

West Midlands Weekly Economic Impact Monitor



Issue 21 Publication Date 14/08/20

This monitor aims to pull together information across regional partners to understand the impacts of Covid19 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.

This week has seen a number of major statistical releases which are reported in detail - including GDP, labour market statistics and claimants. All the releases paint a difficult picture. This was expected based on previous monitors and the direction of travel in business feedback. Main points are:

- The UK has officially entered a recession. [Data](#) released this week showed the UK economy declined 20.4% in Q2, which is the worst slump on record and perhaps signifies the worst economic crisis and reduction in national wealth since the South Sea Bubble crisis of 1720.
- The construction sector was the sector most hurt by lockdown, when construction sites were forced to close.
 - services output fell by 19.9%
 - production output fell by 16.9%,
 - construction output contracted by 35.0%
- However, upon reopening the economy expanded in June. GDP rose by 8.7% with a noticeable rise in sectoral output in accommodation and food services, although this was from a low baseline.
- The causes of this significant historic macroeconomic catastrophe in the face of the Covid19 pandemic, whether failure to lockdown earlier, uncertainty from government on correct interventions, or the actual decision to lockdown, will continue for a long time.
- In the West Midlands as of [7th August](#) the only place in the region where infection rates were of concern was Sandwell. However this outbreak has seen significant reduction in the last week. And the level of infections in the region remains relatively low.
- Latest labour market statistics were released this week and although they lag the reality on the ground they present a stark decline in the number of employees on payrolls and a significant reduction in hours worked. This is evidence of the continuing impact of Covid-19 on the labour market.
- This week [unemployment data](#) was released by the ONS. Almost three-quarters of a million jobs have been dropped from company payrolls since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, but the unemployment figure of 3.9% remains relatively unchanged.
- The indicators for July 2020 suggest the number of UK employees on payrolls was down by 730,000 compared to March 2020.
- The data showed the total number of weekly hours worked between April and June 2020 was down a record 203.3 million hours on the previous year, and down 191.3 million hours on the previous quarter.
- Analysis from ONS indicates that for the UK, employment is weakening and unemployment remains unchanged due to the increase in economic inactivity with people out of work but not looking for work. However, this trend cannot be seen directly for the West Midlands.
- The furlough scheme has been very successful in preserving millions of jobs. However, with firms continuing to face significant increases in costs, reduced demand and reduced cash reserves as we have seen in previous monitors, unemployment is likely to accelerate as the end of the intervention draws near. A significant spike in job losses on the back of the worst quarter's GDP recorded will be another major drag on recovery, and further stifle consumer spend.
- Levels of furlough are higher in the West Midlands than in many other areas with levels at the higher end of the range across most Local Authorities. Combining claimant count, Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme levels of take up are higher in the West Midlands than many other areas but not as high as in London and parts of North Yorkshire and Cumbria. Total funding provided to West Midlands businesses represents 8% of the national total, in line with the relative size of the West Midlands's business population (8%).
- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme still remains the favoured government support scheme with 77% of businesses that are currently trading having applied for this scheme, rising to 79% for businesses that have temporarily paused or closed.

- Eat out to help out has been used more than 10.5 million times last Monday to Wednesday, with more than 83,000 venues signed up. HMT have estimated the average claim was around £5, meaning the cost of the scheme so far is £50million.
- So far businesses are reporting that “Eat out to help out” has potentially shifted the weekend clientele to the early week. Therefore the people benefiting would have gone out anyway, and many of those it is aimed at encouraging remaining at home. This has the effect of not increasing overall spend despite a significant investment from the government.
- The Chamber survey highlights:
 - In comparison to the previous month, 33% of businesses witnessed a fall in UK revenue (with 25% citing a significant decrease) with 31% recording an increase in domestic revenue.
 - 57% of firms saw a drop in international revenue (with 31% suggesting it was significant) and 31% reported an increase in revenue generated overseas.
 - 53% had also seen a decline in cash reserves (with 19% noting an uplift compared to the previous month).
 - 30% of businesses expected their cash reserves to cover their trading activity for one to three months, 8% for less than one month and 6% had no cash reserves at all.
- The number of claimants aged 16 years and over has increased between June 2020 and July 2020 (+2.9%), although less than the UK (+3.5%). However, compared to March 2020, the number has increased significantly (+78.8% WMCA, 111.2% UK).
- The number of WMCA young claimants has increased over the last month (+2.8%) although less than UK (3.9%). However, compared to March 2020, the number has increased significantly (+88.8% WMCA, 122.4% UK). The top 9 wards that had the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16+ in July 2020 are based in Birmingham, with the top three being Birchfield at 17.5%, Lozells at 17.4% and Handsworth at 16.8%.
- New business shocks and opportunities this week include: Coventry Building Society reporting a loss of 2/3 of profits, JLR making a pre-tax loss of £400m, Mogan Sindall losses of £40m so far, the Hippodrome has cancelled all shows until Feb 2021, Drayton Manor filed for administration but have been bought by Looping Group, Coventry industrial Estate has achieved record rents in two recent lettings, Clarilis a regional Tech company has raised a further £6m in investment.

Global Outlook

Ben Brittain WMREDI

The belief that gold is a haven against global economic uncertainty may have been knocked back this this week. The commodity suffered its [biggest daily drop](#) in seven years, with investors mindful of President Donald Trump's comments of looming possible [tax cuts](#), falling Covid-19 hospitalizations in those acutely affected 'sunset' states, and strong [Chinese economic recovery](#).

[Tesla](#) may have become too expensive. At around \$1,374 a share, Tesla Inc. shares may have become too expensive for some investors. This week Elon Musk's firm said it would split the shares 5-1, in a move that will make them more attainable for individuals

[Russian President Vladimir Putin](#) has confirmed that Russia will be the first country to mass-produce and mass-administer its Covid-19 vaccine. This is set to be done even before clinical testing has finished. Medical workers could begin receiving the drug as early as by the end of the month. The cost of the crisis on the tourism industry is beginning to bite. With travel restrictions lifted, British tourists were supposed to be able to freely travel to popular destinations across Spain, but quarantine measures upon return have scuppered such plans. According to the Confederation of Business Associations, [one third of eateries in Mallorca will permanently close](#). One in three is a stark reminder of the challenge currently posed to the hospitality industry across the globe.

National Outlook

The Chancellor's ['Eat Out to Help Out' half-price](#) meal discounts have been heralded as a success for the UK's food industry. They were used more than 10.5 million times last Monday to Wednesday, with more than 83,000 venues signed up. HMT have estimated the average claim was around £5, meaning the cost of the scheme so far is £50million.

This week [unemployment data](#) was released by the ONS. Almost three-quarters of a million jobs have been dropped from company payrolls since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, with the unemployment figure of 3.9% remaining relatively

unchanged.

The indicators for July 2020 suggest the number of UK employees on payrolls was down by 730,000 compared to March 2020.

The data showed the total number of weekly hours worked between April and June 2020 was down a record 203.3 million hours on the previous year, and down 191.3 million hours on the previous quarter.

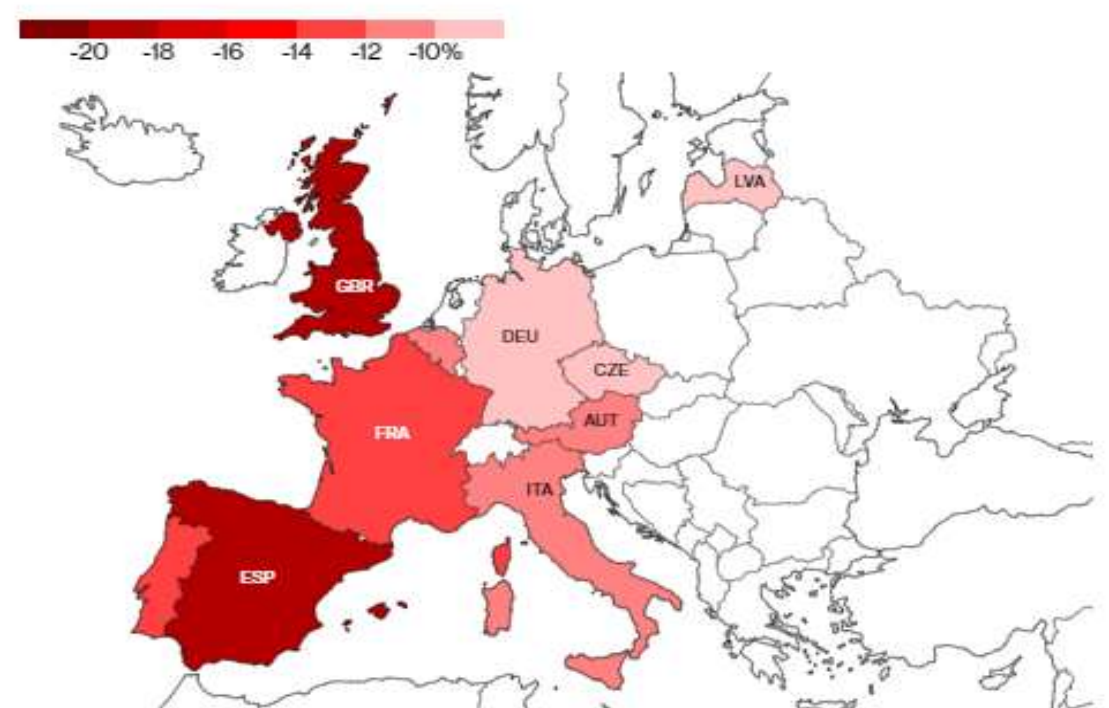
[Of note](#) is that the current Claimant Count measure of unemployment is inflating the level of those individuals unemployed and claiming unemployment-related benefits. This is because the period of assessment occurred in the middle of the roll-out of Universal Credit (UC), which leads to more people being captured in the data, such as those who previously only claimed Housing Benefit or Child Tax Credits. In addition to this

The UK has officially entered a recession. [Data](#) released this week showed the UK economy slid 20.4% in Q2, which is the worst slump on record and perhaps signifies the worst economic crisis and reduction in national wealth since the South Sea Bubble crisis of 1720.

The UK's 20.4% GDP contraction has surpassed the 18.5% drop recorded in Spain, the worst-performing country in the EU. What caused this significant historic macroeconomic catastrophe, whether failure to lockdown earlier, uncertainty from government on correct interventions, or the actual decision to lockdown, will continue for a long time.

Worst in Europe

British GDP contracted 20.4% in the second quarter



Source: National statistic institutes

However, if you look at the data from a cumulative perspective the narrative somewhat changes. The UK saw a much bigger fall in GDP in Q2 when compared to other European countries is partly catch up after a smaller fall in Q1.

If you put Q1 and Q2 together the UK data is still very grim, but tells a similar story to France and Italy, but slightly less biting than the economic picture in Spain.

The construction sector was the sector most hurt by lockdown, when construction sites were forced to close. Services output fell by 19.9%

- production output fell by 16.9%,
- construction output contracted by 35.0%
- However, the economy, upon reopening did rise in June. GDP rose by 8.7% with a noticeable rise in sectoral output in accommodation and food services, although this was from a low baseline.

Regional Outlook

The West Midlands is set to benefit from an [extensive cycling network](#), as proposed by TfWM. The cycle network will be called the Starley

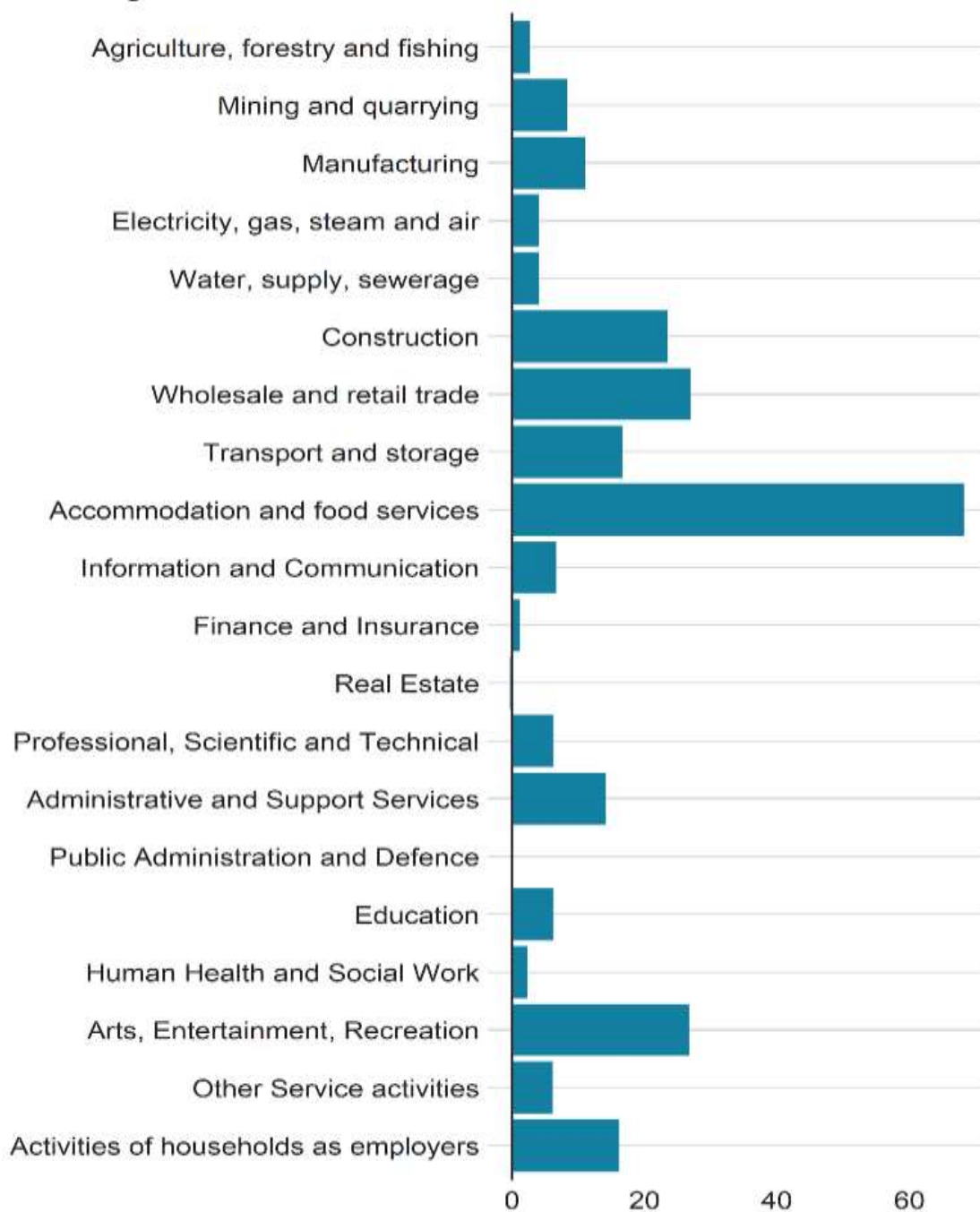
Network and signals a new era of transport methods for the region, as fewer people use public transport in the post-Covid age. The bicycle network is named after James Starley, the co-founder of the Coventry Sewing Machine Company in the 1860s, which played a crucial role in improving the design of the velocipede, famed for its large front wheel.

Funded and agreed cycle routes include the A45 Coventry Road in Birmingham, and the proposed Binley Road route between Coventry University and University hospital, which will feature a new cycle hire scheme.

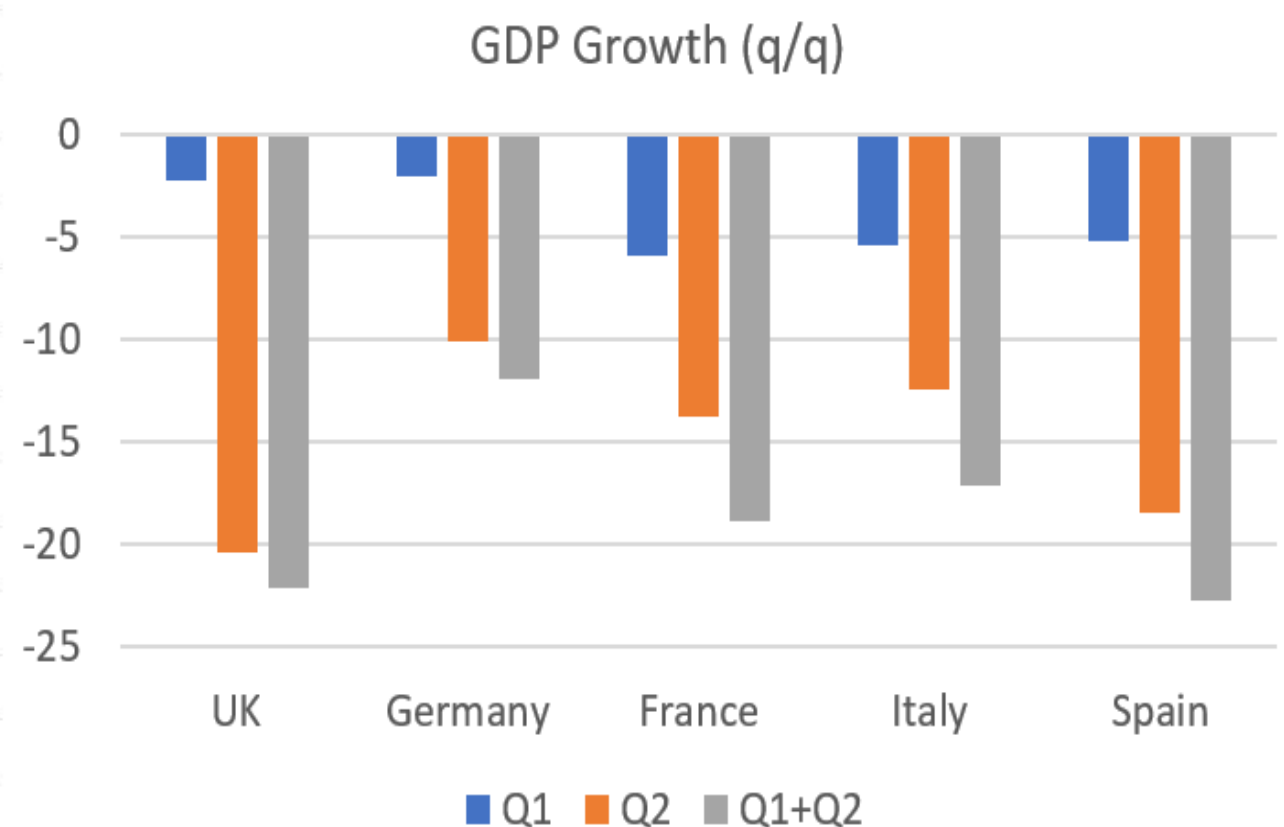
Over the weekend West Midlands police have [shut down](#) over 125 illegal raves and parties, with one rave attended by 600 people, which was shut down on Saturday night. This is comes at a time - despite a reduction in infection rates in Sandwell – of the emergence of a [new cluster](#) linked to the Soho Foundry Tavern pub, as 3 people, including staff tested positive. All 70 people that attended have been told to self-isolate for 14 days.

GDP rose 8.7% in June

% change on month



Source: ONS



GDP DAY - ONS

Mark Stephens, Sian Cross and Gareth Luckwell

[ONS](#) have released the GDP for Qtr 2 (Apr to June). The main points are:

- The economy is in a technical recession after Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2020 saw a record fall of 20.4%, following a significant shock since the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; this follows a fall of 2.2% during Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2020.
- Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 8.7% during June 2020 but is 17.2% below February 2020 levels.
- Analysis of the ONS Monthly Business Survey (MBS) returns and external data, including comments from over 10,000 businesses, has shown that businesses are increasing output as demand has increased following the easing of social distancing and lockdown measures; businesses are striving to maximise output while working within official guidelines.
- Services experienced widespread growth in June 2020, where the easing of lockdown measures, most notably in England, had the most positive impact, with nearly half of growth from the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector.
- Manufacturing and construction saw widespread growth during June 2020, primarily because of increased demand and the recommencement of work, as businesses managed to operate while adhering to social distancing measures.

Services

Total services output during June 2020 continued to be significantly affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, at 17.6% below February 2020 level, the last full month of “normal” operating conditions.

Monthly output increased during June 2020 by 7.7%, the strongest monthly rise in output since records began in January 1997. Of the 50 services industries, 45 grew between May and June 2020. Of the total growth in services, 1.7 percentage points comes from wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles.

Supporting industries including the freight element of land transport; water transport, rail transport; postal and courier activities; and warehousing benefitted from the increase in retail trade. There was also an increase in information and communication; professional services;

administrative and support services; and arts, entertainment and recreation sectors after these experienced falls in May 2020.

In contrast, real estate activities have fallen for the fourth month because of real estate activities; and rentals and commercial property, excluding imputed rent. Head offices and management consultants have also fallen for the fourth consecutive month.

The rate of progress for each sector in returning to February 2020 levels is as follows: in June, wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles services was at 93.7% of the February 2020 level, rising from its lowest point between March and May of 65.2% of the February 2020 level.

