## West Midlands Weekly Economic Impact Monitor



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This monitor aims to pull together information across regional partners to understand the impacts of Covid-19 on the economy. Where possible it will utilise all forms of quantitative and qualitative intelligence. However we urge caution in the use of the contents as this is an emerging situation.

## **Key Issues**

- Italy and Sweden are maintaining their control of the virus, but Spain has risen again, with the UK putting restrictions in place on travel.
- <u>The IHS Markit managers' index</u> climbed further above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction, rising from 50.1 in June to 53.3 in July. New orders and business confidence all improved compared to last month, with output climbing to 59.3, which is the highest level since November 2017
- The owners of the Bullring are reportedly struggling to avoid the fate of Intu, other significant announcements include, JLR i54 loses, Tui retail closures, Pendragon redundancies (1,800) and 15 sites, Selfridges 450 jobs,
- Local lockdowns have been imposed in Greater Manchester, East Lancashire, West Yorkshire and Aberdeen. Restrictions were introduced overnight without legislation in place for a further 6 days. This has created confusion at a local level. Restrictions affect people meeting in homes, family based childcare and the return to pubs and restaurants.
- Infection rates are slowly rising nationally, in the west midlands the main spike is Sandwell, which last week came down again from 27.7 to 17.4 per 100,000
- The Bank of England Decision Maker Panel, expect employment to be 1.6pp lower every quarter to 2021. Sectorally accommodation and food is predicted to be hardest hit, with sales down by 77% in Q2 2020 to being down 18% by Q1 2021. Investment also expected to drop in this sector along with Transport and storage with both sectors sustaining high drops in investment ending at 49& and 46% in Q1 2021. Based on panel responses potential employment impacts for the West Midlands (region) by Q1 2021 could be a fall of 9% or an additional 200k.
- There has been a 76% take up rate (175k eligible) for the self-employment scheme. The highest average claim was in the financial and insurance activities sector at £4k, and sectorally the other service activities sector has the highest numbers of claims.
- Key capital assets in the region are under some threat from the impacts of covid-19, key threats include economic recession, reduced FDI, drop in consumer demand, business investment including R&D, reduced take up of public transport and movement of people (especially international movement), reduced student intake (especially international) mental health impacts. This could impact negatively on the Commonwealth Games, Capital of Culture and regional tourism assets, along with major transport developments such as UK Central, HS2 and Metrolink. Major innovation assets are also at risk such as WMG, MTC and the Life Sciences Park if investment falters and public R&D is reduced or not distributed regionally. Wider mental health and social capital could also undermine assets as confidence bits needed?
- hits people's willingness to take part and engage with opportunities.
- The WMCA has developed a citizen's panel and their key issues are living with coronavirus, health and jobs as the 'big 2', green recovery as a means to an end in terms of mental health and jobs, and avoiding a lost generation.
- Leaders across the regions and all the declared West Midlands Mayoral candidates are calling for greater powers (especially fiscal) and devolution in the upcoming White Paper on devolution and recovery. The LGA calls for local leaders to focus away from bidding for grants to one of outcomes and rewards for achieving them.
- Footfall has increased this week to 60% of levels at the same time last year, with retail parks at the strongest at 80%.
- More businesses (91.2%) are trading in the West Midlands than nationally (86.4%) and have been for more than 2 weeks.
   62% of businesses regionally have said their turnover has decreased by at least 20%.
- In the West Midlands, the highest industry to pause or cease trading was accommodation and food services activities at 8.1%. In terms of trade, more businesses are reporting less than normal than the UK levels. 15% of business have stopped capital expenditure.
- Nationally 73% of adults met up with others to socialise. 47% of adults always maintained social distancing, while 8% stated they rarely or never maintained social distancing. 24% of adults are continuing to work from home.

#### **Global Outlook**

Both <u>Italy and Sweden</u> were two of the hardest-hit countries at the pandemic's peak, but now they are keeping the virus under control, with no resurgent case figures or no strain on hospitals. In contrast, the daily infection case count in Spain rose past 2,000 last week and France's surpassed 1,000.

<u>New Zealand</u>, among one of the first countries to record zero active cases, faces an inevitable return of the pathogen, according to its Director-General of Health. The encouraging news on <u>treatment</u> is that transfusions of plasma blood (that has antibodies from recovered Covid-19 patients) when given to those with the virus reduced their mortality rate by about 50%.

In a sign of increasing tension between US tech giants and EU regulation, <u>Google is set to face a long European</u> <u>Union probe into its \$2.1 billion</u> takeover of Fitbit Inc. The concern results from how health data could be used to increase specificity and effectiveness of online advertising.

<u>Gold's increasing rally</u> gathered further momentum, with prices going higher into record territory above \$2,000 an ounce as investors considered further financial stimulus to support effect of the pandemic's economic crisis.

#### **National Outlook**

This week the 'Eat out to Help Out' scheme launched,

## with queues at various food outlets as the government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme got under way. The scheme is aiming to help the struggling hospitality industry as the UK focuses on its economic recovery.

One of Britain's largest defence contractors has delivered further bad news for investors, this is following the firm axing its dividend for last year. <u>Babcock s</u>aid that it was cancelling the pay out in an attempt to preserve cash. The firm has revealed that underlying revenues in the three months to June had slumped to 11%, with underlying operating profit falling to 40% in the first quarter.

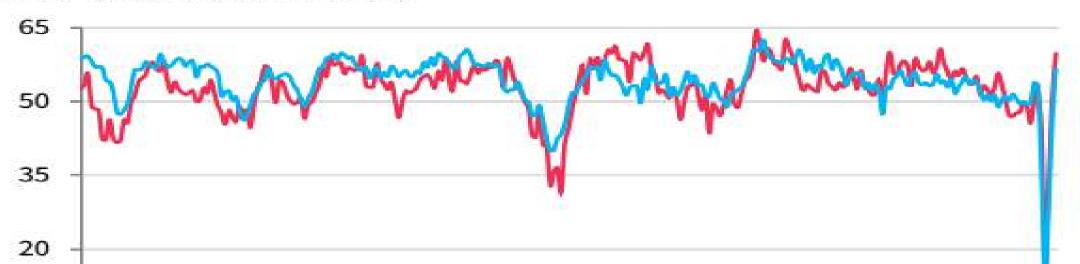
EasyJet Plc is experiencing a stronger than anticipated rebound in passenger demand for international travel following the lifting of travel restrictions. In July its aircraft flew 84% full in July, prompting a rise its stock rose. With bookings for late summer ahead of projections the carrier will operate 40% of capacity in the quarter through September, up from the originally scheduled 30%.

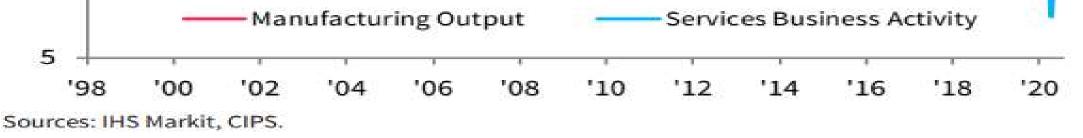
An additional good indicator is factory output, which rose at its fastest pace in nearly three years in the UK last month.

The IHS Markit managers' index climbed further above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction, rising from 50.1 in June to 53.3 in July.



sa, >50 = growth since previous month





New orders and business confidence all improved compared to last month, with output climbing to 59.3, which is the highest level since November 2017.

#### **Regional Outlook**

The owners of Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre, <u>Hammerson is in trouble</u>. The shopping centre owner is reportedly struggling to avoid the fate of Intu Properties, its peer, which owned Merry Hill shopping centre. Intu fell into administration in June after large debts, falling valuations and lost rental income accelerated by the pandemic put the company in the hands of its lenders. The owner of the Bullring in Birmingham needs to find a financial package to widen the gap between its debt and the valuation of its assets.

## Public Health England Infection rates and local lockdown Rebecca Riley WMREDI

Confirmed cases are edging up again and further easing of lockdown measures have been postponed for at least 2 further weeks nationally. Local lockdowns have been imposed in Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and East Lancashire, as well as restrictions on Aberdeen in Scotland.

Levels of reported infection remain far below the peak levels but latest <u>ONS data</u> suggests infection levels are higher than the daily testing as this research tests people who would not have normally applied for a test (ie without symptoms). This sample survey or households suggests that cases have risen from 3,200 to 4,200.

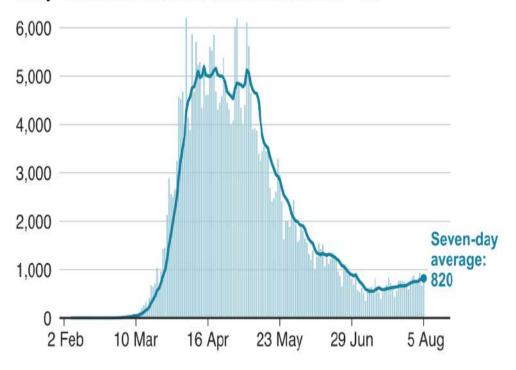
The local lockdowns have been imposed through legislation only introduced this week, 6 days after restrictions were introduced. Rules restrict people from different households meeting in private homes and gardens, unless part of a support bubble. £100 fines are in place for those that flout the rules. The suddenness of lockdown and the delays in implementing the law change had meant that police forces were not given guidance on how to enforce restrictions.

<u>Confusion</u> over the rules continued throughout this period. This also included issues around the definition of the area of Greater Manchester as the general population weren't aware they were part of the larger CA area. This is largely due to perceptions about postcodes and areas and where they lie within administrative boundaries. Andy Burnham has called for future lockdowns should be accompanied by supporting details and full media statement from government to clarify the restrictions. He also called for government to provide evidence on the reasoning behind restrictions.

Restrictions have affected childcare (where only paid childcare is permitted not family), return to restaurants and pubs (despite this being allowed), and has exacerbated the perceptions of BAME community driving infection rates (in GM one of the areas with highest growth rates is Trafford, which is largely middle class and white, whereas Bolton which has high number of ethic minority residents has risen only slightly).

## Confirmed cases starting to rise

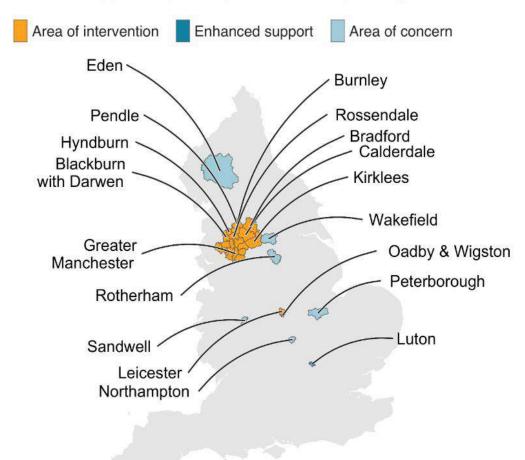
Daily confirmed cases of coronavirus in the UK



Figures now include cases among key workers and their families, as well as patients Source: Department of Health and Social Care, updated to 5 Aug 09:00 BST BBC SPORT

