

# EAST MIDLANDS

CITY REGION EMPLOYMENT PROFILE | NOVEMBER 2023

Reiss Tigwell, Rebecca Florisson, Aman Navani



## SUMMARY

The proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority area has a population of 2,123,400. Its employment rate (73.6%) and unemployment rate (3.2%) are both lower than the English average and it also has a higher level of economic inactivity (24% compared to 21.4%).<sup>1</sup>

The proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority area has a higher rate of severely insecure work at 20.4% compared to the English average of 19.4%.

The Work Foundation defines insecure work through a single holistic measure which combines:

- contractual insecurity, where people are not guaranteed future hours or future work - such as jobs in the gig economy, zero contract work or part-time work
- financial insecurity, where people have unpredictable pay or their pay is simply too low to get by
- lack of access to employment rights and protections.

Across the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority area, there is significant variation amongst the 16 local authorities. Derbyshire Dales is the hotspot in the city region for severely insecure work, and above the national average, at 26%. In Rushcliffe, 13.9% of workers are in severely insecure work, which is approximately six percentage points below the English average.

Figure 1: Insecurity amongst the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority area workforce, 2021-2022



Source: Work Foundation calculations of the Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey; 2021- 2022.

1. ONS 2023, Annual Population Survey, January-December 2022.


## 1. EAST MIDLANDS OVERVIEW

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham will combine to become a County Combined Authority in May 2024 and will bring together 17 local authorities: Amber Valley, Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Broxtowe, Chesterfield, Derby City, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, Gedling, High Peak, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, North East Derbyshire, Nottingham, Rushcliffe and South Derbyshire. It has a population of 2,123,400 with a working age population of 1,327,500.

Conservative MP Ben Bradley, Labour MP Claire Ward and Independent candidate Matt Relf are the three main candidates to become the first mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority.

Its unemployment rate is 3.2%, which is lower than the England wide average. Derby City has the highest average weekly wages at £649, which is £19 above the England wide average.

Figure 2: East Midlands economy



	Population <sup>2</sup>	Employment rate (16-64) <sup>3</sup>	Unemployment rate (16-64) <sup>4</sup>	Economic Inactivity (16-64) <sup>5</sup>	Average Weekly Wage <sup>6</sup>	Claimant Count <sup>7</sup>
England	56,536,400	75.7%	3.7%	21.4%	£630.20	3.8%
East Midlands	2,123,400	73.6%	3.2%	24%	**	**
Amber Valley	126,500	74%	4.0%	22.9%	£521.80	2.5%
Ashfield	126,400	76.4%	**	23%	£549.40	4%
Bassetlaw	118,400	78.4%	3.8%	18.5%	£511.70	3%
Bolsover	80,500	74.1%	**	25.90%	£555.20	2.9%
Broxtowe	110,800	67.9%	4.8%	28.7%	£570.80	2.6%
Chesterfield	103,700	80.8%	**	17.8%	£518.50	3.3%
Derby City	261,100	74.5%	3.0%	23.2%	<b>£648.90</b>	4.6%
Derbyshire Dales	71,700	68.7%	**	<b>31.3%</b>	£501	<b>1.5%</b>
Erewash	113,000	75.2%	5.5%	20.4%	£558.20	3.1%
Gedling	117,300	75.2%	<b>2.5%</b>	22.9%	£527	3%
High Peak	91,100	80%	**	18.1%	£531.40	2.3%
Mansfield	110,600	71.4%	**	27.4%	<b>£499.10</b>	3.9%
Newark and Sherwood	123,400	79%	**	20.4%	£508.70	2.9%
North East Derbyshire	102,300	73.8%	**	25.2%	£520	2.5%
Nottingham	319,600	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	32%	£545.40	<b>5.5%</b>
Rushcliffe	119,400	<b>82.4%</b>	**	<b>17.6%</b>	£558.30	1.7%
South Derbyshire	108,100	76.2%	**	18.6%	£531.60	2.1%

● Worst performing local authority  
● Best performing local authority  
 \*\* Sample size not sufficient for an accurate figure.

Source: Work Foundation calculations of the Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey; 2021- 2022.

2. ONS 2022, Population estimates-local authority based by five-year age band, 2021 data. 3. ONS 2023, Annual Population Survey, resident analysis, January-December 2022. 4. ONS 2023, Annual Population Survey, resident analysis, January-December 2022. 5. ONS 2023, Annual Population Survey, resident analysis, January-December 2022. 6. ONS 2022, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), average gross weekly workplace-based earnings, 2022 data. 7. ONS 2023, Claimant Count, June 2022 data.

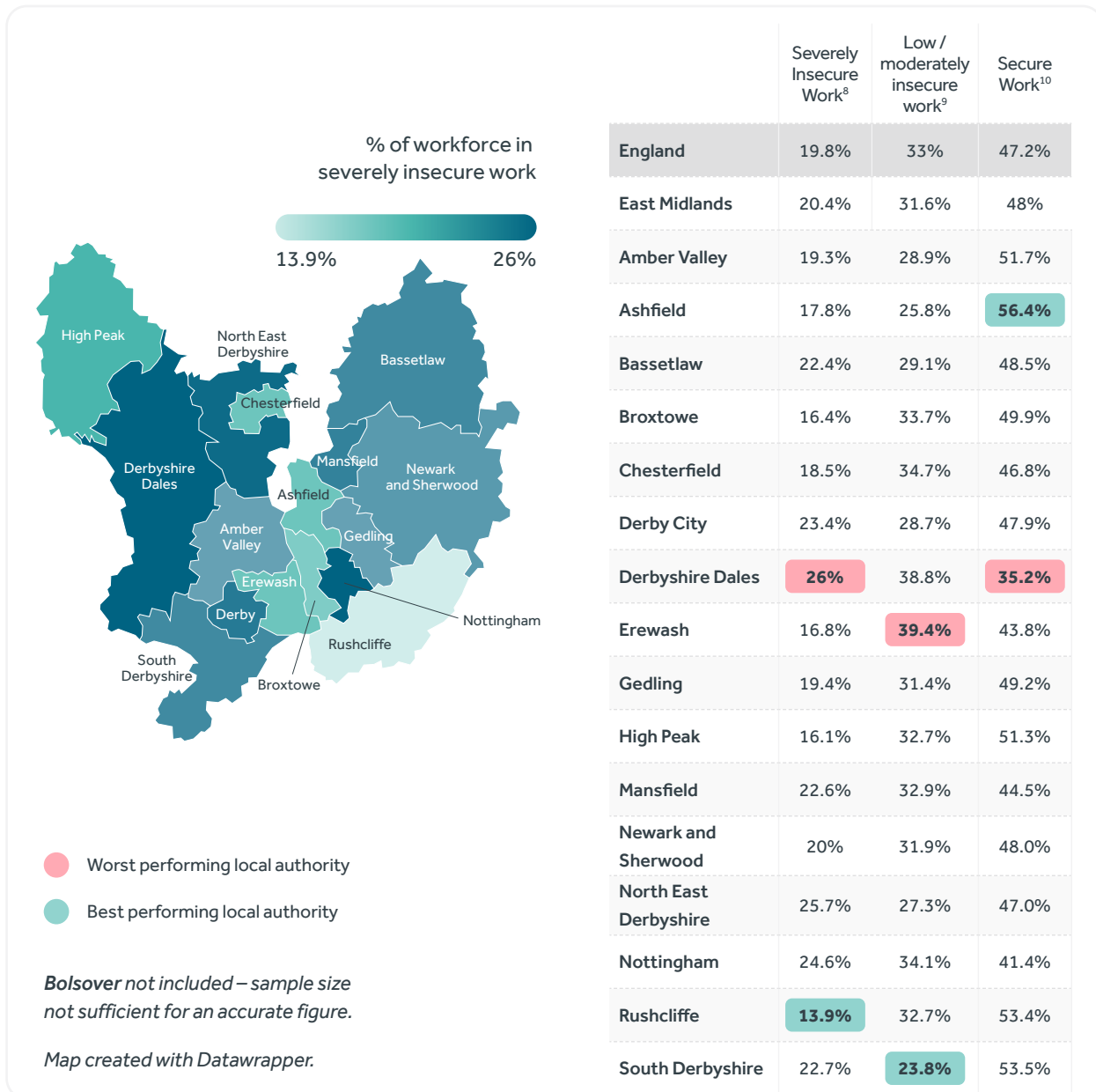
## 2. INSECURE WORK IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

Between 2021-2022, we found that the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority area was home to a comparatively higher number of second jobs, low paid jobs and temporary work than the national average. On the other hand, we saw lower involuntary part-time work and solo-self-employment.

Just over one in five workers (20.4%) in the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority are in severely insecure work, which is above the English average.

There is some variation in the incidence of severely insecure work within the local authorities in the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority too. Derbyshire Dales has the highest proportion of workers in severely insecure work (26%). In Rushcliffe, only 13.9% of workers are in severely insecure work and more than half are in secure work. Nottingham has the lowest employment rate (63.7%) and highest inactivity rate (32%) in this region and is five percentage points above the English average for severely insecure work (19.4%).

Figure 3: East Midlands Combined County Authority labour market



8. Work Foundation calculations of the ONS Labour Force Survey; 2021-2022.

9. Work Foundation calculations of the ONS Labour Force Survey; 2021-2022.

10. Work Foundation calculations of the ONS Labour Force Survey; 2021-2022.

### 3. HOW SECURE WORK CAN REDUCE REGIONAL INEQUALITY

Insecure work is a national issue, but the consequences are felt locally. In order to reduce regional inequalities and limit the impacts of severely insecure work on individuals in the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority, the UK Government and Combined Authority Mayors must focus on two complementary ambitions over the next five years:

1. to significantly reduce levels of severely insecure jobs across the UK by 2030
2. to ensure that no English Mayoral Combined Authority is home to higher levels of severely insecure work than the national average.

#### Recommendations for Combined Authorities

- **Recognise insecure work in economic development and skills strategies** based on the sectors and roles within where it is concentrated, and the worker groups who are primarily impacted
- **Include the regular tracking of insecure work indicators** as part of existing Combined Authority labour market analysis
- **Explore partnerships and engagement with employment charters** to share lessons and best practice
- **Harness procurement and investment incentives** by building clear employment standards requirements into the commissioning and procuring goods and services
- **Support national enforcement bodies** by helping to build relationships with local employers and reporting non-compliance or violations of rights in your area.

For further research and recommendations on insecure work across England's Mayoral Combined Authorities, please see: [Delivering Levelling up? How secure work can reduce regional inequality \(2023\)](#).

For further information on our methodology, please see our [Technical Annex for the UK Insecure Work Index](#).

Please note: our insecurity measure counts people where they live as opposed to where they work. Household composition and demographic traits can therefore affect results meaning that insecurity at a local level will not always correlate with the level of economic deprivation in that area.

#### CITATION

If you are using this document in your own writing, our preferred citation is: Tigwell, R., Florrison, R., Navani, A. (2023). East Midlands city region employment profile. The Work Foundation at Lancaster University.

#### MORE INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Work Foundation at Lancaster University at: [info@theworkfoundation.com](mailto:info@theworkfoundation.com).