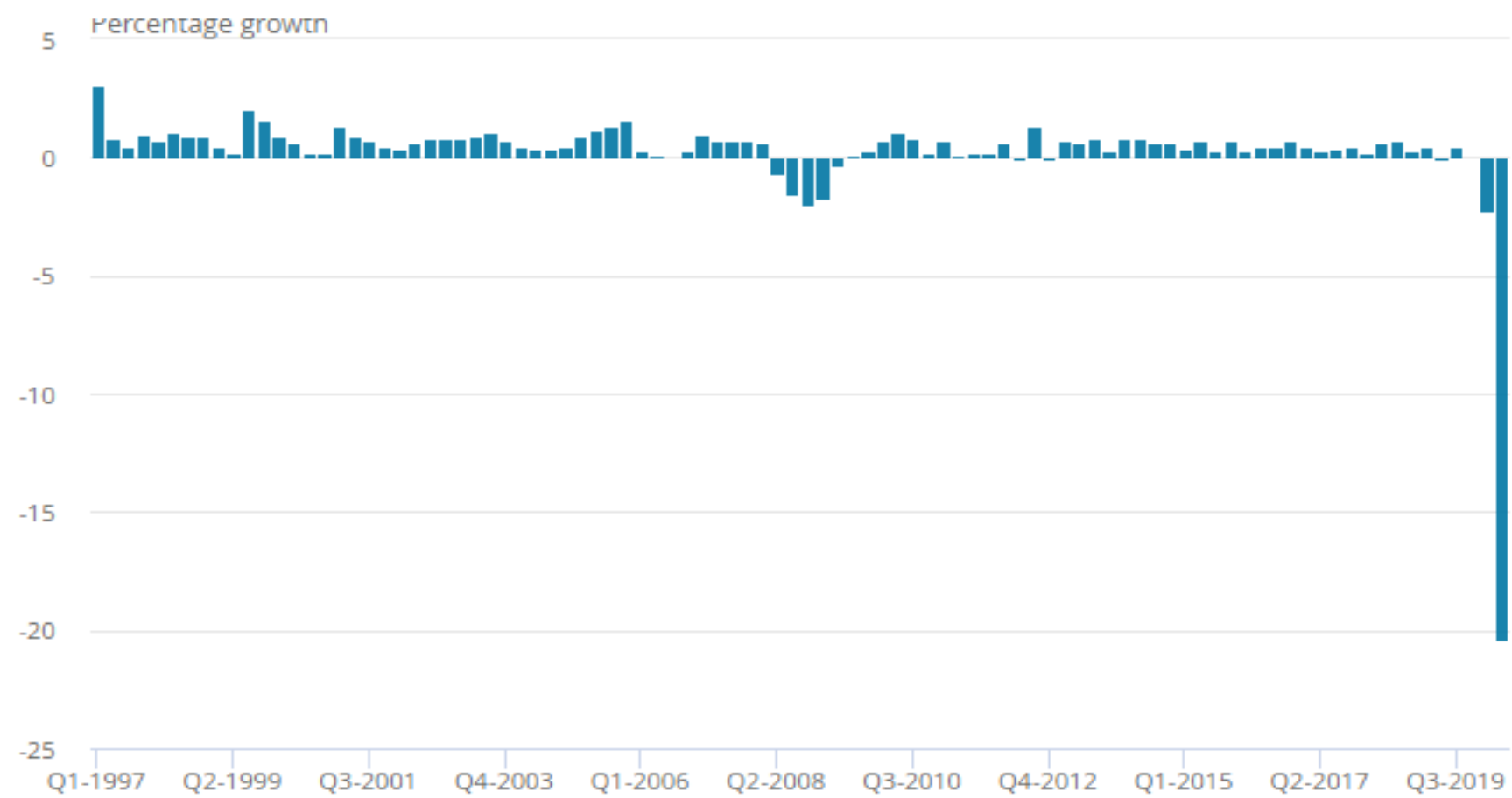
Production

Total production output during June 2020 continued to be significantly affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, at 11.6% below the level of February 2020, the last full month of “normal” operating conditions. Additionally, it should be noted that production and manufacturing output declined for the fifth consecutive quarter, since Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2019, highlighting that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, output had been weak.

Production output increased during June 2020 by 9.3%, the strongest monthly rise since records began in January 1948. The strength was primarily because of the rise from the manufacturing sector, which contributed 7.9 percentage points, and accounts for 75% of the production industries. However, June’s growth should be interpreted in the context of a continued reaction to the weakness displayed during March and April 2020 because of the significant impact of the coronavirus.

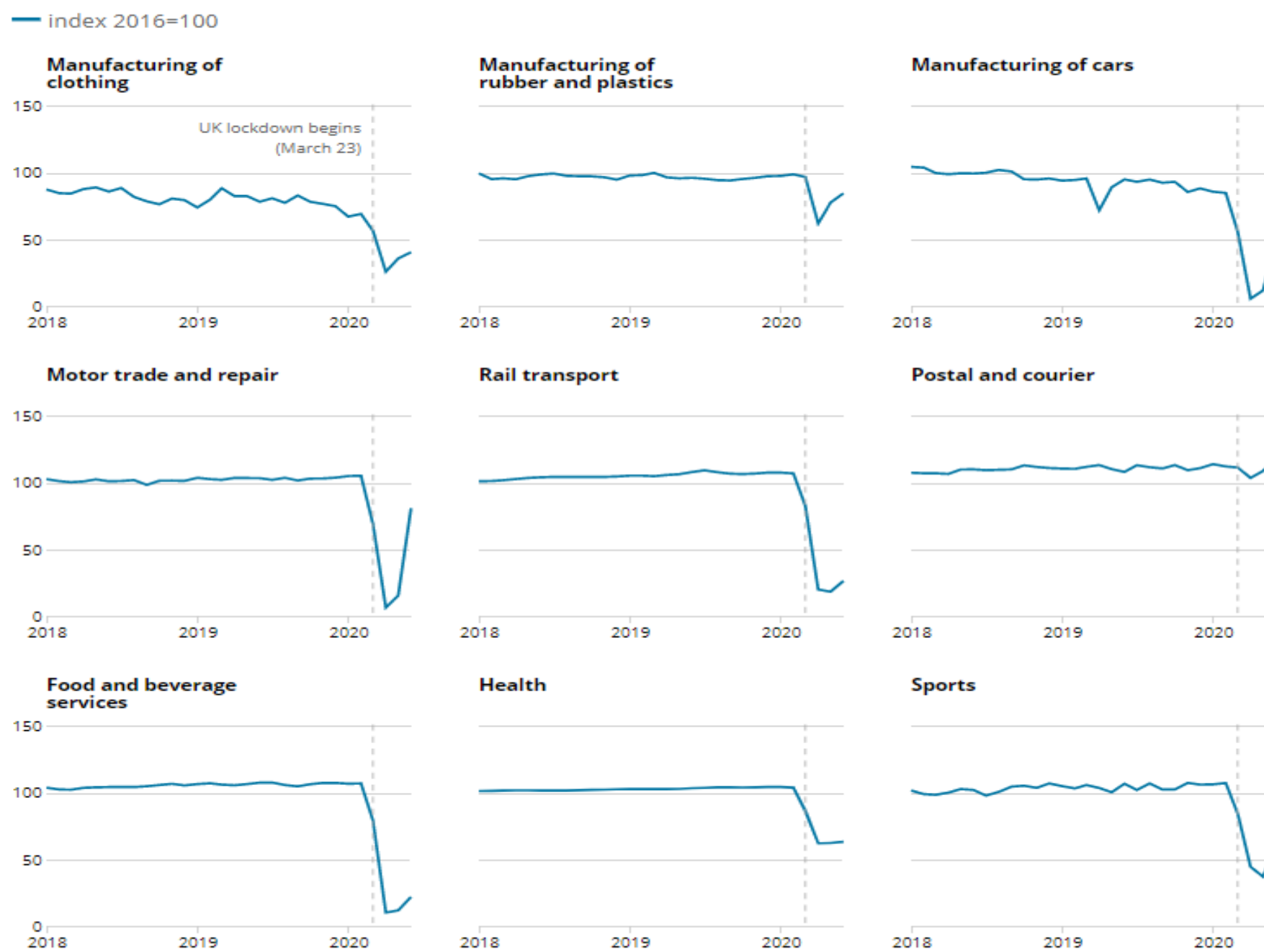
(Full details can be found in the main article [here](#))

GDP, quarter-on-quarter growth seasonally adjusted, UK, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar)
1997 to Quarter 2 (Apr to Jun) 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP(O)

Index for various industries, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2018 to
June 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Index of Production and Index of Services

Covid19 Spatial Dashboard

BEIS Analysis

Employment Support Schemes

Data

HMRC have [published data](#) on take-up of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS). Data includes number of jobs, number of employers, and the value of claims under the schemes as of May 31st.

Insights

As of June 31st some 9.3 million employments across the UK have been furloughed for at least one three-week period since the introduction of the scheme – up to 27% of the workforce.

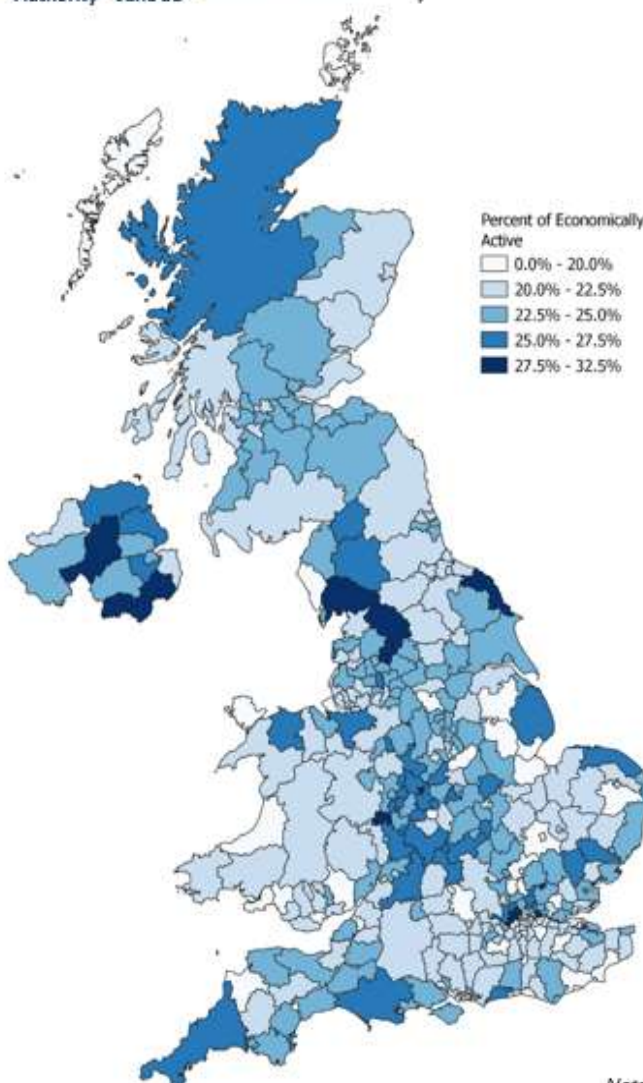
In some places take up has been higher. Approximately three in 10 workers in Crawley, Burnley and Slough have been furloughed for at least three weeks since the scheme was announced.

SEISS has seen 2.5 million self-employed people apply, approximately 70% of all those eligible or 7% of the workforce.

In Blackpool over three-quarters of eligible self-employed people claimed support through the scheme, the highest share among the 63 largest cities and towns in the UK, followed by Wigan and Plymouth. In terms of proportion of the workforce, six of the top ten Local Authorities for SEISS claimants were in outer London.

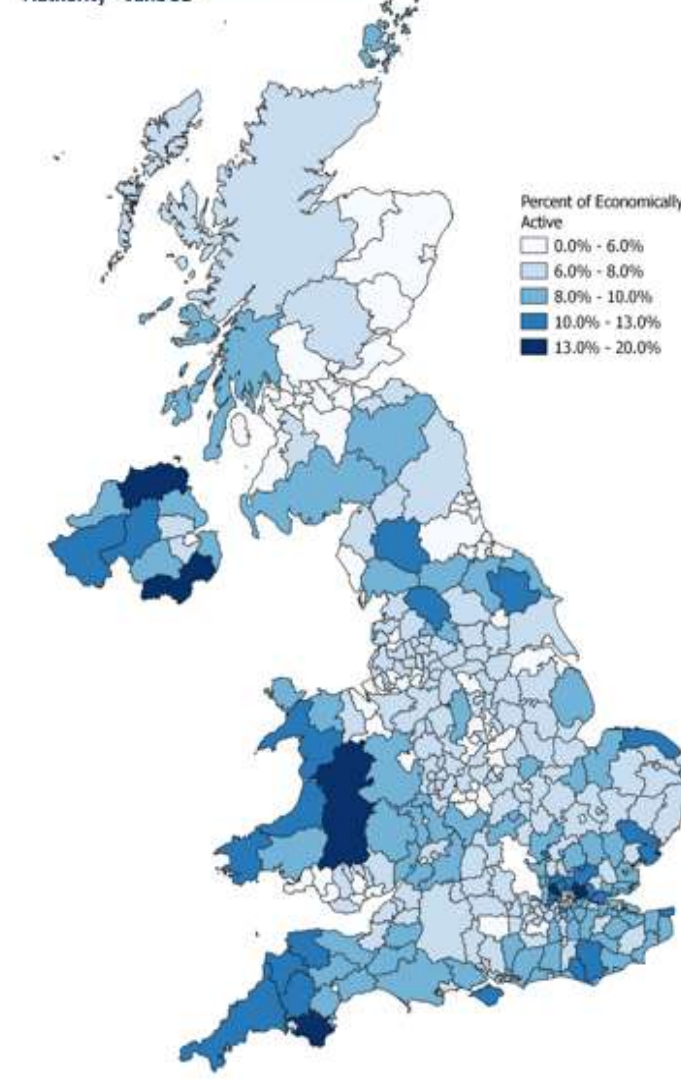
In contrast, university towns and cities such as Exeter, Cardiff, Guilford, Oxford and Cambridge have been less exposed, with less than 25% of the workforce claiming across the two schemes.

CJRS Claims as a Proportion of the 16+ Economically Active Population by Local Authority – June 31st



Notes:
Based on a total of 8,956,200 claims as of June 31st.
417,700 claims (12.6%) have not been allocated to a Local Authority.

SEISS Claims as a Proportion of the 16+ Economically Active Population by Local Authority – June 31st



Notes:
Based on a total of 2,546,000 claims as of June 31st.

Overall Employment Exposure

Data

Combining figures on the Claimant Count with those on CJRS and SEISS (presented in the previous slides) we can form an idea of the employment exposure of different regions to Covid. There are a number of caveats to this analysis however it is based on the best data available and is still useful in assessing the extent to which regions vary in their exposure.

Insights

Across employment support schemes some 13.3m claims have been made (potentially covering 39% of the workforce).

Out of the 26 regions with over 45% exposure eleven are in outer London (these are Local Authorities like Brent and Waltham Forest with typically higher levels of self-employment).

Take-up has also been higher in Local Authorities such as Crawley (45.9%), Craven (50.7%) and Harlow (48.0%) – all areas with a higher proportion employees in highly impacted sectors. In addition, take-up has also been high in a number of coastal regions and resort towns such as South Lakeland (49.6%), South Hams (45.0%), Torbay (45.5%), Cornwall (44.6%), Arun (44.2%), Devon (43.6%), Scarborough (46.0%) and Blackpool (45.6%).

Note about the data

This map presents the regional distribution of claims to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) and the Claimant Count up to June 31st.

The data includes:

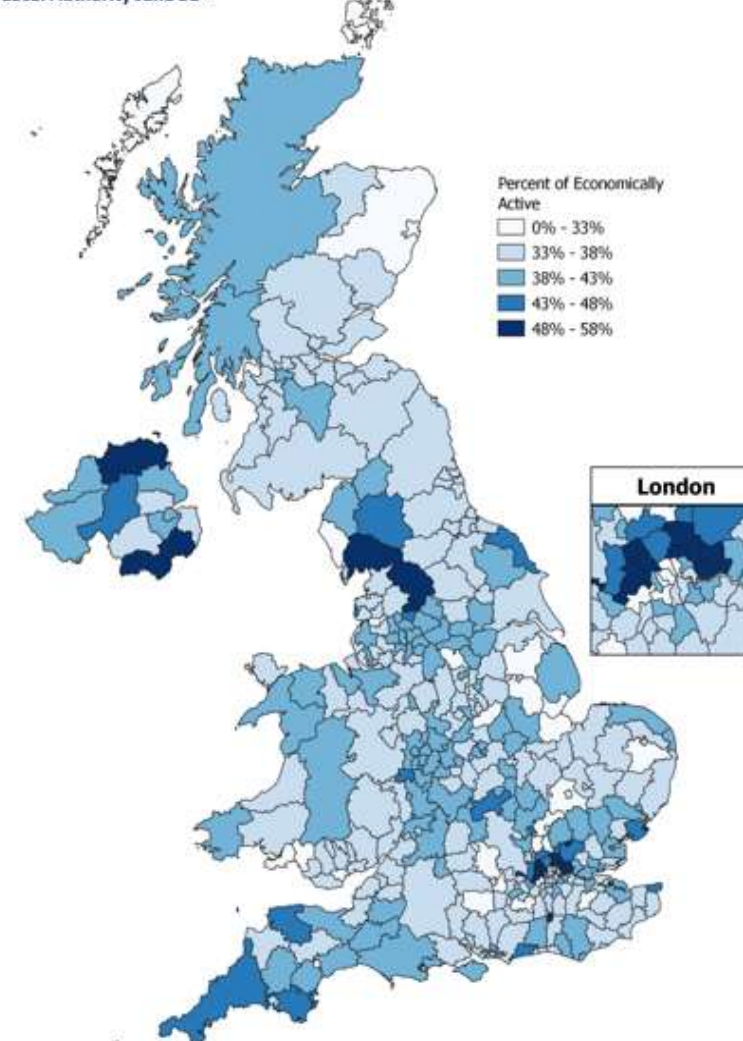
- 9,374,000 [claims to CJRS](#) since scheme launch on April 20th up to June 31st
- 2,546,000 [claims to SEISS](#) since scheme launch on May 13th up to June 31st
- An increase of 1,369,000 in the [claimant count](#) from March 1st up to June 31st

The data has been presented as a proportion of the 16+ economically active population in each Local Authority District based on December 2019 estimates of economic activity from the [Annual Population Survey](#).

Caveats

- Measures introduced by the Government in response to Coronavirus have meant that increasing numbers of people are now eligible for unemployment-related benefits even if still employed.
- Individuals may leave and re-join schemes within the time period shown and could therefore appear in the totals more than once.
- 417,700 CJRS claims have not been allocated to a Local Authority.
- SEISS data includes individuals who have applied and are awaiting payment.
- Individuals with more than one job are counted once for each employment furloughed and so may show up more than once.
- Data on some large employers making over 100 claims on behalf of employees may not be reflected in the CJRS figures.

Employment Exposure Across All Schemes by Local Authority June 31st



Mobility

Data

[Google mobility reports](#) show changes in visits at different places compared to a baseline. Google calculate these changes using the same kind of aggregated and anonymized data used to show popular times for places in Google Maps.

Changes for each day are compared to a baseline value for that day of the week:

- The datasets show trends over several months with the most recent data representing approximately 2-3 days ago—this is how long it takes to produce the datasets.
- The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020.

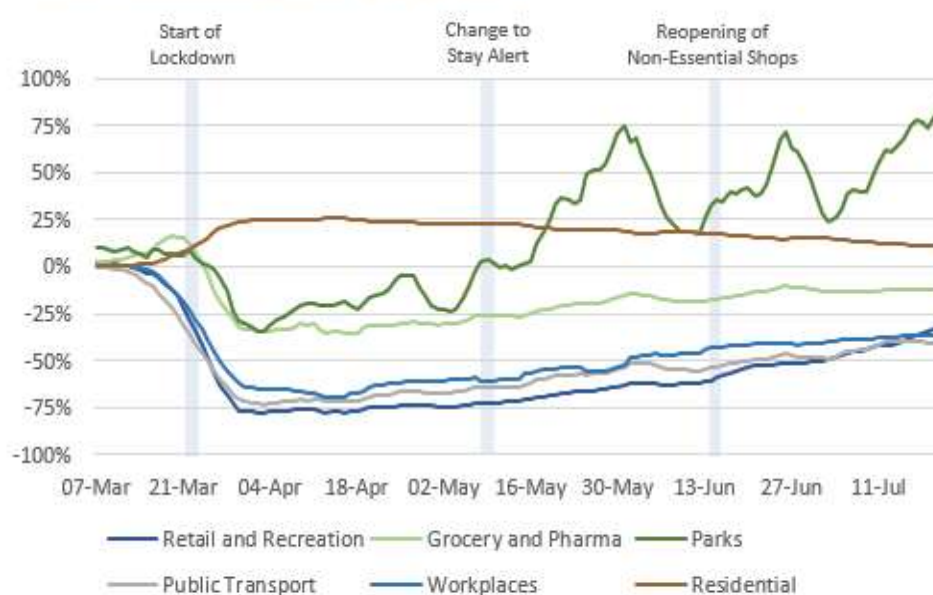
Insights

Mobility started to decline during the second week of March and fell steeply following the Government's announcement of the lockdown - before levelling off at the start of April. Of the different types of activities monitored by Google, retail and recreation has seen the largest drop, likely owing to the closure of non-essential retail outlets and most of the hospitality industry.