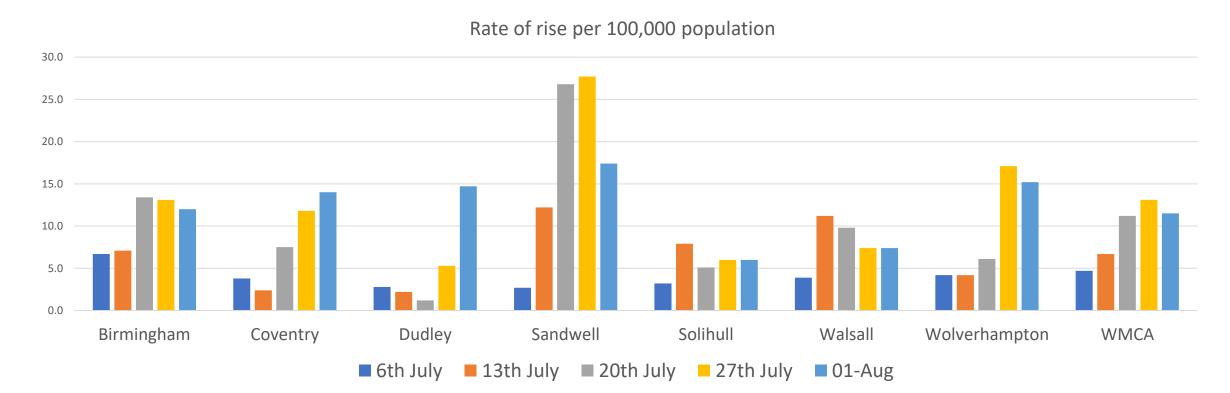
## Areas on the coronavirus watchlist

Level of support required by local authority in England

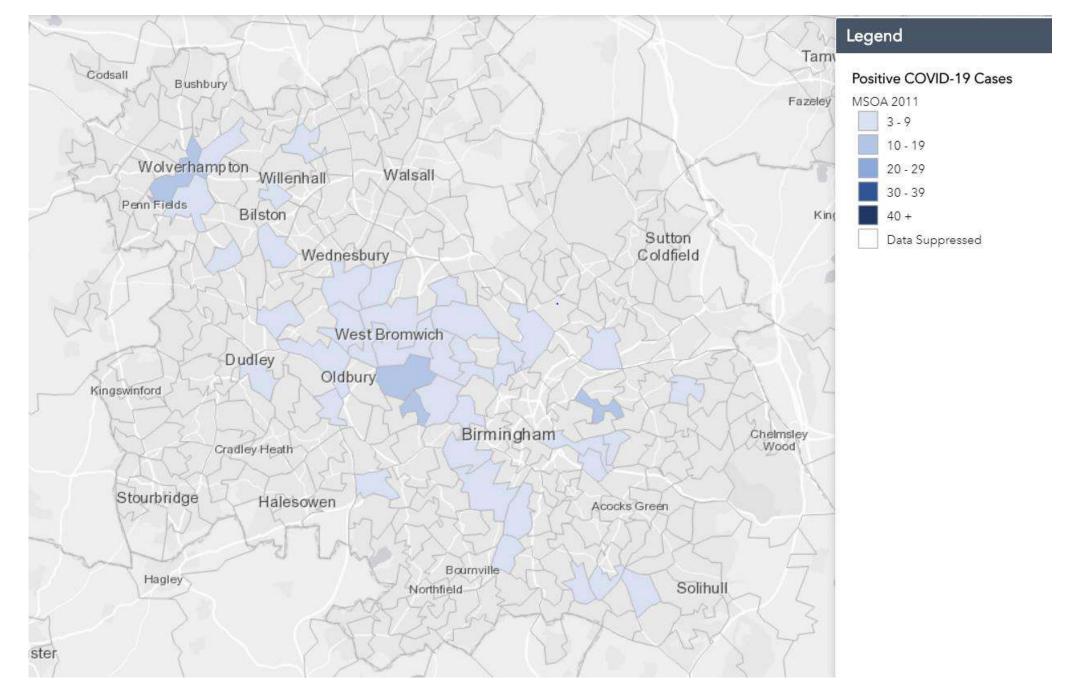


In the West Midlands, Sandwell continues to have the highest infection rates, but this has dropped from previous weeks. Data on infections can be seen overleaf.

	Mid 20197 days includingPopulatio6th July		-	7 days including 13th July		7 days including 20th July		ncluding July	7 days including 1st Aug		
UTLA	n estimates	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
Birmingham	1141816	76	6.7	81	7.1	153	13.4	152	13.3	137	12
Coventry	371521	14	3.8	9	2.4	28	7.5	44	11.8	52	14
Dudley	321596	9	2.8	7	2.2	4	1.2	17	5.3	15	14.7
Sandwell	328450	9	2.7	40	12.2	88	26.8	91	27.7	57	17.4
Solihull	216374	7	3.2	17	7.9	11	5.1	13	6.0	13	6
Walsall	285478	11	3.9	32	11.2	28	9.8	21	7.4	21	7.4
Wolverhampto											
n	263357	11	4.2	11	4.2	16	6.1	45	17.1	40	15.2
WMCA	2928592	137	4.7	197	6.7	328	11.2	383	13.1	335	11.5



Source: Sean Russell WMCA – PHE data



Source: PHE data week 30 (20<sup>th</sup> July to 26<sup>th</sup> July positive cases by middle super output areas

## Potential impacts of the Pandemic on private sector employment, investment and sales revenue: A DMP-based scenario

Konstantinos Karagounis (NTU), Paul Mizen (University of Nottingham), Will Rossiter (NTU). (originally published in the Midlands Engine Monitor)

#### **Overview**

The Bank of England Decision Maker Panel (DMP) is a survey of Chief Financial Officers from small, medium and large UK businesses. It is used to monitor developments in the economy and to track businesses' views. So far over 8,000 executives from small, medium and large UK companies and operating in a broad range of industries have agreed to participate. The panel is designed to be representative of the UK business population, excluding a small number of sectors. The survey explores questions on current policy issues and provides valuable insights into companies' perceptions of challenges and opportunities facing the UK economy.

The DMP survey includes questions on employers' expectations of future employment levels in their businesses. This paper uses these responses to estimate the <u>potential</u> scale of impact on private sector employment across the Midlands Engine and its constituent LEPs. This analysis is intended to enable local policy makers and planners to better understand the broad scale, nature and spatial distribution of the <u>potential</u> employment impacts that may arise from the present pandemic. Readers are cautioned against treating the scenario presented in this paper as a 'forecast'.

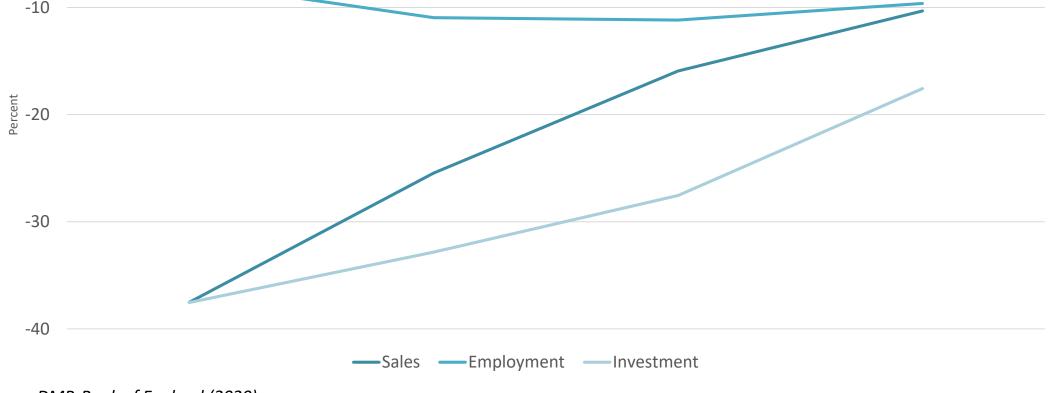
## **National summary**

The June DMP survey indicates a slightly better outlook in the short-term with respect to investment and sales but a worse outlook in terms of employment compared with May. Businesses expect their sales in 2020 Q2 to be 37.5% lower than they would otherwise have been, employment to be 7.7% lower and investment to be 37.5% lower. The Q2 sales and investment impacts were similar to the April and May surveys, but the employment impact is higher than the 6% expected from the May survey.

Business expectations for the next five quarters are presented in Figure 1, which show an immediate impact on sales and investment that gradually improves. Both these measures are expected to remain below potential levels in the given time frame. There is a delayed impact on employment that reaches its lowest point in 2020 Q4 at -11.2%. Employment is a lagging indicator compared to other measures such as investment and sales. Firms may experience a decline in sales and reduce their investment in response to uncertainty about future demand, but may hesitate to lay off workers, which may incur redundancy costs and loss of skilled workers. These effects may have been further dampened by the CJRS furlough measures, which allow firms to claim 80% of labour costs from the government until August.

## DMP survey data - Expected impact of C19 on sales, employment and investment (June 2020)

2020 Q3 2021 01 2020 Q2 2020 Q4 0



Source DMP, Bank of England (2020)

Employment is expected to remain below its 2020 Q2 level until the first quarter of 2021 at least. On average, employment is expected to be 1.6 percentage points lower at every quarter compare with May's survey. Business investment and sales show a similar picture to the last survey. However, investment is expected to recover less within the current calendar year and more within the next compared with May's survey. and thus provide further insights into the expected effects of the lockdown. Table 1 shows expectations for sales and investment for the next 5 quarters broken down by sector.

The sectoral breakdown disaggregates all broad industrial groups with the exception Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Other services (R,S,T and U), UK SIC (2007)

#### **Expectations by sector**

DMP survey responses are available at a sectoral level

		Sal	les			Inve	stment	
Sector	2020	2020	2020	2021	2020	2020	2020	2021
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Manufacturing	-33.5	-23.1	-14.2	-9.1	-37.0	-32.5	-23.2	-15.5
<b>Other Production</b>	-11.9	-8.6	-4.9	-2.1	-23.6	-14.1	-10.8	3.8
Construction	-44.6	-25.3	-13.1	-8.7	-33.9	-46.9	-45.8	-28.5
Wholesale & Retail	-36.5	-17.9	-11.2	-9.1	-47.0	-40.2	-33.3	-20.8
Transport & Storage	-33.0	-23.5	-14.5	-6.4	-55.9	-41.0	-49.8	-46.2
Accommodation & Food	-77.3	-53.6	-31.3	-18.0	-59.8	-69.0	-63.0	-49.1
Info & Comms	-20.4	-16.3	-10.0	-5.9	-24.2	-19.9	-15.0	-11.4
Finance & Insurance	-28.1	-21.4	-14.1	-8.4	-17.2	0.2	4.3	-5.2
Real Estate	-24.9	-25.4	-17.1	-11.5	-36.2	-29.4	-12.3	-18.4
Prof & Scientific	-25.2	-20.1	-13.2	-7.5	-33.7	-32.9	-21.7	-9.9
Admin & Support	-42.0	-31.1	-20.5	-12.6	-18.7	-8.0	-10.8	4.0
Human Health	-22.2	-19.5	-12.2	-10.7	-35.7	-24.4	-11.0	-5.4
Other services	-45.7	-36.1	-26.4	-18.7	-31.9	-40.6	-34.4	-16.1

## Expected impact of Covid-19 on sales/investment, average percentage impacts (May 2020)

Source. DMP, Bank of England (2020)

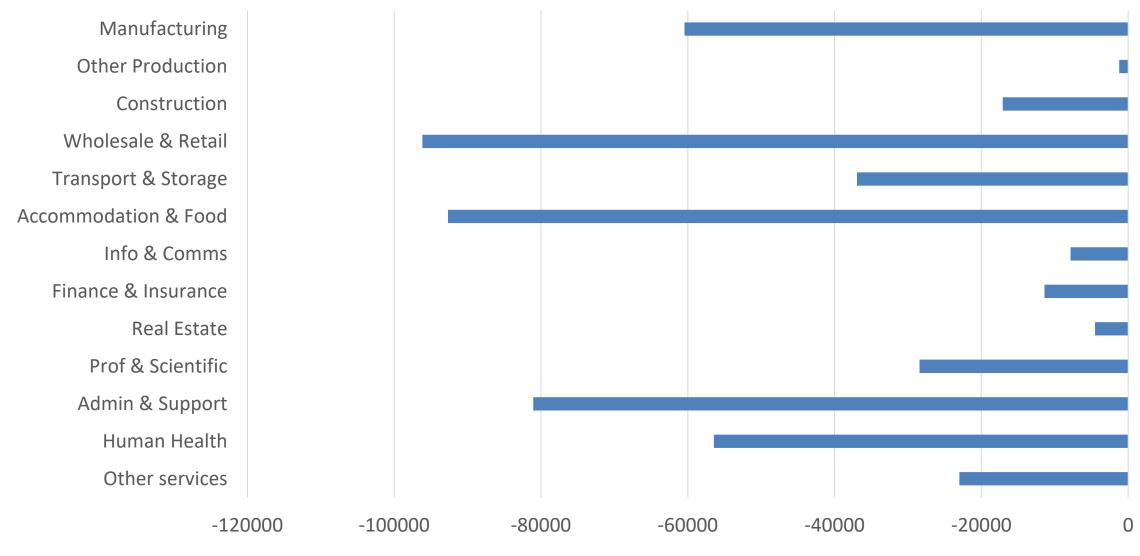
The worst outlook in terms of sales is in other services and accommodation & food, which are expected to remain well below their potential. In terms of investment, transport & storage and accommodation & food show the worst outlook at almost half their potential value. Whereas, Other Production and Admin & Support services are expected to reach positive values by end the beginning of 2021. business in that sector in the economy as a whole. Regional and local variations therefore reflect differences in industrial composition.

