

Post-16 Employment & Skills in Birmingham – Key Findings

Introduction:

A Post-16 Employment & Skills in Birmingham dashboard has been developed by the Birmingham City Observatory, which provides 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, policy makers, funders and commissioners with insight, policy and strategic decision making, when it comes to supporting young people into education, training and good employment.

The dashboard brings together data that is internally held by the council, as well as external sources to provide a rich understanding of the destinations and employment outcomes of young people in Birmingham.

Key Findings per theme include:

1) Young people:

- There are 132,628 young people aged 10-17 in the city.
- The highest concentration of young people in the city are in Alum Rock and Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East wards.
- Birmingham has a diverse community of young people, with the largest ethnic groups representing the Asian population (38.7%), closely followed by the White population (32.9%).
- There is a projected steady increase of 15, 16 and 17 year olds in the city from 2023 to 2030.

2) Supply:

Qualifications:

- 10.7% of 16-24 year olds in the city have 'No qualifications' and 30% have Level 1-Level 2 qualifications.
- People in the East of the City are the most likely to have 'No Qualifications' and the least likely to have Level 4 qualifications or above.
- Only 4.2% of 16-24 year olds undertake Apprenticeships, vocational or other qualifications.
- Both apprenticeship starts and achievements have seen a decline since 2017/2018 in the city across all ages, with 1,590 19-24 year olds achieving an apprenticeship in 2017/18, compared to 790 in 2021/22 (a 50% decrease). Also, only around a half 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), Glebe Farm and Tile Cross (73), Soho and Jewellery Quarter (73) and Kingstanding (72).
- 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).



- West Midlands students make up 4.1% (287 students) of all students taking up T-Levels nationally, with the majority on the Education and Early Years Pathway (33%).

Employment by Industry:

- 16-24 years olds have the lowest representation out of all age groups in the Construction Industry.
- The largest Industry 16-24 year olds work in is Distribution, hotels and restaurants.
- Those aged 16-24 in Birmingham are more likely to work in the Manufacturing Industry than 16-24 year olds in Other Core cities.
- The Public administration, education and health Industry is the largest sector to employ people across all age ranges in the city, as well as all other core cities.
- The White population in Birmingham who are aged 50 and over, are the largest ethnic group across all Industries (60%-70%). If you compare this to the population aged 16-24, you see that the White ethnic group represents just under or over 50% of employees across all industries. We can also see a slight increase in employees across nearly all Industries who are Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic groups in the 16-24 year and 24-49 age groups, compared to the over 50's. This reflects the growing young diversity in the city.

Year 12s and Year 13s in Birmingham:

- The Top 5 ethnic groups in the Academic Year of 2023-2024, in Year 12 and Year 13 Birmingham based Further Education provider locations are: 1) White (25.2%), 2) Pakistani (22.7%), 3) Bangladeshi (5.7%), 4) Black African (4.7%), 5) Indian (4.3%). However, please be mindful in using this data to explore ethnic representation, as for 9.2% of Year 12 and Year 13s (3078 young people), information on ethnicity has not been obtained.
- The majority of Year 12 and Year 13's in the Academic year 2023-2024 are studying in Further Education establishments (38%), Further Education – School 6th Form (33%) and Further Education 6th Form College (16%). Only 2% are currently undertaking an Apprenticeship, and 0.3% are undertaking a Traineeship.
- Almost 5% of the destinations of Year 12 and Year 13's (16-18 year olds) is Not Known, with 2% Seeking Education, Employment or Training.

Higher Education:

- In 2021/22, there were over 93,000 students. These were the biggest demographic groups: Female, Aged 20 and under, and White ethnicity. The majority of students were from the UK. In terms of Non-UK students, the majority are from China (31%) and India (17%).
- The top studied subjects were: 1) Business and management, 3) Subjects allied to medicine, 3) Social sciences.
- In 2020/21, there were about 28,5000 graduates. 55% had obtained an undergraduate qualification and 45% had a postgraduate qualification. The majority of graduates were full-time (89%).
- The top industries entered by graduates in 2020/21 were: 1) Human Health and Social Work Activities, 2) Education, 3) Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities.

Unemployment:

- As of January 2024, there are 2.9% of NEETs in Birmingham (963 16-18 year olds).
- Combining both NEET and Not Known figures, reveals that 6.2% of 16-18 year olds in Birmingham (1089 young people) are either NEET or Not Known, which is higher than the West Midlands (5.9%) and England (5.3%).



- As of March 2024, there are 1140 NEETs in Birmingham aged 16-18 living in Birmingham. Over 20% of NEETs sit in just 6 wards: Glebe Farm and Tile Cross (4.65%), Acocks Green (3.51%), Aston (3.25%), Alum Rock (3.25%), Bromford and Hodge Hill (3.16%) and Weoley and Selly Park (3.07%). The majority of NEETs (85.5%) have provided their reason for being NEET due to 'Seeking Education, Employment or Training'.
- There has been a steady increase in unemployment claimants aged 16-24 since January 2023.
- The wards with the highest unemployment claimants aged 16-24 are: Handsworth, Stockland Green, Tyseley & Hay Mills and Aston.

3) Demand:

Industry and Occupation Trends in Birmingham:

- The top 3 largest Industries in Birmingham in 2023 are: 1) Hospitals, 2) Management Consultancy's, 3) Temporary Employment Agency's
- The top 3 fastest growing Industries in Birmingham in 2023 are: 1) Manufacturers of Gas, 2) Construction of other Civil Engineering, 3) Construction of Utility. These are also the top 3 highest paying Industries.
- The top 3 largest occupations in Birmingham in 2023 are: 1) Caring and Personal Services (28k), 2) Teaching and Education (25k), 3) Sales Assistants and Retail Cashiers (24k).
- The top 3 fastest growing occupations in Birmingham in 2023 are: 1) Public services and other Associate Professionals, 2) Information Technology and Telecommunications Professionals, 3) Nursing and Midwifery Professionals
- The top 3 paying occupations based on median hourly wages in 2023 are: 1) Transport Associate Professionals, 2) Chief Executives and Senior Professionals, 3) Health Professionals.

Job postings:

- There have been nearly half a million unique job postings in Birmingham from January 2023-August 2023.
- In 2023, in terms of Industry, the largest number of unique roles have been posted by: 1) Human Health (27k), 2) Education (15k), 3) Computer programming (10k).
- In 2023, in terms of the Company, the largest numbers of roles have been posted by: 1) NHS (21k), 2) Hays (8k), 3) University of Birmingham (4k)
- In 2023, in terms of Job Titles, the largest number of roles have been for: 1) Support workers (3.4k), 2) Quantity Surveyors (3k), 3) Business Development Managers (2.7k).

Earnings:

- The weekly earnings for Birmingham residents have increased by a total of £139 per week from 2015 to 2023. However they still remain below the average for England.
- 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. This is a difference of £182 per week between the two constituent areas.

4) Provider:

- The average distance travelled by 16-18 year olds to their learning provider in Birmingham is 3.22 miles.
- Nearly half of young people (49.04%) travel over 3 miles to their chosen providers.
- The ward with the highest average distance travelled for year 12 and 13 combined is Rubery and Rednal and Frankley Great Park at 5.3 miles.
- The ward with the lowest average distance travelled is Balsall Heath West at 1.8 miles and Edgbaston at 1.9 miles.