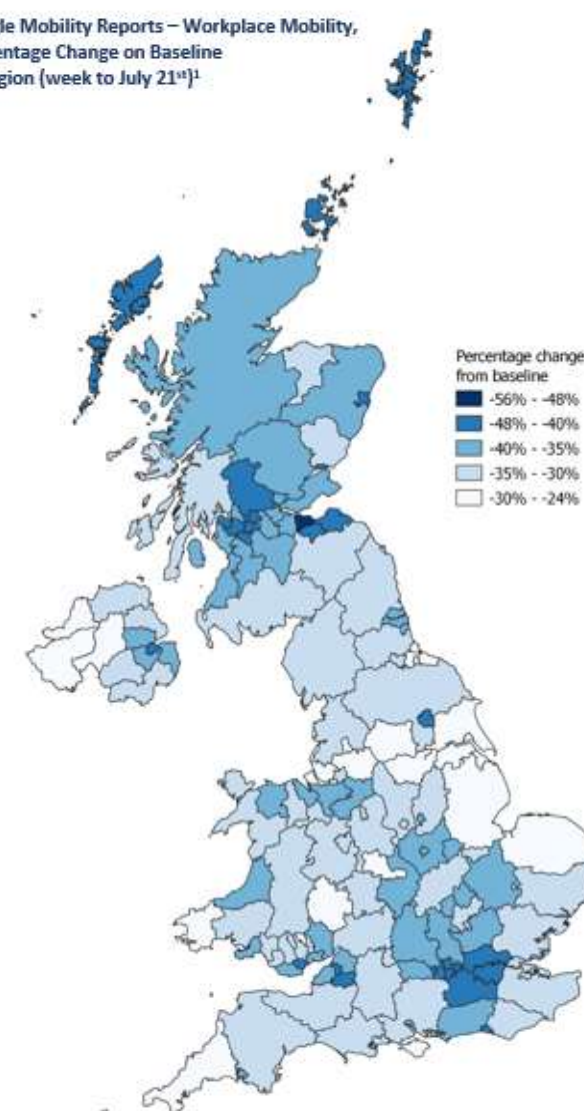
The change in Government guidance to 'Stay Alert' has coincided with a noticeable increase in people visiting parks, however other types of mobility continue the return toward baseline at a similar pace as before even as NPI measures were eased further. As of June 14th, public transport use, retail and recreation, and workplace mobility are still well below their pre-crisis levels.

Regionally there has been limited variation on the change in mobility owing to the implementation of NPIs being uniformly applied across the country (see workplace mobility map – UK average change is -36%) .

UK Mobility Trends by Activity Type – Percentage Change on Baseline – One Week Moving Average (July 21st)



Google Mobility Reports – Workplace Mobility, Percentage Change on Baseline by region (week to July 21st)¹



¹ Regions with different characteristics are not directly comparable

Business Activity

Data

The ONS has published (June 4th) the [ninth wave](#) of its fortnightly Business Impact of Covid Survey (BICS) which is the sixth wave to contain regional breakdowns for questions where the respondent sample size is sufficiently large.

Future waves may allow for further breakdowns and longitudinal comparisons of the data.

Unless otherwise stated the data shown here is from the latest wave (wave 9) and reflects the period June 29th to July 12st.

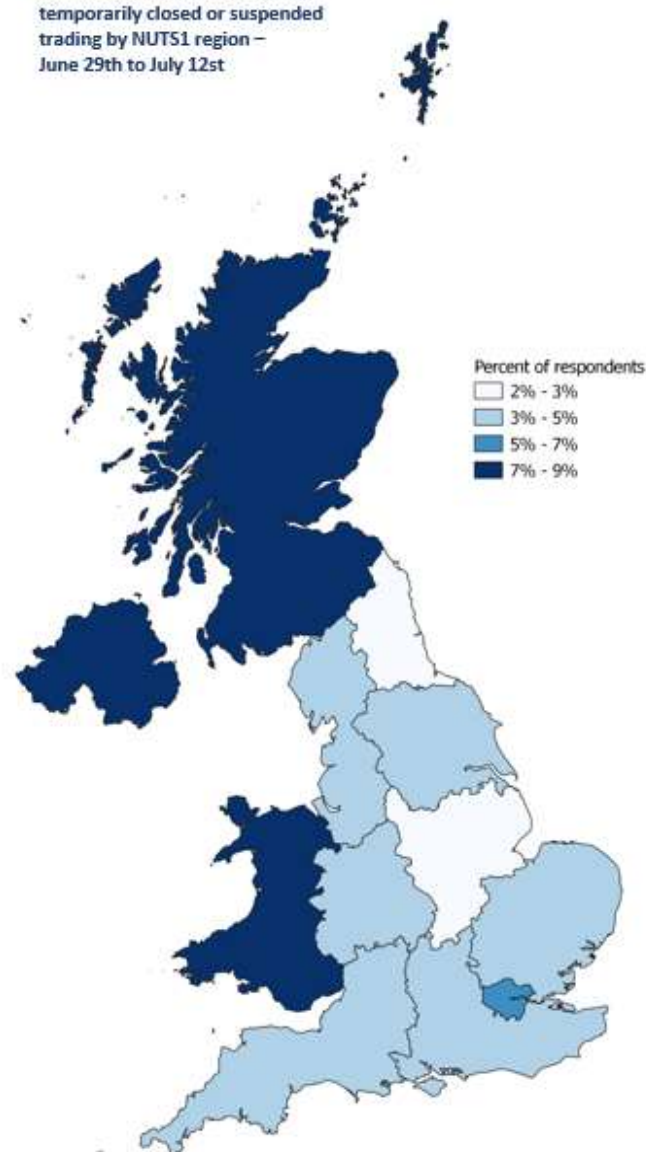
Insights

Devolved nations had a higher proportion of businesses reporting that they had either closed or had suspended trading compared to England.

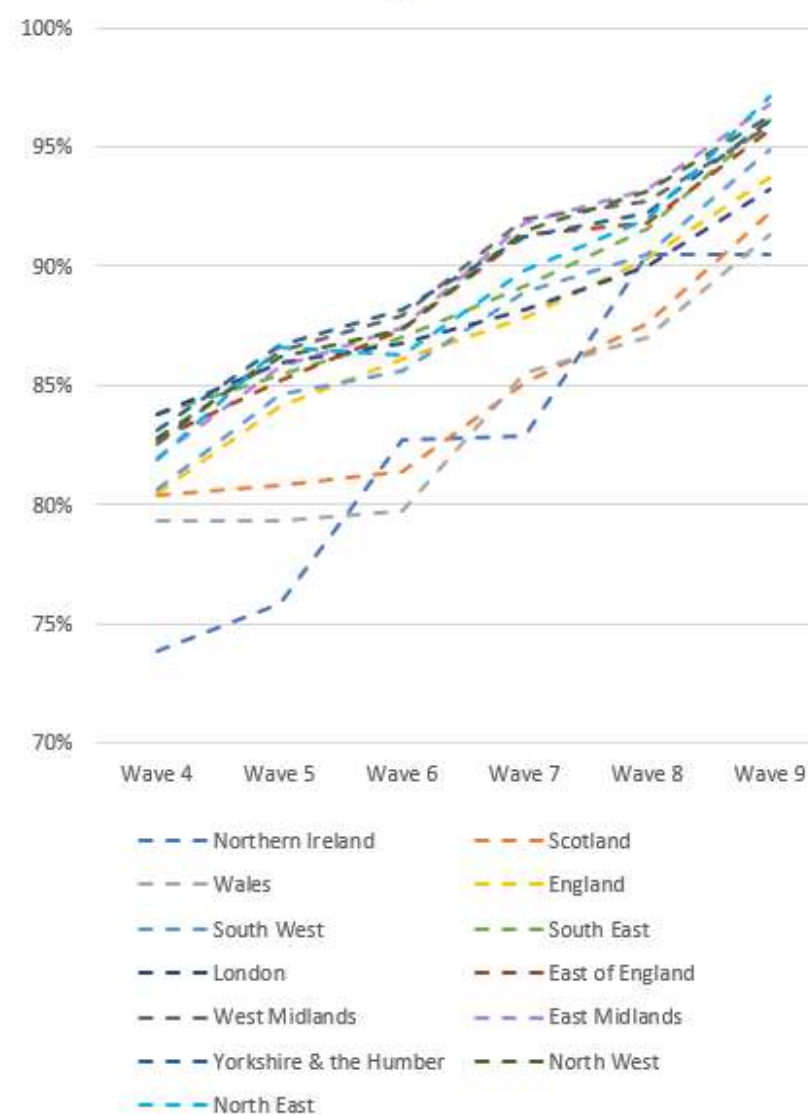
All regions had a lower proportion of businesses reporting as closed/suspended when compared to previous waves with a steady increase across waves.

Northern Ireland had the largest improvement since Wave 4, having started with a large proportion of closed businesses. London has had the smallest change, with only 10% of businesses reporting as closed in Wave 9 compared to 16% in Wave 4.

Percent of respondents having temporarily closed or suspended trading by NUTS1 region – June 29th to July 12st



Percent of Businesses Continuing to Trade





British Chambers of Commerce – COVID-19 Business Tracker: Midlands Results (Week Ten – 20th- 24th July)

Introduction

In response to the unprecedented crisis caused by the advent of Coronavirus, the British Chambers of Commerce has developed a Covid-19 Business Impact Tracker which will serve as a barometer of business' response to the measures introduced by the Government to help firms navigate this exceptional landscape. The tracker will explore weekly business conditions to help understand the scale of the challenges that companies across the country are facing right now and in a bid to gauge the awareness and usage of government support measures amongst the business community. The results listed below are based on responses received from 123 firms across the Midlands and cover the period from 20th July to 24th July.

97% of respondents employed less than 250 staff members and of those, 51% employed between 1 to 9 members of staff and 10% identified themselves as sole traders. 57% of businesses surveyed did not export their goods & services (and similarly, 49% did not engage in importing activities). Of those firms that were involved in exporting, 31% distributed their products and services to countries both inside and outside the European Union. 28% of businesses that took part in the survey operated in the professional services sector and 26% were listed as manufacturers.

Changes to Trading Conditions & the Workforce

In comparison to the previous month, 33% of businesses witnessed a fall in UK revenue (with 25% citing a significant decrease) with 31% recording an increase in domestic revenue. 57% of firms saw a drop in international revenue (with 31% suggesting it was significant) and 31% reported an increase in revenue generated overseas. 53% had also seen a decline in cash reserves (with 19% noting an uplift compared to the previous month). 30% of businesses expected their cash reserves to cover their trading activity for one to three months, 8% for less than one month and 6% had no cash reserves at all. Of those businesses that have seen a rise in cash reserves, 61% cited new business or customer demand and 39% referred to the government furlough scheme as a key factor behind this development. Over the next 12 months, 48% of businesses do not foresee any changes to the amount they pay their staff and 17% expect to increase wages between one and four percent.

In terms of the various support measures which have been introduced by Government, 24% of firms said they had been able to access small business grants (by contrast, 16% were unable to do so), 58% were able to access the Job Retention Scheme, 17% accessed discretionary grant funding and 16% claimed they were unaware of this particular programme. 10% of businesses were able to access statutory sick pay refunds, 15% of businesses secured CBILs and 31% secured Bounce Back Loans.

In relation to the announcements made by the Chancellor on July 8th, 31% were unaware of the Kickstart scheme and 58% suggested they had no need to apply for this particular scheme. 18% of organisations were planning on applying for grants in return for taking on new trainees and 21% were planning on applying for grants in return for hiring apprentices. 40% of businesses were planning on using the Job Retention Bonus and 6% were currently using it. 16% of firms were aiming to make use of the VAT cuts for certain sectors (such as retail, hotels and attractions) but were ineligible to do so. 9% of businesses intended to make use of the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme.

Connectivity Networks

Comparing the period since the outbreak of Covid-19 to last year, 65% of businesses had seen a change in usage of activities that utilise mobile networks (such as remote working, mobile internet usage and remote calling) whereas 32% reported no change. 68% of businesses also reported an increase in calls made via company or personal mobiles and 61% had seen an increase in mobile internet usage. Over the next 12 months, a third of businesses expect to increase usage of mobile network related activities; 46% suggested they would remain at the same level and 11% of businesses expect to decrease their usage. 57% of businesses agreed with the statement that enhanced mobile coverage and data capacity would support their business to restart or maintain operations over the course of the year (27% strongly agreed) and 4% strongly disagreed.

Qualitative intelligence

This information is collated from general intelligence gathering across the region's business representative bodies

So far businesses are reporting that there is an issue that "Eat out to help out" has potentially shifted the weekend clientele to the early week. Therefore the people benefiting would have gone out anyway, and many of those it is aimed at encouraging remain at home. This has the effect of not increasing overall spend despite a significant investment from the government.

Job losses and HR1 notifications are increasing and is expected that these trends will continue in the build up to the end of the furlough scheme.

Employment rates are stable, but businesses highlight job losses are hitting young people and the over 50s. They raise the issue that those on furlough are still on payroll. There is a high expectation that furlough will translate to redundancy.

Apprenticeships an issue for all businesses, where they cannot afford to take them on but recognise the need to do so in order to have a workforce for the future. So it is a difficult trade off.

New schemes are being introduced in the region such as grants for specialist supplies, and peer to peer network to tackle productivity through specialist advice. However peer to peer support will work well but 18 hours out of a business is a lot at the current time.

Businesses are raising the issue that following an outbreak, government needs to make sure the business community understand their responsibilities and those of the Local Authority are and ensure they do what they need to do with an outbreak. Businesses recognise it is a public health issue and they need to inform the Local Authority.

In general manufacturing businesses report:

- 7/10 not giving a pay rise
- 64% are not prepared for Brexit
- Kickstart would not be an incentive – manufacturers' business decisions take precedence and the amount makes no difference
- Training areas in demand – technology, robotics, marketing – there are real issues for manufacturing
- Generally businesses want to support apprenticeships but it is difficult for them to do so.

About 30% of business at moment, saying things are not getting better and once furlough ends will hit then significantly.

The B2B market growing at the micro end on management and support consultancy.

Businesses feel the Job Retention Scheme makes no difference at all, and will not change their minds on decisions about retaining staff as the amount is too small in relation to long term issues.

Eat out to help out, does seem to have shifted demand, so not really a bonus. Largely it is the same people going out at different times.

£0.25m on bounce back delayed or denied, some are still on 8th week of application. Businesses are calling for a loosening of the restrictions, especially for new start ups, or newly self employed

Local lockdowns are playing on business minds. Short sharp is good, but does not help businesses as they can't prepare. A more business friendly response is needed.

Covid-19 loan schemes, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme

New data shows that businesses across the West Midlands have received a total of almost £3.5bn in funding under the government's two largest Covid-19 loan schemes: the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme. These provide financial support to businesses across the UK that are losing revenue, and seeing their cashflow disrupted, as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak:

- almost 85,000 loans worth almost £2.6bn have been offered across the West Midlands under the Bounce

Back Loan Scheme, which provides a six-year term loan from £2,000 up to 25% of a business' turnover, with a limit of £50,000.

- over 3,700 loans worth over £870m have been offered across the West Midlands under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, which provides Business loans, overdrafts, invoice finance & asset finance of up to £5m to businesses with a turnover less than £45m.

Total funding provided to West Midlands businesses represents 8% of the national total, in line with the relative size of the West Midlands's business population (8%).

Breakdown of loans offered by region - CBILS

Region	Number of CBILS Loans	Volume of finance under CBILS (£)	% of offered facilities	% of business population
East Midlands	3,325	776,952,806	7%	6%
East of England	4,669	1,020,035,597	11%	10%
London	7,790	2,001,937,526	17%	19%
North East	1,233	263,944,238	3%	3%
North West	4,699	1,129,802,539	10%	10%
Northern Ireland	836	237,817,722	2%	2%
Scotland	2,693	587,638,410	5%	6%
South East	7,376	1,585,052,125	16%	16%
South West	4,283	927,187,748	9%	10%
Wales	1,391	303,205,680	3%	4%
West Midlands	3,770	871,365,361	9%	8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	3,419	741,647,567	8%	7%
Unknown	137	39,998,100	0%	0%

Breakdown of facilities offered by region - BBLS

Region	Number of BBL facilities	Volume of finance under BBLS (£)	% of offered facilities	% of business population
East Midlands	67,515	1,982,958,564	6%	6%
East of England	100,476	3,060,902,628	10%	10%
London	210,102	6,983,181,564	20%	19%
North East	33,651	939,452,112	3%	3%
North West	112,444	3,338,019,322	11%	10%
Northern Ireland	25,491	809,032,542	2%	2%
Scotland	63,649	1,844,452,115	6%	6%
South East	144,152	4,347,184,714	14%	16%
South West	84,593	2,408,463,217	8%	10%
Wales	40,195	1,115,836,982	4%	4%
West Midlands	84,773	2,593,303,126	8%	8%
Yorkshire & the Humber	73,962	2,185,143,320	7%	7%
Unknown	1,665	51,761,340	0%	0%

Breakdown of facilities offered by sector - CBILS

Sector	Number of CBILS facilities	Volume of finance under CBILS (£)	% of CBILS facilities	% of business population
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	8,666	2,133,581,613	19%	9.3%
Construction	6,295	1,269,320,526	14%	17.7%
Manufacturing	5,879	1,643,060,552	13%	4.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	4,829	1,090,258,729	11%	14.8%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	4,622	985,388,566	10%	8.7%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	3,924	956,022,979	9%	3.4%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	2,135	346,939,313	5%	6.1%
Information and Communication	2,047	432,278,361	4%	6.3%
Transportation and Storage	1,582	325,926,645	3%	6.1%
Other Service Activities	1,311	166,868,701	3%	5.8%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,297	327,067,053	3%	4.9%
Real Estate Activities	1,001	204,714,792	2%	1.9%
Education	664	184,224,786	1%	5.2%
Financial and Insurance Activities	533	217,156,824	1%	1.5%
Mining and Quarrying; Electricity, Gas and Air Conditioning Supply; Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	476	139,820,670	1%	0.6%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	346	61,163,824	1%	2.7%
Unknown	14	2,791,484	0%	0.0%

Breakdown of facilities offered by sector - BBLS

Sector	Number of BBLS facilities	Volume of finance under BBLS (£)	% of BBLS facilities	% of business population
Construction	173,452	5,089,564,622	17%	17.7%
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	168,158	5,936,102,609	16%	9.3%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	115,559	3,220,283,980	11%	14.8%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	88,427	3,101,188,706	8%	3.4%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	75,324	2,181,381,315	7%	8.7%
Real Estate Activities	63,032	2,216,951,641	6%	1.9%
Manufacturing	62,363	1,968,644,729	6%	4.7%
Other Service Activities	60,165	1,314,396,167	6%	5.8%
Transportation and Storage	53,604	1,409,541,297	5%	6.1%
Information and Communication	46,167	1,346,984,784	4%	6.3%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	41,821	1,223,162,496	4%	6.1%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	27,656	901,540,073	3%	2.7%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	26,169	657,683,874	3%	4.9%
Education	22,469	511,326,893	2%	5.2%
Financial and Insurance Activities	8,788	290,886,492	1%	1.5%
Mining and Quarrying; Electricity, Gas and Air Conditioning Supply; Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	7,866	251,165,017	1%	0.6%
Unknown	1,648	38,886,850	0%	0.0%

Note: Regional and sectoral Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Scheme data has not been included in this analysis due to data protection and commercial considerations. Data on CBILS and BBLS schemes drawn from the British Business Bank loans portal, 2 August 2020.

Infection rates

Rebecca Riley WMREDI

According to latest [ONS figures](#) an estimated 28,300 people (95% credible interval: 18,900 to 40,800) within the community population in England had the coronavirus (COVID-19) during the most recent week, from 27 July to 2 August 2020, equating to around 1 in 1,900 individuals.

Modelling shows rates of people testing positive for COVID-19 have risen since the lowest recorded estimate, which was at the end of June, but there is evidence that this trend may be levelling off when compared with last week's headline estimate.