Figure 2 shows the expected impact of the Pandemic on

#### **Midlands Engine Employment**

The sectoral DMP survey responses are used here to estimate the potential impact of the Pandemic on employment at a regional scale. This methodology does not use regional data from the DMP and assumes that each business has the same expectations as the average private sector employment in the Midlands Engine by sector, following the responses to the DMP survey. This analysis indicates that the Midlands could lose around 517,000 private sector employees by 2020 Q4 – the trough of the expected employment effect. The biggest impact in absolute terms is in wholesale & retail, followed by accommodation & food and admin & support.

#### Implied impact on Midlands employment by sector – 2020 Q4



Source: Authors' calculations using DMP survey data, Bank of England (2020

The table below provides a breakdown of the expected employment effects by LEP. By 2020 Q4, there could be a reduction in employment of 10.4% on average across all LEP areas, with little variance. This reduction is expected to be greater in certain local authorities within the LEPs with East Lindsey and Derbyshire Dales showing the largest percent decline in employment of 12.3% and 11.7% respectively.

It is important to note that the values in this section of the analysis refer to declines in employment and do not reflect unemployment rates. Therefore, a 10.4% decline in private sector employees does not imply an unemployment rate of 10.4% nor does it necessarily indicate an equal increase in the unemployment rate.

Area/LEP	No. employed (2018)	Estimated no. employed (2020 Q2)	% change by 2020 Q2	Estimated no. employed (2020 Q3)	% change by 2020 Q3	Estimated no. employed (2020 Q4)	% change by 2020 Q4	Estimated no. employed (2021 Q1)	% change by 2021 Q1
Great Britain									
	25,861,000	23,987,218	-7.2%	23,247,157	-10.1%	23,124,239	-10.6%	23,492,747	-9.2%
East Midlands									
	1,805,000	1,679,437	-7.0%	1,626,886	-9.9%	1,614,987	-10.5%	1,639,209	-9.2%
West Midlands									
	2,227,000	2,075,872	-6.8%	2,013,521	-9.6%	1,997,723	-10.3%	2,026,339	-9.0%
Black Country	394,200	368,474	-6.5%	357,730	-9.3%	354,239	-10.1%	359,006	-8.9%
Coventry and Warwickshire	403,000	375,890	-6.7%	364,035	-9.7%	361,374	-10.3%	366,571	-9.0%
D2N2	805,500	748,692	-7.1%	726,633	-9.8%	721,220	-10.5%	731,908	-9.1%
Greater Birmingham and									
Solihull	812,250	755,545	-7.0%	731,519	-9.9%	726,523	-10.6%	737,550	-9.2%
Greater Lincolnshire	382,000	355,253	-7.0%	343,961	-10.0%	341,472	-10.6%	346,618	-9.3%
Leicester and Leicestershire	407,500	379,760	-6.8%	367,965	-9.7%	365,219	-10.4%	370,494	-9.1%
The Marches	253,000	235,800	-6.8%	229,540	-9.3%	227,865	-9.9%	230,937	-8.7%
South East Midlands	851,500	793,720	-6.8%	765,277	-10.1%	760,247	-10.7%	772,115	-9.3%
Stoke-on-Trent and									
Staffordshire	419,000	390,966	-6.7%	378,924	-9.6%	375,815	-10.3%	381,246	-9.0%
Worcestershire	224,750	209,113	-7.0%	202,994	-9.7%	201,530	-10.3%	204,430	-9.0%

#### Table 2. Authors' calculations using DMP survey data, Bank of England (2020)

1 Only private sector employees are included in the DMP data. Public sector employees are not included in the analysis.

<sup>[2]</sup> Totals may differ due to rounding, safeguarded access and sectoral decomposition of employee figures. Due to the focus of DMP surveys on companies, figures represent number of employees and not total employment.

## Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) Summary BCCEIU

For the WMCA (3 LEP) there was a total potentially eligible population of 174,700 for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, which equates to a take-up rate of 76% at the end of June which is based on the total number of claims of 132,700.

At a West Midlands regional level, there was a total potentially eligible male population of 187,400 for the SEISS, which equates to a take-up rate of 78% at the end of June which is based on the total number of claims of 145,700. There were 75,000 eligible female population for the West Midlands with a take-up rate of 69% based on the total number of claims of 52,100.

For the West Midlands, the highest average claim made is

in the financial and insurance activities sector at £4,000. In the West Midlands, the highest take-up rate is in the other services activities sector at 85% down to agriculture, forestry and fishing at 52%.

#### WMCA (3 LEP)

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, there were 174,700 of the population eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). There were 132,700 claims made to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, which equates to a value of £364,400,000 or on average nearly £2,900 per claim. The take-up rate for the WMCA (3 LEP) was 76%, with local authorities varying from 81% in Cannock Chase to 71% in Rugby.

Take-up is based on total number of claims to date (excludes error and rejected cases) over total potentially eligible population (includes error and rejected cases).

	Total potentially	Total no. of claims	Total value of claims	Average value	Take-Up Rate
	eligible pop.	made to 30/6/20	made to 30/6/20	of claims made	
			(£)	to 30/6/20 (£)	
Cannock Chase	5,000	4,100	12,700,000	3,100	81%
East Staffordshire	5,200	3,900	10,400,000	2,700	74%
Lichfield	4,800	3,600	11,300,000	3,100	76%
Tamworth	3,000	2,300	6,600,000	2,900	77%
North Warwickshire	3,200	2,400	7,200,000	3,000	76%
Nuneaton and Bedworth	4,900	3,700	10,600,000	2,900	75%
Rugby	4,400	3,100	9,300,000	3,000	71%
Stratford-on-Avon	7,500	5,500	17,000,000	3,100	72%
Warwick	5,600	4,100	12,200,000	3,000	73%
Birmingham	47,000	35,600	88,500,000	2,500	76%
Coventry	13,100	9,800	26,000,000	2,700	75%
Dudley	14,400	11,300	32,200,000	2,800	79%
Sandwell	13,200	10,000	25,600,000	2,600	76%
Solihull	7,900	6,100	19,200,000	3,200	77%
Walsall	12,000	9,400	26,000,000	2,800	78%
Wolverhampton	9,900	7,400	19,500,000	2,600	75%
Bromsgrove	4,600	3,500	10,800,000	3,100	77%
Redditch	3,800	3,000	8,700,000	2,900	79%
Wyre Forest	5,200	3,900	10,600,000	2,700	76%
WM 7 Met.	131,100	100,000	267,100,000	2,790	76%
BCLEP	49,500	38,100	103,300,000	2,700	77%
CWLEP	38,700	28,600	82,300,000	2,950	74%
GBSLEP	86,500	66,000	178,800,000	2,911	76%
WMCA (3 LEP)	174,700	132,700	364,400,000	2,879	76%
West Midlands Region	262,000	198,000	553,000,000	2,800	75%
UK	3,399,000	2,553,000	7,416,000,000	2,900	75%

Take-up is based on total number of claims to date (excludes error and rejected cases) over total potentially eligible population (includes error and rejected cases).

## Regional Analysis West Midlands: Claims by Age and Gender

At a West Midlands regional level, there was a total potentially eligible male population of 187,400 for the SEISS, which equates to a take-up rate of 78% at the end of June which is based on the total number of claims of 145,700. There were 75,000 eligible female population for the West Midlands with a take-up rate of 69% based on the total number of claims of 52,100.

The highest take-up rate in the West Midlands for males were those aged 35- 44 years old. While for females the highest take-up rate (excluding missing) were those aged 45-54 years old at 73%.

The following table shows a breakdown by age and gender across the West Midlands region:

Gender	Age bands	Total	Total no. of	Total value of	Average value	% of total	% of total	% of total	Take-Up
		potentially	claims made	claims made	of claims	eligible	number of	value of	Rate
		eligible	to 30/6/20	to 30/6/20	made to date	population in	claims made to	claims made	
		population		(£)	(£)	region	date in region	in region	
	16-24	8,000	5,600	12,200,000	2,200	3%	3%	2%	69%
	25-34	35,300	27,500	83,000,000	3,000	13%	14%	15%	78%
	35-44	42,100	34,000	100,700,000	3,000	16%	17%	18%	81%
Male	45-54	48,000	38,600	118,700,000	3,100	18%	20%	21%	80%
maie	55-64	39,400	30,600	94,000,000	3,100	15%	15%	17%	78%
	65+	12,600	7,800	26,600,000	3,400	5%	4%	5%	62%
	Missing	2,100	1,600	4,300,000	2,600	1%	1%	1%	79%
	All	187,400	145,700	439,400,000	3,000	71%	74%	79%	78%
	16-24	2,200	1,300	2,200,000	1,700	1%	1%	0%	60%
	25-34	12,800	9,000	18,200,000	2,000	5%	5%	3%	70%
	35-44	17,500	12,400	25,400,000	2,000	7%	6%	5%	71%
Female	45-54	20,600	15,100	33,500,000	2,200	8%	8%	6%	73%
remaie	55-64	16,100	11,200	26,000,000	2,300	6%	6%	5%	69%
	65+	5,000	2,600	7,500,000	2,900	2%	1%	1%	52%
	Missing	700	500	1,300,000	2,400	0%	0%	0%	74%
	All	75,000	52,100	114,000,000	2,200	29%	26%	21%	69%
	16-24	10,200	6,900	14,400,000	2,100	4%	3%	3%	67%
	25-34	48,100	36,400	101,200,000	2,800	18%	18%	18%	76%
	35-44	59,600	46,400	126,100,000	2,700	23%	23%	23%	78%
All	45-54	68,600	53,700	152,100,000	2,800	26%	27%	27%	78%
80	55-64	55,500	41,800	119,900,000	2,900	21%	21%	22%	75%
	65+	17,600	10,400	34,100,000	3,300	7%	5%	6%	59%
	Missing	2,800	2,200	5,600,000	2,600	1%	1%	1%	77%
	All	262,000	198,000	553,000,000	2,800	100%	100%	100%	75%

## West Midlands: Claims by Broad Sector

In the West Midlands, the highest average claim made is in the financial and insurance activities

sector at £4,000. The highest take-up rate is in the other service activities sector at 85% down to agriculture, forestry and fishing at 52%.

