

HEADLINE STATISTICS

OUR CITY AND COMMUNITIES: Birmingham is the most centrally located city in England. It is within 90 minutes of both London and Manchester by train, lies at the heart of the major road network and has its own international airport. The city continues to improve transport connectivity between Birmingham and the rest of the UK, as well as within the city and West Midlands region, linking communities economically and socially.

Over the last 15 years, Birmingham has attracted record levels of investment due to its welcoming and enterprising nature. Our population has grown and with this growth has come new homes, jobs, businesses and opportunities. The city centre is growing as key developments and new plans come forward, bringing regeneration - a key challenge is to spread the benefits into the surrounding communities.

The city is made up of 69 wards and 10 parliamentary constituencies. Outside of the city centre there are more than 70 urban centres which are hubs for our communities, providing access to jobs, public services, culture and religious services, transport, and other services.

OUR POPULATION: There are 1,144,900 people living in Birmingham according to the 2021 Census, an increase of 6.7% (71,900) since 2011. The population of Birmingham is projected to grow to 1,186,000 (up 3.9%) by 2028. Birmingham is superdiverse - more than half of the population (51.4%) identify as 'Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic':

- Asian, Asian British: 335,000 people
- Black, African, Caribbean, Black British: 126,000 people
- Mixed, multiple ethnic groups: 55,200 people
- Other ethnic groups: 52,000 people

Our school age population is even more diverse with 66.0% of Birmingham's population identifying as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. Birmingham is one of the youngest cities in England: over 70.0% of the population is under 45 years old and 40.0% of this population is aged under 25.

Productivity:

- In 2022, Birmingham's GVA for all industries was £31,839 (million) compared to the England average of £7,901 (million) and the Core City average of £21,411 (million). Birmingham is ranked 3rd out of the 8 English Core Cities, putting it ahead of Bristol (£18,883) (million), Liverpool (£16,846) (million), Sheffield (£15,727) (million), Nottingham (£11,714) (million) and Newcastle (£10,933) (million).¹
- In 2022, average gross value added (GVA) per job filled in Birmingham stood at £52,848, above that of smaller cities such as Nottingham, Sheffield and Newcastle but below Greater Manchester, Leeds, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Glasgow.²

Employment:

- Census 2021 data shows that the top 5 occupations in Birmingham are professional occupations (21.1%; 93,314), elementary occupations (13.4%; 59,431), associate professional and technical occupations (11.3%; 50,205), caring, leisure and other service occupations (10.3%; 45,362) and administrative and secretarial occupation (9.3%; 41,168).³
- In England, the top 5 occupations are professional occupations (20.3%), associate professional and technical occupations (13.3%), managers, directors and senior officials (12.9%), elementary occupations (10.5%) and skilled trades occupations (10.2%).³

- In 2021, the 5 most popular industries in Birmingham were: human health and social work activities (17.6%; 77,989), wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (15.2%; 67,404), education (11.7%; 51,826), manufacturing (7.9%; 34,819) and transport and storage (6.8%; 30,275).
- In 2021, the 5 most popular industries in England were: wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (15%), human health and social work activities (14.6%), education (9.9%), construction (8.7%) and manufacturing (7.3%).³
- Looking at the highest percentage increases in total job count, the top 5 fastest growing industries between 2022 and 2023 in Birmingham were Insurance (9.2%), Other Telecommunications Activities (7.7%), Manufacture of Rubber Products (6.9%), Manufacturers of Gas (6.8%) and Wired Telecommunications Activities (6.8%).⁴
- In Q2 2024, the overall employment rate for those aged 16 to 64 in Birmingham was 66.1%. This is significantly lower than the England average (75.7%) for the same time period. Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 7th place, with Bristol (78.2%) having the highest overall employment rate for those aged 16 to 64; Manchester (65.9%) has the lowest overall employment rate for those aged 16 to 64.⁵
- In September 2024, 29.4% of Universal Credit claimants in Birmingham were in employment. This is lower than the England average (37.6%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks last place, with Leeds (37.0%) having the highest proportion of Universal Credit claimants in employment.⁶

Entrepreneurship:

- The birth count of new enterprises in 2023 was 6,105 in Birmingham, compared to the English Core City average of 2,834. Since 2019, the birth of new enterprises has decreased by 17.8% (from 7,430 in 2019).⁷
- In 2023, there were 42,970 active enterprises in Birmingham. Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest number of active enterprises, followed by Leeds (32,385); Newcastle upon Tyne (9,750) has the lowest number of active enterprises.⁷
- The new enterprises 1-year survival rate for Birmingham in 2022 was 89.4%, compared to the England average of 92.4% and the Core City average of 90.8%. Birmingham is ranked last (8th) out of the English Core Cities; Manchester has the highest 1-year survival rate (92.4%).⁷
- The new enterprises 2-year survival rate for Birmingham in 2021 was 67.5%, compared to the England average of 70.3% and the Core City average of 68.9%. Birmingham is ranked 6th among the English Core Cities; Sheffield has the highest 2-year survival rate (73.1%).⁷
- The death count of enterprises in 2023 was 5,885 in Birmingham, compared to the English Core City average of 2,742.5. Birmingham is ranked last (8th) among the English Core Cities; Newcastle has the lowest death count (1,120).⁷

Earnings:

- Looking at earnings by place of residence, the median gross annual pay for Birmingham in 2024 was £33,952. This is lower than the England average (£37,617).⁸
- The mean gender pay gap for all employee jobs by workplace in Birmingham in 2024 (i.e. the geographical area where employees work) is 12.1% compared to the England average of 14.7%.⁹
- The mean gender pay gap for Birmingham residents in 2024 (i.e. the geographical area where employees reside) is 9.0% compared to the England average of 14.7%.⁹

Household income:

- In 2022, the annual growth in total gross disposable household income in Birmingham was 6.6%. This is slightly higher than the England average (6.5%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 5th place, with Bristol (8.2%) having the highest percentage of annual growth in total gross disposable household income; Liverpool (5.9%) had the lowest percentage.⁹
- In August 2024, 41.7% of households in Birmingham were on Universal Credit. This is higher than the England average (21.9%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest percentage of households on Universal Credit, followed by Manchester (36.7%); Bristol has the lowest percentage (21.9%).⁶
- In 2022, 24.0% of all households in Birmingham were experiencing fuel poverty. This is higher than the England average (13.1%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest percentage of households in fuel poverty, followed by Nottingham (19.3%). Newcastle upon Tyne has the lowest percentage of households in fuel poverty (11.4%).¹⁰

Unemployment & Economically Inactive:

- Between July 2023 and June 2024, the overall unemployment rate for those aged 16 and over in Birmingham was 6.5%. This is higher than the England average (3.8%) for the same time period. Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 3rd place, with Manchester (7.1%) having the highest overall unemployment rate for those aged 16 and over; Leeds (1.8%) has the lowest overall unemployment rate for those aged 16 and over.⁵
- Between July 2023 and June 2024, 6.7% of the working age population in Birmingham were unemployed. This is higher than the England average (3.8%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 3rd place, with Manchester (7.3%) having the highest percentage of working age people who are unemployed; Leeds has the lowest percentage of working age people who are unemployed (1.9%).⁵
- The claimant count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. As a percentage of the population aged 16 to 64, in October 2024, the claimant count for those aged 16 and over in Birmingham was 11.0%. This is more than double the England average (4.4%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest claimant count for those aged 16 and over; Bristol (3.9%) has the lowest claimant count which is lower than the England average.¹¹
- In Birmingham, the ward with the highest percentage of claimant count aged 16 and over is Lozells (24.3%, 1,515 claimants). In contrast, Sutton Four Oaks (1.8%, 90 claimants) has the lowest percentage of claimant count.¹¹
- As a percentage of the population aged 18 to 24, in October 2024, the claimant count for those aged 18 to 24 in Birmingham was 10.8%. This is higher than the England average (5.3%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest claimant count for those aged 18 to 24; Bristol and Newcastle (3.2% each) have the lowest claimant count which is lower than the England average.¹²
- In Birmingham, the ward with the highest percentage of claimant count aged 18 to 24 is Acocks Green and Allens Cross (20.7% each, with 315 and 205 claimants respectively) (23.6%, 325 claimants). In contrast, Yardley West and Stechford has the lowest percentage of claimant count (1.4%, 205 claimants).¹²
- Between July 2023 and June 2024, 37.8% of those aged 16 and over in Birmingham were economically inactive. This is slightly higher than the England average (36.6%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 5th place, with Newcastle (40.5%) having the highest percentage of those aged 16 and over who are economically inactive; Bristol (28.7%) has the lowest percentage.⁵