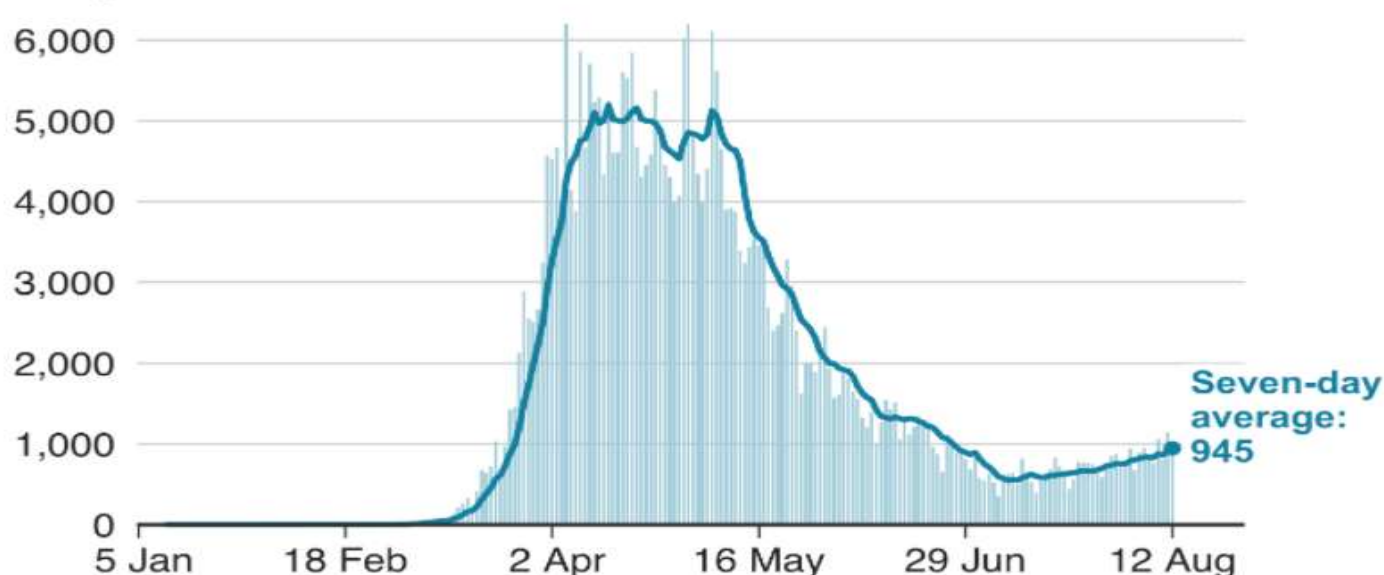
There is no clear evidence from this survey to say whether COVID-19 infection rates differ by region in England, nor whether infection rates have increased in different regions over the past six weeks.

During the most recent week (27 July to 2 August 2020), it is estimated that there were around 0.68 (95% credible interval: 0.38 to 1.17) new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people in the community population in England, equating to around 3,700 new cases per day.

We have extended the survey to Wales. During the most recent week (27 July to 2 August 2020), we estimate that 1,400 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 400 to 3,400). This is around 1 in 2,200 people.

Confirmed cases starting to rise

Daily confirmed cases of coronavirus in the UK

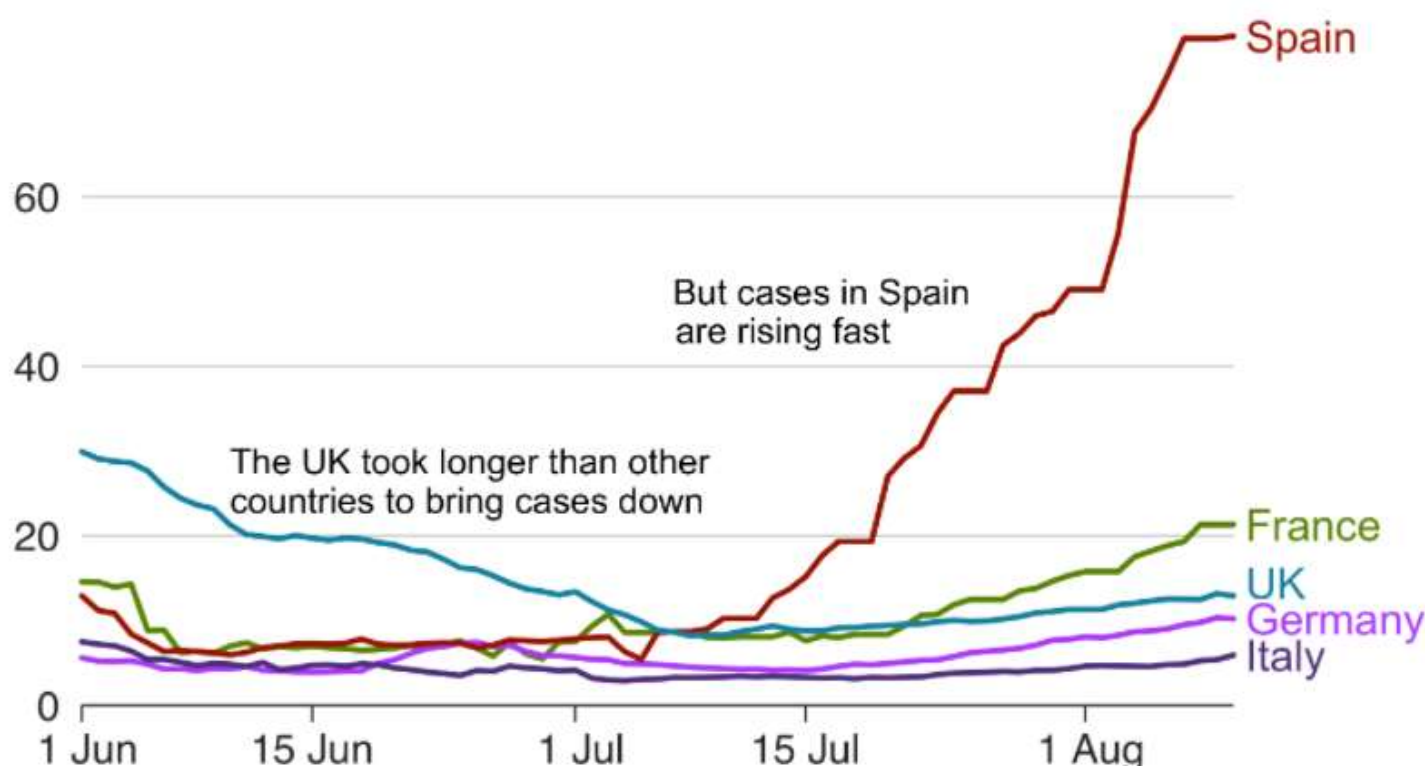


Figures now include cases among key workers and their families, as well as patients

Source: Department of Health and Social Care, updated to 12 Aug 09:00 BST **BBC**

Coronavirus in Europe since 1 June

Confirmed cases per million people, seven-day rolling average



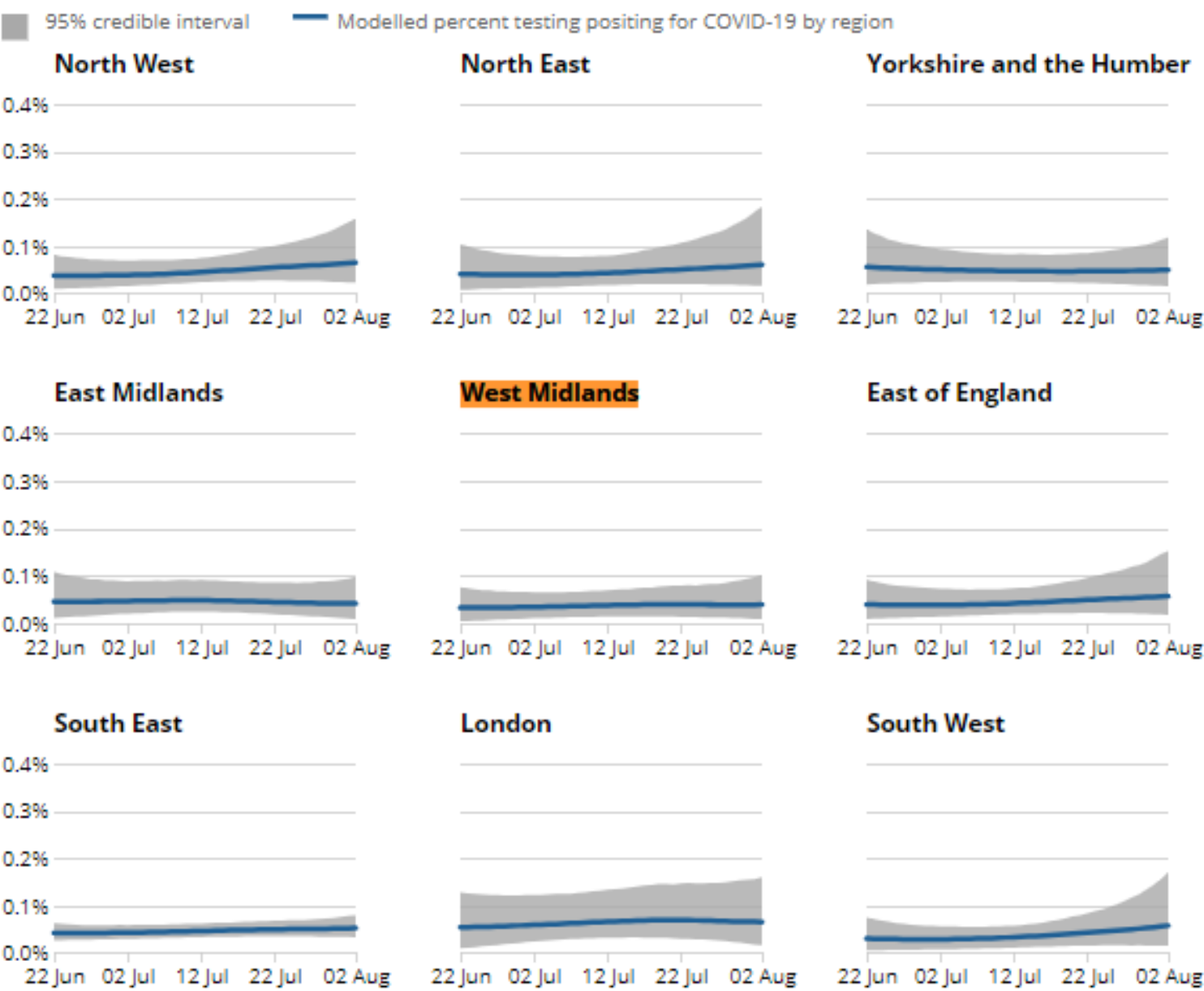
Source: ECDC

BBC

West Midlands

In the West Midlands as of [7th August](#) the only place in the region of concern was Sandwell however this outbreak has seen significant reduction in the last week. And the region remains relatively low in terms of infections.

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs daily by region since 22 June 2020, England



Source: Office for National Statistics – COVID-19 Infection Survey

Coronavirus positive case by Middle Super Output Area (MSOAS) in England 2nd August to 8th August



Source: [PHE data](#) week 30 (20th July to 26th July positive cases by middle super output areas

ONS Weekly Release Indicators

BCC EIU

ONS Weekly Release Indicators

On the 6th August 2020 the ONS released 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 the initial results from Wave 10 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey, incorporations and voluntary dissolutions, national footfall, results from Wave 20 of the Opinions and Lifestyle (OPN) Survey, experimental online jobs advert indices and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs).

Business Impact of the Coronavirus

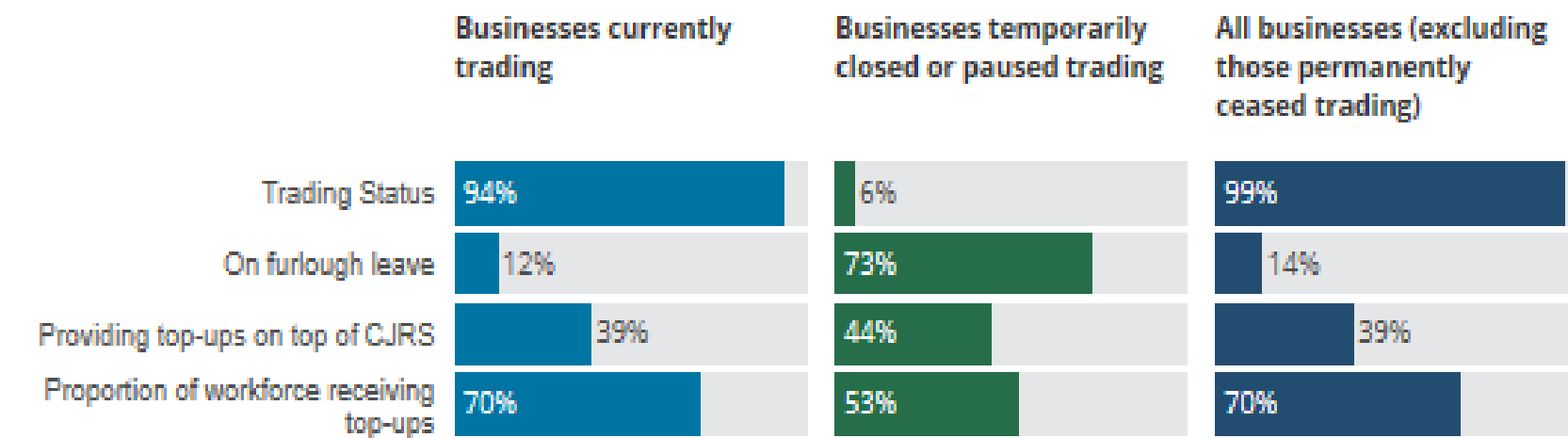
The initial results from the tenth round of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) show that of the 24,464 businesses surveyed across the UK, 19% had responded as of the 4th August 2020. Unless stated, the following data is based on the period between 13th June to the 26th July 2020 and regional breakdown is not available.

Headline Indicators

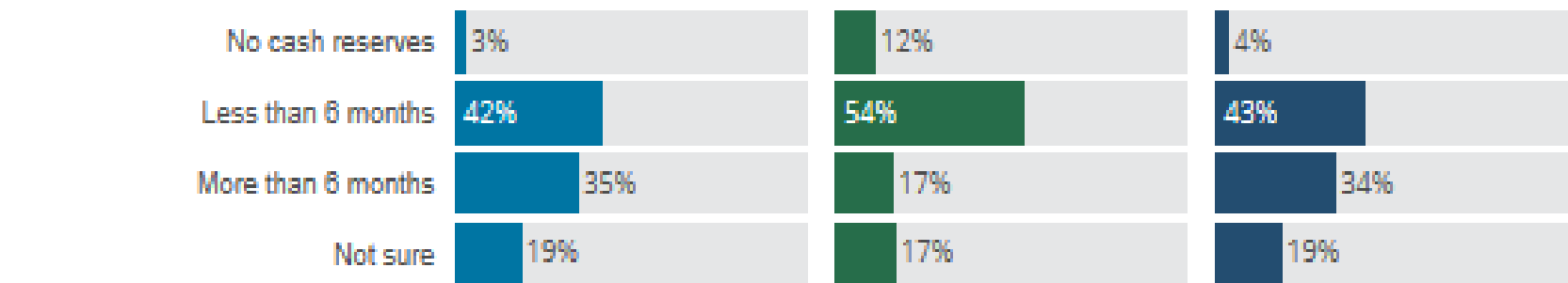
Across the UK between 13th – 26th July, 94% of responding businesses were currently trading with 12% of the workforce on furlough leave. 39% of businesses are providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and 70% of the workforce are receiving top-ups to the Coronavirus Retention Scheme. 6% have temporary paused or closed trading with 73% of the workforce on furlough leave. 44% of businesses are providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and 53% of the workforce are receiving top-ups to the Coronavirus Retention Scheme. 3% of businesses that are currently trading have no cash reserves, this rises to 12% for businesses that have temporary paused or closed. 42% of businesses currently trading has less than 6 months of cash reserves, this rises to 54% for businesses that have temporary paused or closed.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme still remains the favoured government support scheme with 77% of businesses that are currently trading have applied for this scheme, rising to 79% for businesses that have temporary paused or closed.

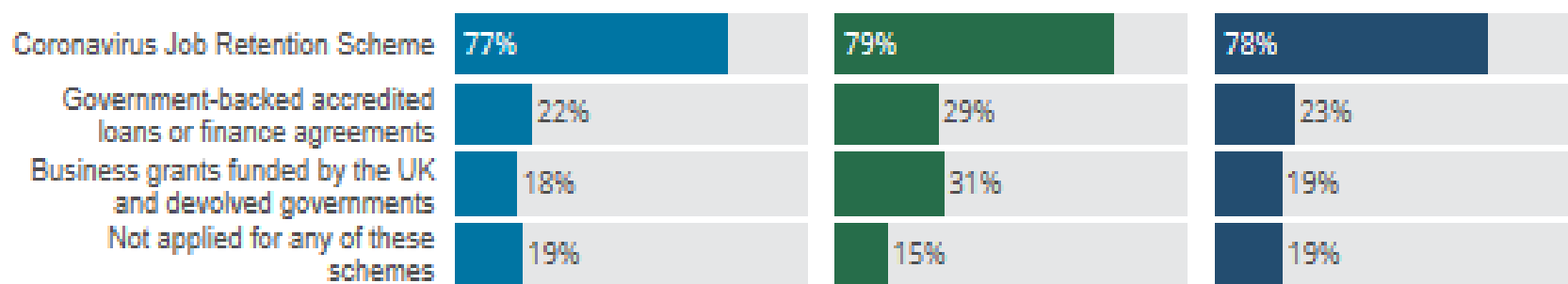
Proportion of businesses by trading status, and proportions of workforce on furlough leave and receiving pay top-ups:



Cash reserves



Percentage of businesses applying to government schemes



Labour Market Statistics 11th August 2020

ONS release

Latest labour market statistics were released this week and although they lag the reality on the ground they present a start decline in the number of employees on payrolls and a significant reduction in hours worked. They provide evidence of the continuing impact of covid-19 on the labour market.

Analysis from ONS indicates that for the UK employment is weakening and unemployment remains unchanged due to the increase in economic inactivity with people out of work but not looking for work. However, this trend cannot be seen directly for the West Midlands.

The furlough scheme has been very successful in preserving millions of jobs, however, with firms continuing to face significant increases in costs, reduced demand and reduced cash reserves as we have seen in previous monitors, unemployment is likely to accelerate as the end of the intervention draws near. A significant spike in job losses on the back of the worst quarterly GDP recorded will be another major drag on recovery, and further stifle consumer spend.

In Summary:

- The employment rate for the West Midlands Region between April to June 2020 was 75.0%, while the UK was 76.4%.
- From the previous quarter the West Midlands employment rate increased by 0.1pp, while the UK

decreased by 0.2pp.

- The unemployment rate for the West Midlands Region between April to June 2020 was 4.4% - a decrease of 0.6 percentage points (pp) from the previous quarter which is the highest decrease of any Region. The average unemployment rate in the UK was 3.9% which has remained unchanged.
- The West Midlands Region inactivity rate for April to June 2020 was 21.4%, while the UK was 20.4%.
- From the previous quarter the West Midlands increased by 0.4pp, while the UK average increased by 0.2pp.

Key points:

UK Labour Market Overview

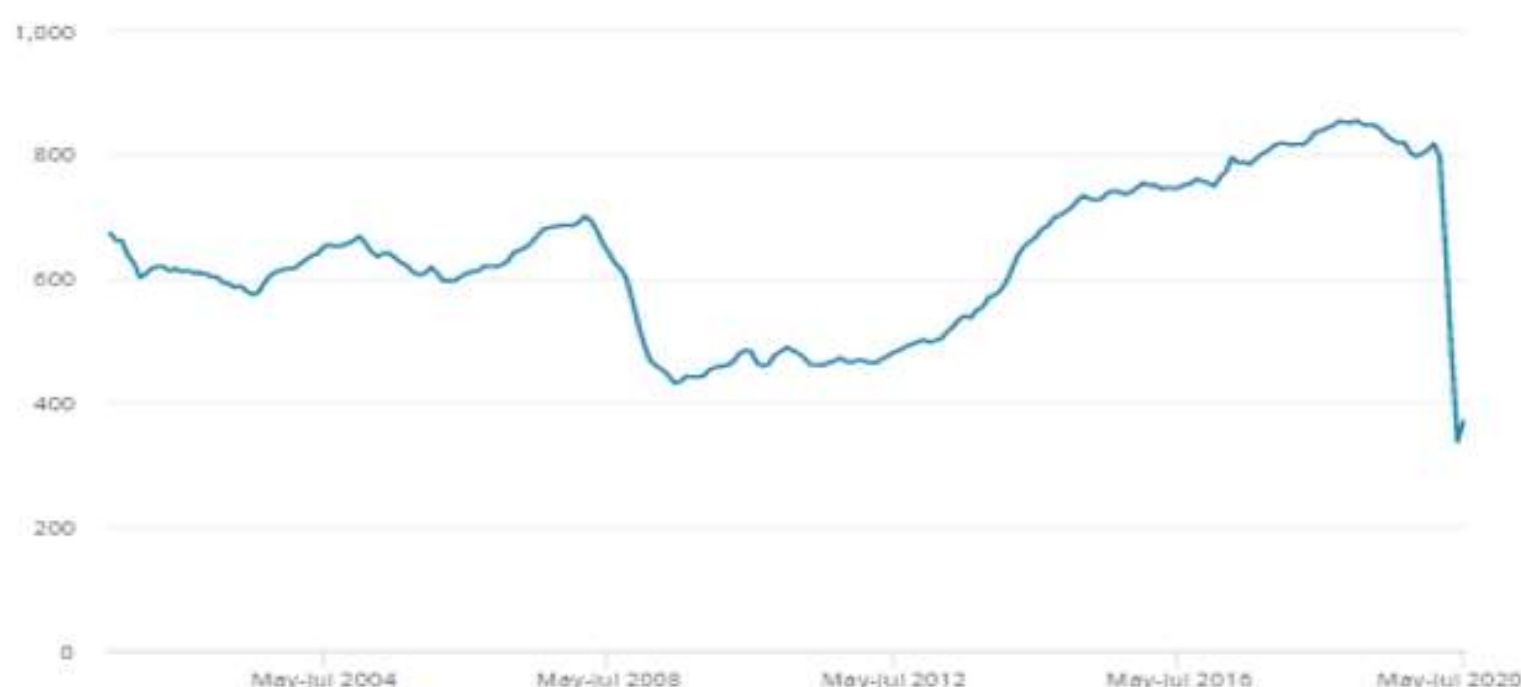
Early estimates for July 2020 reveal that the number of payroll employees fell by 730,000 when compared with March 2020 and 114,000 fewer when compared with June 2020.

