

POST 16 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS HEADLINE STATISTICS

Introduction:

The [Post-16 Employment & Skills dashboard](#) brings together data that is internally held by the council, as well as external sources, to provide information on the following themes:

- 1) **Young People:** Population composition and projections of young people in the city
- 2) **Supply:** The destinations of young people in terms of education, employment and/or training
- 3) **Demand:** Labour market trends, and
- 4) **Provider:** Distance travelled by young people in Birmingham to a learning provider.

The dashboard has been developed to support education and skills providers, careers services, employers, policymakers and funders and commissioners with insight, policy and strategic decision making, when it comes to supporting young people into positive employment destinations.

Young people aged 10 to 17 years ⁱ:

Ethnicity:

- There are **132,628 young people** aged 10 to 17 years in the city. There is an even split across all age ranges.
- The highest concentration of young people in the city is in **Alum Rock (4,350)** and **Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East (3,890)**.
- Birmingham has a diverse community of young people; the largest ethnic group is the **Asian population (38.7%)**, closely followed by the **White population (32.9%)**.
- When these large ethnic groups are further broken down, the largest ethnic group is **English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British (39,258 – 29.6%)**, followed by **Pakistani (31,171 – 23.5%)**.

Projections of young people population:

- The number of **15 year olds** is projected to decrease to **16,053 in 2030** (compared to **16,936 in 2024**).
- The number of **16 year olds** is projected to decrease to **16,238 in 2030** (compared to **16,685 in 2024**).
- The number of **17 year olds** is projected to increase to **16,742 in 2030** (compared to **16,129 in 2024**).

Qualifications and apprenticeships:

Qualificationsⁱⁱ:

- The total population aged 16+ is 889,648. There are 459,607 females and 430,041 males.
- 16 to 24 years – 35.6% have Level 3 qualifications, 21.5% have Level 2 qualifications and 10.7% have 'no qualifications'.
- 25 to 34 years – 45.4% have Level 4 qualifications, 16.7% have Level 3 qualifications and 13.4% have no qualifications.
- 35 to 49 years – 37.3% have Level 4 qualifications, 20.4% have 'no qualifications' and 14.1% have Level 3 qualifications.
- 50 to 64 years – 27.5% have 'no qualifications', 26.1% have Level 4 qualifications and 13.4% have Level 1 qualifications.
- Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh – 30.2% have Level 4 qualifications, 26.8% have 'no qualifications'.
- Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African – 33.2% have Level 4 qualifications, 19.3% have 'no qualifications'.

- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups – 29.5% have Level 4 qualifications, 23.4% have Level 3 qualifications.
- Other ethnic group – 32.5% have Level 4 qualifications, 27.7% have ‘no qualifications’.
- White – 28.9% have Level 4 qualifications, 23.4% have ‘no qualifications’.
- People in the East (29.9%) of the city are the most likely to have ‘no qualifications’, followed by people in the West (25.1%).
- People in the East (21.7%) and West (29.5%) are less likely to have Level 4 qualifications or above, compared to the South (33.7%), the North (32.4%) and Central (32.2%).

Apprenticeshipsⁱⁱⁱ:

Apprenticeship starts		
Age	%	Commentary
Under 19	23.0%	The number of starts in 2022/23 were 1,320 compared to 2,340 in 2013/14
19 to 24	29.3%	The number of starts in 2022/23 were 1,860 compared to 3,240 in 2013/14
25+	47.7%	The number of starts were 2,960 in 2022/23 compared to 3,730 in 2013/14

Apprenticeship achievements		
Age	%	Commentary
Under 19	22.5%	The number of achievements were 550 in 2022/23 compared to 1,190 in 2013/14
19 to 24	32.2%	The number of achievements were 930 in 2022/23 compared to 1,810 in 2013/14
25+	45.3%	The number of achievements were 1,170 in 2022/23 compared to 2,480 in 2013/14

- Only **4.1% of 16-24 year olds** undertake apprenticeships, vocational or other qualifications.
- Across all ages, only around a half of those who start an apprenticeship, actually complete it each year.
 - The wards where the **highest number of people started an apprenticeship** in 2021/22 are: Ladywood (83), Oscott (82) and Glebe Farm and Tile Cross (73), Soho and Jewellery Quarter (73).
 - The wards where the **lowest number of people started an apprenticeship** in 2021/22 are: Sutton Trinity (12), Bournbrook and Selly Park (15), Birchfield (16), and Holyhead (16).

T-Levels^{iv}

- West Midlands students make up **4.2% (287 students)** of all **students taking up T-Levels** nationally.
- Most **West Midlands T-Level students** choose the Education and Early Years Pathway (**33.1%, 95**).

Higher education^v:

- In 2021/22, there were 93,800 students enrolled in Higher Education.
- Across the students, there were more females (58.4%, 54,830) than males (41.4%, 38,865).
- Most students enrolled in higher education were aged 20 years and under (45.7%, 42,905) and the vast majority of students were White ethnically (50.2%, 37,670).
- Most students had no known disability (87.0%, 81,590).
- The majority of students were from the UK (80.1%, 75,105), although most of the students not from the UK were from Asia (63.5%, 11,875), specifically China (31.0%, 5,750).
- The majority of students stayed at a parental/guardian home during term-time for their accommodation (31.5%, 24,760), followed by ‘other rented accommodation’ (24.9%, 19,590).
- The location of study for most students was ‘at provider or a partner for the whole year’ (91.7%, 86,040).
- Most students were undergraduates (72.5%, 67,960) and full time (83.8%, 78,600).

- The most popular subjects studied by students were ‘business and management’ (18.6%, 17,450), ‘subjects allied to medicine’ (16.0%, 15,035) and ‘social sciences’ (10.5%, 9,810).
- In 2020/21, there were 28,510 graduates. Most graduates studied as full-time students (85.5%, 24,365).
- The most popular subjects studied by graduates were ‘business and management’ (6,180), ‘social sciences’ (11.5%, 3,290) and ‘subjects allied to medicine’ (11.2%, 3,180).
- There were more female graduates (61.0%, 33,575) than male graduates (39.0%, 21,465).
- Most graduates were aged 21-24 years old (61.4%, 17,475) and were White ethnically (58.2%, 11,490).
- The majority of graduates had no known disability (89.7%, 25,575).
- 56.4% of graduates (16,085) had obtained an undergraduate qualification and 43.6% received a postgraduate qualification (12,415).
- In 2020/21, over 94.8% of graduates (7,905) entering work were in paid employment.

The top industries that graduates entered for work	The top occupational classifications for graduates entering work
Human health and social work activities (21.6%, 1,800)	Professional occupations (4,785)
Education (20.9%, 1,745)	Associate professional occupations (1,725)
Professional, scientific and technical activities (12.2%, 1,020)	Administrative and secretarial occupations (495)

- The majority of graduates entered highly skilled occupations (81.3%, 6,910).
- There were 3,730 graduates who entered full-time employment. The highest number of graduates (930) were in the £24,000 - £26,999 salary band.

Year 12s and Year 13s in Birmingham^{vi}:

- From the academic year of September 2023 to August 2024:
 - There were **16,712 students in Year 12** and **16,622 students in Year 13**.
 - There is a fairly even split in relation to gender - **47.1% female (15,682)** and **50.6% male (16,878)**.
 - The **majority of students** in Year 12 and Year 13 are **17 years old (50.03%, 16,677)**.
 - The **Top 5 ethnic groups** in Year 12 and Year 13 were:
 - **White** (25.2%, 8,402)
 - **Pakistani** (22.7%, 7,578)
 - **Bangladeshi** (5.7%, 1,899)
 - **Black African** (4.8%, 1,595)
 - **Indian** (4.3%, 1,442).
- The majority of Year 12s and Year 13s are studying in further education establishments (38.2%, 12,704), further education – school 6th form (33.5%, 11,157) and further education 6th form college (16.3%, 5,427).
- Only 2.3% of Year 12s and Year 13s are currently undertaking an apprenticeship (766), and 0.3% are undertaking a traineeship (110).
- 5.0% of the destinations of Year 12s and Year 13s (16-18 year olds) is not known (1,663), with 2% seeking education, employment or training (705).

Comparison of NEETs and Not Knowns^{vii}:

16-18 year olds	Birmingham	West Midlands	England
NEET	3.9%, 1,311	3.3%, 4,789	3.3%, 44,460
Not Known	2.3%, 756	2.1%, 3000	1.8%, 22,579

- The wards with the highest number of NEETs (as a proportion of total NEETs) were:
 - Glebe Farm & Tile Cross (60 – 4.6%)
 - Alum Rock (49 – 3.7%)
 - Acocks Green (43 – 3.3%).
- The majority of those who are NEETs have no learning difficulties (68.8%, 906), are seeking education, employment or training (86.9%, 1,143) and identify as White British (35.5%, 467).
- The majority of NEETs are male (60.1%, 791) compared to females (38.5%, 507).

Employment^{viii}:

Employment by industry:

- The most popular industries for each age range are:
 - **16 to 24 years** – 30.2% (20,200) work in ‘distribution, hotels and restaurants’ and 22.8% (15,200) work in ‘public admin, education & health’
 - **25 to 49 years** – 37.5% (116,300) work in ‘public admin education & health’ and 19.4% (60,100) work in ‘banking finance & insurance’.
 - **50+ years** – 38.1% (47,900) work in ‘public admin education & health’ and 17.5% (22,000) work in ‘banking finance & insurance’.
- **16 to 24 years olds** have the lowest representation out of all age groups in the construction industry.

Ethnicity:

- The **White population** in Birmingham **aged 50+** is the largest ethnic group across all **Industries (50%-70%)**.
- There is a **slight increase in employees** across nearly all industries who are **Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic** in the 16 to 24 and 24 to 49 age groups, compared to the over 50s. This reflects the growing young diversity in the city.
- The most common industry for each ethnic group (across all ages) is:
 - **Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh** – 36.4% work in ‘transport and communication’ and 33.7% work in ‘distribution, hotels and restaurants’.
 - **Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African** – 13.3% work in ‘public admin, education & health’ and 11.1% work in ‘transport and communication’.
 - **Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups** – 4.8% work in ‘other’ and 3.7% work in ‘public admin, education & health’.
 - **Other ethnic group** – 4.2% work in ‘distribution, hotels and restaurants’ and 4.1% work in ‘transport and communication’.
 - **White** – 73.5% work in ‘construction’ and 66.7% work in ‘other’

Comparison:

- Similar to Birmingham, the **most common industries** where 16 to 24 year olds work across other English Core Cities are ‘**distribution, hotels and restaurants**’ and ‘**public admin, education & health**’.
- ‘**Public admin, education & health**’ is the most common industry across all English Core Cities where those **aged 25 to 29 years** and **50+ years old** work.

- Only **Birmingham (11.7%)** and **Liverpool (7.1%)** have notable numbers of those aged 16 to 24 years working in ‘**manufacturing**’.

Unemployment claimants^{ix}:

The youth unemployment claimant count measures the number of young people aged 18-24 claiming unemployment-related benefits as a proportion of the population of 18 to 24 year olds in each area.

- There has been a steady increase in unemployment claimants aged 18-24 in Birmingham from 8.6% in November 2023 to 10.1% in October 2024.
- There were more males (63.9%) claimants than female claimants (36.1%).

Industry and occupation trends^x:

Industries in Birmingham^{xi}:

The top 3 industries with the most jobs in Birmingham	The top 3 fastest growing industries in Birmingham between 2022 and 2023
Hospitals (44,798)	Manufacturers of gas (1,379 increase in jobs)
Management consultancy activities (21,608)	Construction of other civil engineering projects (782 increase in jobs)
Temporary employment agency activities (21,049)	Construction of utility projects (489 increase in jobs)

The top 3 largest occupations in Birmingham	The top 3 fastest growing occupations in Birmingham between 2022 and 2023
Caring and personal services (28,042)	Public services and other associate professionals (increase in 281 jobs)
Teaching and education (25,136)	Information technology and telecommunications professionals (increase in 264 jobs)
Sales assistants and retail cashiers (24,301).	Nursing and midwifery professionals (increase in 255 jobs)

- The top 3 paying occupations based on median hourly wages are:
 - Transport associate professionals (£34.54)
 - Chief Executives and senior professionals (£28.67)
 - Health professionals (£27.58).

Job postings^{xii}:

- There have been 483,398 unique job postings in Birmingham across 18,825 employers.
- In terms of industry, the largest number of unique job posts have been related to:
 - Human health (27,124)
 - Education (15,150)
 - Computer programming, consultancy and related activities (10,024).
- In terms of the company, the largest numbers of jobs have been posted by:
 - NHS (21,042)

- Hays (7,795)
 - University of Birmingham (4,136)
- In terms of job titles, the largest number of unique posts have been for:
 - Support workers (3,415)
 - Quantity Surveyors (2,992)
 - Business development managers (2,669).
- As a skill, 'communications' appears most frequently in job postings (25.0%), but appears less frequently in the work profiles frequency (6.5%).
- There are 238,324 job postings by advertised median salary. The top advertised salary grouping is £55,000 to £425,000.

Earnings^{xiii}:

- The average gross weekly earnings for Birmingham residents in 2023 was £626, which is below the average for England (£683).
- Sutton Coldfield residents earn on average the highest wages in Birmingham (£721), compared to Hodge Hill constituency residents who earn on average £539 per week.

Learning providers^{xiv}:

Average distance travelled:

- The average distance travelled by 16-18 year olds to their learning provider in Birmingham is 3.22 miles.
- Nearly half of young people (49.0%) travel over 3 miles to their chosen providers.
- The ward with the highest average distance travelled for year 12s and 13s combined is Shard End (5.7 miles), followed by Rubery and Rednal and Frankley Great Park (5.3 miles).
- The ward with the lowest average distance travelled is Balsall Heath West (1.8 miles) and Edgbaston (1.9 miles).

By provider:

- King Edwards VI Stourbridge is the provider with the highest average travel distance, at 8.05 miles.
- Elmhurst Ballet School is the provider with the lowest average travel distance, at 0.05 miles.

ⁱ Census 2021.

ⁱⁱ Census 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Department for Education, 2022/23. Ward level data was last updated in December 2022.

^{iv} Department for Education, August 2023.

^v Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2021/22.

^{vi} Internal BCC data, November 2023.

^{vii} Local Authorities Tables (NCCIS), May 2024.

^{viii} Annual Population Survey, December 2022.

^{ix} Nomis and ONS Population Data, July 2024.

^x With the exception of the section on earnings, the data source for all of the information in this section is Lightcast, September 2023.

The data source for earnings is the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), December 2023.

^{xi} The data in this section relates to the time period of 2023.

^{xii} The data in this section relates to the time period of January 2022 to August 2023.

^{xiii} ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), December 2023.

^{xiv} Internal BCC data. Data relating to the average distance travelled was last updated in 2020/21, whereas information related to individual providers was last updated in November 2023.