- Between July 2023 and June 2024, 29.2% of those aged 16 to 64 in Birmingham were economically inactive. This is higher than the England average (21.3%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 1st place; Bristol (19.2%) has the lowest percentage.⁵
- Between July 2023 and June 2024, 46.0% of those aged 16 to 24 in Birmingham were economically inactive. This is higher than the England average (41.2%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 5th place, with Nottingham (60.8%) having the highest percentage of those aged 16 to 24 who are economically inactive; Newcastle (36.4%) has the lowest percentage.⁵
- In 2022/23, the gap in the employment rate between those with a long-term health condition and the overall employment rate was 9.5 percentage points. This is lower than the England average (10.4 percentage points). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 6th place with Manchester (13.7 percentage points) having the largest gap in the employment rate between those with a long-term health condition and the overall employment rate; Bristol (4.0 percentage points) has the smallest gap.¹²
- Workless households are households where there are no individuals aged 16 and over are in employment. Between January and December 2023, 19.5% of all households in Birmingham were workless households. This is higher than the England average (13.5%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham ranks 2nd, with Nottingham (20.7%) having the highest percentage of workless households; Bristol (10.2%) has the lowest percentage.⁵
- In September 2024, 70.5% of Universal Credit claimants in Birmingham were not in employment. This is higher than the England average (65.0%). Out of the 8 English Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest percentage of Universal Credit claimant not in employment, followed by Liverpool (68.6%); Leeds (63.0%) has the lowest percentage.⁶

Our equalities challenge:

- In Birmingham, 26% of all those aged 60 or over experience income deprivation. Out of all the English LAs, Birmingham has the 14th highest proportion of older people in income deprivation.¹³
- In Birmingham, 28% of children live in income deprived families. Out of all the English LAs, Birmingham has the 9th highest proportion of children in income deprivation.¹³
- In Birmingham, 10.2% of White people aged 16 years and over are managers, directors and senior officials (24,967) compared to 9.4% of those from the other ethnic group (1458), 9.1% from the Asian group (11,052), 7.9% from the mixed group (1,209) and 5.0% from the Black group (2,285). These percentages are below the England averages.³
- In England, 13.4% of White people aged 16 years and over are managers, directors and senior officials compared to 11.8% from the other ethnic group, 11.8% from the Asian group, 10.9% from the mixed group and 7.2% from the Black group.³
- In Birmingham, 10.2% of White 16- and 17-year-olds were not in employment, education or training (167) compared to 9.4% from the mixed group (28.3), 6.0% from the Asian group including Chinese (84), 5.2% from the Black group (34.3), and 4.4% from the other group (13.7). These percentages are above the England averages.¹⁴
- In England, 3.3% of White 16- and 17-year-olds were not in employment, education or training (25,460) compared to 2.9% from the mixed group (1,630), 2.0% from the other group (430), 1.4% from the Black group (870) and 1.3% from the Asian group including Chinese (1,530).¹⁴

References:

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- ¹ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – Office for National Statistics
 - ² Subregional productivity: Labour productivity indices by local authority district, ONS
 - ³ Census 2021 – Office for National Statistics
 - ⁴ Lightcast data
 - ⁵ Annual Population Survey – Nomis - Jul 2023-Jun 2024
 - ⁶ Department for Work and Pensions – Stat-Explore
 - ⁷ Business, Industry and Trade, Business Demography – Office for National Statistics, 2024
 - ⁸ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – Office for National Statistics. Please note these recent statistics are provisional and subject to change
 - ⁹ Gross disposable household income – Office for National Statistics
 - ¹⁰ Fuel poverty statistics – Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
 - ¹¹ Claimant count by sex and age - Nomis
 - ¹² Public Health Outcomes Framework – Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
 - ¹³ Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
 - ¹⁴ Explore Education Statistics 2023 – Department for Education