Vacancies in the UK in May to July 2020 were at an estimated 370,000 - 10% higher than the record low in April to June 2020. Increases in the latest quarter are potentially driven by smaller businesses hiring additional staff to meet Covid guidelines. However, when comparing May to July vacancy estimates to the previous quarter (February – April 2020), there were 274,000 fewer and then 453,000 fewer than a year earlier.

The following table shows the total number of vacancies by sector for the UK, between May-July 2019, April – June 2020 and May to July 2020 (figures are in thousands):

	Total Figures in Thousands		
	May-Jul 2019	Apr-Jun 2020	May-Jul 2020
All vacancies	824	337	370
Mining & quarrying	2	1	0
Manufacturing	54	26	27
Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	3	2	2
Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	4	2	2
Construction	25	7	11
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	135	39	43
Transport & storage	38	10	13
Accommodation & food service activities	93	8	18
Information & communication	42	13	16
Financial & insurance activities	34	18	17
Real estate activities	11	4	4
Professional scientific & technical activities	80	29	33
Administrative & support service activities	48	29	30
Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	22	16	17
Education	52	22	23
Human health & social work activities	139	101	103
Arts, entertainment & recreation	23	2	3
Other service activities	19	5	6

Number of Vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted between May to July 2001 and May to July 2020



Source: ONS – Vacancy Survey

Single month vacancy estimates for July 2020 show an increase of around 30% when compared with estimated vacancies for April 2020 with the accommodation and food service activities sector showing the strongest recovery.

The three months to June 2020 saw strong falls in pay across the UK; total nominal pay fell by 1.2% on the year and regular nominal pay fell by 0.2% which is the first negative pay growth in regular nominal earnings since records began in 2001).

Regional Labour Market

For the three months ending in June 2020, the West Midlands Region employment rate (aged 16 – 64 years) was **75.0%**. Since January to March 2020, the employment rate has increased by 0.1pp while the UK decreased by 0.2pp. The overall, UK employment rate was 76.4% with the highest **employment rate** within the UK for the three months ending June 2020 in the

South East (79.7%) and the lowest was in Northern Ireland (71.7%).

For the three months ending in June 2020, the West Midlands Region unemployment rate (aged 16 years and over) was **4.4%**, which has decreased by **0.6pp** since the previous quarter – the largest decrease of any region.

The UK unemployment rate was 3.9%, remaining unchanged from the previous quarter. The highest unemployment rate in the UK for the three months ending June 2020 was in the North East (5.2%), with the lowest unemployment rate in Northern Ireland at 2.5%.

For the three months ending in June 2020, the West Midlands Region economic inactivity rate (aged 16 – 64 years) was **21.4%** - a decrease of **0.4pp** from previous quarter. The UK economic inactivity rate stood at 20.4% decreasing by 0.2pp. The highest **economic inactivity** rate in the UK for the three months ending June 2020 was in Northern Ireland (26.4%), with the lowest in the South East (17.5%).

A summary of the latest headline estimates for Regions of the UK, seasonally adjusted, April to June 2020

	Employment rate (%) aged 16 to 64 years	Change on January to March 2020 (pp)	Unemployment rate (%) aged 16 years and over	Change on January to March 2020 (pp)	Inactivity rate (%) aged 16 to 64 years	Change on January to March 2020 (pp)
UK	76.4	-0.2	3.9	0.0	20.4	0.2
Great Britain	76.6	-0.2	3.9	0.0	20.2	0.2
England	76.9	-0.2	4.0	0.0	19.9	0.2
North East	74.3	1.4	5.2	-0.2	21.8	-1.1
North West	76.2	0.0	3.5	-0.5	21.0	0.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	74.4	0.5	3.8	-0.5	22.6	-0.1
East Midlands	77.3	-0.9	4.3	0.6	19.1	0.4
West Midlands	75.0	0.1	4.4	-0.6	21.4	0.4
East	77.9	-0.2	3.8	0.1	18.9	0.0
London	76.5	-0.4	4.6	0.0	19.7	0.3
South East	79.7	-0.4	3.3	0.3	17.5	0.2
South West	78.1	-1.1	3.6	0.5	18.9	0.6
Wales	75.3	1.0	2.7	-0.5	22.6	-0.6
Scotland	74.3	-0.4	4.5	0.4	22.2	0.1
Northern Ireland	71.7	-0.7	2.5	0.1	26.4	0.6

Source: ONS – Labour Force Survey

Claimant Count Summary for July 2020: Released August 2020

Headlines

Nationally

- The latest ONS data reveals that for the UK there were 114,000 fewer people were in paid employment in July 2020 when compared with June 2020.
- 730,000 fewer people were in work when compared to March, when the UK's Covid-19 lockdown began.
- Workers who are currently on furlough through the Government's coronavirus job retention scheme are still included as on payroll in the data, meaning the impact of the crisis is likely to be higher once the scheme comes to an end in October.
- The overall unemployment rate stands at just 3.9% — no change when compared with the previous quarter (Jan-Mar 2020).

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA 3 LEP)

- The number of claimants aged 16 years and over has increased between June 2020 and July 2020 (+2.9%), although less than the UK (+3.5%). However, compared to March 2020, the number has increased significantly (+78.8% WMCA, 111.2% UK).
- The number of WMCA young claimants has increased over the last month (+2.8%) although less than in the UK (3.9%). However, compared to March 2020, the number has increased significantly (+88.8% WMCA, 122.4% UK).

Source: ONS from the Department of Work and Pensions, Claimant Count, August 2020

Summary

There were 210,295 claimants in the WMCA (3 LEP) area in July 2020, this is an increase of 5,930 claimants compared to June 2020. This equates to an increase of 2.9% - compared to a UK-wide increase of 3.5%.

However, in the WMCA (3 LEP) area, compared to March 2020 (117,590) the number of claimants has increased by 92,705 (+78.8% compared to +111.2% for the UK). Also, compared to July 2019 (105,895), the number of claimants has increased by 104,400 (+98.6% compared to 133.9% for UK).

Overall, for the WMCA (3 LEP) the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over is 6.3% in July 2020 compared to 5.0% for the UK.

There were 43,120 youth claimants (16-24 years old) in

the WMCA (3 LEP) area in July 2020 – an increase of 1,185 people compared to June 2020. This equates to an increase of 2.8%, less than the overall UK increase of 3.9%.

Although, in the WMCA (3 LEP) area, compared to March 2020 (22,835) the number of young claimants has increased by 20,285 (+88.8% compared to +122.4% for the UK). Also, compared to July 2019 (20,255), the number of claimants has increased by 22,865 (+112.9% compared to 146.9% for UK).

Overall, for the WMCA (3 LEP) the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16- 24 years old is 8.7% in July 2020 compared to 7.5% for the UK.

In Full:

Claimant count for people aged 16+:

There were **210,295 claimants aged 16 years and over in the WMCA** (3 LEP) area in July 2020, this is an increase of 5,930 people compared to June 2020. This equates to an increase of 2.9%, which is below the UK growth rate of 3.5%. Although, in the WMCA (3 LEP) area, compared to March 2020 (117,590) the number of claimants has increased by 92,705 (+78.8% compared to +111.2% for the UK). Also, when compared to July 2019 (105,895), the number of claimants has increased by 104,400 (+98.6% compared to 133.9% for UK).

Within the WMCA (3 LEP), the **BCLEP had 65,705 claimants** aged 16 years and over in July 2020, this is an increase of 1,695 (+2.6%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to March 2020 (38,275) the number of claimants has increased by 27,430 (+71.7%). Also, when compared to July 2019 (34,020), the number of claimants has increased by 31,685 (+93.1%).

In CWLEP, there were 33,795 claimants aged 16 years and over in July 2020, this is an increase of 1,155 (+3.5%) claimants since June 2020. Although, in the CWLEP area, when compared to March 2020 (15,825) the number of claimants has increased by 17,970 (+113.6%). Also, when compared to July 2019 (13,760), the number of claimants has increased by 20,035 (+145.6%).

In GBSLEP, there were 110,795 claimants aged 16 years and over in July 2020, this is an increase of 3,080 (+2.9%) claimants since June 2020. In the GBSLEP area, when compared to March 2020 (63,490) the number of claimants has increased by 47,305 (+74.5%). Also, compared to July 2019 (58,115), the number of claimants has increased by 52,680 (+90.6%).

The following table shows a breakdown of number of claimants aged 16+ and change by selected months for WMCA (3 LEP) and UK:

	July 2019	March 2020	June 2020	July 2020	% Change (Jun 20 – Jul 20)	% Change (Mar 20 – Jul 20)	% Change (Jul 19 – Jul 20)
BCLEP	34,020	38,275	64,010	65,705	2.6%	71.7%	93.1%
CWLEP	13,760	15,825	32,640	33,795	3.5%	113.6%	145.6%
GBSLEP	58,115	63,490	107,715	110,795	2.9%	74.5%	90.6%
WMCA (3 LEP)	105,895	117,590	204,365	210,295	2.9%	78.8%	98.6%
UK	1,145,690	1,268,620	2,590,175	2,679,885	3.5%	111.2%	133.9%

Overall, for the WMCA (3 LEP) the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over is 6.3% in July 2020 compared to 5.0% for the UK.

Within the WMCA (3 LEP) the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16 years and over varies across the 3 LEPs with the Black Country at the highest with 7.0%, followed by GBSLEP with 6.9% and then CWLEP with 4.4%.

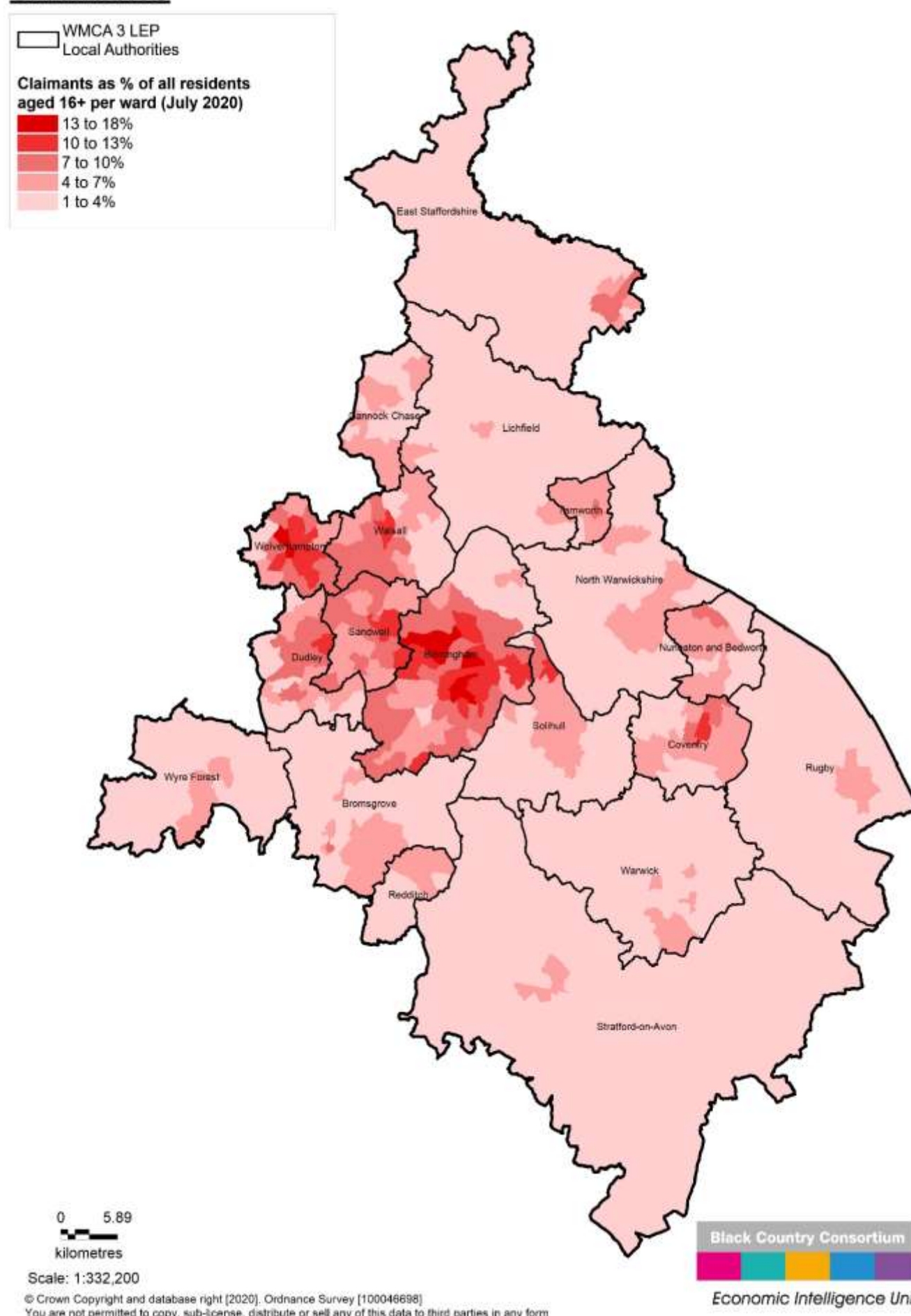
Ward Analysis

Out of the 422 wards within the WMCA (3 LEP), 189 were the same or above the UK figure of 5.0% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16+ in July 2020.

The top 9 wards that had the highest number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16+ in July 2020 are based in Birmingham, with the top three being Birchfield at 17.5%, this is followed by Lozells at 17.4% and Handsworth at 16.8%.

The following map shows at a ward level in the WMCA (3 LEP), claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16+ in July 2020:

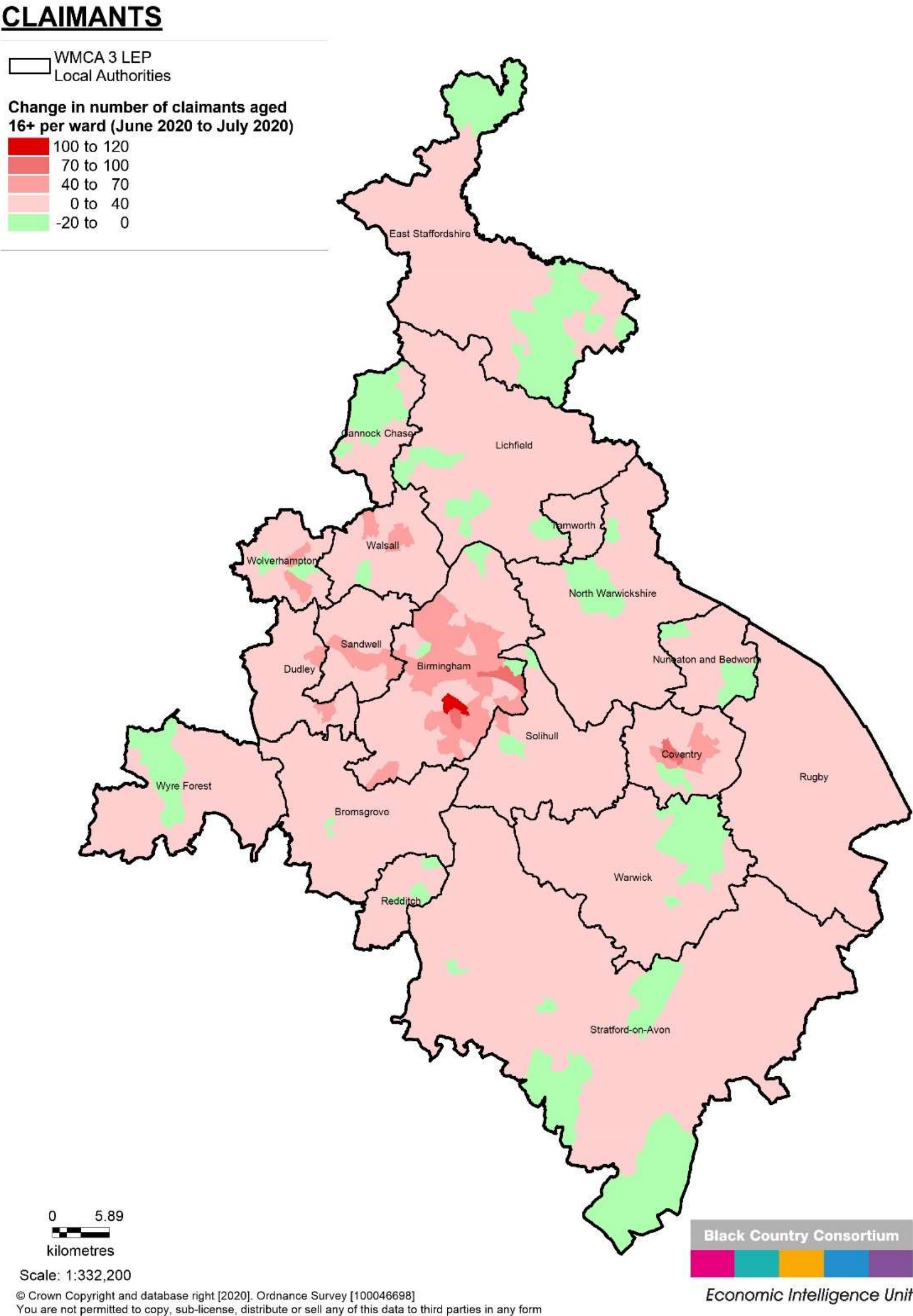
CLAIMANTS



There were 302 wards that experienced an increase in the number of claimants between June 2020 and July 2020 with a further 76 wards remaining at the same value. Within the WMCA (3 LEP area), the highest number change between June 2020 and July 2020 for claimants aged 16+ was in Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath (Birmingham) with an additional 120 people (reaching 2,800 claimants). This is followed by Glebe Farm and Tile Cross (Birmingham) with an additional 80 (reaching 1,915

claimants) and Sparkhill (Birmingham) with an additional 75 people (reaching 1,935 claimants).

The following map shows at a ward level in the WMCA (3 LEP), the change in number for claimants aged 16+ between June 2020 and July 2020:



Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24):

There were **43,120 youth claimants (16-24 years old) in the WMCA (3 LEP)** area in July 2020, this is an increase of 1,185 claimants compared to June 2020. This equates to an increase of 2.8%, the UK increased by 3.9%. Although, in the WMCA (3 LEP), when compared to March 2020 (22,835) the number of claimants has increased by 20,285 (+88.8% compared to +122.4% for the UK). Also, compared to July 2019 (20,255), the number of claimants has increased by 22,865 (+112.9% compared to 146.9% for UK).

Within the WMCA (3 LEP), the **BCLEP had 13,700 youth claimants** in July 2020, this is an increase of 295 (+2.2%) from the previous month. Although, in the BCLEP area, when compared to March 2020 (7,750) the number of youth claimants has increased by 5,950 (+76.8%). Also, when compared to July 2019 (6,785), the number of youth claimants has increased by 6,915 (+101.9%).

In CWLEP, there were 6,765 youth claimants in July 2020 – this is an increase of 205 youth claimants since June 2020 - which equates to 3.1% growth. Although, in the

CWLEP area, when compared to March 2020 (2,920) the number of youth claimants has increased by 3,845 (+131.7%). Also, when compared to July 2019 (2,525), the number of youth claimants has increased by 4,240 (+167.9%).

In GBSLEP, there were 22,655 youth claimants in July 2020 – this is an increase of 685 youth claimants since June 2020 – which equates to 3.1% growth. In the GBSLEP area, when compared to March 2020 (12,165) the number of youth claimants has increased by 10,490 (+86.2%). Also, when compared to July 2019 (10,945), the number of youth claimants has increased by 11,710 (+107.0%).

Overall, for the WMCA (3 LEP) the number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16- 24 years old is 8.7% in July 2020 compared to 7.5% for the UK.

The number of claimants as percentage of residents aged 16- 24 years old varies across the 3 LEPs with the Black Country at the highest with 11.0%, followed by GBSLEP with 8.9% and then CWLEP with 5.7%.