Broad Sector	Total potentially eligible pop.	Total no. of claims made to 30/6/20	Total value of claims made to 30/6/20 (£)	Average value of claims made to date (£)		% of total number of claims made to date in region		Take-Up Rate
Accommodation and food service activities	6,500	4,700	12,100,000	2,600	2%	2%	2%	72%
Administrative and support service activities	19,500	13,200	26,900,000	2,000	7%	7%	5%	68%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8,700	4,500	14,400,000	3,200	3%	2%	3%	52%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	5,400	4,100	9,800,000	2,400	2%	2%	2%	75%
Construction	82,300	66,900	234,200,000	3,500	31%	34%	42%	81%
Education	8,900	7,100	16,000,000	2,300	3%	4%	3%	80%
Financial and insurance activities	1,600	1,100	4,500,000	4,000	1%	1%	1%	72%
Human health and social work activities	11,500	7,000	20,400,000	2,900	4%	4%	4%	61%
Information and communication	2,400	1,500	4,600,000	3,000	1%	1%	1%	64%
Manufacturing	7,000	5,200	15,400,000	2,900	3%	3%	3%	74%
Other service activities	18,000	15,300	32,200,000	2,100	7%	8%	6%	85%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	11,900	8,200	27,200,000	3,300	5%	4%	5%	69%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	500	300	800,000	2,500	0%	0%	0%	70%
Real estate activities	1,100	700	2,300,000	3,100	0%	0%	0%	65%
Transportation and storage	23,900	20,000	38,800,000	1,900	9%	10%	7%	84%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	18,000	13,000	34,300,000	2,600	7%	7%	6%	72%
Unknown and other	35,400	25,000	59,700,000	2,400	13%	13%	11%	71%
All	262,000	198,000	553,000,000	2,800	100%	100%	100%	75%

Source: HMRC, Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) Statistics: July 2020

## **Regional Assets and Covid-19 impacts** Abigail Taylor, Rebecca Riley WMREDI

The following section is based on a review of assets carried out as part of the Midlands Engine Independent Economic Review and the development of LEP profiles. We have also looked at what the major risks are to those assets going forward. (Full details will be published in the State of the Region 2020)

## Strengths

Automotive and Advanced engineering – JLR, Rolls Royce, Aston Martin, Aurrigo, Geely Visitor and cultural sector – RSC, NEC, Royal Ballet and Symphony Hall, Birmingham Airport BPFS sector and resilience – Large international companies, Deloitte, KPMG, HSBC, Lloyds TSB, PWC, NFU and Deutsche Bank Major Brands – e.g. Mondelez, HSBC, National Express and Jaguar, Wesleyan Assurance Society and Gowling WLG, EON, Severn Trent, Balfour Beatty, KEIR Largest University sector outside London - Aston University; Birmingham City University; Newman University College, University College Birmingham; University of Birmingham, Wolverhampton University, Warwick University and Coventry University Strong construction sector and portfolio of projects -HS2, Metrolink, light rail, university station

## Weaknesses

Long standing and relative international value of sporting and cultural assets and brand of the West Midlands High unemployment and youth unemployment Unhealthy communities Weak jobs growth Longer term survival rates of businesses Significantly deprived areas and inequalities Low usage of renewable energy Numbers of residents with low qualifications Supply chain vulnerability and international markets Digital skills and infrastructure inequalities

#### Threats

Mental health impacts and reduced social capital International transport impact on Commonwealth Games, Capital of Culture and tourism assets such as Stratford.

Economic crash globally and impact on FDI Social distancing and drop in consumer demand Large scale unemployment - announcements already for JLR, DHL, Rolls Royce, John Lewis Long term scarring effects on young people Apprenticeship availability due to employer instability Trade deals and investment as a major exporting region, wider negative impacts on international travel, education and tourism Student intake, especially international Business investment and cash flow disrupted R&D and innovation investment curtailed especially in automotive

## **Opportunities**

Improving brand and profile of the region in recent years and high profile events HS2 and UK Central Commonwealth Games City of Culture 5G testbed Devolved Adult Education Budget Brownfield Land Programme Housing Programme

Reduced take up and usage of public transport

Driverless cars testbed Silicon Spa Life Sciences Park WMG and MTC Local supply chain development, and local procurement

#### **Tourism Assets**

The <u>OECD</u> has stressed how the pandemic and measures to contain its spread are having a heavy impact on the tourism economy. Its analysis shows that depending on how long the crisis lasts, the potential shock could cause a 60-80% decline in the international tourism economy worldwide in 2020. Whilst Coventry and Warwickshire is less reliant on tourism than other parts of the national economy overall, certain areas are likely to be heavily hit in the short-term. This includes Stratford-upon-Avon which, according to estimates by Centre for Cities, is likely to suffer one of the largest declines in GVA in the West Midlands. If the crisis continues, the projected benefit from Coventry being UK City of Culture could also be threatened, although the start date has been pushed back to May 2021. The rise of virtual meetings during the pandemic raises questions over whether Birmingham will continue to see growth in its business tourism sector.

#### **International Travel**

If Coronavirus has a medium to long-term impact on air travel, being close to Birmingham International Airport would be less beneficial for the region than previously (i.e. the benefits of productivity would be less). Forecast growth in passenger numbers over the next decade may be impacted. Whilst the extent of the medium-long-term impact is as yet unclear, we know that traffic at the airport has fallen considerably since March, <u>declining by</u> 90% in April. The Chief Executive of the airport <u>stated at</u> <u>the end of June</u> that they expect a passenger scenario for this financial year of 90 percent less than in 2019/20. We have already seen this start to negatively impact on jobs in the region, with the airport announcing <u>plans to cut up</u> <u>to 250 jobs</u> representing 27% of its workforce due to unsustainable income losses.

#### **Young People**

A concern across the West Midlands, but especially in Greater Birmingham and Solihull and the Black Country, where skills levels are lower and unemployment rates higher, is that recent progress in increasing skills and employment levels will be slowed or reversed as a result of the pandemic. Unless effective countervailing measures are introduced at a national level, it is likely that lockdown is reducing opportunities for young people to gain work experience and participate in work based learning. Although the number of apprenticeship starts across the West Midlands is increasing, numbers remain low, and the Covid-19 crisis is creating worries that there will be less appetite for recruiting apprentices in firms going forward. A survey by Association of Employment and Learning Providers found 60% of employers nationally have stopped recruiting apprentices. It is

encouraging that the government has announced an "opportunity guarantee" to ensure every young person had the chance of an apprenticeship or placement. However, it as yet unclear if the placements will be paid and if a guaranteed interview will be available at the end of the placement. Evidence emphasises the importance of supporting out-of-work people, particularly young people and those over 50 to rapidly find work if they are to avoid long-term unemployment.

#### **Life Sciences**

Assets in the West Midlands likely to be strengthened rather than weakened by the Covid crisis include those linked to life sciences. Birmingham with its Life Sciences Park due to open in 2022 and associated well developed medical technology complex (including various hospitals, University of Birmingham Medical School, Birmingham Health Partners and the Institute of Translational Medicine) appears particularly well placed to be at forefront of developing this sector.

#### Universities

The Coronavirus crisis is also having an impact on universities in the region. <u>City-REDI</u> research into the impact of student spending, paints a worrying picture for the West Midlands. It finds important variations across the UK by region in the benefits generated by student spending with the West Midlands hardest hit. The West Midlands (NUTS2) is the region that generates the largest multiplier for the UK economy with student spending generating over 4 billion pounds of output, 2 to 3 billion GVA and supporting between 44 and 55 thousand jobs. These figures suggest that student spending generates up to 4.2% of GVA in the West Midlands. Student expenditure directly supports 4.2% of employment in the West Midlands compared to up to 2% nationally. This means that for each 3 to 5 students not starting in September 2020, a job is at risk. Universities also underpin the innovation assets across the three LEP areas, and the West Midlands is a leader in the business R&D which with reduced investment capacity in the private sector may be hit hard. Especially in the automotive, aerospace and manufacturing sectors

#### Transport

The drop in patronage of transport assets could reduced the available income for further investment, and the costs of running a much reduced infrastructure under social distancing and lockdown measures could make private and public sector delivery unsustainable. A drop in passenger numbers in the regional airport as highlighted earlier also threatens the integrated infrastructure which has made the West Midlands the heart of the transport network. Future proofing already in place in the region such as autonomous vehicles and electric vehicles could see demand accelerated because of the need for personal and safe transport options.

## **Digital and Technology**

Coventry and Warwickshire is home to one of the country's largest digital gaming sectors and this sector has seen significant growth and demand under lockdown. Accelerated digitisation and application of technology has accelerated with increased homeworking and adoption by businesses of online sales. This presents an opportunity for the region to build and expand the skills and expertise.

## **Key companies**

Many of the regions key companies are under significant pressures, with redundancies being announced and more expected. The companies most at risk are those that rely on face to face business, non food consumer demand and international supply chains. This puts many of our region's assets at sever risk, such as automotive, tourism and hospitality, retail, passenger transport, manufacturing and culture. Loss of major companies also reduces the investment they make in their supply chain, R&D, skills and supply chains.

## Informing Regional Recovery with Community Priorities: WM Citizens' Panel.

## Anna Humphreys, Adam Hawksbee WMCA

Over the past few months, the UK Government has asked an enormous amount of its citizens - locking down our lives, closing up shops, and issuing complex and changeable guidance on public safety. All of this has been a strain on the legitimacy of Government, and the cracks in public confidence are beginning to show as local lockdowns emerge across the country.

Response to the virus required quick and decisive action, but recovery must be done differently. If recovery is done 'to' citizens, as opposed to 'with' them, it will fail to heal communities and rebuild city regions. It is in this context that the West Midlands Recovery Coordination Group decided to put citizens at the heart of plans for community recovery, through the establishment of an innovative Citizens Panel.

## What is a Citizens' Panel?

A Citizens' Panel is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. The people who take part are chosen so they reflect the wider population – in terms of demographics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, social class), relevant attitudes (e.g. political party) and in this instance their experience of Covid-19 (e.g. shielding, furloughing).

Citizens' Panels give members of the public the time and opportunity to learn about and discuss a topic, before reaching conclusions The deliberations held by the group are a learning process, where Panelists opinions flow freely in conversation to develop understanding of topics, though expert voices may be consulted to provide clarification along the way. Those involved go on a deliberative journey, from spontaneous views to a 'citizens mindset' in which they take into account the evidence and the views of others.

The West Midlands Panel was formed of 36 citizens who were given access to data briefings and a library of 25 'vox pop' videos recorded by regional and national experts. At the end of deliberations, they provided a shortlist of priorities and principles to inform regional recovery. panelists, any return to a 'new normal' would be dependent on people following government guidelines and recognizing that the threat of the virus was still severe.

## Health and Jobs as the 'big two'

Panelists spoke about the link between health and employment, discussing the tensions between containing the virus and returning to employment. They recognized that unless people could return to work, there would not be the funding to improve health provisions. There were concerns about the link between mental wellbeing, financial concerns and stable employment – with many panelists recognizing that financial concerns during this pandemic were contributing to poorer mental health for many. Therefore, ensuring that work environments were safe and improving access to mental health support were key. When it came to physical health, restoring confidence in health services so that non-covid related illnesses were treated was also a core priority.

## Nuances around the 'green recovery' narrative

Citizens were not initially enthusiastic about prioritizing the environment during recovery, with very few raising this as a specific area of concern. Yet through deliberation, it became clear that a 'green recovery' was important as a means to an end – mental health could be improved through access to green spaces, jobs could be created through investment in zero carbon technology, and physical health could be improved by addressing air quality. This holds an important lesson for policymakers looking to motivate action around the environment – reaching 'net zero' is unlikely to garner enough public support as a focus on its own.

## Avoiding a 'lost generation'

Education and improving opportunities for school leavers emerged as a key part of the recovery puzzle. For young children, the focus was ensuring the correct support for children without access to support or learning tools, and for school leavers it was the need for investment in apprenticeships and training opportunities. Whilst there was initial deadlock on whether young people should return to school (reflected in our polling, which saw a 47%/53% split), through deliberation it was recognized that the core issue was fairness – as long as children didn't fall further behind, Panel members were happy with a more cautious approach in September.

## Even in 'recovery', living with coronavirus is at the front of people's minds

When the panel was convened, participants remained in lockdown due to the pandemic. As such, early discussions were dominated by experiences of the virus and fears of the spread. Although they were asked to consider recovery priorities, it was clear that some participants still felt the region was in 'crisis' mode. For

The full report can be found <u>here</u>, along with <u>a video</u> of panel members discussing their findings, and <u>headline</u> <u>findings of a poll</u> conducted to test insights from the Panel.

## **Devolution and Local Recovery**

*Kevin Johnson is MD of strategic communications firm Urban Communications* 

The Government is set to publish a White Paper this Autumn on Devolution. As well as building on the 'localism' policy of the last decade, which gave rise to the West Midlands Combined Authority and a 'Metro Mayor,' it will be set against the backdrop of a majority Conservative administration committed to 'levelling up,' the conclusion of the Brexit transition period and the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

It is just over ten years since the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies and the commissioning of Local Enterprise Partnerships. Delegation, rather than devolution, has characterised that decade along with a continued obsession with time-limited 'Funds' and 'Challenges.'

As Mayor Street indicated on Newsnight back in February:

"the thing I think is the real rubicon for the government is the question of whether there is going to be some form of fiscal devolution."

The response to the COVID-19 crisis has underlined the highly centralised nature of UK Government. Whilst a global pandemic was always going to demand a nationally-led response, better utilisation of local expertise – especially in the form of public health directors - as well as more data and information sharing between centre and local leaders may have had a material impact.

It is well established that the UK is the most regionally unequal large country in the industrialised world. It also has very low levels of tax raising powers at the local tier and decision-making capabilities on expenditure at the local and regional level.

As part of the economic re-start, the Prime Minister and Cabinet Office Minister spoke about reshaping Whitehall. In Michael Gove's Annual Ditchley Lecture, the emphasis was on from where civil servants are recruited and where they are based than on developing stronger connections between local democracy and decision making. "I also think we need to look at how we can develop an even more thoughtful approach to devolution, to urban leadership and allowing communities to take back more control of the policies that matter to them..." In the Boris Johnson's 'New Deal' speech in Dudley, he promised to:

*"mend the indefensible gap in opportunity and productivity and connectivity between the regions of the UK."* 

But the PM made no direct mention of devolution or even local government. £84 million was awarded to the WMCA under the £5bn 'New Deal' package to expand the region's brownfield regeneration programme. Up to £66 million of funding has been granted to kick-start a series of 'shovel ready' schemes from the Getting Building Fund. Funding has also been given to support more walking and cycling as well as the enabling the region to run e-scooter trials.

In the WMCA's £3.2bn 'Recharge the West Midlands' submission to Government, there is no mention of devolution or an 'ask' for more powers. It seeks 'investment' and a 'partnership' with Central Government.

Bids and deals remain the modus operandi. The Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper is expected to focus on the "unitarisation" of councils "as a vital first step for negotiating [new] mayoral devolution deals."

Regional growth and local government minister Simon Clarke confirmed to Parliament that the Government is seeking to create unitaries with populations of at least 300,000 to 400,000.

The minister also indicated his enthusiasm for strengthening the role of parish and town councils. In a speech to the Local Government Association, Mr Clarke admitted that COVID-19:

"....underlined the reality that an overly centralised state is not, and never will be, best placed to respond effectively to the challenges that individual communities face."

"Government departments recruit in their own image, are influenced by the think tanks and lobbyists who breathe the same London air and are socially rooted in assumptions which are inescapably metropolitan." "We can, literally, reduce the distance between Government and people by relocating Government decision-making centres to different parts of our United Kingdom."

The minister did then come to devolution....

He said the White Paper will seek to:

"connect local recovery with levelling up..." and provide "a place-based strategy to boost regional economic performance in every corner of the country...." The minister told the Northern Powerhouse Education, Skills and Employment Summit the White Paper will provide a roadmap for establishing a series of new mayors within the next ten years – "representing the greatest decentralisation of power in our modern history."

The speech was later removed from the Government website.

Centre for Cities, one of the leading think tanks behind devolution policy, has been calling for the Government to 'deepen' Metro Mayor deals, in other words to bring their powers up to the level enjoyed by the Mayor of London.

The Centre proposes Mayoral and unitary authorities be treated as 'independent actors' rather than agents; with block grants, full flexibility and higher central funding over the next decade; tax-raising powers linking local budgets to the local economy and pilot reform of business rates and council tax and Stamp Duty on new builds.

Among proposals in 'After the Virus: a plan for restoring growth' published with the Centre for Social Justice, former Chancellor Sajid Javid called for the White Paper to:

- integrate the roles of new devolved bodies with both the new British Infrastructure Bank and newly strengthened National Infrastructure Commission
- extend the borrowing powers of combined authorities and allow them to use 'tax increment financing.'

In the Local Government Association's 'Re-thinking local' report, it says:

"local leaders must be able to bring government departments and agencies together...[and] switch focus from process and bidding for grants to one of outcomes and rewards for achieving them."

The LGA says the Devolution White Paper should "offer the broadest vision possible."

"[It] must be bold and invite devolution deals which are shaped by the needs of local areas and help to level up inequalities between our communities and our regions.

"The Spending Review will need to move ... towards a degree of fiscal decentralisation in line with some of the world's most productive economies." blow for localism if these new taxes on both wealth and carbon, were locally authored. If we can devise ways of allowing decisions concerning new taxes to be taken by local politicians, we'll achieve fiscal decentralization."

Writing in the same publication with her colleague at Birmingham City University's Institute of Design and Economic Acceleration (IDEA), Dr. Steven McCabe, Liberal Democrat Mayoral candidate Beverley Nielsen writes: *"If English regions are to level up, a settlement giving regions equal opportunity to access resources on an equal basis should become part of the constitutional settlement."* 

## In the book, Paul Forrest, Head of Research, Midlands Economic Forum adds:

"Only with effective decentralisation of decision-making powers and capacity to raise revenue (with a contemporaneous and corresponding reduction of the national revenue take), will it be possible to rebalance the economy. There will be mistakes, but at least the mistakes will be attributed to regional players." But as Akash Paun, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government concludes in 'English Regions After Brexit': "However, in the end, devolution can only happen if decision-makers in Westminster and Whitehall have incentives to allow this to happen. Mayors and combined authorities therefore need to persuade the centre that further decentralisation will improve economic and social outcomes, and that there is local capacity to take on new functions and democratic support for such reforms."

Candidates for the next mayoral term in the West Midlands, together with a range of leading figures in local government, share a broadly common view about the need for fiscal devolution. They will need to campaign intensely to persuade ministers and Whitehall that the White Paper should be about more than tidying up local government deck chairs.

In an essay for 'English Regions After Brexit, Examining Potential Change Through Devolved Power' Labour 'Shadow Mayor' for the West Midlands Liam Byrne calls for the appointment of a regional minister, regional select committees and a council of regional ministers and mayors operating as a Cabinet sub-committee. He also suggests the House of Lords is re-constituted to create a more formalised Senate with representatives elected on a proportionate basis from regional constituencies, a model similar to that outlined to the LGA by his leader, Sir Keir Starmer. The Hodge Hill MP also says:

"The next stimulus, and subsequent consolidation, will need to be largely tax-financed, and we could strike a

## ONS Weekly Release Indicators BCC EIU

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 the ONS published the weekly publication containing data about the condition of the UK society and economy and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The statistics are experimental and have been devised to provide timely information, with publication of final survey results currently expected to take place fortnightly with initial findings released in-between. The following information contains national footfall data, final results from Wave 9 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS), the final results for Wave 19 of the Opinions and Lifestyle (OPN) Survey, experimental online job advert indices and Energy Performance Certificates.

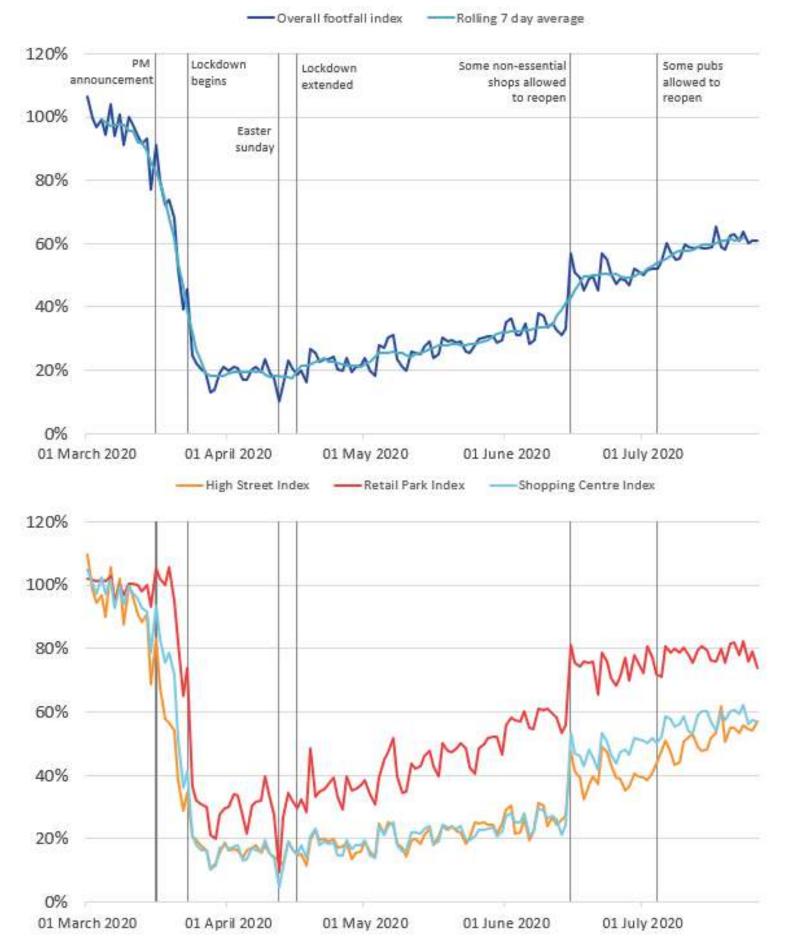
## **National Footfall**

Customer activity figures are provided by Springboard. The volume of footfall has been compared to the same day the previous year (i.e. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 will be compared to Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019) for high streets, retail parks and shopping centres.

Overall footfall has increased between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to just over 60% of its level across from the same period a year ago.

There has been little change in retail parks since nonessential shops were allowed to reopened six weeks ago. However, retail parks have the strongest footfall at just under 80% of its level a year ago. High streets have caught up to shopping centres in footfall performance to just under 60% of its level the same day a year ago,

# The following graph shows the volume of footfall for the UK between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 26<sup>th</sup> July year on year percentage change between footfall on the same day:



Source: Springboard and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

## **Business Impact of the Coronavirus**

The final results from the nine round of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) show that of the 3,734 businesses surveyed across the West Midlands there was a response rate of 26.0% (972). Unless stated, the following data is based on the period between 29<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and only covers topics where there is a regional breakdown.

## **Trading and Financial Performance**

The trading status of businesses refer to the period of  $13^{th} - 26^{th}$  July 2020 and the turnover analysis is between  $29^{th} - 12^{th}$  July.

Less than 1% of UK businesses reported they have permanently ceased trading with 6.8% temporary closed or paused trading and 92.5% continuing to trade. The figures for the West Midlands show that also less than 1% of businesses have permanently ceased trading. While 95.9% have continued to trade through this period and 3.6% of businesses have temporarily closed or paused trading.

In the West Midlands, 91.2% of responding businesses are currently trading and have been for more than the last two weeks (UK 86.4%). 4.7% of West Midlands businesses started trading within the last two weeks after a pause in trading (6.1% UK) and 1.4% of responding West Midlands businesses have paused trading but intend to restart in the next two weeks (UK 2.3%). However, 2.2% of responding West Midlands businesses have paused trading and does not intend to restart in the next two weeks (UK 4.5%).

61.6% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported their turnover had decreased by at least 20%, compared to 57.0% of businesses in the UK. However, 20.0% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported that their turnover was unaffected (25.8% for the UK) and 12.8% reported their turnover had increased by at least 20% in the West Midlands, slightly above the UK average of 10.9%.

## **Business Sites Location**

The following table shows where businesses are located who have not permanently stopped trading by region and industry between 13<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> July. Notably, the West Midlands was the highest region for water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities at 33.9%. For the West Midlands the lowest industry was arts, entertainment and recreation at 11.2%.

Industry	Norther n Ireland	Scotlan d	Wales	East of Englan d	East Midlan ds	Greater London	North East of Englan d	North West of England	South East of England	South West of England	West Midlands	Yorkshire and The Humber
Manufacturing	5.6%	15.2%	13.1%	13.7%	17.3%	8.4%	10.1%	19.8%	19.8%	15.8%	18.0%	16.2%
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities	10.2%	22.0%	30.5%	22.0%	25.4%	28.8%	18.6%	23.7%	27.1%	27.1%	33.9%	22.0%
Construction	5.6%	29.4%	25.4%	17.5%	15.6%	19.4%	12.1%	19.6%	23.1%	21.0%	16.7%	16.7%
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	10.7%	24.5%	21.2%	19.8%	20.4%	21.9%	16.4%	24.8%	30.9%	22.4%	21.1%	19.0%
Transportation And Storage	10.1%	23.7%	17.5%	22.2%	26.5%	21.0%	18.3%	24.9%	27.2%	21.8%	20.2%	16.3%
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	5.9%	16.4%	13.6%	11.3%	12.5%	23.3%	11.1%	18.2%	23.1%	19.4%	14.6%	12.6%
Information And Communication	7.0%	14.2%	10.2%	11.8%	11.0%	42.9%	7.8%	19.0%	25.7%	15.8%	11.3%	9.7%
Real Estate Activities	6.5%	12.9%	16.1%	22.6%	24.2%	43.5%	19.4%	21.0%	40.3%	22.6%	22.6%	17.7%
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	6.6%	18.1%	13.3%	13.0%	14.3%	35.6%	10.6%	21.7%	26.0%	20.5%	15.1%	13.2%
Administrative And Support Service Activities	6.3%	20.3%	14.9%	17.9%	18.0%	29.9%	15.3%	24.8%	30.4%	20.8%	19.9%	17.7%
Education	3.6%	5.9%	8.6%	12.2%	11.7%	18.5%	7.7%	16.2%	24.3%	15.8%	12.6%	9.9%
Human Health And Social Work Activities	3.3%	13.1%	8.5%	20.3%	15.7%	21.6%	11.1%	20.9%	26.1%	27.5%	15.7%	22.9%
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	4.6%	14.3%	9.7%	12.8%	9.7%	10.2%	6.6%	14.3%	17.9%	14.8%	11.2%	9.7%
All Industries	7.0%	19.0%	15.7%	15.9%	16.6%	23.2%	12.4%	21.3%	25.7%	19.6%	17.4%	15.5%

For the West Midlands, the percentage of businesses who have not permanently stopped trading who have a workforce size of under 250 was 10.3% and for those with over 250 was 29.2%.

The following table shows where businesses are located who have currently paused or ceased trading by region and industry between 13<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> July. For the West Midlands, the highest industry was accommodation and food services activities at 8.1%, down to less than 1% for water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities and information and communication.

Industry	North ern Ireland	Scotla nd	Wale s	East of Englan d	East Midla nds	Greate r Londo n	North East of Engla nd	North West of England	South East of England	South West of England	West Midlands	Yorkshire and The Humber
Manufacturing	*	1.1%	1.1%	*	*	*	*	*	1.0%	*	1.5%	*
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Construction	1.7%	7.5%	6.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%	1.4%	2.0%	4.6%	3.2%	1.1%	*
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And	1.2%	3.8%	3.7%	2.2%	2.5%	2.9%	1.7%	2.9%	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	1.8%
Motorcycles	1.270	2.6%	1.6%	0.5%	1.6%	1.0%	2.1%	1.0%		1.6%	1.6%	1.0%
Transportation And Storage Accommodation And Food Service Activities Information And Communication	2.8%	10.9% 1.5%	7.8%	4.5%	5.1% 1.1%	14.9% 5.7%	5.3% 1.1%	6.8% 2.3%	3.1% 11.9% 3.4%	8.1%	6.1% *	5.3%
Real Estate Activities	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%	4.9%	2.4%	2.4%
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	*	2.2%	2.6%	0.8%	1.4%	3.2%	*	1.8%	2.4%	1.8%	1.4%	1.2%
Administrative And Support Service Activities	1.9%	4.8%	3.7%	3.7%	2.7%	7.1%	3.3%	5.6%	7.5%	5.2%	2.9%	3.9%
Education	*	3.9%	2.8%	2.2%	*	4.5%	0.0%	2.8%	6.7%	2.2%	2.2%	2.8%
Human Health And Social Work Activities	0.0%	*	*	4.5%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.8%	3.6%	3.6%	1.8%	1.8%
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	3.2%	14.6%	9.6%	7.6%	7.0%	7.6%	4.5%	9.6%	12.1%	9.6%	8.9%	9.6%
All Industries	1.3%	4.3%	3.6%	2.2%	2.1%	4.4%	1.8%	3.0%	4.5%	3.2%	2.5%	2.3%

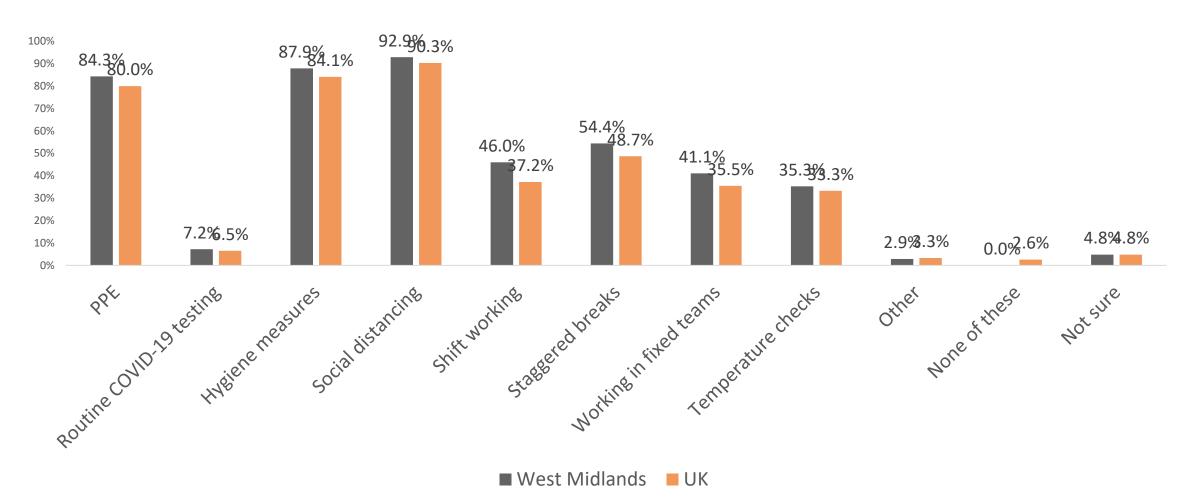
## Safety Measures

92.9% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading intend to or have implemented social distancing, compared to 90.3% across all UK businesses.

Examples of other safety measures intended to or have implemented across these West Midlands businesses

ONS weekly release include 87.9% will use hygiene measures (84.1% UK) and 84.3% will use PPE (80.0% UK).

The following graph shows the percentages of West Midlands businesses who have not permanently stopped trading broken down by safety measures that they intended to or have implemented:



#### **International Trading**

For businesses in the West Midlands continuing to trade who have exported and/or imported in the last 12 months and have exported and/or imported during Covid-19, 50.0% of exporting businesses in the West Midlands, and 43.0% in the UK, reported their businesses were still exporting but less than normal. Of those businesses who continued to trade and import, 42.9% in the West Midlands were importing less than normal, compared to 37.5% across the UK.

41.3% of West Midlands businesses who were exporting reported that they had not been affected, compared to 47.7% across the UK, and 47.1% of West Midlands businesses said that importing had not been affected, compared to 51.5% across the UK.
1.3% of businesses in the West Midlands are exporting more than normal, compared to 2.5% across the UK. The figures for importing more than usual are 3.1% and 3.8% respectively.

## **Government Schemes and Initiatives**

85.1% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading have applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (78.8% across the UK).

15.9% of West Midlands businesses have applied for business grants funded by the UK and devolved government (19.9% UK) and 15.8% for government backed accredited loans or finance agreement (21.8% UK). While 13.2% of West Midlands businesses have not applied for any of these schemes (17.9% UK).

97.2% of West Midlands businesses have received funds from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (96.6% UK), 13.1% of businesses received funds from a Government backed accredited loans or finance agreements (21.2% UK). While 2.0% have not received any funds from these schemes (1.7% UK). 64.8% of West Businesses are using the Deferring VAT payments initiative (51.6% UK), 30.5% are using business rates holiday initiatives (23.5% UK) and 17.6% are using HMRC Time to Pay Scheme (14.3%). 28.2% of West Midlands businesses are not using any of these initiatives (40.4% UK). 66.8% of West Midlands businesses who received support from schemes or initiatives reported that it helped them to continue trading, while 22.5% reported that it did not impact their ability to continue trading.

#### **Capital Expenditure**

31.8% of responding West Midlands Businesses reported capital expenditure had not been affected (UK 35.4%), with 15.2% of businesses reported capital expenditure had stopped (UK 15.0%). 4.2% reported capital expenditure was higher than normal (UK 6.3%) and 33.8% of West Midlands businesses reported capital expenditure was lower than normal (UK 22.9%).

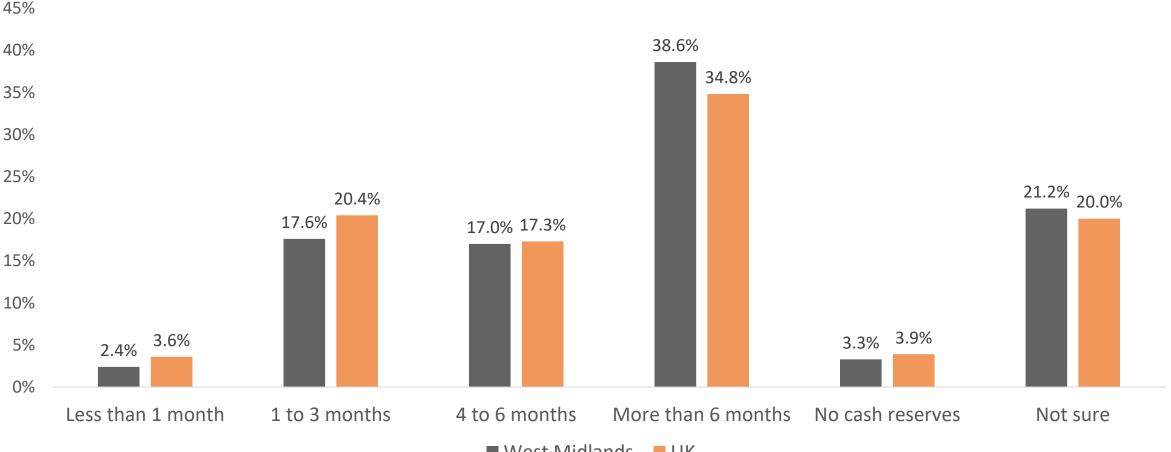
## **Financial Assistance**

11.6% of businesses in the West Midlands have received financial assistance from banks or building societies. Of these businesses, 81.0% reported this assistance helped them to continue trading, however 16.2% reported there was no impact on their ability to continue trading.

## **Cash Flow**

3.3% of West Midlands businesses that have not permanently stopped trading have no cash reserves. For the UK, this figure is 3.9%.

The following graph shows for businesses that have not permanently stopped trading how long their cash reserves would last:



West Midlands

## Social Impact of the Coronavirus

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey is a weekly update to understand on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

Data on the social impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on Great Britain were collected from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN). The data relate to the final results for Wave 19, covering the period 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020. In this wave there were 1,564 (62%) responding adults. **Socialising and Leisure** 

73% of adults met up with others to socialise between
22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July. 47% of adults always maintained social distancing, while 8% stated they rarely or never maintained social distancing.
34% of adults reported they would be comfortable or very comfortable to eat indoors at a restaurant.
12% of adults reported they would feel comfortable or very comfortable to visit the gym, rising to 13% to visiting an indoor swimming pool or water park and then 19% would feel comfortable or very comfortable to visit the gym, rising to 13% to visiting an indoor swimming pool or water park and then 19% would feel comfortable or very comfortable to visit or

mandatory wearing of face coverings in shops and supermarkets.

90% of responding adults reported that are either very or fairly likely to wear one in the next 7 days.

89% of adults who had used public transport had worn a face covering in the past 7 days.

## **Problems with Companies**

55% of adults reported they had not experienced any problems with companies since the Coronavirus outbreak. However, the top 3 problems that were reported were; 17% had issues with the delivery of goods, 16% had to pay very high prices for essential good and 13% had experienced difficulties with getting a refund for cancelled air travel. At the other end of the scale, 1% reported problems with getting refunds for nurseries or other childcare services.

#### **Face Coverings**

84% of adults have worn a face covering outside their home. Before it became mandatory in England to wear a face covering while shopping, 76% reported to wearing one while shopping.

57% of adults reported they strongly supported the

## Track and Trace App

47% of adults reported they were likely or very likely to use the NHS COVID-19 app when it becomes available. 23% of adults with dependent children reported to feeling uncomfortable or very uncomfortable for their child to use the app on their smart phones.

#### Work

78% of working adults had either worked at home or travelled to work between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July.
24% of adults reported to worked exclusively at home and 54% of adults reported they had travelled to work.

## **Online Jobs Adverts**

2019

These estimates are experimental figures that are taken from jobs adverts provided by Adzuna. Each value in the series measures the number of jobs adverts at a point in time, indexed for the average for 2019 (average = 100). Across all industries the total online jobs vacancies have remained at 52% of its 2019 average between 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. Since the start of June, overall total vacancies have remained at around half of the 2019 average which suggests that online job adverts have been slow to recover from the lowest point on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. 14 out of 29 Adzuna categories have increased in the number of online jobs vacancies between 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> July. The largest increase was from 55% to 66% of it 2019 average in the transport, logistics and warehouse category. In contrast, healthcare and social care has declined from 97% to 93% and education declined from 84% to 80% of their 2019 averages.

The following image shows the total weekly jobs adverts and four selected categories on Adzuna between 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (Index 2019 average =100):





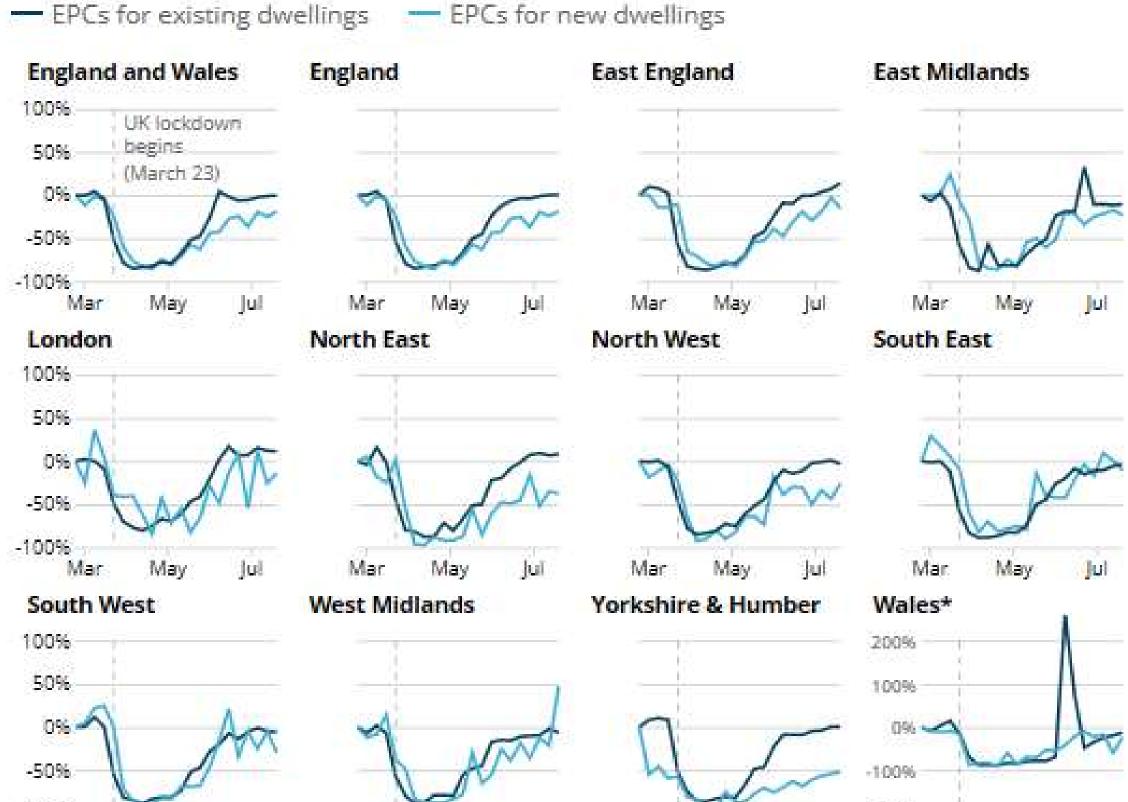
## **Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)**

An EPC contains information on the energy efficiency of a property and is a requirement when a property is built, sold or rented. New buildings or conversions of existing buildings require an EPC once construction has been completed.

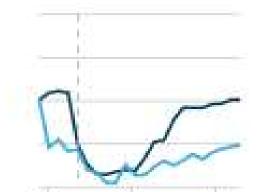
existing dwellings across all English regions (West Midlands 6.6% lower) returned to similar levels observed at the end of February. While EPC lodgements for new dwellings were 19% lower across England and Wales, the West Midlands region were 47.5% higher.

Existing and new EPCs lodgements by region, percentage change since week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February:

In the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> July, EPC lodgements for



-100%





Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register. Please note, Wales is shown on a different scale.

Economic Intelligence Unit

	HEADLINES
SECTOR	KEY CONCERNS
	<ul> <li>New Business Models</li> <li>SME'S continue to look for digital support to adapt processes as more and more services are moved online or require changes.</li> <li>Business enquiries reflect a growing interest and confidence in digitalisation.</li> <li>Access to Finance</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>This remains the main support businesses seek when contacting the growth hub.</li> <li>Corporate insolvencies may spike in the winter, with a steep rise starting as soon as October, insolvency and restructuring trade body R3 has warned.</li> <li>Micro Businesses</li> </ul>
Cross Sector	<ul> <li>Many micro and individual companies looking into support available to develop or grow their business.</li> <li>Redundancies &amp; Furlough</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Headline news suggested that more than half of furloughed employees have already returned to work, ahead of the scheme being phased out.</li> <li>Jobs &amp; Labour Supply</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Starting to see some companies starting to consider recruitment campaigns &amp; planning to employ staff from potentially September, but still concerns about future. Companies considering part time hours &amp; home-based workers when they start recruiting.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Cross Theme</li> <li>Large number of restaurants and bars across the region have registered for the "Eat out help out scheme" between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August.</li> </ul>
Visitor Economy	<ul> <li>Venues reporting strong bookings between these dates and hope that it is sufficient to kickstart food and beverage sales.</li> <li>Tourism businesses that are reopening are seeing an increasing need for support, especially</li> </ul>
	around costs in marketing, signage and enabling social distancing measures. Access to Finance
	<ul> <li>Hospitality businesses actively seeking any available financial and grant support.</li> <li>Businesses in the tourism subsector are seeking financial support towards driving visitor numbers, including improving signage.</li> </ul>
Duckson	Access to Finance
Business, Professional &	<ul> <li>Events businesses actively seeking any available financial and grant support.</li> <li>Supply Chain</li> </ul>
Financial Services	<ul> <li>Some businesses still feeling the effect of other businesses suffering in their supply chains.</li> <li>Work not picking up enough for many in order to justify bringing staff back full time.</li> </ul>
IT and Digital	<ul> <li>Jobs &amp; Labour Supply</li> <li>This sector seems to be looking to recruit more, with roles being predominately software systems &amp; web development experience.</li> </ul>
Manufacturing	<ul> <li>Brexit</li> <li>Some firms now beginning to turn their attention to Brexit and its possible implications.</li> </ul>



		NEW ECONC	OMIC SHOCKS
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	SOURCE/DETAIL
JLR	Black Country	Automotive	JLR's engine manufacturing centre at the i54, on the edge of Wolverhampton, made a loss before tax of £413.
<u>Tui</u>	UK Wide	Retail / Tourism	Tui to close 166 high street stores after "changes in customer behaviour". With Plans to move 70% of the affected work staff to a new "Home-working sales and service team".
Oak Furniture Land	UK Wide	Retail	Oak Furniture land is set to shut 27 stores, including two in the West Midlands, in a move which will put 163 jobs at risk.
Pendragon	UK wide	Automotive	Car dealerships group Pendragon is making 1,800 redundancies and shutting 15 sites due to the coronavirus crisis.
<u>Selfridges</u>	Birmingham	Retail	Selfridges reveals plans to axe 450 jobs as boss warns of 'toughest year in history.
<u>Liberty</u> Pressings Solutions	Coventry	Manufacturing	Liberty Pressing Solutions made the announcement due to the unprecedented economic downturn caused by the pandemic. The company added it was also compounded by an already challenging automotive market. Liberty Pressing Solutions said they will closely consult employees and do everything possible to mitigate the impact. Where possible the redundancies will be done on a voluntary basis, the company added.
<u>Tudor</u> World	Stratford-upon- Avon	Tourism & Leisure	All bookings French and Italian school groups made to visit Tudor World this year have now been cancelled, because of the pandemic, owner John Ford said. French school groups informed him that Covid-19 meant they had postponed their UK visit until 2022.
<u>FireAngel</u>	Coventry	Fire safety	Losses are set to widen at Coventry-based home safety products developer FireAngel for the six months to June 30, after the Covid-19 lockdown stifled sales. The listed company says it expects to report first half sales of approximately £16.5m – down from £20.7m last year, and an underlying operating loss of around £2.7m – up from £1.7m in 2019.
Oak <u>Furnitureland</u>	Nationwide, with stores in Coventry & Rugby at risk	Retail	27 of 105 showrooms are earmarked for closure as trading conditions continue to be challenging.

Economic Intelligence Unit

Tech2021StoneleighAgriculture, EventsDerive the rest which have attracted over 300 exhibitors and a ten per cent increase in visitor numbers each yearFogCubbingtonSanitisation servicesA Warwickshire businessman has branched out with a new venture after his aviation valeting business was left grounded by the pandemic. New sanitisation company, Fog, will help fuel local efforts to re-emerge from the challenges of lockdown.WincantonNuneatonLogistics, e- CommerceLogistics, e- Commerce facility in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The site would service the company's e-fulfilment business, which was set to begin operations later this month.The Spa LeamingtonLeamingtonA Warwickshire-based luxury hair and beauty salon received a six- figure loan to help it through the Covid-19 lockdown, it has been received the boost from Lloyds Bank as part of the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).Napton CideryNaptonFood & DrinkLocal craft cider makers Napton Loded to rest. He saw the diversite and luxury day spa packages to more than 5,000 customers each year, received the boost from Lloyds Bank as part of the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).Magic AlleyStratford- upon-AvonTourism & Leisure, EntertainmentPopular Stratford attraction opens up new enchanted forest. It can even be visited virtually. The ground floor of Magic Alley, a magical emporium and interactive attraction in Bell Court, has been transformed over the course of the three-month lockdown into a brand new 'enchanted forest' for visitors to explore. This new forest, and the rest of the shop, can now be explored virtually by			NEW INVESTI	AENT, DEALS AND OPPORTUNITIES
ModularModularResearch and Innovate UK.Bromford onWolverhamptonheadquartered housing association Bromford has closed a 2500 funding del. The company has finalised the new clead with an unnamed UK investor.Easy living MotabilityAcross BackcountryRetailThe jobs of 36 staff have been secured after a specialist mobility equipment provider secured a £307,000 funding package from Lloyds Bank.Finerge Surf Emerge SurfColeshillLeisurePlans to build the UK's most landlocked surf park near Birmingham have taken a major step forward after planning booses voted unanimously in favour of the £25m project. The wave park will feature a 54-ares surf lagoon, powered by Wavegarden's Cove technology, an outdoor heated swimming pool, hub building and a perimeter track for Onewheel electric skateboards. It is expected to create 100 full-time equivalent jobs, startar around 250,000 visitors a year and deliver an annual economic boost of between £18 - £21m to the region.Dairy- Tech2021StoneleighAgriculture, EventsDairy-Tech 2021 will run at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The last three events which have attracted over 300 exhibitors and a ten per cent increase in visitor numbers each yearMincanton Leamington LeamingtonNuneatonLogistics, e- CommerceMincanton CideryNuneatonLogistics, e- CommerceNapton CideryNaptonFood & DrinkMagic Alley LeamingtonFood	COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	DETAIL & SOURCE
Bromford on         Wolverhampt on         Housing biological a £90m funding deal. The company has finalised the new closed a £90m funding deal. The company has finalised the new deal with a unnamed UK Investor.           Easy living Motability         Across Backcountry         Retail         The jobs of 36 staff have been secured a £307,000 funding package from Lloyds Bank.           Emerge Surf         Coleshill         Plans to build the UK's most landlocked surf park near Birmingham have taken a major step forward after planning bosses voted unanimously in favour of the £25m project. The wave park will feature a 5.4-acre surf lagoon, powered by Wavegarden's Cove technology, an outdoor heated swimming pool, hub building and a perimeter track for Onewheel electric skateboards. It is expected to create 100 full-time equivalent jobs, attract around 250,000 wisitors a year and deliver an annual economic boost of between £18 – £21m to the region.           Dairy- Tech2021         Stoneleigh         Agriculture, Events         Dairy-Tech 2021 will run at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The last three events which have attracted over 300 exhibitors and a ten per cent increase in visitor numbers each year           Fog         Cubbington         Sanitisation services         Dairy-Tech 2021 will run at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The last three events which have attracted over 300 exhibitors and a ten per cent increase in visitor numbers each year           Mincanton         Nuneaton         Logistics, e- Commerce         Cubbington           The Spa Leamington         Leamington Spa         Food & Drink         A Warwickshire-based luxury hair and beauty salon received	<u>Totally</u> -	Cradley Heath	Manufacturing	Company has managed to secure £2million funding through UK
onclosed a £90m funding deal. The company has finalised the new deal with an unnamed UK investor.Easy living MotabilityAcross BackcountryRetailThe jobs of 36 staff have been secured after a specialist mobility equipment provider secured a £307,000 funding package from Udyds Bank.Emerge Surf Emerge SurfColeshillLesiurePlans to build the UK's most landlocked surf park near Birmingham have taken a major step forward after planning boses voted unanimously in favour of the £25m project. The wave park will feature a 5.4-acre surf lagoon, powered by Wavegarden's Cove technology, an outdoor heated swimming pool, hub building and a perimeter track for Onewheel electric skateboards. It is expected to create 100 full-time equivalent jobs, attract around 250,000 wistors a year and deliver an annual economic boost of between £18 – £21m to the region.Dainy- Tech2021StoneleighAgriculture, EventsDainy-Tech 2021 will run at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The last three events which have attracted over 300 exhibitors and a ten per cent increase in visitor numbers each yearFogCubbingtonSanitisation servicesA Warwickshire businessman has branched out with a new venture after his aviation valeting business was left grounded by the pandemic. New sanitisation company, Fog, will help fuel local efforts to re-emerge from the challenges of lockdown.WincantonNuneatonLogistics, e- CommerceLogistics company Wincanton said it would develop a new e- commerce facility in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The site would service the company's e-fulfiment business, which was set to begin operations later this month.Magic AlleyNaptonFood & Drink Leisure, Tourism & <b< td=""><td>Modular</td><td></td><td></td><td>Research and Innovate UK.</td></b<>	Modular			Research and Innovate UK.
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Easy living Motability         Across Backcountry         Retail         The jobs of 36 staff have been secured after a specialist mobility equipment provider secured a 307,000 funding package from Lloyds Bank.           Emerge Surf         Coleshill         Plans to build the UK's most landlocked surf park near Birmingham have taken a major step forward after planning bosses voted unanimously in favour of the £25m project. The wave park will feature a 5.4-acre surf lagoon, powered by Wavegarden's Cove technology, an outdoor heated swimming pool, hub building and a perimeter track for Onewheel electric skateboards. It is expected to create 100 full-time equivalent jobs, attract around 250,000 visitors a year and deliver an anual economic boost of between E18 – £21m to the region.           Dairy- Tech2021         Stoneleigh         Agriculture, Events         Dairy-Tech 2021 will run at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The last three events which have attracted over 300 exhibitors and a ten per cent increase in visitor numbers each year           Magic Alley         Nuneaton         Sanitisation services         A Warwickshire businessman has branched out with a new venture after his aviation valeting business was left grounded by the pandemic. New sanitisation company, Fog, will help fuel local efforts to re-emerge from the challenges of locdown.           Wincanton         Legistics, e- Commerce         Commerce         Cogistics company Wincanton said it would develop a new e- commerce facility in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The site would service the company's e-fulfiment business, which was set to begin operations later this month.           Magic Alley         Napton         Food & Drink Leisure, Entertainmet		on		closed a £90m funding deal. The company has finalised the new
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				accessing a link through the business's website homepage.

Economic Intelligence Unit

NEW INVESTMENT, DEALS AND OPPORTUNITIES									
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	DETAIL & SOURCE						
Expert Tooling & Automation	Coventry	Manufacturing	Coventry automation company which works with the likes of Jaguar Land Rover, Ford and Aston Martin has hailed it latest financial year as "successful", with its results rising. For the 12 months to 31 December 2019, the company's revenue increased from £41.4m to £41.6m and its pre-tax profits went from £1.8m to £1.9m. In <u>October 2019</u> the company secured a £12m funding package from Secure Trust Bank Commercial Finance.						
<u>Mercia</u> Technologies / Aceleron	Henley-in- Arden/Birmi ngham	Battery technology	A Birmingham-based developer of sustainable and reusable batteries has received a £2m equity investment from <u>BGF</u> and Mercia Asset Management. The deal has seen Aceleron secure £1.45m from BGF and the rest from the Warwickshire- headquartered listed investment firm, which already had a stake in the business.						
<u>Mary's</u> Sweet Memories	Warwick	Retail	Warwick's iconic sweet shop has reopened with new owners. Traditional sweet shop Mary's Sweet Memories in Market Place has been in the town for many years.						
<u>Clements</u> Plant & Access Hire	Coventry	Construction	The directors of Coventry-based Clements Plant & Access Hire have promoted long-serving works manager Paul Dixon to the newly created position of operations director.						
<u>Heart</u> of England Community Foundation and Coventry 2021	Coventry	Arts & Culture	Heart of England Community Foundation and Coventry UK City of Culture 2021have joined forces to provide a boost to organisations and individual artists across Coventry and Warwickshire. More than £56,000 has been awarded to 95 organisations and individuals in the region.						
<u>LPR</u>	Coventry	Logistics	Pallet pooling business La Palette Rouge (LPR) – which works with Kellogg's, Weetabix, and Sofidel – has opened a new depot in Coventry. The site is LPR's first in the Midlands and is capable of processing four million pallets a year.						
<u>Dumpling</u> King	Coventry	Food & Drink, Retail	A family business is going from street food to restaurant with its new venture on Far Gosford Street. Dumpling King has been a popular street food stall at outdoor events and food festival, and now it's opening up its first restaurant to welcome customers for a whole new experience.						
<u>Warwick</u> Music Group	Atherstone	Manufacturing	Creator of the world's best-selling range of brass instruments in plastic scores UK first. The company – winner of the Queen's Award for Enterprise for its innovation of its first instrument in plastic pBone – is now the world's largest producer of brass instruments manufactured in ABS plastic.						
<u>Meggitt</u>	Coventry	Aerospace	International aerospace and defence engineering company Meggitt has signed a contract worth \$20m. The company, which switched its headquarters to Coventry from Bournemouth in April, has received a three-year continuation contract with Northrop Grumman Corporation for the supply of fuel bladders on the F/A- 18 Super Hornet.						

## Weekly Deaths Registered: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020

The following analysis compares the latest time period (week of the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020) to the previous week period (week of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020) for the number of deaths registered and the number of deaths related to the Coronavirus.

Across England and Wales, the overall registered death figure increased from 8,823 in the week of 17<sup>th</sup> July to 8,891 in the week of 24<sup>th</sup> July. The number of deaths registered that state Coronavirus on the death certificate has decreased from 295 people to 217 people over the same period.

Regional level analysis shows that the West Midlands the overall registered death figure increased from 956 in the week of 17<sup>th</sup> July to 964 in the week of 24<sup>th</sup> July. The number of registered deaths related to Coronavirus has decreased from 25 to 15 over the same period. There was a total of 629 deaths registered across the WMCA (3 LEP) area in the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> July. There were 11 deaths registered that were related to Coronavirus over the same period – this accounts for 1.7% of total deaths. The WMCA (3 LEP) area accounts for 73.3% of the 15 Coronavirus related deaths registered in the West Midlands Region.

In comparison to the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> July, the overall registered death figures across the WMCA (3 LEP) decreased by 10 people, the number of registered deaths related to Coronavirus decreased by 5 people. At local authority level, Birmingham accounts for 3 of deaths related to Coronavirus in the WMCA (3 LEP), this

is followed by Walsall with 2 deaths.

Of deaths involving Coronavirus registered in the week of 24<sup>th</sup> July, 7 of the deaths were in hospital, 3 were at home and 1 death was in a care home.

# The following table shows the place and number of deaths registered that are related to Coronavirus in the week 24<sup>th</sup> July:

Area name	Care home	Elsewhere	Home	Hospice	Hospital	Other communal establishment	Total
Cannock Chase	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
East Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lichfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuneaton and Bedworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stratford-on-Avon	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Warwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromsgrove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redditch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyre Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Coventry	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dudley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwell	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Solihull	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Walsall	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Wolverhampton	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
WM 7 Met.	1	0	2	0	6	0	9
Black Country LEP	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
WMCA (3 LEP)	1	0	3	0	7	0	11

Source: ONS, Deaths registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Disclaimer: The contents of this document are based on the latest data available and the contribution of regional partners in a fast paced environment, therefore we urge caution in its use and application

For any queries please contact the lead Authors:

Rebecca Riley / Anne Green <u>R.L.Riley@bham.ac.uk</u> <u>a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk</u>



BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL



The West Midlands Regional Economic Development Institute and the City-Region Economic Development Institute

In partnership with:













Black Country LEP









