 more youth claimants compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 74.3%, while the UK increased by 108.5%.
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 11.0% compared to 7.1% for the UK in April 2021.

In Full:

Claimant count for people aged 16 years and over¹

- The Black Country had 66,240 claimants in April 2021, a decrease of 785 claimants (-1.2%) from March 2021; the UK decreased by 1.0% over this period. Compared to the same month in 2020, Black Country claimants increased by 11,275 (+20.5%). The Black Country now has 27,965 more claimants since March 2020. This is an increase of 73.1%, while the UK increased by 108.7%.
- Dudley had 14,085 claimants aged 16 years and over in April 2021, a decrease of 315 (-2.2%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in Dudley increased by 1,225 (+9.5%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 5,570 (+65.4%).
- Sandwell had 19,755 claimants aged 16 years and over in April 2021, a decrease of 120 (-0.6%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in Sandwell increased by 4,630 (+30.6%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 8,975 (+83.3%).
- Walsall had 15,150 claimants aged 16 years and over in April 2021, a decrease of 160 (-1.0%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in Walsall increased by 2,890 (+23.6%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,545 (+76.1%).
- Wolverhampton had 17,250 claimants aged 16 years and over in April 2021, a decrease of 185 (-1.1%) claimants from the previous month. Compared to the same month in 2020, claimants in

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

Wolverhampton increased by 2,530 (+17.2%). When compared to March 2020, the number of claimants has increased by 6,870 (+66.2%).

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

	March 2020	April 2020	March 2021	April 2021	% Change (Apr. 21 - Mar 20)	% Change (Apr 21 – Apr 20)	% Change (Apr 21 – Mar 20)
Dudley	8,515	12,860	14,400	14,085	65.4%	9.5%	-2.2%
Sandwell	10,780	15,125	19,875	19,755	83.3%	30.6%	-0.6%
Walsall	8,605	12,260	15,310	15,150	76.1%	23.6%	-1.0%
Wolverhampton	10,380	14,720	17,435	17,250	66.2%	17.2%	-1.1%
Black Country	38,275	54,965	67,025	66,240	73.1%	20.5%	-1.2%
United Kingdom	1,268,620	2,113,560	2,675,305	2,647,555	108.7%	25.3%	-1.0%

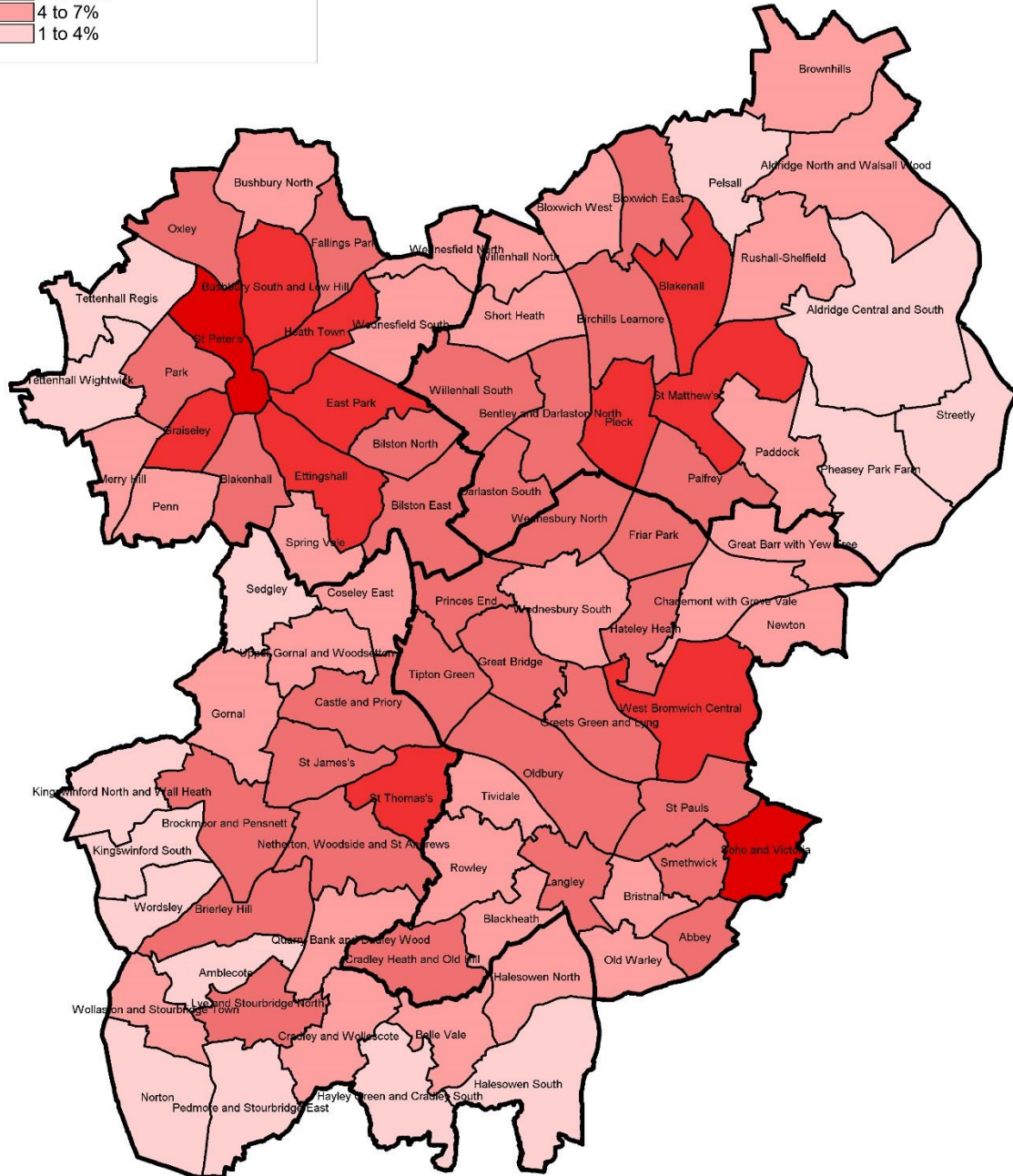
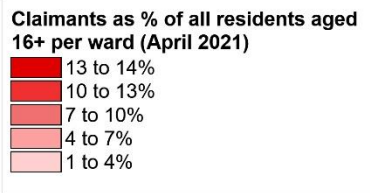
- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over was 7.0% compared to 4.9% for UK in April 2021.
- The number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the four local authorities with Wolverhampton at 8.3%, Sandwell at 7.8%, Walsall at 6.8% and Dudley at 5.4%.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 68 were above the UK overall proportion of 4.9% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in April 2021.
- The wards with the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 years and over in April 2021 were Soho and Victoria (Sandwell) at 13.6%, followed by St Peter's (Wolverhampton) at 13.4% and Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 11.9%.

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

CLAIMANTS





Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

- In April 2021, there were 13,510 youth claimants in the Black Country, a decrease of 1.4% (-190) from March 2021, while for the UK there was a decrease of 1.6%. When compared to April 2020, the proportion of youth claimants increased by 26.0% (+2,790) in the Black Country, while UK-wide increased by 31.8%. The Black Country has 5,760 more youth claimants compared to March 2020. This is an increase of 74.3%, while the UK increased by 108.5%.
- Dudley had 2,990 youth claimants in April in 2021, a decrease of 85 youth claimants (-2.8%) since March 2021. When compared to April 2020, the number of youth claimants increased by 435 (+17.0%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,235 (+70.4%).
- Sandwell had 3,985 youth claimants in April 2021, this is a decrease of 60 claimants (-1.5%) from the previous month. When compared to April 2020, the number of youth claimants increased by 1,080 (+37.2%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,855 (+87.1%).
- Walsall had 3,275 youth claimants in April 2021, a decrease of 10 (-0.3%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to April 2020, the number of youth claimants increased by 700 (+27.2%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,335 (+68.8%).
- Wolverhampton had 3,260 youth claimants in April 2021, this is a decrease of 30 (-0.9%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to April 2020, the number of youth claimants increased by 580 (+21.6%). When compared to March 2020, the number of youth claimants has increased by 1,335 (+69.4%).

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	April 2020	March 2021	April 2021	% Change (Apr. 21 - Mar 20)	% Change (Apr 21 – Apr 20)	% Change (Apr 21 – Mar 21)
Dudley	1,755	2,555	3,075	2,990	70.4%	17.0%	-2.8%
Sandwell	2,130	2,905	4,045	3,985	87.1%	37.2%	-1.5%
Walsall	1,940	2,575	3,285	3,275	68.8%	27.2%	-0.3%
Wolverhampton	1,925	2,680	3,290	3,260	69.4%	21.6%	-0.9%
Black Country	7,750	10,720	13,700	13,510	74.3%	26.0%	-1.4%
United Kingdom	241,760	382,635	512,275	504,135	108.5%	31.8%	-1.6%

- Overall, for the Black Country the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old is 11.0% compared to 7.1% for the UK in April 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 12.0%, Sandwell at 11.6%, Walsall at 11.0% and Dudley at 9.6%.

Ward Analysis

- Out of the 88 wards within the Black Country, 79 were at or above the UK average of 7.1% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in April 2021.



- The ward that had the highest number of youth claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in April 2021 was East Park (Wolverhampton) at 18.1%. This was followed by Bushbury South and Low Hill (Wolverhampton) at 17.4% and then Blakenall at 16.2%.

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

YOUTH CLAIMANTS

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