The following table shows a breakdown of number of claimants aged 16-24 years old and change by selected months for WMCA (3 LEP) and UK:

	July 2019	March 2020	June 2020	July 2020	% Change (Jun 20 – Jul 20)	% Change (Mar 20 – Jul 20)	% Change (Jul 19 – Jul 20)
BCLEP	6,785	7,750	13,405	13,700	2.2%	76.8%	101.9%
CWLEP	2,525	2,920	6,560	6,765	3.1%	131.7%	167.9%
GBSLEP	10,945	12,165	21,970	22,655	3.1%	86.2%	107.0%
WMCA (3 LEP)	20,255	22,835	41,935	43,120	2.8%	88.8%	112.9%
UK	217,785	241,760	517,345	537,745	3.9%	122.4%	146.9%

Ward Analysis

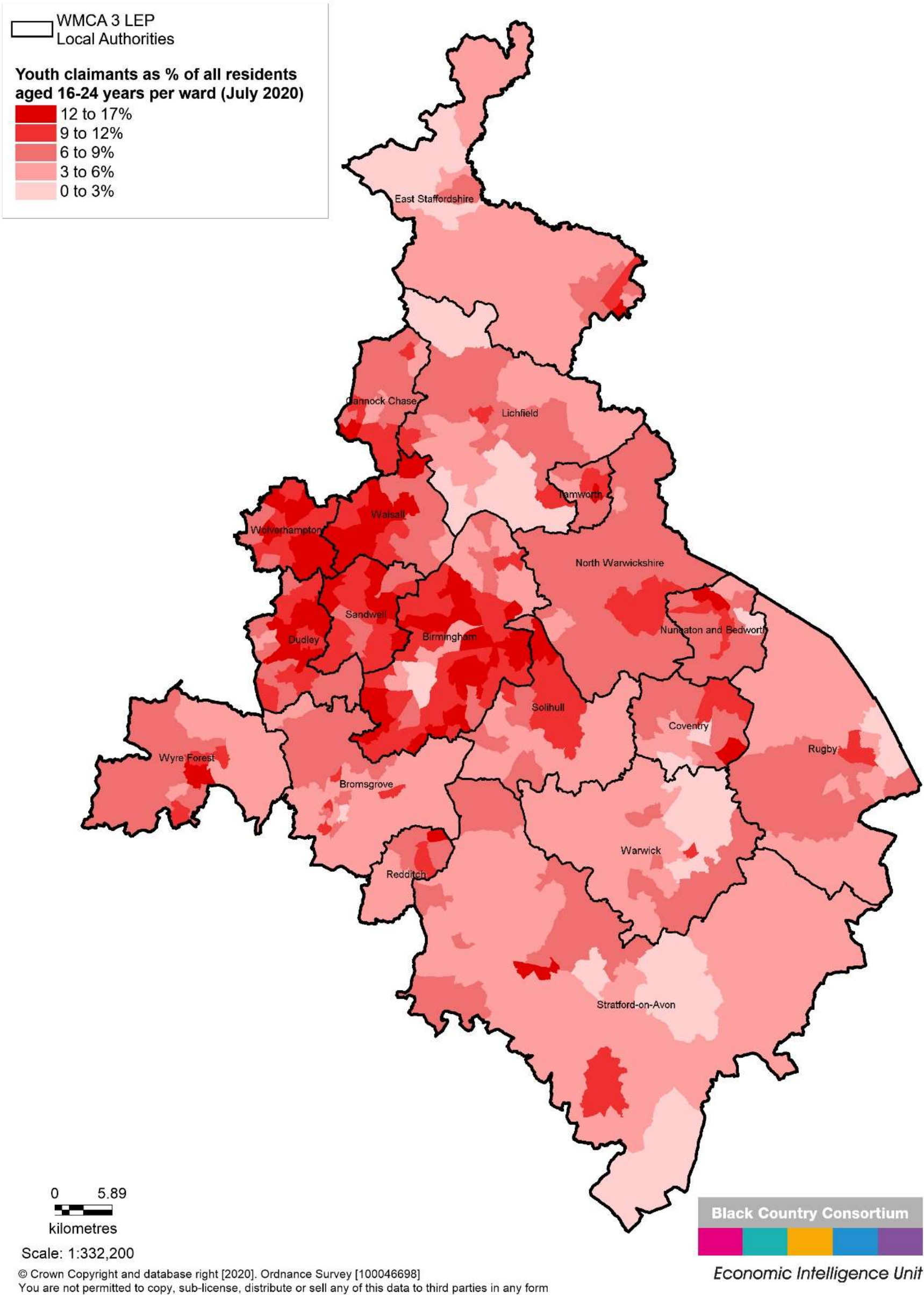
Out of the 422 wards within the WMCA (3 LEP), 232 are the same or above the UK average of 7.5% for the number of claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old in July 2020.

The top wards that had the highest number of claimants

as a percentage of residents aged 16 – 24 years old were in Handsworth (Birmingham) at 16.6% and Aston (Birmingham) at 16.4%.

The following map shows at a ward level in the WMCA (3 LEP), claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16-24 years old in July 2020:

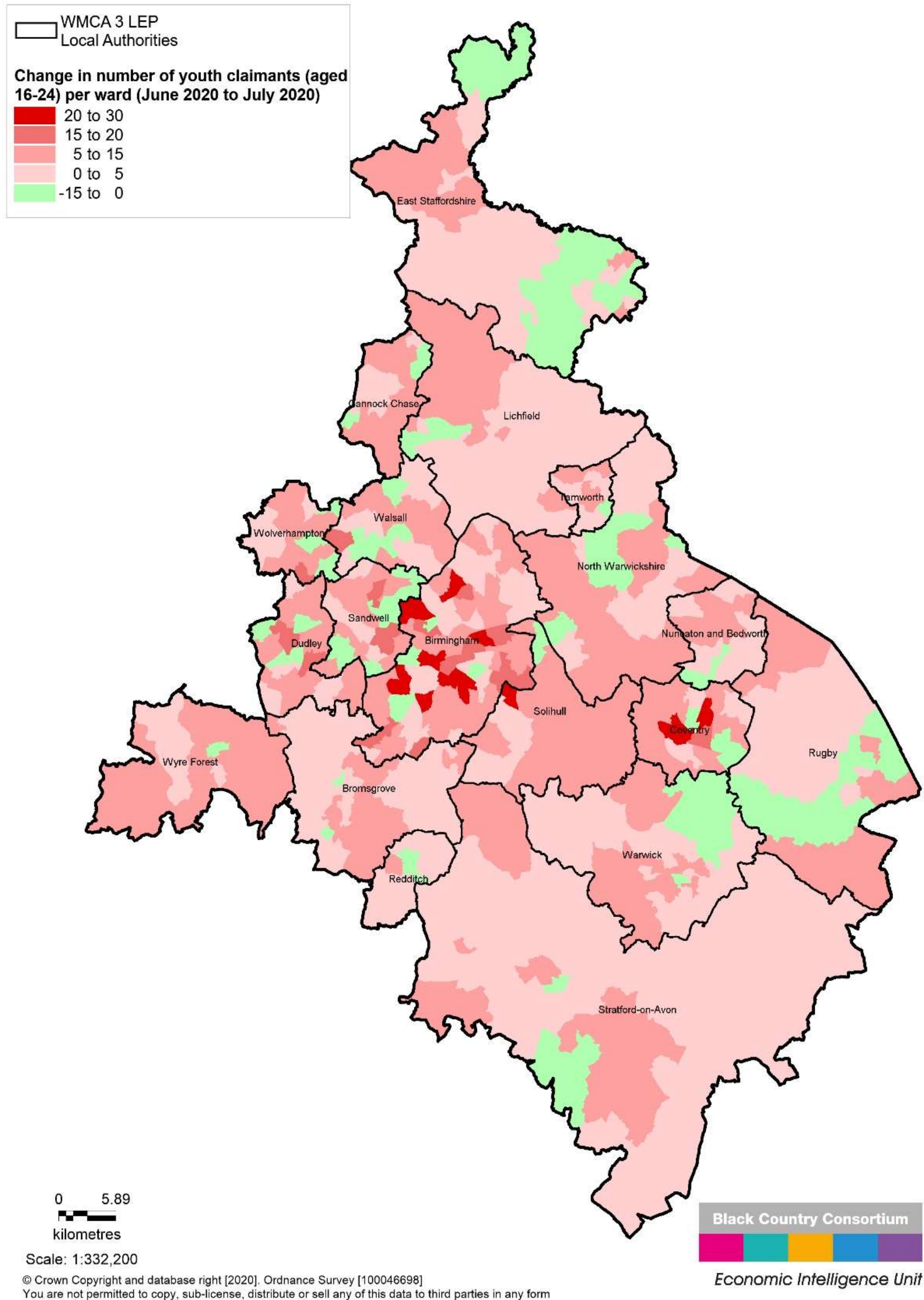
YOUTH CLAIMANTS



Within the WMCA (3 LEP), the highest number change between June 2020 and July 2020 for claimants aged 16 – 24 years old was in the Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath (Birmingham) ward at an additional 30 claimants (reach a total of 605).

The following map shows at a ward level in the WMCA (3 LEP), the change in number of claimants aged 16 -24 years old between June 2020 and July 2020:

YOUTH CLAIMANTS



Full Age Breakdown for the WMCA (3 LEP) Area

In July 2020, those aged 18-24 years old had the highest number of claimants at 42,665, this was followed by those aged 25 – 29 years old at 29,660 claimants.

The only age bracket to see a decrease in the number of claimants in the WMCA (3 LEP area) were those aged 16-17 years old by 5.1% (-25 claimants) between June 2020 and July 2020 - down to 470.

The highest number increase between June 2020 to July

2020 was for those aged 18 – 24 years old at an additional 1,220 claimants, followed by those aged 35 – 39 years old at an additional 850 claimants to reach a total of 24,245.

Compared to March 2020, the highest number increase in claimants was seen in those aged 18- 24 years old at an additional 20,075 claimants.

The following table shows a breakdown by age brackets for the WMCA (3 LEP) area over selected time periods

	July 2019	March 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Change Jun 20 - Jul 20	Num. change Jun 20 - Jul 20	Change Mar 20 - Jul 20	Num. change Mar 20 - Jul 20	Change Jul 19 - Jul 20	Num. change Jul 19 - Jul 20
Age 16+	105,895	117,590	204,365	210,295	2.9%	5,930	78.8%	92,705	98.6%	104,400
Aged 16-17	225	250	495	470	-5.1%	-25	88.0%	220	108.9%	245
Aged 18-24	20,030	22,580	41,435	42,655	2.9%	1,220	88.9%	20,075	113.0%	22,625
Aged 25-29	14,470	15,945	28,925	29,660	2.5%	735	86.0%	13,715	105.0%	15,190
Aged 30-34	13,640	15,635	27,560	28,250	2.5%	690	80.7%	12,615	107.1%	14,610
Aged 35-39	11,960	13,715	23,395	24,245	3.6%	850	76.8%	10,530	102.7%	12,285
Aged 40-44	9,865	11,230	19,275	20,000	3.8%	725	78.1%	8,770	102.7%	10,135
Aged 45-49	9,790	10,605	18,410	18,780	2.0%	370	77.1%	8,175	91.8%	8,990
Aged 50-54	9,565	9,960	17,175	17,635	2.7%	460	77.1%	7,675	84.4%	8,070
Aged 55-59	8,480	8,985	14,560	14,965	2.8%	405	66.6%	5,980	76.5%	6,485
Aged 60-64	7,290	7,675	11,410	11,825	3.6%	415	54.1%	4,150	62.2%	4,535
Aged 65+	580	1,020	1,715	1,810	5.5%	95	77.5%	790	212.1%	1,230

Workforce Jobs (first published 16th June 2020)

There were an estimated 35.83 million workforce jobs in the UK in March 2020, 289,000 more than in March 2019 and 35,000 more than last quarter (December 2019).

The West Midlands had 2.9m workforce jobs in March 2020, which is a decrease of nearly 32,000 from March 2019 and a decrease of 20,000 from December 2019.

Workforce Jobs by Broad Industry Group

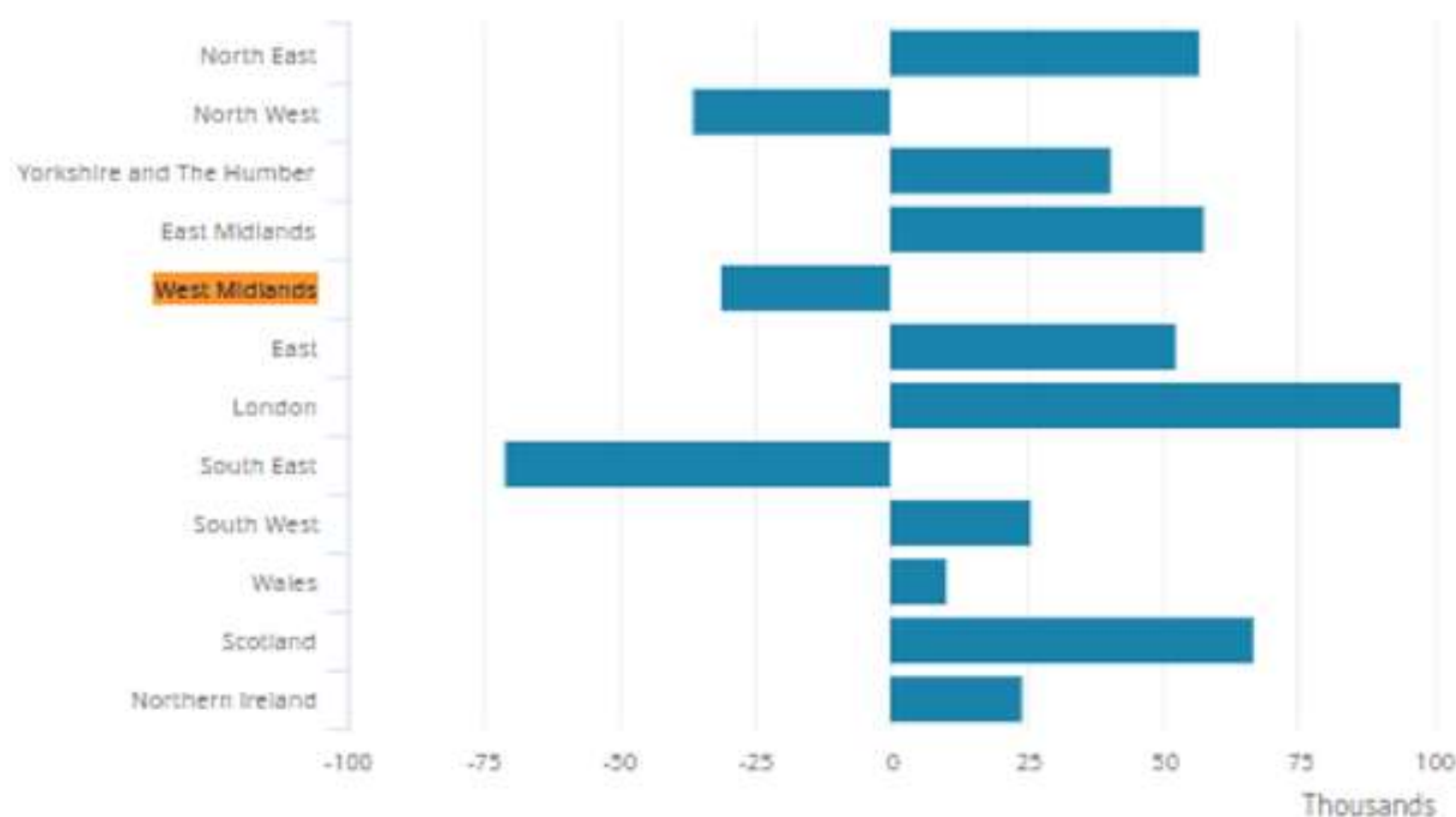
80.8% of the West Midlands Region's workforce jobs are

in the services sector as of March 2020. This is followed by 11.5% in the production sector and 7.7% in other.

Local Labour Market Indicators (first published 16th July 2020)

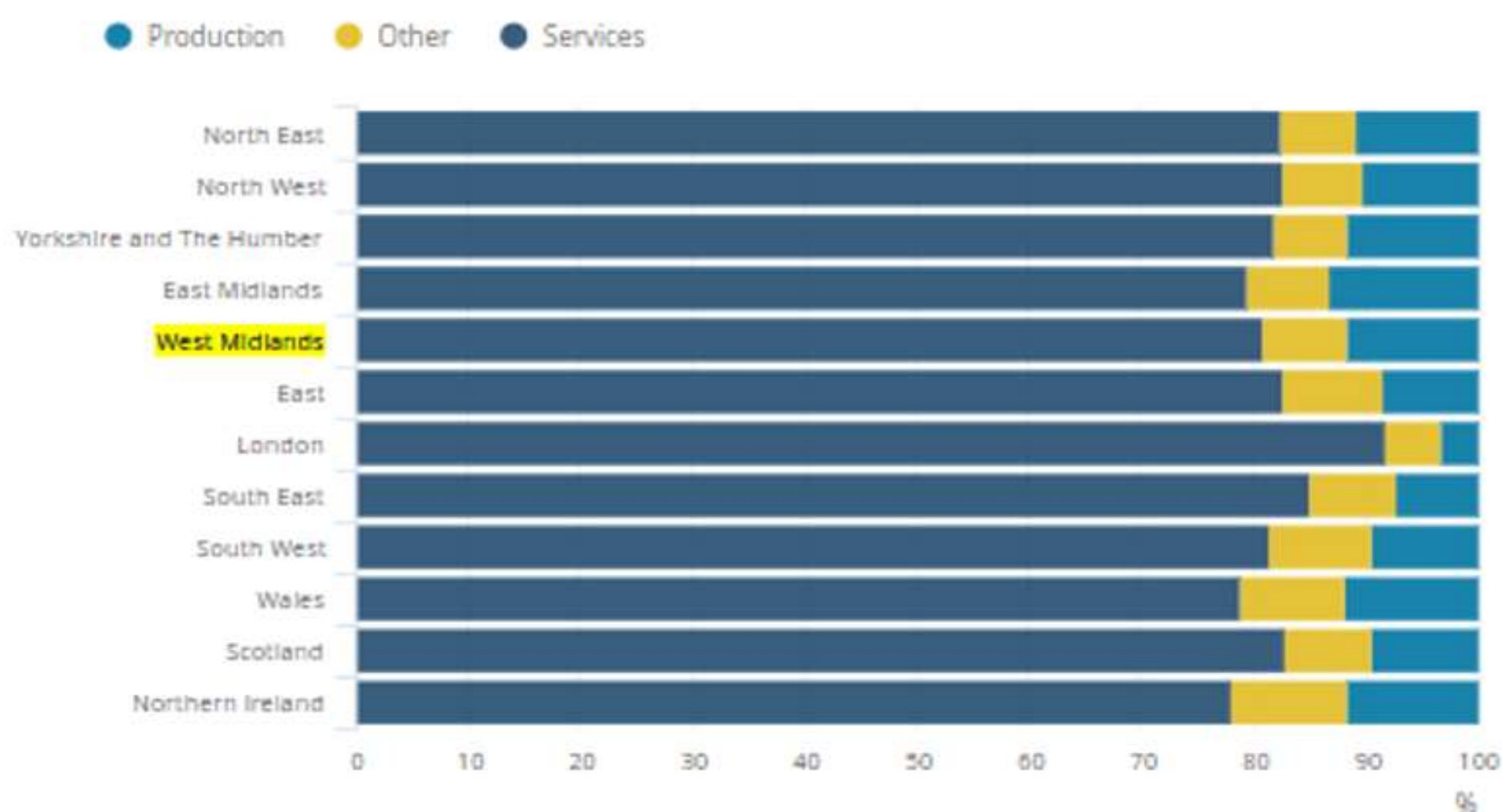
Between April 2019 to March 2020, Cannock chase had the second highest employment rate in the UK at 90.6% (behind Torridge at 91.4%). However, over the same period, Birmingham had the highest unemployment rate at 9.0%, this was followed by Hartlepool at 7.5%.

Change in workforce jobs, by UK Region, seasonally adjusted, March 2019 and March 2020.



Source: ONS – Workforce Jobs

Proportion of workforce jobs by broad industry group, by UK Region, March 2020



Source: ONS – Workforce Jobs

ONS Weekly Release Indicators BCC EIU

On the 6th August 2020 the ONS released 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 the initial results from Wave 10 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey, incorporations and voluntary dissolutions, national footfall, results from Wave 20 of the Opinions and Lifestyle (OPN) Survey, experimental online jobs advert indices and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs).

Business Impact of the Coronavirus

The initial results from the tenth round of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) show that of the 24,464 businesses surveyed across the UK, 19% had responded as of the 4th August 2020. Unless stated, the following data is based on the period between 13th June to the 26th July 2020 and regional breakdown is not available.

Headline Indicators

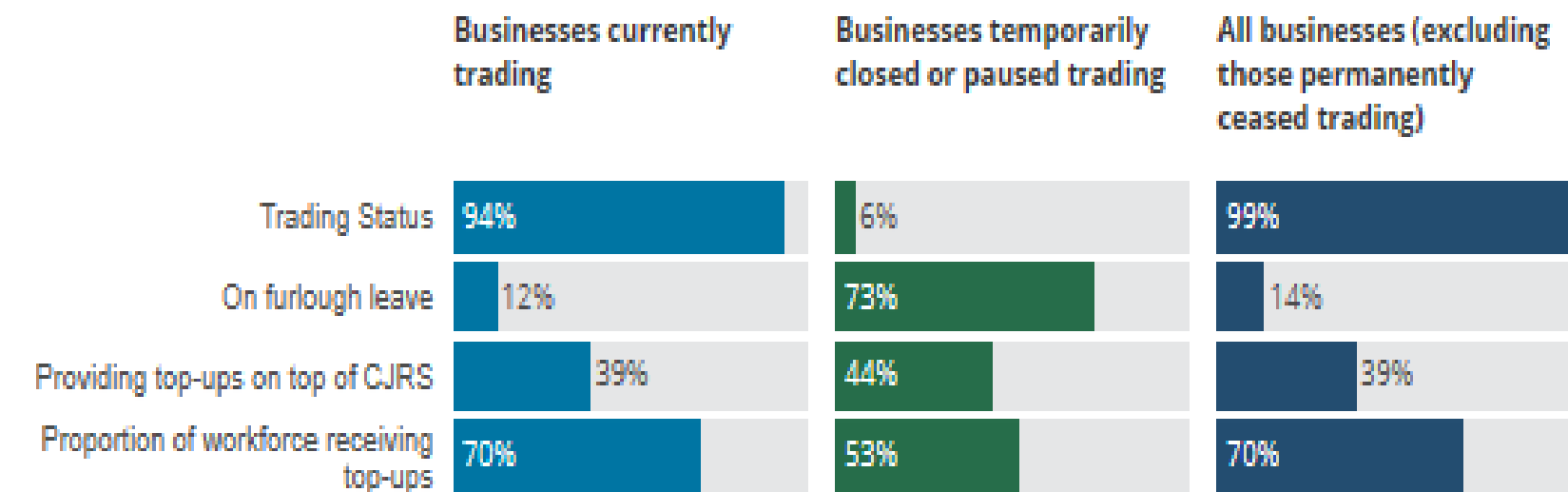
Across the UK between 13th – 26th July, 94% of responding businesses were currently trading with 12% of the workforce on furlough leave. 39% of businesses are providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and 70% of the workforce are receiving top-ups to the Coronavirus Retention Scheme.

6% have temporary paused or closed trading with 73% of the workforce on furlough leave. 44% of businesses are providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and 53% of the workforce are receiving top-ups to the Coronavirus Retention Scheme.

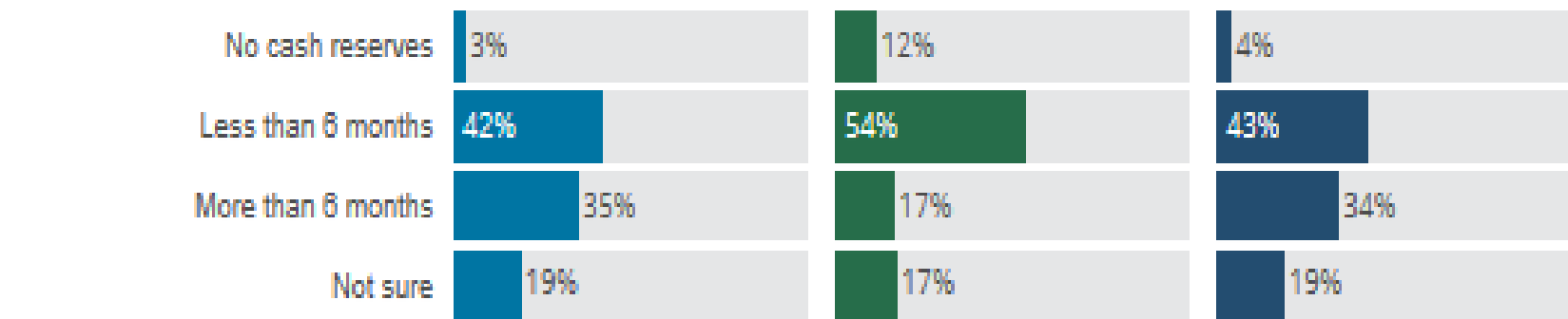
3% of businesses that are currently trading have no cash reserves, this rises to 12% for businesses that have temporary paused or closed. 42% of businesses currently trading has less than 6 months of cash reserves, this rises to 54% for businesses that have temporary paused or closed.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme still remains the favoured government support scheme with 77% of businesses that are currently trading have applied for this scheme, rising to 79% for businesses that have temporary paused or closed.

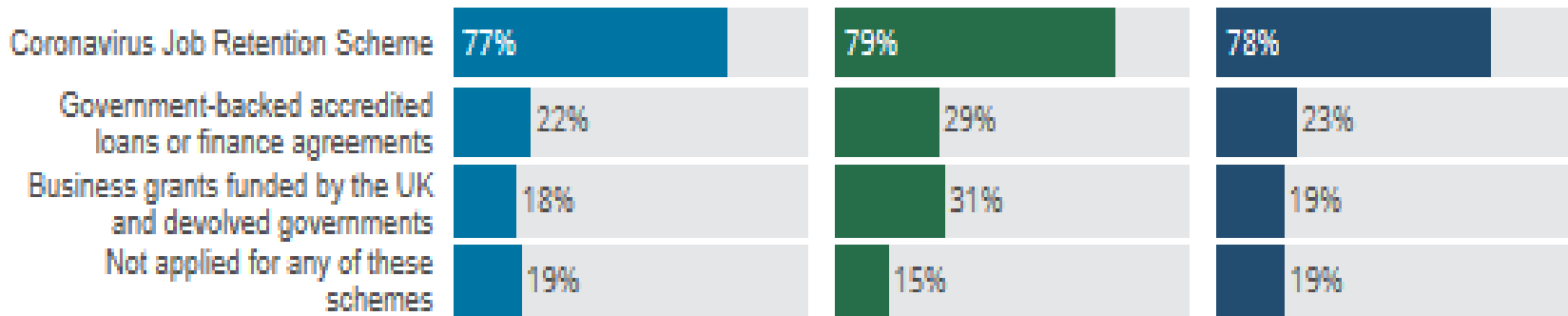
Proportion of businesses by trading status, and proportions of workforce on furlough leave and receiving pay top-ups:



Cash reserves



Percentage of businesses applying to government schemes



90% of responding businesses have been trading for more than the last 2 weeks. 3% of responding businesses who had temporarily paused trading reported to have started trading in the last 2 weeks. 1% of businesses that have temporarily paused trading but intend to restart trading in the next two weeks and 4% of businesses that have temporarily paused trading that do not intend to restart trading in the next two weeks.

Of the businesses currently trading, 4% had returned to their normal workplace after remote working and 6% had returned from furlough in the last two weeks. Of the businesses that are currently trading or that intend to trade in the next two weeks, 4% are expecting to return to the work place after remote working and a 4% are expected to return after furlough leave.

Turnover and Operating Costs

Nearly 16% of responding businesses reported that operating costs exceeded turnover by at least 20%. Although, 13% reported turnover was equal to operating costs and nearly 34% reported that turnover exceeded operating costs by at least 20%.

Financial Performance

11% of businesses that have continued trading reported turnover had increased by at least 20%. While 29% reported that turnover had not been affected. However, 54% of businesses reported turnover had decreased by at least 20%.

UK Company Incorporations and Voluntary Dissolutions

In this section, companies and businesses are not the same - companies are legal entities, as registered with Companies House; businesses are statistical entities. The statistics in this section are experimental.

It is also worth noting that other measures of company closures have not been included which includes; compulsory dissolution process has been paused. Compulsory dissolution is where companies who fail to fulfil their statutory obligations with Companies House are struck off the register. The overall level of company closures throughout April to July 2020 is lower at present than it would normally be, although these companies may be dissolved via another route, or at a later date. Also, there are Insolvencies which make up a small fraction of all company closures, although they tend to be the most high-profile. Insolvencies are not considered in these measures.

Incorporations

The average number of incorporations per working day for the UK was 2,887 in Quarter 2 (April to June) 2020, this is above the Quarter 2 2019 average of 2,786.

Voluntary Dissolutions

Voluntary dissolution is where a company voluntarily registers its intention to cease trading. Voluntary dissolutions account for just over half of all company closures historically. It should be noted that at present Companies House will not be striking companies applying for voluntary dissolution off the register until September 2020.

The average number of voluntary dissolution applications received per working day at 942 between the 4th April to 25th July 2020. This is lower than Quarter 2 2019 at 1,091 and Quarter 3 2019 (July – September) at 1,008.

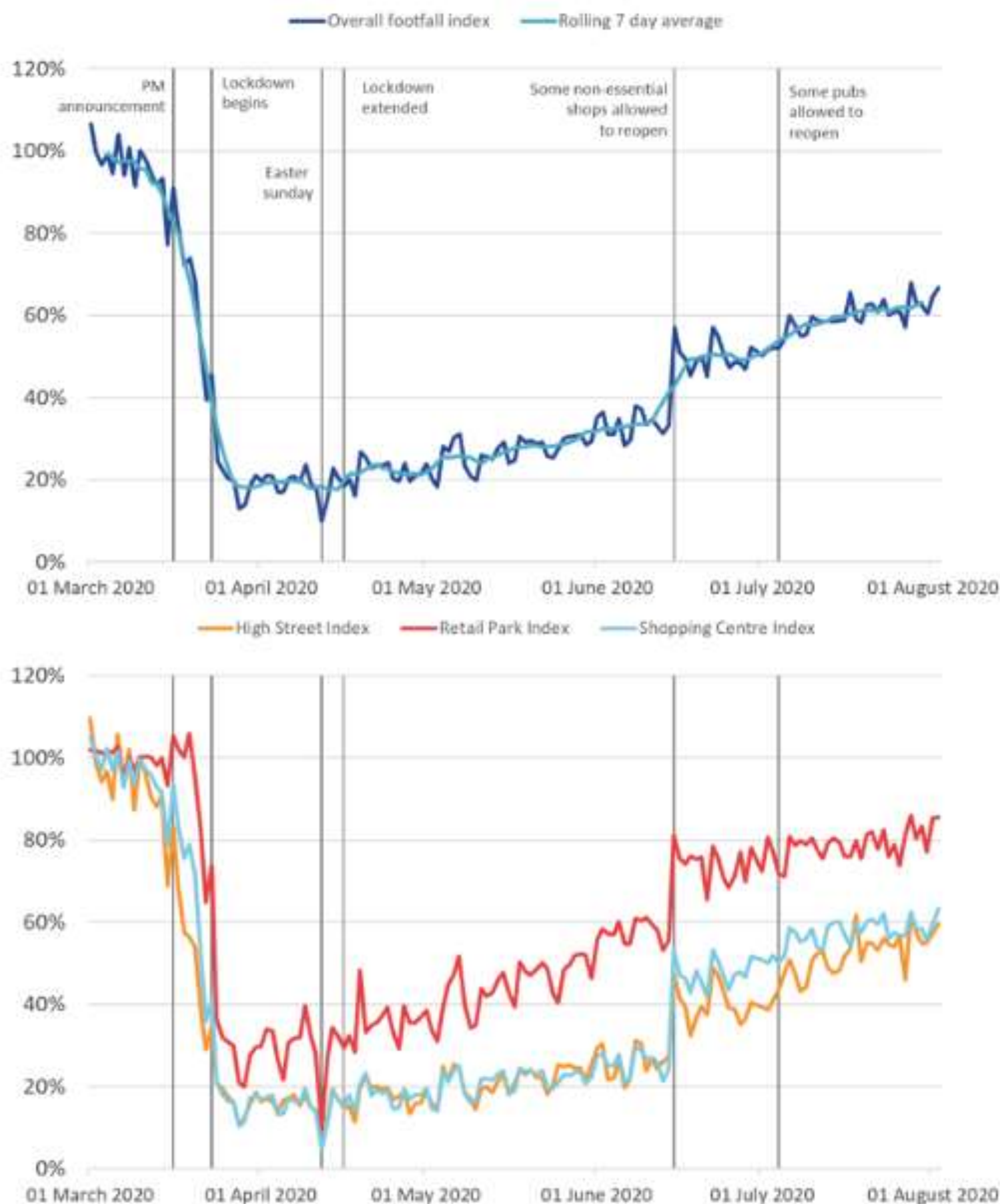
National Footfall

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

There has been a gradual increase in the overall footfall levels since the re-opening of non-essential shops on the 15th June and the overall footfall seven-day (27th July – 2nd August) average was over 60% of the same day a year ago.

Retail parks were around 85% of its level from the same period in the previous year with shopping centres at 60% and high streets at 55%.

The following graph shows the volume of footfall for the UK between 1st March to 2nd August, year on year percentage change between footfall on the same day:



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

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 20, covering the period 29th July – 2nd August 2020. In this wave there were 1,235 (49%) responding adults.

53% of adults reported they strongly supported the targeted lockdown measures for local areas affected by Coronavirus outbreaks.

Face Coverings

96% of adults have worn a face covering outside their home between 29th July to 2nd August. It was not mandatory in England to wear a face covering while shopping at the time of survey, 70% reported to wearing one while shopping. However, the UK as a whole this increases to 95%.

62% of adults reported they strongly supported the mandatory wearing of face coverings while shopping. 85% of adults who had used public transport reported to wearing a face covering.

81% of responding adults reported that are either very or fairly likely to wear one in the next 7 days.

Work

14% of adults reported to feeling worried about potentially losing their job. 10% of adults were worried about returning to work.
76% of adults reported they had either worked at home or travelled to work, with 51% travelling to work and 25% working exclusively at home.

Socialising and Leisure

72% of adults met up with others to socialise and 45% of adults reported they had family or friends visit them at their own home between 29th July to 2nd August. However, 52% of adults always maintained social distancing, while 6% stated they rarely or never maintained social distancing.
53% of adults are seeing family members less than they did prior to start of the pandemic and 64% reported to seeing friends less.
37% reported they would be comfortable or very comfortable to eat indoors at a restaurant. 17% of adults said they would feel comfortable or very comfortable to visit the gym. 15% reported to feeling comfortable or very comfortable visiting a water park or an indoor swimming pool, which increased to 28% to visiting an outdoor swimming pool or water park.

Health and Well-being

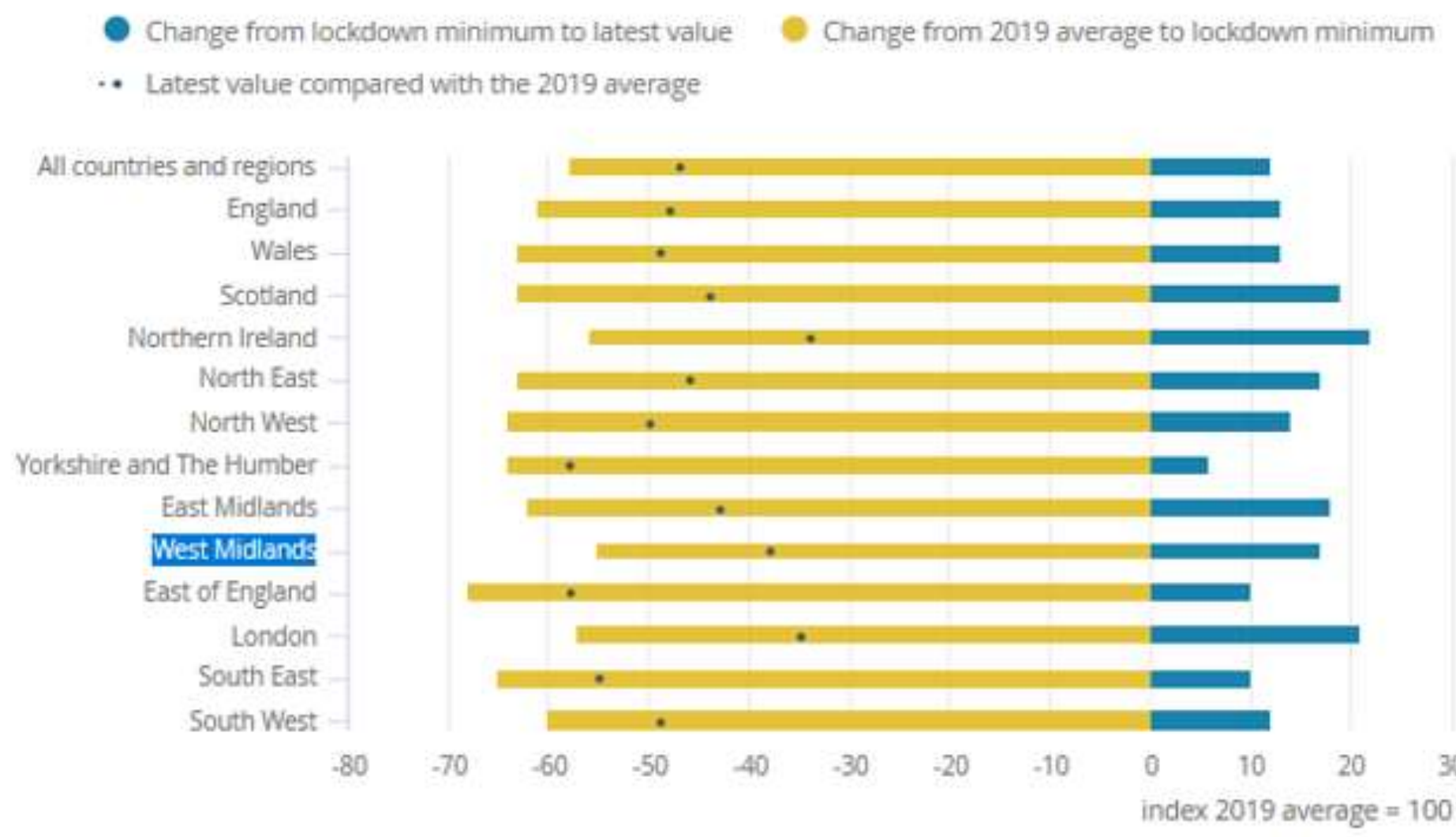
66% of adults would feel comfortable or very comfortable to attend an online appointment with a healthcare professional, this rises to 69% to attend an appointment in person and rises further to 72% of adults

would feel comfortable or very comfortable to seek medical advice from a healthcare professional over the phone.
Although, only 61% would feel comfortable or very comfortable attending a hospital appointment if asked by a doctor to and 55% feel this way if they had to attend A&E with an urgent health care concern.

Online Jobs Adverts

These estimates are experimental figures 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). This release now includes a breakdown by NUTS1 regions. Nationally, total online job adverts between 24th – 31st July, increased from 52% to 53% of their 2019 average. Although, more then three quarters of categories increased when compared to the previous week. Notably, transport. Logistics and warehousing increased from 65.6% to 71% of it 2019 average.
For the West Midlands, the total online jobs adverts have increased from 60.5% to 61.9% of its 2019 average. With Northern Ireland the closest to their 2019 average at 65.9% to Yorkshire and The Humber and East of England the lowest at 41.8% on the 31st July.

The following image shows across all the regions, the change from lockdown minimum to the latest value, the change from 2019 to the lockdown minimum and the latest value compared to the 2019 average (Index 2019 average =100):



Source: Adzuna

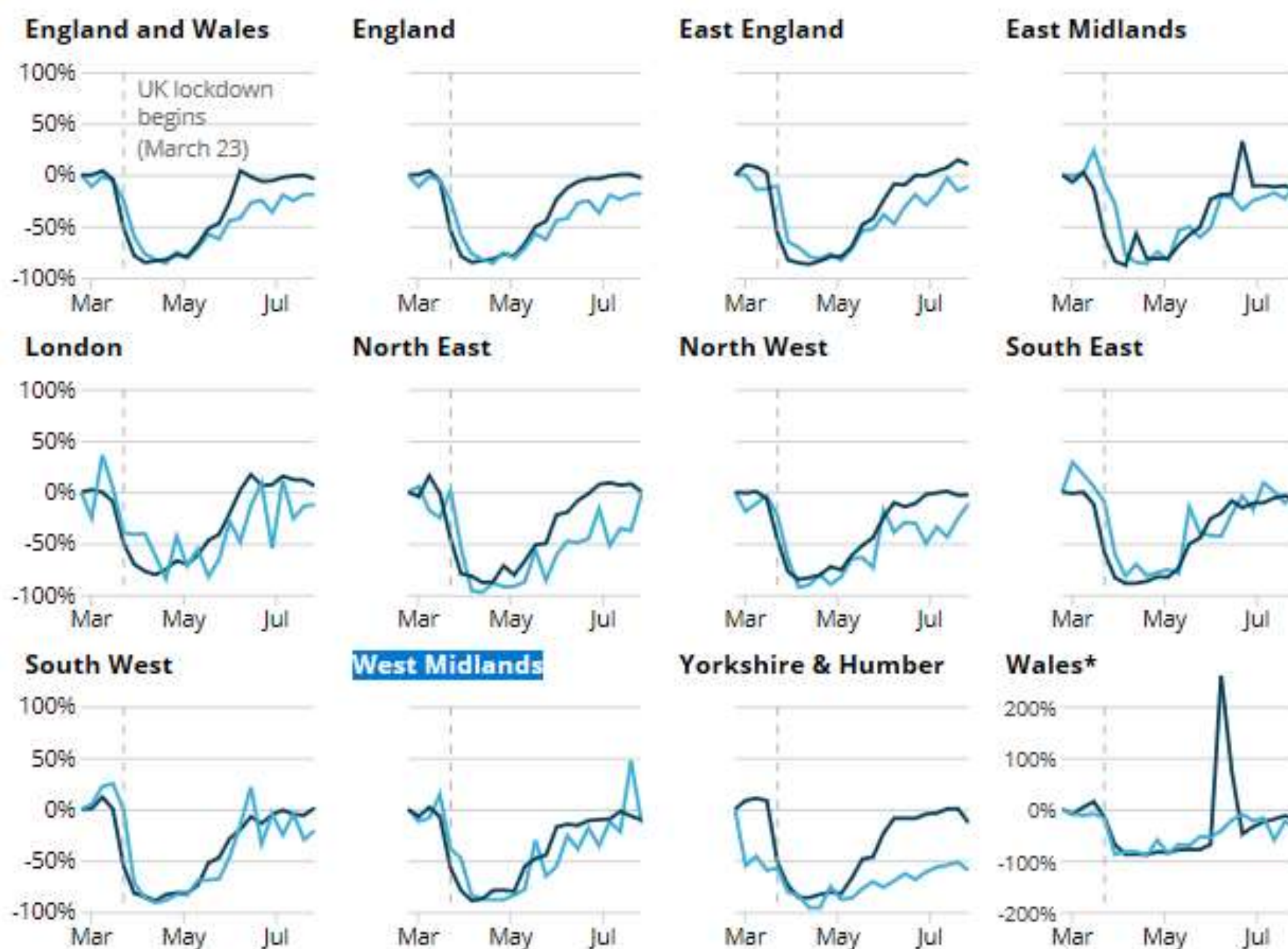
Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)

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.

In the week commencing 27th July, EPC lodgements for

existing dwellings across all English regions (West Midlands 10% lower) returned to similar levels observed at the end of February. While EPC lodgements for new dwellings were 19% lower across England and Wales, for West Midlands region 14% lower.

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



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register. Please note, the spike seen in Wales in the middle of June was due to local authorities in Wales reviewing their social housing stock.

HEADLINES	
SECTOR	KEY CONCERNS
Cross Sector	<p>New Business Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies are trying to think outside the box with new products, and diversification. Interest in developing International relationships outside of the 'norm'. More interest from companies looking to develop virtual / digital capabilities <p>Access to Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More research/ interest in how to access other funding with a high number of enquiries from companies seeking advice on how they fit the criteria for specialist grants. Significant increase in enquiries requesting information on grants. SMEs would like to see a more rapid response of support from government to be able to continuing operating <p>Micro Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a big return of enquiries from micro businesses looking to set up new ventures. <p>Redundancies & Furlough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling across businesses in all sectors is that likely more redundancies in next 6 months, especially once furlough scheme ends and businesses would welcome any assistance from a central point, rather than them searching across different partners. <p>Jobs & Labour Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting to see some companies starting to consider recruitment campaigns & planning to employ staff from potentially October, but still concerns about future. Companies considering part time hours & home-based workers when they start recruiting. Businesses are looking to replenish staff numbers with apprentices where redundancies have occurred for legacy planning.
Visitor Economy	<p>Cross Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst larger shopping centres have seen people resuming retail habits and spending, smaller independent retailers are struggling with restrictions in place, including the face mask ruling. <p>Redundancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redundancies higher in the retail sector and media reports show the restaurant industry expects 22,000 jobs to be lost by the end of September, an increase of over 94% compared to losses in 2019. Potential surge in jobs losses ahead for the aviation and travel industry. <p>Furlough Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality businesses have found it difficult in starting back up and would like to see the furlough scheme to be extended past October.
Business, Professional & Financial Services	<p>Return to Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office blocks are largely deserted as people are reluctant to return to working in an office.
IT and Digital	<p>Jobs & Labour Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital industries reporting little/no redundancies as they seem less affected due to the nature of the businesses, and how they work remotely normally.
Manufacturing	<p>Diversification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some firms looking into automation and support in energy saving techniques.
Automotive	<p>Supply Chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns companies will not be returning to 'normal' until at least October, and maybe December. With potential cancelling of projects, or postponing until 2021, delaying invoice payments from 30 days to 90 days resulting in cashflow issues for supply chain.

NEW ECONOMIC SHOCKS			
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	SOURCE/DETAIL
Travelex	UK Wide	Retail / Finance	Travel money firm Travelex has struck a deal to stay afloat, but with the loss of more than 1,300 jobs in the UK.
WH Smith	UK Wide	Retail	WH Smith has said it could axe up to 1,500 jobs after the coronavirus pandemic led to a fall in customers at its travel and high street shops. The retailer said it expects to report a headline loss before tax for the financial year ending 31 August of between £70m and £75m.
Ibstock	UK Wide	Construction	UK brick maker Ibstock suffered losses of £52 million in the first half of 2020 as a result of the lockdown. It has closed or mothballed three sites and is consulting on 375 job losses.
Hays Travel	UK Wide	Travel	Hays Travel to cut up to 879 jobs as the travel company said it has "made every possible effort" to avoid job losses "during these extraordinary and distressing times"
DW Sports	UK Wide	Retail	Sports retailer and gym group DW Sports has said it is to tumble into administration, with 1,700 jobs at risk
Coventry Building Society	Regional	Banking, Professional Services	Coventry Building Society has seen its profits cut substantially for the six months to 30 June, falling from £75m last year to just £22m this time around.
Baldwins	Regional	Professional Services	Baldwins Accountants, which has 12 offices across the East Midlands, is set to make job cuts. Baldwins had been bullish in the last 18 months, snapping up regional and local accountants across the UK.
JLR	National	Automotive, Engineering, Manufacturing	Jaguar Land Rover made a pre-tax loss of more than £400m during the first quarter of its financial year with sales impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Coventry-headquartered automotive giant has reported a loss of £413m for the three months to 30 June 2020 and a revenue of £2.9bn
Morgan Sindall	Rugby	Construction	Construction and infrastructure company Morgan Sindall has said its pre-tax profits are set to fall by almost £40m by the end of its current financial year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Rugby-headquartered listed company said its profits could drop to between £50m and £60m for the 12 months to 31 December 2020, down from £88.6m it achieved in 2019
Meggitt	Coventry	Aerospace, Engineering	International aerospace and defence engineering company Meggitt has said it is continuing to look at a "range of trading scenarios and associated actions" to combat any change in the outlook of its industry. The Coventry-headquartered made the comment in response to reports that it is considering selling about £455m of new stock to prepare itself for another wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
Hippodrome Theatre	Birmingham	Leisure/arts	Hippodrome cancels performances until at least February 2021. The news follows Birmingham Hippodrome's announcement in June about redundancies, saying it had entered a period of consultation with staff after suffering from the "devastating" enforced closure brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.
Harvey Nichols	Birmingham	Retail	In an email to its 1500 employees, the luxury retailer's chief executive said the coronavirus crisis has "changed the shape of the business", adding that it expects there may be staff redundancies at all locations.
Stormking	Tamworth	Construction	Up to 88 redundancies are to made at the Tamworth business to ensure it "remains fit for the future".

NEW INVESTMENT, DEALS AND OPPORTUNITIES			
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	DETAIL & SOURCE
Dudley Light Rail	Dudley	Rail	The money from the Government's Getting Building Fund is aimed at projects which can be started quickly and completed within 18 months to aid economic recovery after the coronavirus lockdown.
Key land & Urban village	Halesowen	Property	Work on a £1.2 million major refurbishment of a landmark office building in Halesowen is underway.
Drayton Manor Park Ltd	Tamworth	Leisure	Drayton manor were filing for administration but have been bought by Looping Group with the agreement of safeguarding 599 jobs
Polar Speed	Birmingham	Healthcare	IM Properties (IMP) has let 100,529 sq. ft at The Hub in Birmingham on a 15-year lease to one of UPS Healthcare's key UK operations, Polar Speed, for its new warehouse and transportation hub in the Midlands.
Fire Protection Coatings	Coventry	Manufacturing	Fire Protection Coatings, a Coventry business that manufactures and distributes fire protective products, has been able to continue operating and safeguard jobs during the pandemic after securing funding.
Clarilis	Leamington Spa	Technology, Professional Services	A legal technology company based in Leamington Spa has raised a further £6m in a second investment round. Clarilis, which employs a team of more than 50 people and opened an office in Singapore in February, said the cash will be used to support its ongoing growth and international expansion.
Central City Ind. Estate	Coventry	Real Estate	A Coventry industrial estate has achieved record rents in two recent lettings. Holt Commercial and Bromwich Hardy have secured new tenants for two vacant units at the Central City Industrial Estate on Red Lane. Deals have been concluded on a 1,509 sq. ft unit at £10.27 per sq. ft and on a 2,384 sq. ft unit at £9.44 per sq. ft, representing record rents on the estate.
Hastings House Medical Practice	Wellesbourne	Medical, Professional Services	A Warwickshire medical centre has expanded its primary care provision for its growing community by creating a joint venture with a multi-national pharmacy company.
ActOn Finishing	Coventry	Engineering	An engineering firm headquartered in Coventry has helped aerospace giant Rolls Royce clean up with its cutting-edge technology. ActOn Finishing, based in Torrington Avenue, has installed a vibratory finishing system at Rolls Royce Bristol to improve its cleaning process and increase productivity, enabling the engine manufacturer to process three times more volume in a shorter time frame.
Charlecote Pheasant Hotel	Stratford-upon-Avon	Hospitality	The hotel was forced to shut in May when its previous occupier was placed into administration. Vine Hotels will now reinstate the jobs of 12 staff members who were made redundant with the closure. Three new jobs will also be created immediately at the hotel and further new roles in the coming months.
Telent	Warwick	Technology	Warwick-based technology and network services company telent has secured a new ten-year agreement with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
Adient Seating UK	Coventry	Automotive, Manufacturing	Turnover fell and pre-tax losses widened during the latest financial year of a company that was founded in the aftermath of World War II and is now part of a manufacturing giant that makes one in three automotive car seats in the world.
The Imaging Warehouse	Stratford-upon-Avon	Digital and Creative, Retail	A Stratford-based photographic equipment and supply company which exports to countries all over the world is gradually getting back to normal after a challenging few months. And a savvy acquisition made when times were good meant lockdown was not as devastating as it might have been to the business. The Imaging Warehouse, which manufactures specialist printing paper and unique darkroom equipment, purchased a printing ink business around 18 months ago as a way of diversifying the firm.
Feldon Dunsmore Solicitors	Coventry	Professional Services	Warwickshire law firm, Feldon Dunsmore Solicitors has made a double hire.
XPD Print	Southam	Digital and Creative, Retail	An expanding Warwickshire printing company has invested in two state-of-the-art machines and moved premises. XPD Print needed to replace its old printing press with more modern and efficient models.
Virgins and Castle pub	Kenilworth	Hospitality and Leisure	A specialist wedding catering business has launched a £500 'save the date' deposit that has delivered a rise in bookings and revenues during lockdown. "Businesses in this sector need clearer guidance. This is the type of innovative hospitality business that need to be supported by government at this time."
Sargisons Industries	Coventry	Manufacturing, Engineering	A lightweighting casting specialist has signed up to a programme to boost its growth potential and has received funding support to help it with the drive.

Weekly Deaths Registered: 24th July 2020

The following analysis compares the latest time period (week of the 24th July 2020) to the previous week period (week of the 17th 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 17th July to 8,891 in the week of 24th 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 17th July to 964 in the week of 24th 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 24th 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 24th 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 24th 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 24th 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, 4th August 2020

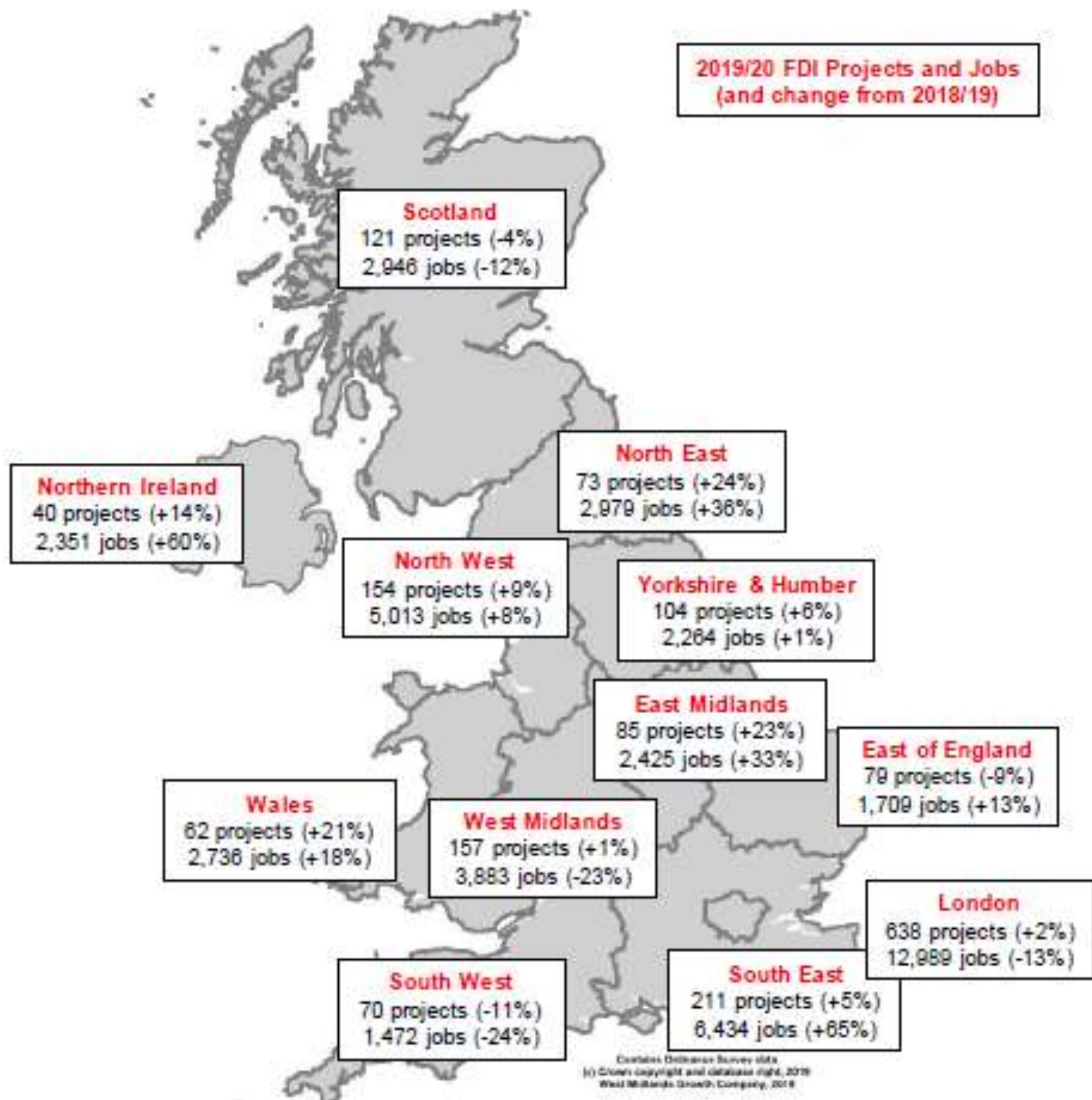
Regional FDI



Regional FDI

Even though the Department for International Trade do not release data for other Local Enterprise Partnerships it does release information for each UK Region. See map below for other regions but in 2019/20 the West Midlands Region (comprising the 7 West Midlands Metropolitan Areas, Telford, Stoke on Trent, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire) received 157 FDI projects creating 3,883 new jobs. No safeguarded jobs figure was released.

From these results we see that, the West Midlands region attracted the third highest number of projects (after London and the South East), and has done for the last five years.



FDI into the WMCA area 2018-2019

Official FDI data released by the Department for International Trade stated that the West Midlands Combined Authority area received 130 FDI projects which created 3,558 new jobs and safeguarded another 2,220. In addition to these 131 projects there were also 18 multi-site projects (i.e. those investments which occurred in more than one location.) Jobs from multi-site projects are allocated nationally, not to individual LEPs. Jobs created from these multi-site investments are not included in the WMCA analysis

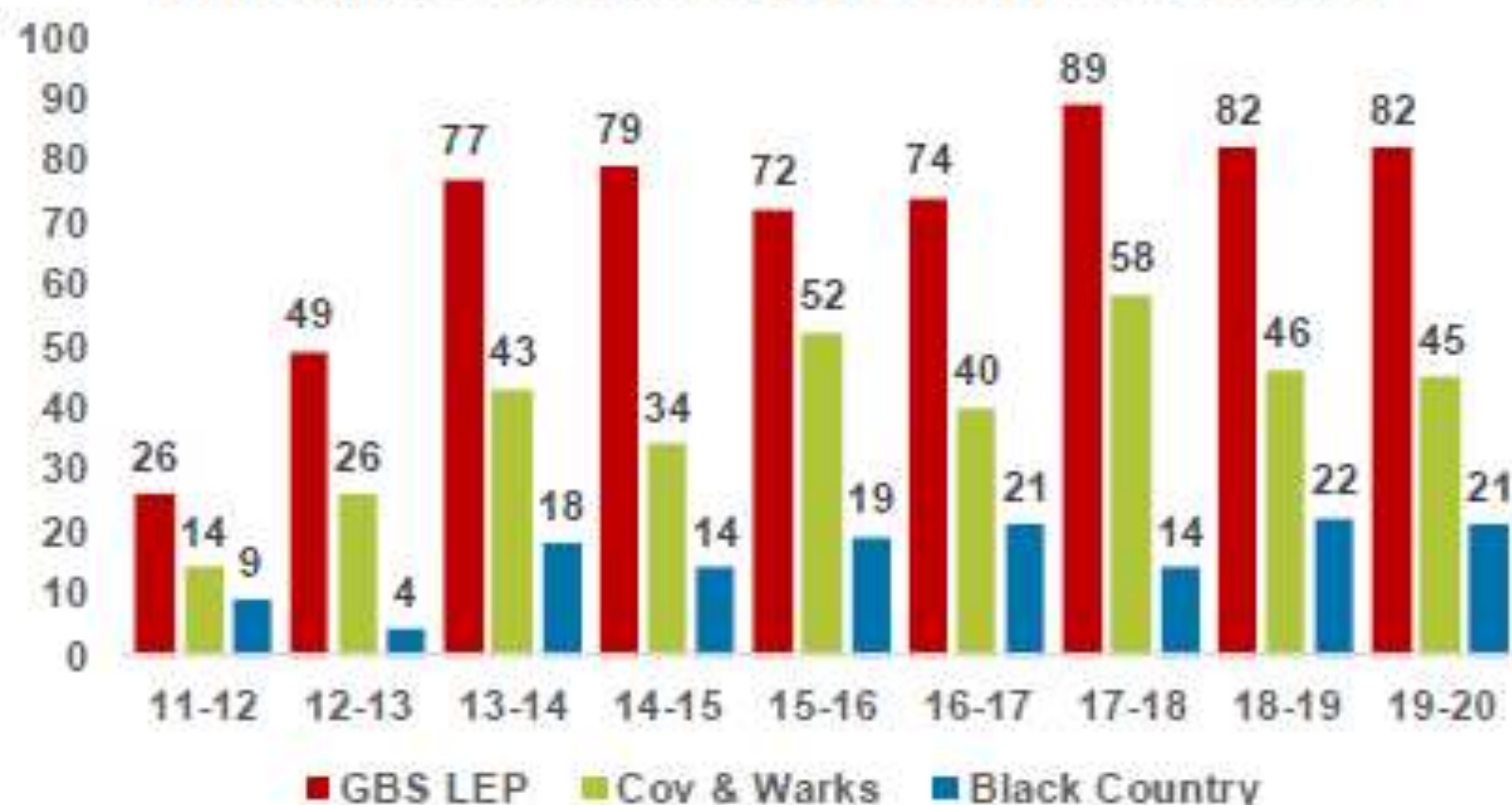
Please see chart below for breakdown by Local Enterprise Partnership area -

2019/20	GtrBham&S	CovWarks	BlkCtry	WMCA
Projects	72	41	17	130
Multi-site	10	4	4	18
Total projects	82	45	21	148
New jobs	1,709	1,522	327	3,558
Safe jobs	1,148	860	212	2,220
Total jobs	2,857	2,382	539	5,778



Below is the project numbers received by each WMCA LEP since 2011 showing that, even though there was a slight fall in project numbers, it was still one of the most productive years for investment in the last nine years

FDI Projects into WMCA by LEP 2011/12 to 2018/19



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

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In partnership with:

