

# West Midlands Weekly Economic Impact Monitor



Issue 28 Publication Date 2/10/20

**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, ONS published a review of the last 6 months, and the effect the pandemic has had on people. As time has gone on more people believe it will be more than a year before life returns to normal, lockdown has raised anxiety and it remains above the levels pre covid, but happiness has levelled back to levels similar to those pre covid. We are seeing cases rising across the EU and increasing restrictions in the UK, as the government balances health and the economy.

## Key issues:

- Infection rates have grown across Europe. And there is clear evidence of an increase in people testing positive, but compared to other regions the West Midlands is showing a smaller increase. Hospital admissions are also rising, with a small rise in deaths so far.
- Recent resurgence of the virus in Europe is taking a toll on the service sector, [flash PMI](#) for output at the European level at a 3 month low to 47.6 signalling contraction, whereas manufacturing is at a 31 month high.
- House prices in the month of September have risen at their fastest pace in four years. The housing market continues to defy the downturn and uncertainty elsewhere in the economy. According to the [Nationwide House Price Index Property](#) values increased by 5 per cent in the year to September.
- [Revised Q2 GDP](#) data shows the fall in GDP was slightly less pronounced than originally expected
- Latest UK business data (still pre covid) shows there were 151k enterprises in the WMCA area an increase of 4.5% on the previous year, with 2.5% with turnover over £5m (higher than the UK) and also higher levels (7.4%) of companies with turnover between £1m and £4.9m. We have yet to see how these figures will be affected by the pandemic.
- Since government advice was reintroduced asking people to work from home where able, the road network has experienced a slight shrinkage in demand. The Metro is operating a full service with patronage at around 75%.
- For the week ending the 20<sup>th</sup> September, the overall UK footfall remains similar to for the week starting 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 which was around 72% of the 2019 level. Although, the latest weekend figures show footfall has increased for high streets and shopping centres. 23.4% of West Midlands businesses reported in the last two weeks that footfall had decreased when compared to normal expectations for the time of the year
- Less than 1% of UK businesses reported they have permanently ceased trading with 2.7% temporarily closed or paused trading and 96.5% continuing to trade
- 11.2% of West Midlands businesses reported that operating costs exceeded turnover by at least 20% (UK 13.5%) and 9.0% reported that turnover was equal to operating costs (UK 11.9%). While 56.1% of West Midlands businesses reported turnover exceeded operating costs by at least 20%
- 17.6% of West Midlands businesses reported an increase in demand for goods or services sold in the last two weeks; 62.2% reported no increase (65.4% UK).
- For the West Midlands region, the total online jobs adverts increased from 59.8% (11<sup>th</sup> September) to 61.8% (18<sup>th</sup> September) of its 2019 average

## ONS a Diary of a Nation:

- The proportion of people who thought it would be more than a year before life returns to normal increased through lockdown
- Levels of anxiety and happiness saw the greatest change when lockdown was introduced, compared with pre-pandemic levels
- Worry about the future was the factor receiving most comments regarding impact on people's well-being during the pandemic
- 87% of parents said they had home-schooled children, but only half of adults felt confident in their abilities, 43% said it was negatively affecting their child's wellbeing and 36% said it was putting a strain on their relationship. By mid-June 60% said children were struggling to continue their education at home

- The number of people meeting up with others and visiting pubs or restaurants rose throughout the summer. Visiting pubs and restaurants rose nearly 30% (from only 10%) from mid-July to September.
- More people reported having worn face coverings in public places following regulations being introduced. Up to nearly 100% stated they have worn them outside by the end of August.
- Over half of working adults were travelling to work by the end of August. Home only working has dropped to 20%
- 58% of parents said they were either very or somewhat worried about children returning school or college
- In late August the coronavirus pandemic was seen by a third of people as the most important issue facing Britain, followed by the economy

## Brexit

- A recent conference in the region on Brexit has highlighted that manufacturing is likely to be the sector hardest hit. This is a key concern for the West Midlands. The impacts will vary across different subsectors based on a range of different impacts
- Even in the event of a deal being agreed the added burden of bureaucracy such as proof of identity of parts will increase costs for businesses and threaten just in time delivery
- 8.9% of the service sector's GDP is also at risk in the Midlands
- Brexit is likely to have a bigger impact on GDP than the pandemic; a vaccine will to some extent reverse the pandemic impact but Brexit is a structural change. The combination of the two are seen as a toxic combination with distinct impacts interacting

## Global Outlook

### Ben Brittain WMREDI

Germany has followed in the footsteps of other European countries like France, Spain and the UK in imposing increased restrictions on public and private parties, aiming to halt a resurgence in coronavirus infections in the country.

Spanish politicians are [urging authorities](#) in Madrid to enforce more stringent measures as a dispute between national and local governments on the virus response intensifies.

The virus is also extending its surge across the U.S. Midwest, with the rise in cases in North Dakota similar to the rises of those seen in Florida two months ago. In New York, which had reportedly successfully controlled the virus after strict lockdown measures, cases have hit the highest level in months. New York states has [topped 1,000](#) new cases for the first time since June.

The European Union's 1.8 trillion-euro stimulus package is in danger of being delayed as a result of disagreement between member states. German officials have said a delay is becoming "increasingly likely" owing to a rising number of blockades on the budget negotiations between member states.

U.S. equity-index futures [tumbled](#) a little after the US Presidential debate and European futures are negative heading into mid-week. Comparatively, Asian shares are rising on the back of data showing signs of a [strong recovery](#) in Chinese factory activity. In its third estimate of Q2 GDP the [US economic contraction](#) was revised slightly higher, from -31.7% to -31.4%.

[Deloitte](#) highlight that the recent resurgence of the virus in Europe is taking a toll on the service sector, [flash PMI](#) for output at the European level at a 3 month low to 47.6 signalling contraction, whereas manufacturing is at a 31 month high. This is likely due to consumer confidence leading to a decline in employment. The path of the economies across Europe will depend on the path of the virus. Again though savings continue to increase, suggesting pent up demand and cash available. However the Deloitte have noted that the upturn in cases is not translating in a similar reduction in the economy as seen earlier in the Spring.

### National Outlook

In the U.K., meanwhile, Prime Minister Boris Johnson had [to apologise](#) after wrongly explaining his own government's restrictions, confused over rules for those

citizens in the North East.

House prices in the month of September have risen at their fastest pace in four years. The housing market continues to defy the downturn and uncertainty elsewhere in the economy.

According to the [Nationwide House Price Index Property](#) values increased by 5 per cent in the year to September.

[Revised Q2 GDP](#) data shows the fall in GDP was slightly less pronounced as originally expected. The original official estimate was of a 20.4% but the first-quarter contraction was revised down from 2.2 per cent to 2.5 per cent. Overall, for the six months to June, GDP shrank 21.8 per cent compared with the earlier estimate of 22.1 per cent.

### Regional Outlook

The design of the proposed [new station at Perry Barr](#), due to be open from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, has come under significant criticism and has been likened to a shoebox.

The WMCA released proposals online with plans for the redevelopment of the station were submitted to Birmingham City Council this week, with images released showing the design.

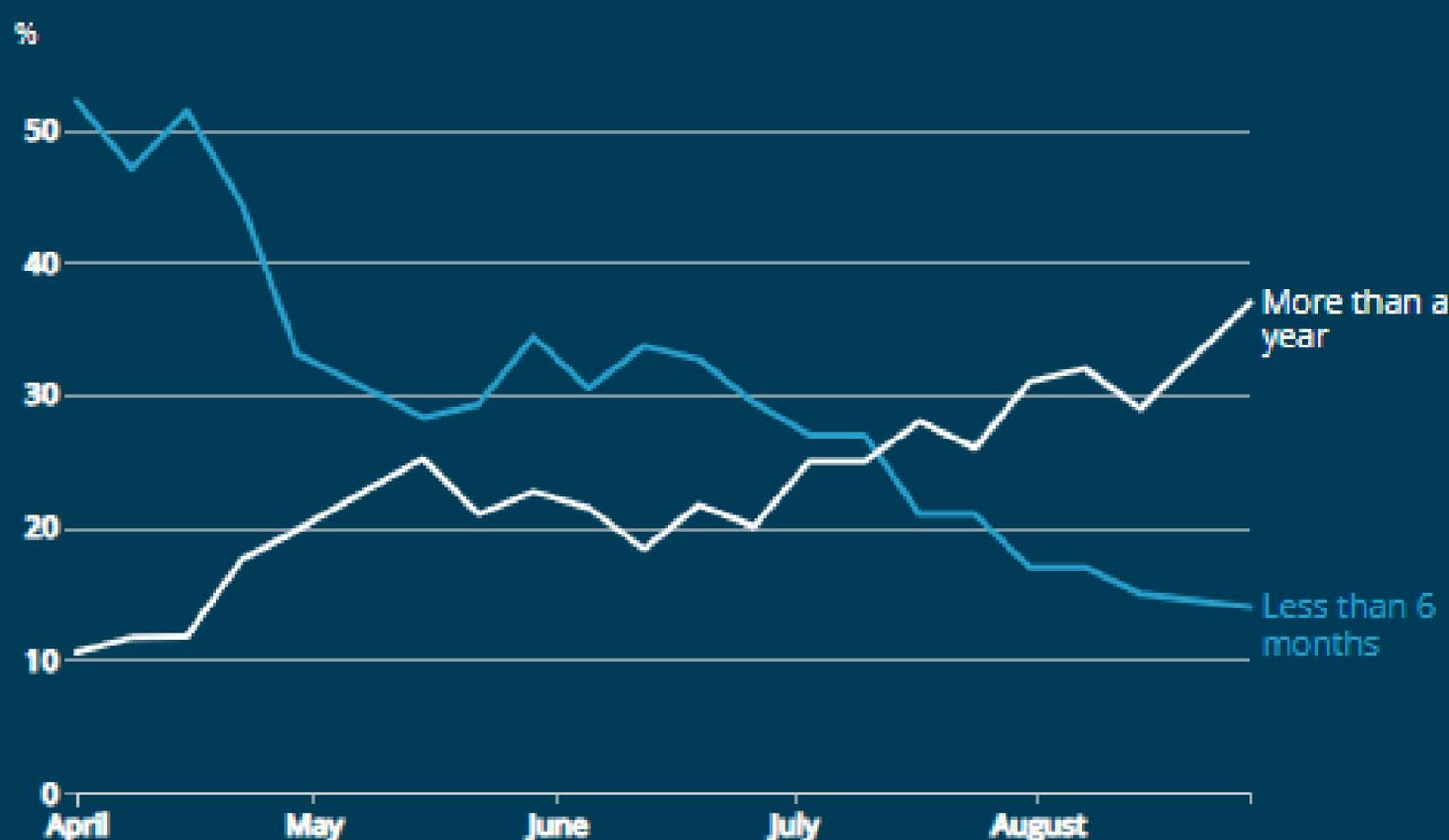
Across the West Midlands the rate of infection is increasing, but not accelerating at the rates seen in Liverpool or the North East. To help support test and trace, Birmingham Local Authority has requested the help of [the RAF](#) to door knock in hotspot wards, like Sparkhill and Shard End.

March 2020

## Whilst in self-isolation, my life is on hold.

Lockdown measures were first introduced on 23 March. While this created huge changes for many, with schools, workplaces and all non-essential retailers being ordered to close, more than half of adults surveyed at the time said they thought life would be back to normal within six months. By late August, "more than a year" was the most popular response, with over a third (37%) of adults saying they thought this is how long the pandemic would last.

**The proportion of people who thought it would be more than a year before life returns to normal increased throughout lockdown**



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Lack of any idea about when and how things might "return to normal".

Uncertainty ahead. No vaccine ready. Not being able to go out with the kids to do basic things such as the park, cinema, or walk around.

April 2020

I'm at the wrong end of life to have quality and length of life stolen.

In the first two weeks of April, half of adults said their well-being was being affected by the pandemic. By this time, many had been confined to their homes, except for essential shopping and exercise, for several weeks.

Alongside this, the number of death registrations involving COVID-19 was at its highest: the number of weekly deaths in England and Wales recorded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) was 8,758 on the week ending 17 April. In the same week, lockdown measures were extended for a further three weeks.

Levels of anxiety and happiness saw the greatest change when lockdown was introduced, compared with pre-pandemic levels.



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

I miss being able to hug the people that I love and can't be with. Skype is great, but it's not the same.

[I am] very unhappy and stressed, can't see any end to this.

Throughout April, more than three-quarters of adults said that staying in touch with family and friends remotely, helped them to cope.

Have no social life as can't see my son or friends so feeling isolated and lonely.

Worry about the future was the most common factor impacting people's well-being during the pandemic



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

**May 2020**

**The expectation from our employers is high and there is very little time to help our twins. It is very stressful, and I feel incredibly guilty.**

Between 7 May and 7 June 2020, 87% of parents said a child in their household had been homeschooled because of the coronavirus.

Only half of adults said they felt confident in their abilities to homeschool, 43% said homeschooling was negatively affecting their child's well-being, and 36% said homeschooling was putting a strain on their relationships.

At the end of May, 39% of parents reported that their children were struggling to continue their education at home, and this rose to 60% by mid-June. The most common reasons given were a lack of motivation, and a lack of parents' time to provide support.

**My wife is struggling to teach our daughter while I'm working. It is extremely stressful, there are constant rows and awful behaviour.**

**My child is not motivated to self-direct her learning and her education is really suffering.**

**Only one child was allowed to go back to school, so rather than adding additional strain to the school, we kept her home with her sisters.**

**I've actually really enjoyed having my family home and homeschooling our kids.**

## June 2020

**I still don't feel safe when I go outside, not everyone keeps their distance.**

As lockdown measures eased across the country during May, June and July, many people were able to spend more time outdoors and socialise with loved ones.

### The number of people meeting up with others and visiting pubs or restaurants rose throughout the summer

Proportion of people who said they'd left home in the last seven days for different reasons



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

At this time of changing restrictions, people were less certain, with the proportion of adults that said they had enough information about the UK's plans for dealing with the virus at its lowest (41%) on the weekend following the first easing of lockdown measures in England in mid-May.

While individuals' freedoms increased, the dangers presented by the virus were still clear to see, with deaths registered in England and Wales involving COVID-19 reaching a total of 50,000 in the week up to 26 June. Seeing others going out and socialising could have also intensified feelings of loneliness and anxiety for those still staying at home or self-isolating, as loneliness rose in mid-June, with one in five people reporting feeling lonely.

“

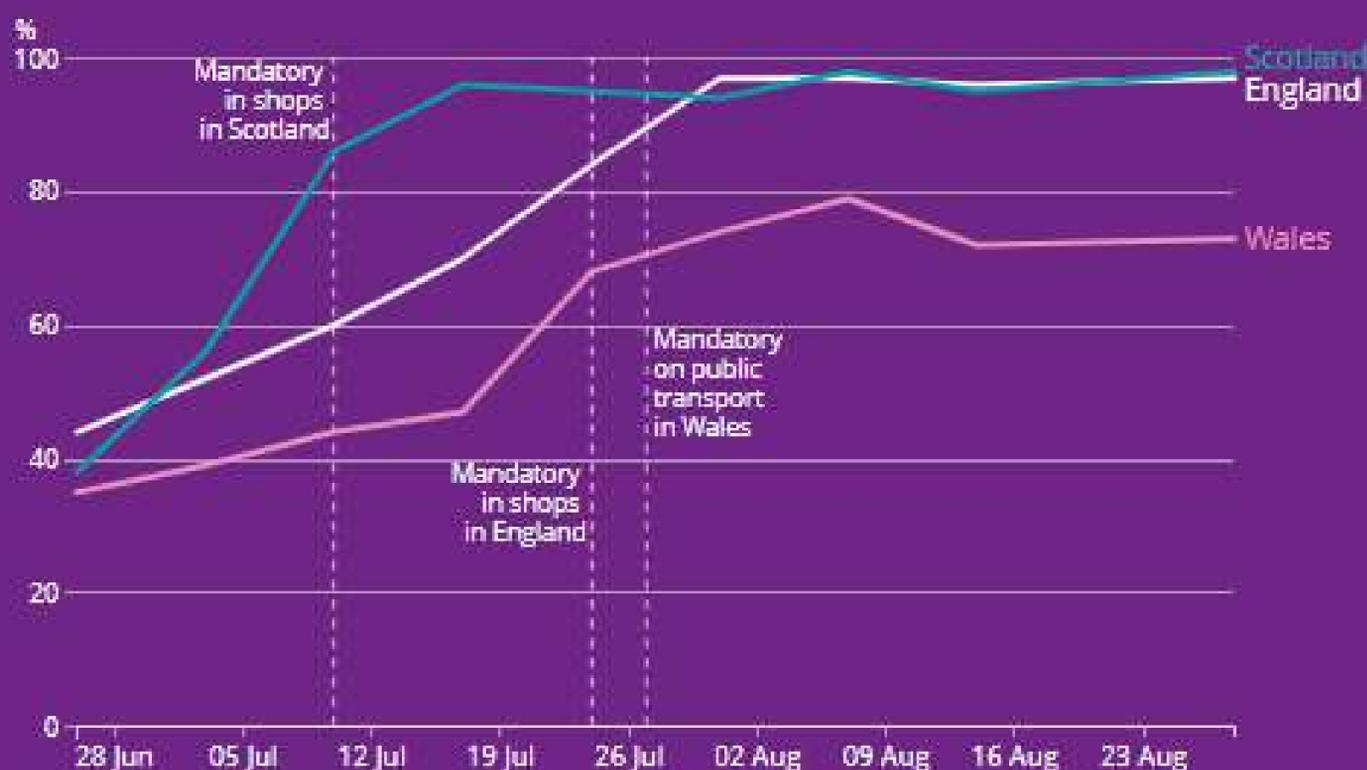
**My neighbour has little to no regard for the rules and frequently has large gatherings of people breaking social distancing, drinking together outside my home.**

July 2020

The use of face coverings was made mandatory at different times across Great Britain, and the proportion of adults reporting having worn a face covering in the last seven days increased in line with when they became a requirement.

### More people reported having worn face coverings in public places following regulations being introduced

The proportion of people reporting having worn a face covering in public in the last seven days, by country



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

“

I now have shopping delivered, because I DON'T want to wear a mask.

“

Missing human touch and general interaction affected by mask wearing – missing a lot of communication and connection as a result.

## August 2020

The effect on the economy came to light in August, when figures showed the UK had entered a recession in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) of 2020, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) falling by a record 20.4%.

The main ways adults reported that the coronavirus pandemic was affecting their household finances were reduced income, struggling to pay bills, struggling to save, and using savings to cover living costs. At the end of August, a quarter of adults reported they expect that the financial position of their household will get a little or a lot worse over the next 12 months.

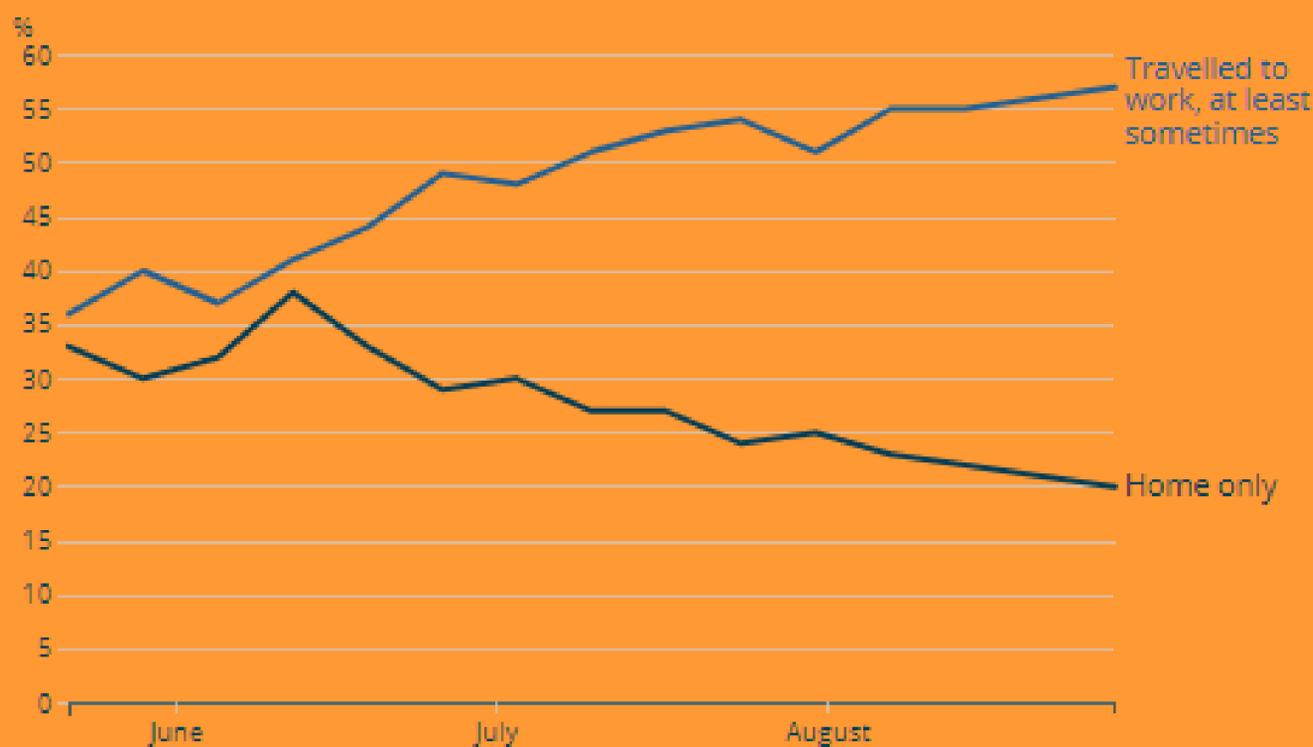
“

**I have not got the money to do the things I did before lockdown. I doubt I will be able to go to work until there is a vaccine for Covid-19 so I am struggling with money.**

Throughout the summer, many were "returning to work". By August, more than half of working adults reported travelling into work, compared with just 36% in late May.

### Over half of working adults were travelling to work by the end of August

Location of work in the last week, Great Britain, May to August 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

I'm saving more money (due to not commuting and not shopping for non-essentials as much or spending on social activities)

Very very slow internet speed and number of people working from home makes connecting and staying connected very hard.

My employer has opened the office but I have no desire to increase my risk of exposure in this environment unless it is compulsory, which it is not.

I am too anxious to go to work and be exposed to many people at once. Despite special measures being in place I still feel very vulnerable whilst there.

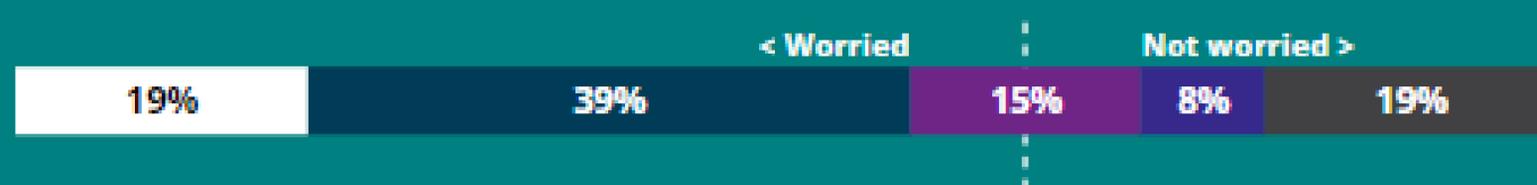
September 2020

Children in Scotland returned to school in late August, and as September approached, many parents in England and Wales were looking ahead to the new school term.

Over half of parents said they were very or somewhat worried about the young people in their household returning to school.

**58% of parents said they were either very or somewhat worried about children in their household returning to school or college for the autumn term, 12-16 August**

Very worried
  Somewhat worried
  Neither worried nor unworried
   
 Somewhat unworried
  Not at all worried



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

My son was too anxious and did not like the new bubble system as he was not with his friends.

I can go to college to do partial work, but by appointment only, it's not the same.

I've had my A-Level exams cancelled and have no idea how the start of Uni will happen in September.

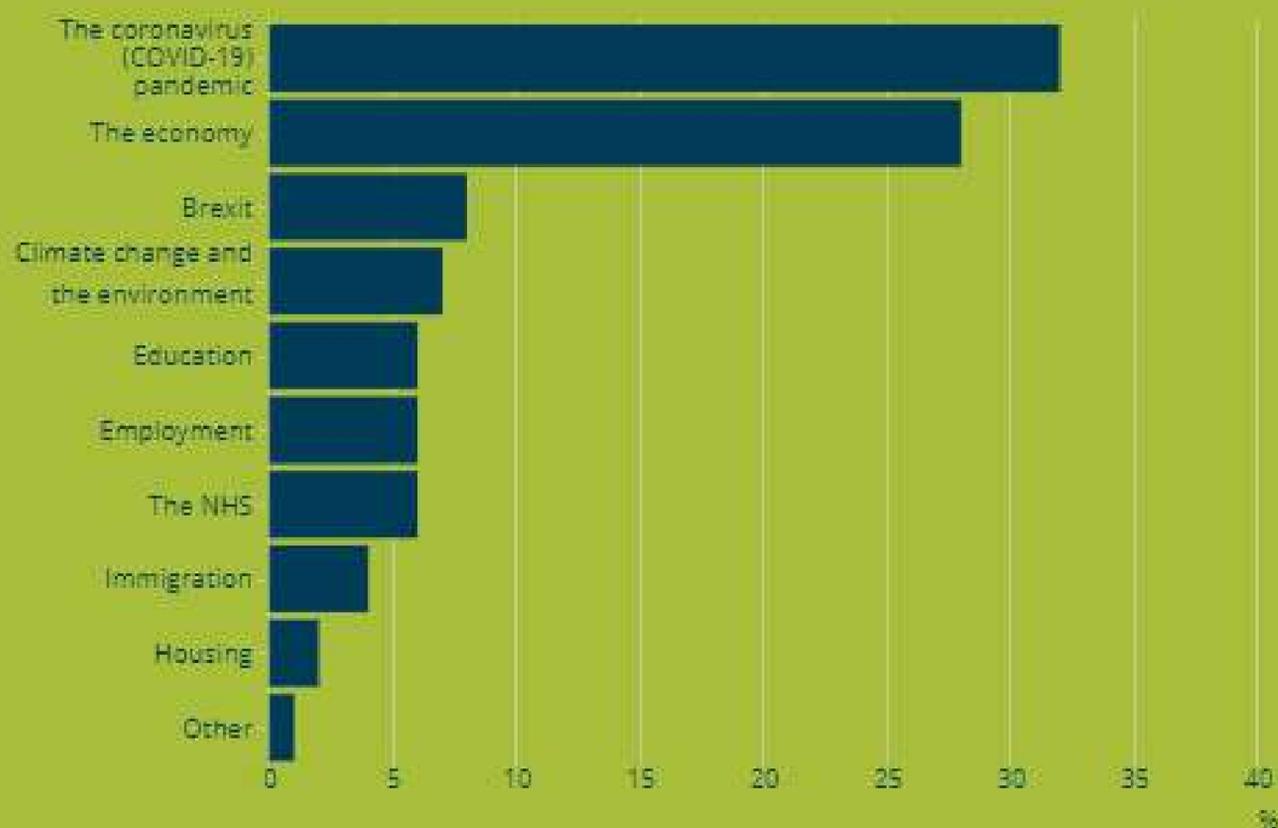
No worries [about to returning to school.] Children attended school through lockdown. School were amazing dealing with everything and keeping children in bubbles, I have every confidence this will be the same in September.

## Looking ahead

**We need to tackle rising inequality which the pandemic has thrown into sharp relief e.g. hitting BAME communities harder than others.**

Following five months of restrictions, in August a third of adults said that the coronavirus pandemic was the most important issue facing Britain today.

**In late August, the coronavirus pandemic was seen by a third of people as the most important issue facing Britain, followed by the economy**



Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

I am cautious and inhibited to expand social activity further by threat of a "second wave" of the virus emerging, and consider the threat to be very real.

**Inequality is the most important issue facing Britain today.**

**Worry for the future economy which will have big implications on young people.**

Some people have reported positive impacts resulting from the pandemic. These include cleaner air and less pollution, saving money through not commuting or going out, and having more time for hobbies and interests.

I don't spend money as freely because I can't. I appreciate the little things that matter more.

My diet has got a lot better due to home cooking proper food instead of pizzas.

## Infection rates

Rebecca Riley WMREDI/WMCA

Europe has seen a [resurgence in infection rates](#) which is continuing (see graph below). Since 31 December 2019 and as of 23rd [September 2020](#), **33 714 595 cases** of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including **1 008 932 deaths**. In Europe: 5 070 384 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (1 167 805), Spain (758 172), France (550 690), United Kingdom (446 156) and Italy (313 011). The distributions of global infections and deaths are below.

[Latest ONS data](#) (25<sup>th</sup> September) An estimated 103,600 people (95% credible interval: 85,600 to 123,400) within the community population in England had the coronavirus (COVID-19) during the most recent week, from 13 to 19 September 2020, equating to around 1 in 500 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 600 to 1 in 400). The estimate shows the number of infections has increased in recent weeks.

In recent weeks, there has been clear evidence of an increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in all age groups, with the current rates highest in the 17 to 24 years age group.

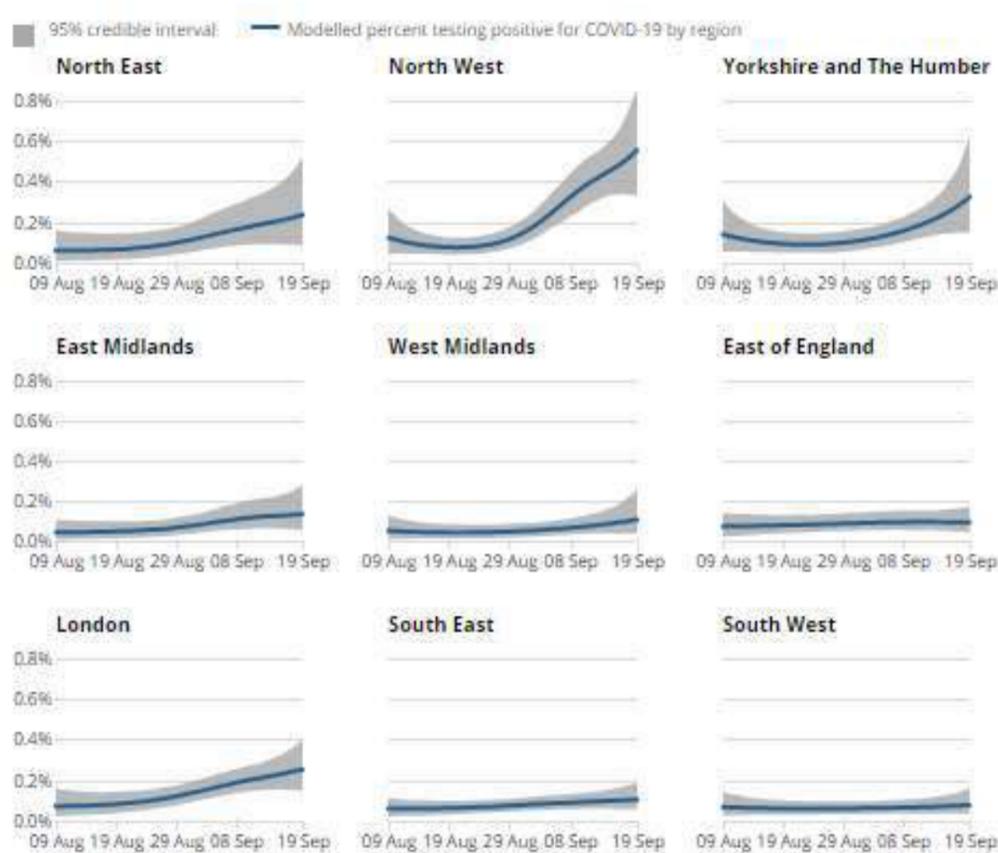
There is evidence of higher infection rates in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, London and North East; both West and East Midlands are recently showing a small increase.

During the most recent week (13 to 19 September 2020), we estimate there were around 1.75 (95% credible interval: 1.31 to 2.30) new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people per day in the community population in England, equating to around 9,600 new cases per day (95% credible interval: 7,100 to 12,600).

The estimate shows that the incidence rate for England has increased in recent weeks.

In England, between 26 April and 08 September, 6.2% of people tested positive for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 on a blood test, suggesting they had the infection in the past; the percentage of people testing positive for antibodies is higher in London than in the East Midlands, the South East and the South West of England.

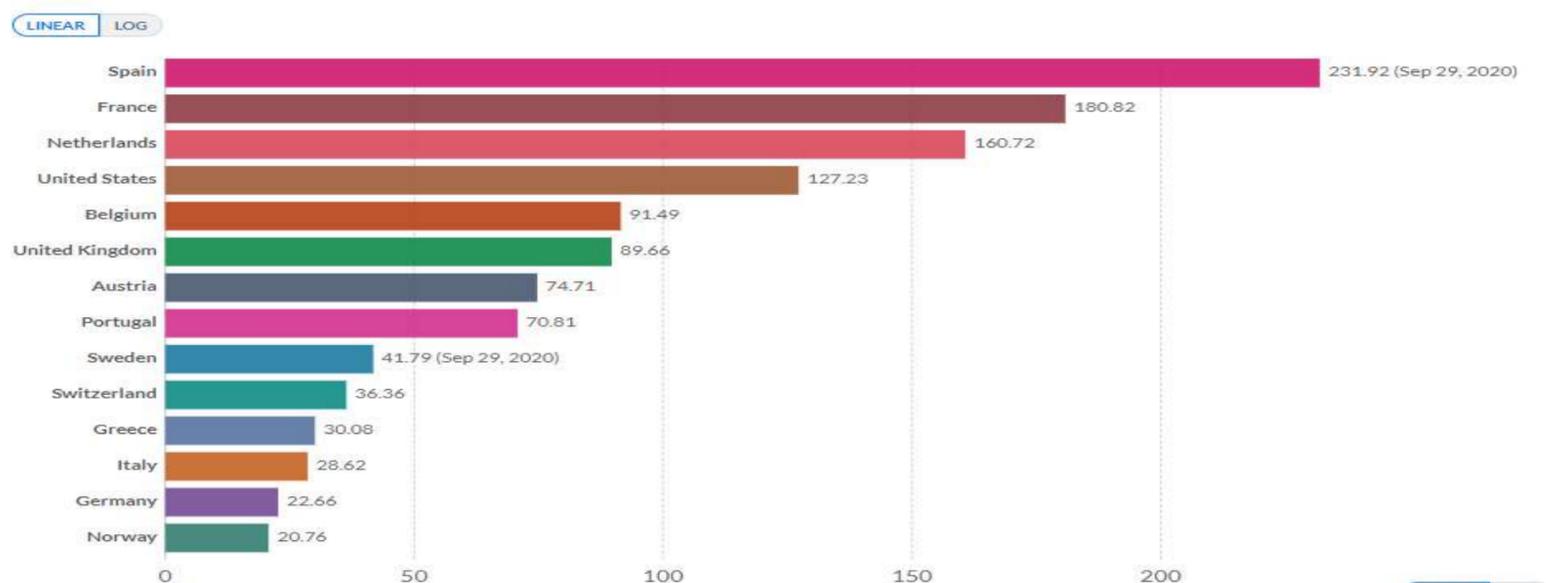
During the most recent week (13 to 19 September 2020), we estimate that 10,800 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 4,400 to 20,200), equating to 1 in 300 people (95 % credible interval: 1 in 700 to 1 in 200). We have extended the survey to Northern Ireland; during the most recent two weeks (6 to 19 September 2020), we estimate that 0.35% of people in Northern Ireland had COVID-19 (95% confidence interval: 0.11% to 0.84%), which is around 1 in 300 people (95 % credible interval: 1 in 900 to 1 in 100).



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

### Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people, Sep 30, 2020

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

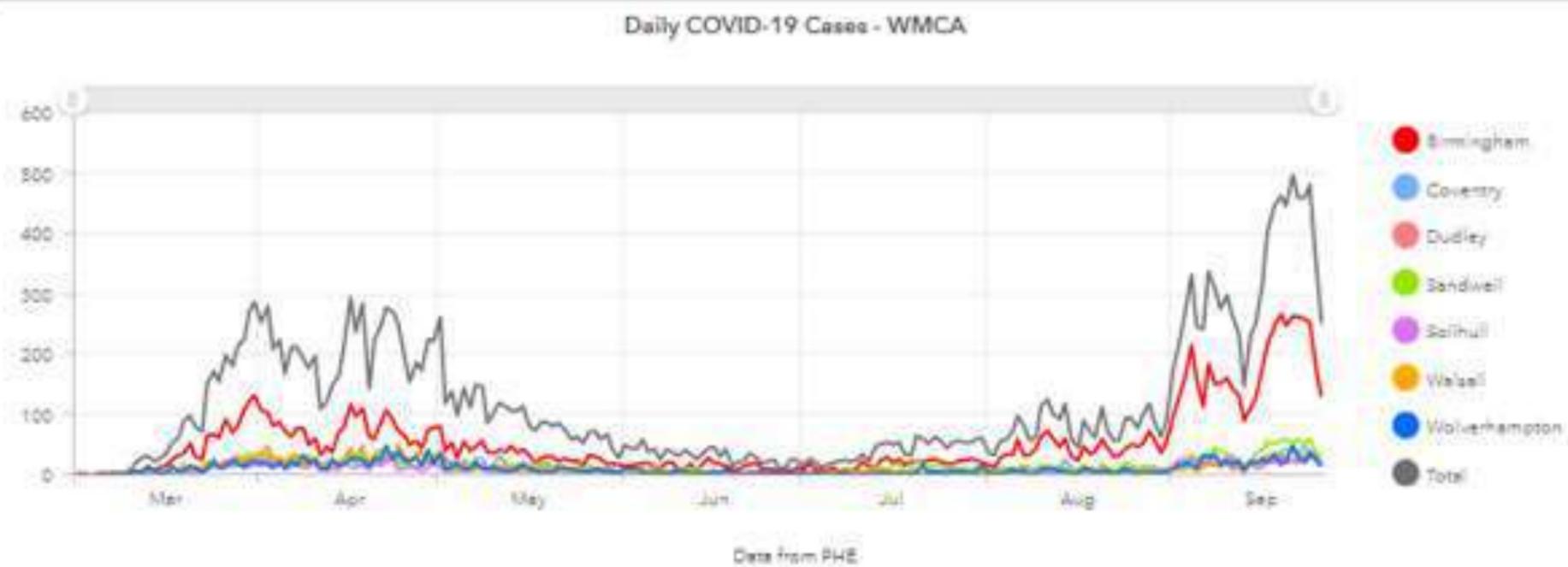


Source: European CDC - Situation Update Worldwide - Last updated 30 September, 10:05 (London time)

Dec 31, 2019

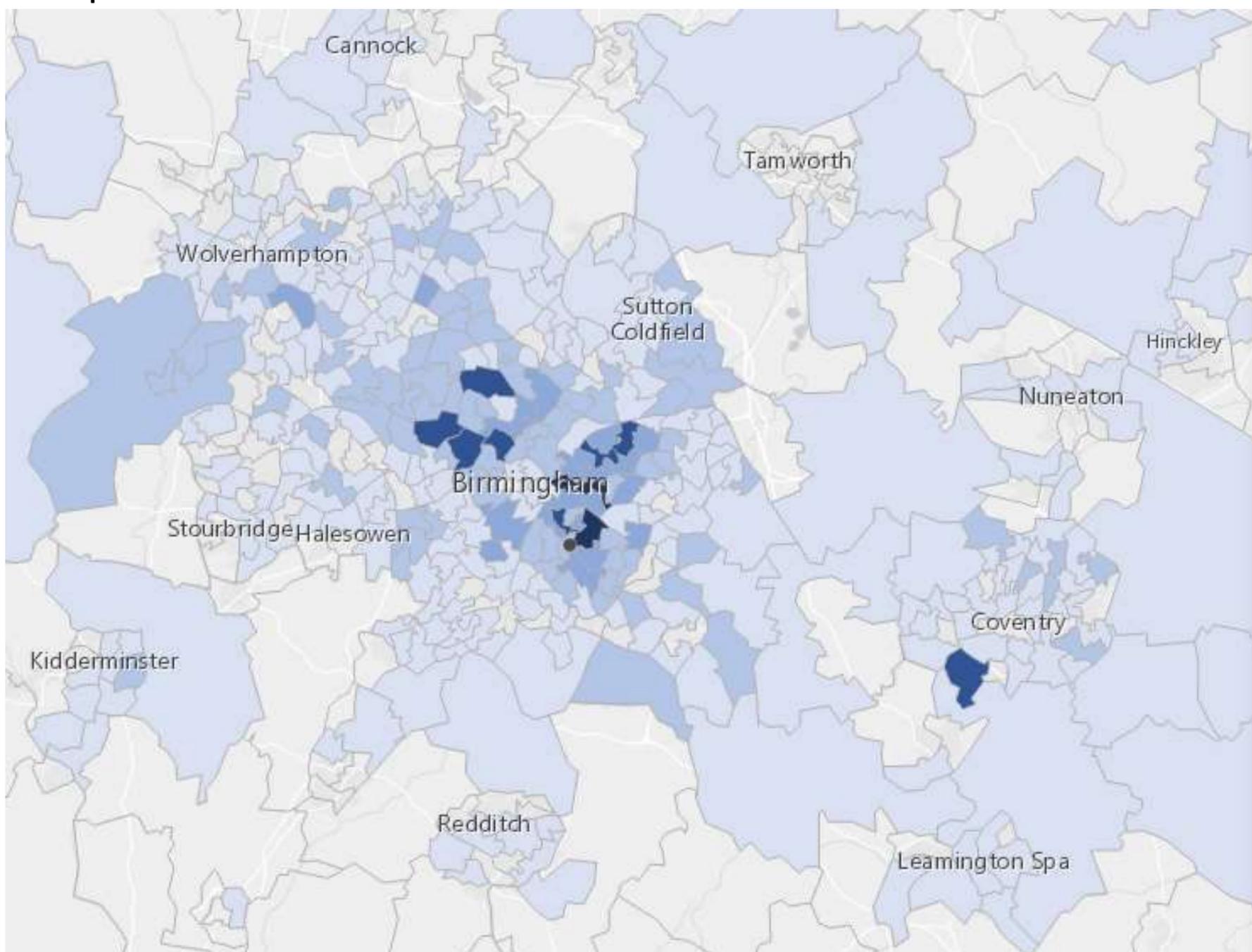
Sep 30, 2020

## Latest Public Health Data (source PHE data)



The image below shows that there are hotspots for infections emerging, a significant one is the area around the University of Warwick and more deprived areas of inner Birmingham.

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) positive cases by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) in England – 20<sup>th</sup> Sept to 26<sup>th</sup> September



**Centre for Brexit Studies Conference-  
Global Birmingham  
Alex de Ruyter BCU**

**Worries for UK Automotive**

One of the panels considered the prospects for manufacturing. Professor Bailey noted that manufacturing was likely to be the sector hardest hit by Brexit, a point reiterated by Professor Ortega-Argilés. This is undoubtedly a point of concern in a region where manufacturing and services related to it account for almost one-third of economic activity (again pointed out by both).

Whilst the primary problem will vary by sector, a wide range of manufacturing industries will be hit, particularly in a no-deal scenario. For the automotive sector, tariffs are a particular threat, whereas for aerospace the threats are different. Indeed, as pointed out by Professor Bailey and Ian Henry of AutoAnalysis, in the case of the automotive sector there is the added challenge of low local content (unless trade partners agree a deal that includes cumulation).

Even in the event of a last-minute agreement between the UK and EU, this problem will not go away. Firms will need to be able to demonstrate the origin of parts, yet at present firms often have very poor visibility of their supply chains (in contrast to aerospace, where for safety reasons, understanding of the entire supply chain is much better). Insofar as this information exists, it is not held centrally or in systems that could be easily integrated.

Ian Henry also pointed out the challenges that customs checks will present for just-in-time processes that have been honed over many years. He suggested that these non-tariff barriers might be the equivalent of anywhere between ad-valorem tariffs of 1.5% and 9% according to a plethora of studies. In spite of the uncertainty, there are reasons to believe that due to the complexity of supply chains, the automotive sector would fall at the higher end of this spectrum.

It is not as simple as re-routing traffic – the nature of freight transport (roll-on, roll-off vs. lift-on, lift-off) and vehicle capacities will all need to be considered.

Panellists were unanimous that they don't see an upside to manufacturing, regardless of the form of Brexit, although they viewed a trade agreement as vastly preferable to "no deal" for manufacturers.

Amongst manufacturers, Professor Bailey noted that there was a spectrum of severity, depending on the nature of changes. Food & drink manufacturing was particularly exposed given its high dependence on both trade (and high tariffs in the absence of a trade-deal) and migrant labour. EU countries provide a significant proportion of the workforce in parts of the sector.

This was reiterated by Professor Ortega-Argilés, who pointed out that even if its viability wasn't ultimately threatened there would be price increases (over 5%) and that increases in intermediate costs would erode any benefits that one might imagine would accrue to domestic producers from higher prices. Moreover, she noted that around 8.9% of the service sector's GDP in the West Midlands would be impacted by Brexit. This poses a major challenge.

Indeed, she suggested that Brexit would ultimately have a larger impact on GDP in the West Midlands than the pandemic. In the event of a successful vaccine, much of the pandemic-induced fall in GDP will be reversed. This is not true of Brexit, where annual GDP might be in the region of 6-9% lower than it otherwise might have been. In addition, regions like the West Midlands will have to bear persistent restructuring costs (in the West Midlands this is likely to fall particularly heavily on the automotive sector and related industries).

Brexit and Covid were thus seen by panellists as a toxic combination, with each having distinct impacts that interact. The pandemic has forced business services into a dramatic attempt to restructure and a shortage of ICT skills is clearly a challenge (particularly for smaller firms). Yet the additional bureaucracy of Brexit will hinder productivity. The understandable focus on Covid has meant that we are not considering the impact of Brexit on longer-term productivity.

Jack Dromey MP presented evidence from a network of SMEs, sounding a note of alarm over the scale of redundancies. Again, he noted that Brexit and Covid are seen as a toxic combination and there are frustrations over the (small) scale of investment relative to France and Germany. He noted that greater devolution and a reallocation of (public sector) capital spending by population would go some way to ameliorating these problems.

Ian Henry noted that, in the event of a "no deal" outcome, the optimum solution might be to continue trying to get a trade deal (a late trade deal is better than a non-existent one). Mass-market manufacturers are likely to be heavily affected and EU tariffs will probably make UK production unviable. Some 90% of production from Ellesmere Port (Vauxhall), 85% from Burnaston (Toyota) and over 65% of production from Sunderland (Nissan) is exported to the EU.

Whilst not a substitute to demand from the EU, it was suggested that some direct intervention might help. This could be done via procurement rules or incentives to use UK-built vehicles in the public and regulated sectors. The need for a major UK battery factory was also noted.

## UK Business: Activity, Size and Location - September 2020 BCC EIU

The UK Business: activity, size and location dataset released today provides a snapshot of the Business Demography dataset from March 2020 and provides a breakdown by sector and turnover breakdown. **Please note, the impacts from Coronavirus will not be captured in this release.**

The fuller Business Demography is released in November each year which provides the total number of active enterprises in each location.

The following briefing is based on enterprises as opposed to local units.

### Key points:

The snapshot from March 2020 (pre COVID-19) shows there were **151,635 enterprises** in the WMCA (3 LEP) area, an increase of **4.7% (+6,865 enterprises)** compared to March 2019 snapshot, while the UK increased by 1.2%.

The WMCA (3 LEP) area had a higher proportion of enterprises with turnover over £5m at 2.5% (3,810) when compared to UK at 2.4%. The WMCA (3 LEP) area was also above the UK proportion with turnover between £1m - £4.99m at 7.4% (11,200), while the UK average was 7.0% and the proportion of enterprises with turnover between £250,000 - £999,999 was 22.7% (34,390) of the WMCA (3 LEP) total, while the UK stood at 20.2%.

In the WMCA (3 LEP) area, **the sector with the highest proportion of enterprises was the business professional and financial services which accounted for 35.1%** of the

business base, this is slightly above the UK average of 33.8%.

### In Detail:

The snapshot from March 2020 (pre COVID-19) shows there were 151,635 enterprises in the WMCA (3 LEP) area, an increase of 4.7% (+6,865 enterprises) compared to March 2019 snapshot, while the UK increased by 1.2%.

In the West Midlands 7 Met. area there were 91,150 enterprises, an increase of 2.8% (+2,525 enterprises) from 2019 snapshot.

Across the West Midlands region, there were 221,910 enterprises. This is an increase of 3.7% (+7,995) compared to the previous year snapshot.

There were 34,360 enterprises in the Black Country LEP in the 2020 snapshot, an increase of 2.4% (+805) from 2019 snapshot, Coventry and Warwickshire LEP had 38,355 enterprises and increased by 0.8% (+310). In Birmingham and Solihull LEP, there were 78,920 enterprises, increasing by 7.9% (+5,750 enterprises) since the 2019 snapshot.

ONS: UK Business; activity, size and location: 2020 – released 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

ONS state that an enterprise can be thought as the overall business, made up of all the individual sites or workplaces. It is defined as the smallest combination of legal units that has a certain degree of autonomy within an enterprise group. A local unit is an individual site (for example a factory or shop) associated with an enterprise. It can also be referred to as *workplace*.

	2019 Snapshot	2020 Snapshot	Number Change	Percentage Change
Birmingham	36,710	38,370	1,660	4.5%
Bromsgrove	5,640	9,180	3,540	62.8%
Cannock Chase	3,385	3,430	45	1.3%
Coventry	10,065	10,120	55	0.5%
Dudley	9,645	9,940	295	3.1%
East Staffordshire	4,760	4,845	85	1.8%
Lichfield	4,815	4,750	-65	-1.3%
North Warwickshire	2,825	2,820	-5	-0.2%
Nuneaton and Bedworth	3,970	3,830	-140	-3.5%
Redditch	3,015	3,235	220	7.3%
Rugby	5,050	5,170	120	2.4%
Sandwell	8,885	9,105	220	2.5%
Solihull	8,295	8,305	10	0.1%
Stratford-on-Avon	8,450	8,475	25	0.3%
Tamworth	2,345	2,350	5	0.2%
Walsall	7,660	7,865	205	2.7%
Warwick	7,685	7,940	255	3.3%
Wolverhampton	7,360	7,450	90	1.2%
Wyre Forest	4,205	4,450	245	5.8%
<b>WM 7 Met.</b>	<b>88,625</b>	<b>91,150</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Black Country LEP	33,555	34,360	805	2.4%
Coventry and Warwickshire LEP	38,045	38,355	310	0.8%
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP	73,170	78,920	5,750	7.9%
<b>WMCA (3 LEP)</b>	<b>144,770</b>	<b>151,635</b>	<b>6,865</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
West Midlands Region	213,915	221,910	7,995	3.7%
United Kingdom	2,718,435	2,749,700	31,265	1.2%

**The table above shows the 2019 and 2020 snapshot for the number of enterprises and also the change by local authority within the WMCA (3 LEP) area**

#### Employment by Size Band

In the WMCA (3 LEP) area, 89.4% (135,535) of enterprises employ between 0-9 employees, below the UK average of 89.6%. Compared to the 2019 snapshot, the WMCA (3 LEP area) proportion increased by 0.5pp (6,895 enterprises) compared to the UK increase of 0.1pp.

Although, for the WMCA (3 LEP) area, the percentage of enterprises that employ 10-49 people was slightly above the UK average (8.6% vs 8.5%). This is despite the WMCA

(3 LEP) area decreasing by 0.5pp (-95 enterprises) when compared to the 2019 snapshot, the UK decreased by 0.1pp.

For the WMCA (3 LEP) area, 1.6% of enterprises employ 50 to 249 people and 1.5% for the UK. This has remained the same proportions for the WMCA (3 LEP) and the UK since the 2019 snapshot.

The proportion that employ over 250 people match the UK average of 0.4%. The UK proportion has remained the same since the 2019 snapshot while the WMCA (3 LEP) area decreased by 0.1pp despite a growth of 20 enterprises.

	WM 7 Met.	BCLEP	CWLEP	GBSLEP	WMCA (3 LEP)	UK
Total	91,150	34,360	38,355	78,920	151,635	2,749,700
Micro (0 to 9)	81,060	30,045	34,475	71,015	135,535	2,462,410
<b>% Micro</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>89.6%</b>
Small (10 to 49)	8,115	3,490	3,145	6,400	13,035	234,175
<b>% Small</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
Medium-sized (50 to 249)	1,545	670	550	1,170	2,390	42,395
<b>% Medium-sized</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Large (250+)	430	155	185	335	675	10,720
<b>% Large</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

The table above shows the 2020 snapshot of employment by size band for selected geography in the West Midlands and the UK

#### Turnover Band

For the WMCA (3 LEP) area, 36.6% of enterprises had turnover between £0-£99,999, this is below the UK average of 37.6%. These were the highest percentages for the WMCA (3 LEP) area and the UK out of the five turnover bands.

The WMCA (3 LEP) area had a higher proportion of enterprises with turnover over £5m at 2.5% (3,810) compared to UK at 2.4%. The WMCA (3 LEP) area was also above the UK proportions with turnover between £1m - £4.99m at 7.4% (11,200) of enterprises, while the UK average was 7.0% and enterprises with turnover between £250,000 - £999,999 with 22.7% (34,390) of the WMCA (3 LEP) total, while the UK stood at 20.2%.

The following table shows the WMCA (3 LEP) and UK turnover band from the 2020 snapshot:

	WMCA 2020	WMCA %	UK 2020	UK %
£0 - £99,999	55,545	36.6%	1,034,490	37.6%
£100,000 - £249,999	46,685	30.8%	901,405	32.8%
£250,000 - £999,999	34,390	22.7%	554,600	20.2%
£1m - £4.99m	11,200	7.4%	192,945	7.0%
£5m+	3,810	2.5%	66,260	2.4%
Total	151,635	100%	2,749,700	100%

#### Enterprises by Sector

In the WMCA (3 LEP) area, the sector with the highest proportion of enterprises was the business professional and financial services which accounted for 35.1% of the business base, this is slightly above the UK average of 33.8%. Compared to 2019 snapshot, business professional and financial services have increased by 8.8% (+4,320), above the UK average increase of 0.6%.

Retail accounted for 16.0% of the WMCA (3 LEP) business

base, which was above the UK average of 14.1%. This is followed by construction at 12.8%, below the UK average of 14.4%.

In the WMCA (3 LEP) area, four of sectors saw a decrease between 2019 snapshot data and 2020 snapshot data, the highest number decrease was in advanced manufacturing by 100 (-1.0%) enterprises – down to 9,995. Over the same period the UK increased by 0.3

Sector	WMCA 2019	WMCA 2020	WMCA 2020 % of Total	WMCA % Change 2019-2020	UK 2020	UK 2020 % of Total	UK % Change 2019-2020
Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering	10,095	9,995	6.6%	-1.0%	137,710	5.0%	0.3%
Construction (Building Technologies)	18,855	19,395	12.8%	2.9%	395,875	14.4%	2.3%
Business, Professional & Financial Services	48,860	53,180	35.1%	8.8%	930,205	33.8%	0.6%
Digital & Creative	9,245	9,205	6.1%	-0.4%	225,750	8.2%	-0.2%
Life Sciences & Healthcare	6,340	6,460	4.3%	1.9%	103,260	3.8%	1.2%
Logistics & Transport Technologies	10,445	12,030	7.9%	15.2%	123,075	4.5%	10.5%
Low Carbon & Environmental Technologies	3,765	3,750	2.5%	-0.4%	163,810	6.0%	-0.2%
Public Sector inc. Education	2,745	2,725	1.8%	-0.7%	52,665	1.9%	1.3%
Retail	24,225	24,265	16.0%	0.2%	387,035	14.1%	-0.5%
Cultural Economy inc. Sports	10,180	10,630	7.0%	4.4%	230,295	8.4%	2.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,770</b>	<b>151,635</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>2,749,700</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

## Transport Data

Anne Shaw TFWM

### Levels of use – 30th September 2020

Since government advice was reintroduced asking people to work from home where able, the road network has experienced a slight shrinkage in demand. The Aston Expressway tidal flows are still in regular use.

Localised congestion on the local road network is still occurring but at a lower level. Areas around significant roadwork schemes and school sites during pick up / drop off times being the main reason behind this.

Bus patronage varies daily but is at approx. 60% of pre-covid levels, this is showing a similar level of usage when compared with last week. Buses out on the network are operating at over 100% Social distancing is generally being adhered to. National Express are operating dynamic spares buses on affected routes to manage this.

Metro – is operating a full service with patronage at around 75% with variances at the weekend. To manage social distancing, Metro have published a journey checker to identify when services are busy and to encourage travelling at different times.

Rail – Service changes on the 28<sup>th</sup> September have resulted in a reduction on services on the Snow Hill lines

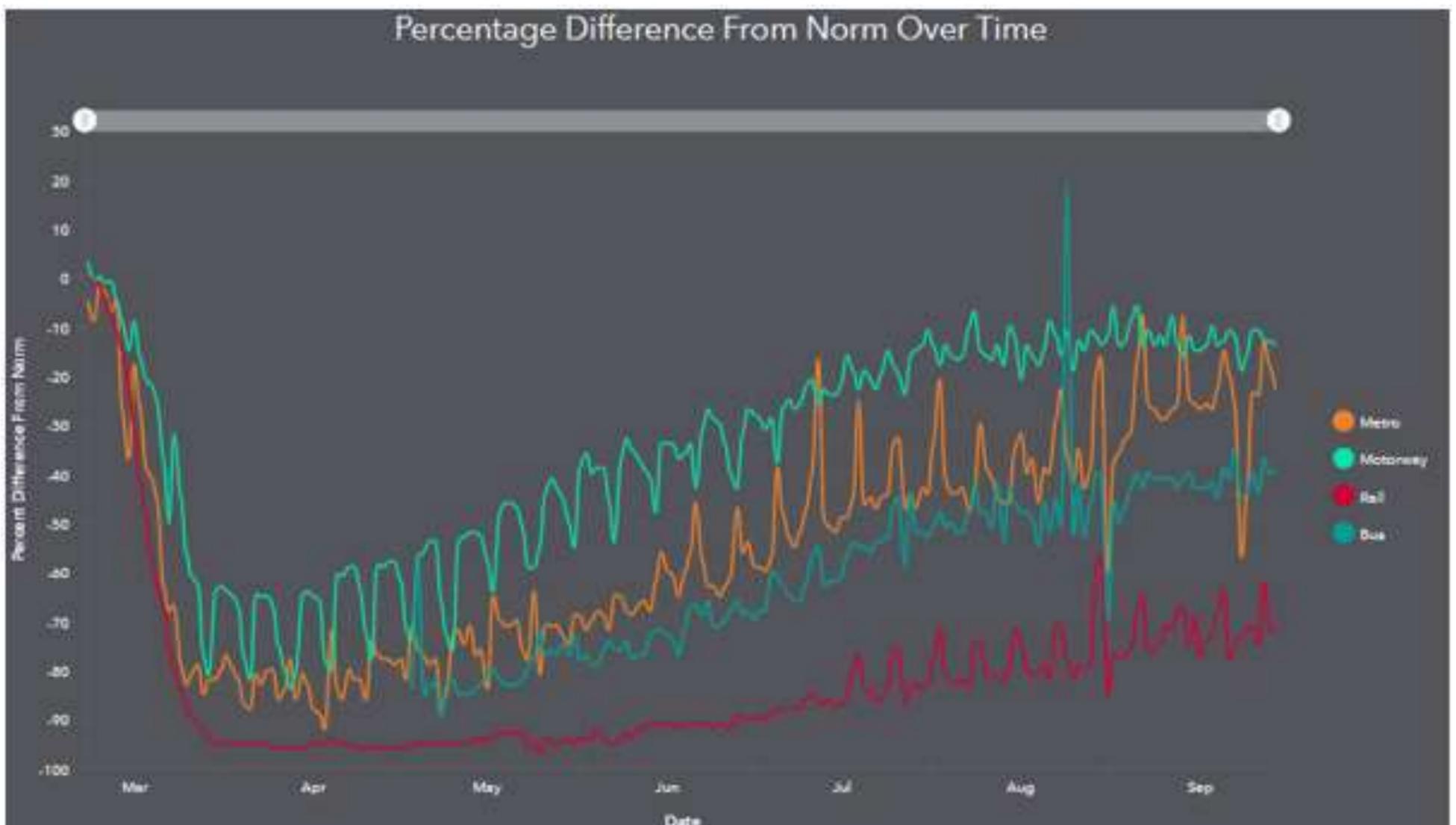
with the impact of Covid-19 on driver training and staff absences being the driving force behind this. PPM has improved since this change due to the service being easy to manage and less at risk services. School return

TfWM with partners has continued to evaluate and adapt the plan to ensure all public transport and closed bus services are available.

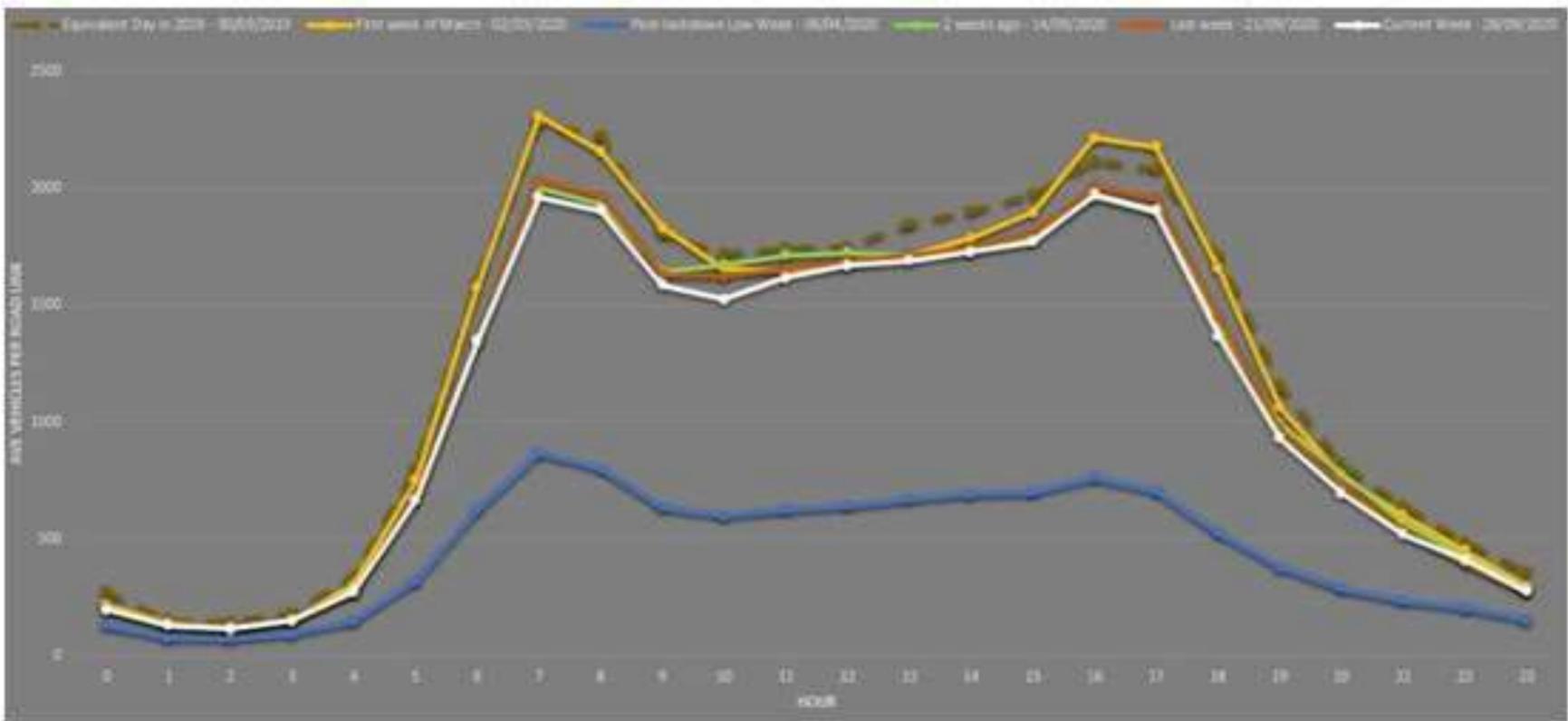
There has been mutual support regarding rail in some locations with rail replacement bus services introduced. Examples include a bus shuttle service to cover Stourbridge junction to Stourbridge town as well as promoted walking routes.

In addition to building public transport capacity, there has been active communications on face coverings and social distancing including an item on Midlands Today to demonstrate what TfWM and operators are doing to keep people safe and asking others to play their part. Safer Travel continue to patrol the network and are educating particularly young people about the need to wear face coverings if they are required to (children 11 and over)

Focus has turned to University restart and a university travel toolkit providing advice on travelling safely and within the guidelines has been delivered to contacts within the universities to distribute to returning students.

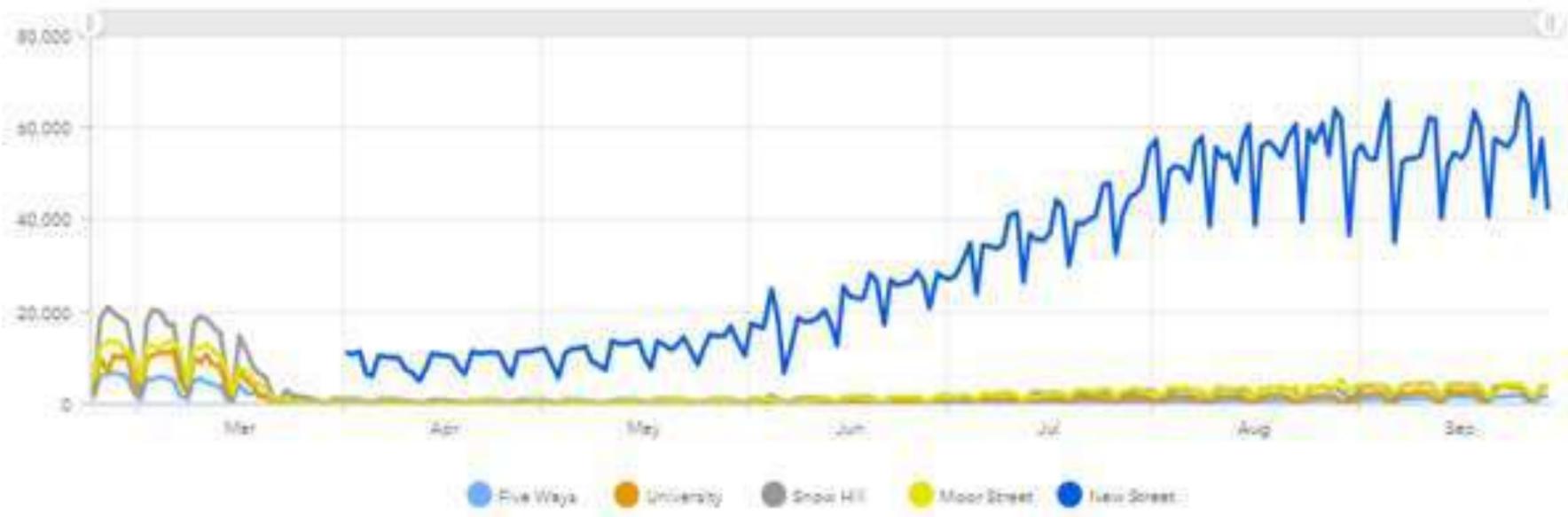


**Highways England data for the Strategic Road Network.**



**Tuesday 29th September 2020**

Daily Footfall - Birmingham Rail Stations



**Park & Ride Monitoring**

Weekday Train and Metro Car Park Occupancy (%)



**ONS Weekly Release Indicators**

**BCC EIU**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the ONS published the weekly publication containing data about the condition of the UK society and economy and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

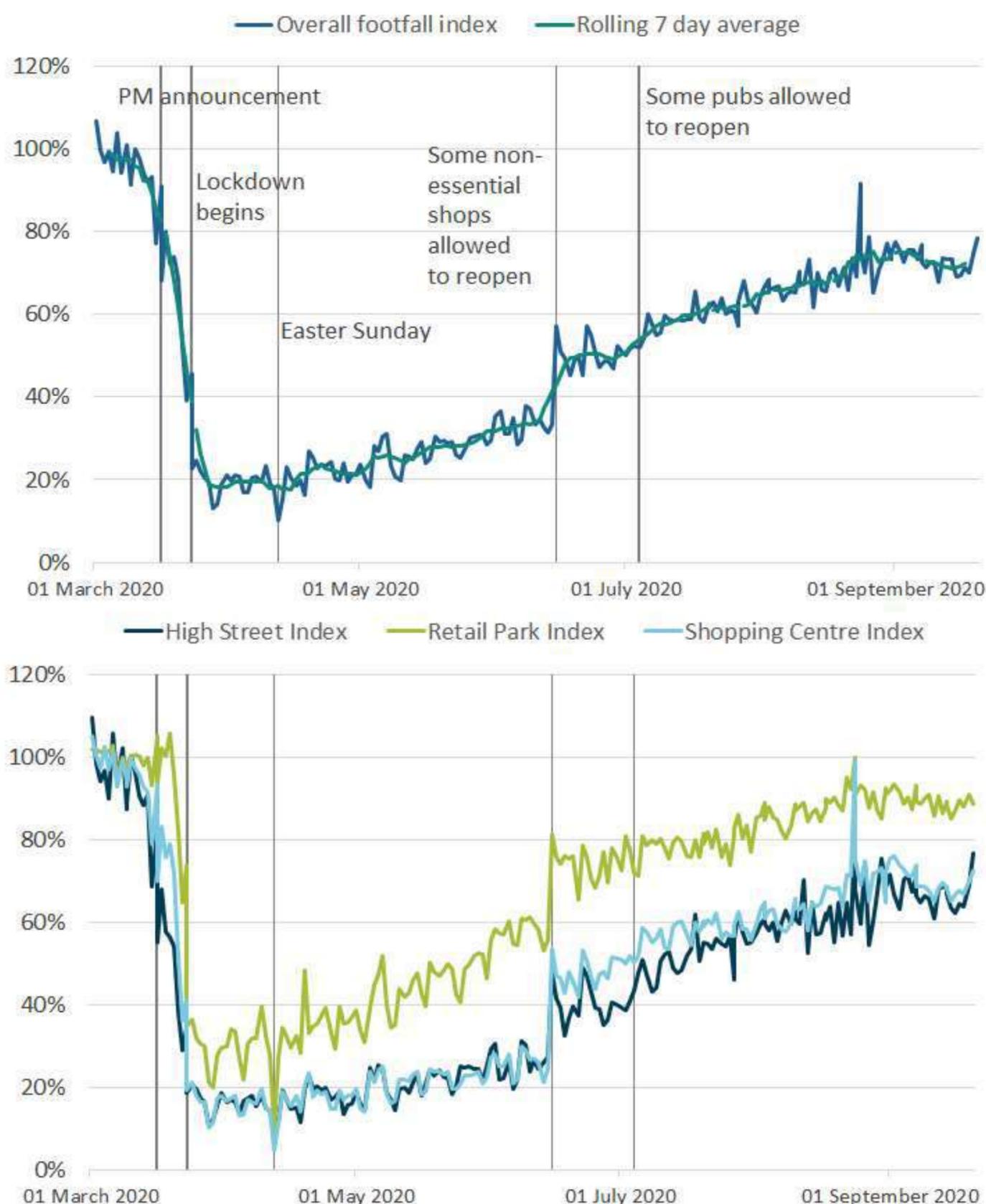
The statistics are experimental and have been devised to provide timely information. The following information contains national footfall data, final results from Wave 13 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS), Wave 25 of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) and experimental online job advert indices.

**National Footfall**

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

For the week ending the 20<sup>th</sup> September, the overall footfall remains similar to for the week starting 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 which was around 72% of the 2019 level. Although, the latest weekend figures show footfall has increased for high streets and shopping centres.

**The following graph shows the volume of footfall for the UK between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> September year on year percentage change between footfall on the same day:**



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

## National Company Incorporations and Voluntary Dissolution

On average, there were 3,469 incorporations per working day in the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> September, this is an increase from 3,083 per working day from the previous week (11<sup>th</sup> September) and above the Quarter 3 average of 2,612.

Also, for the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> September, on average per day there were 940 voluntary dissolution applications. This is a decrease from 1,004 per working day from the previous week (11<sup>th</sup> September) and below the Quarter 3 average of 1,008.

## Business Impact of the Coronavirus

The final results from the thirteenth round of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) based off the 3,732 businesses surveyed across the West Midlands with a response rate of 26.8% (1,001). Unless stated, the following data is based on the period between 24<sup>th</sup> August – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and only covers topics where there is a regional breakdown. Please note the data used is unweighted.

## Trading and Financial Performance

The trading status of businesses refer to the period of 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September and the turnover analysis is between 24<sup>th</sup> August – 6<sup>th</sup> September

Less than 1% of UK businesses reported they have permanently ceased trading with 2.7% temporarily closed or paused trading and 96.5% continuing to trade. The figures for the West Midlands show that also less than 1% of businesses have permanently ceased trading. While 97.7% of businesses have been trading and 1.4% of

businesses have temporarily closed or paused trading. In the West Midlands, 97.2% of responding businesses were trading and have been for more than the last two weeks (UK 95.5%). Less than 1% of West Midlands businesses started trading within the last two weeks after a pause in trading (1.1% UK). However, 1.2% of responding West Midlands businesses have paused trading and do not intend to restart in the next two weeks (UK 2.2%).

52.7% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported their turnover had decreased by at least 20%, compared to 46.2% of businesses in the UK. However, 28.0% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported that their turnover was unaffected (34.9% for the UK) and 10.6% reported their turnover had increased by at least 20% in the West Midlands, above the UK average of 11.0%.

## Turnover versus Operating Costs

11.2% of West Midlands businesses reported that operating costs exceeded turnover by at least 20% (UK 13.5%) and 9.0% reported that turnover was equal to operating costs (UK 11.9%). While 56.1% of West Midlands businesses reported turnover exceeded operating costs by at least 20% (UK 50.7%) and 23.7% of West Midlands businesses were unsure (UK 24.0%).

## Paused or Ceased Trading Business Sites Location

The following table shows where businesses are located who have currently paused or ceased trading by region and industry between 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September. For the West Midlands, the highest industry was administrative and support services activities at 3.0%.

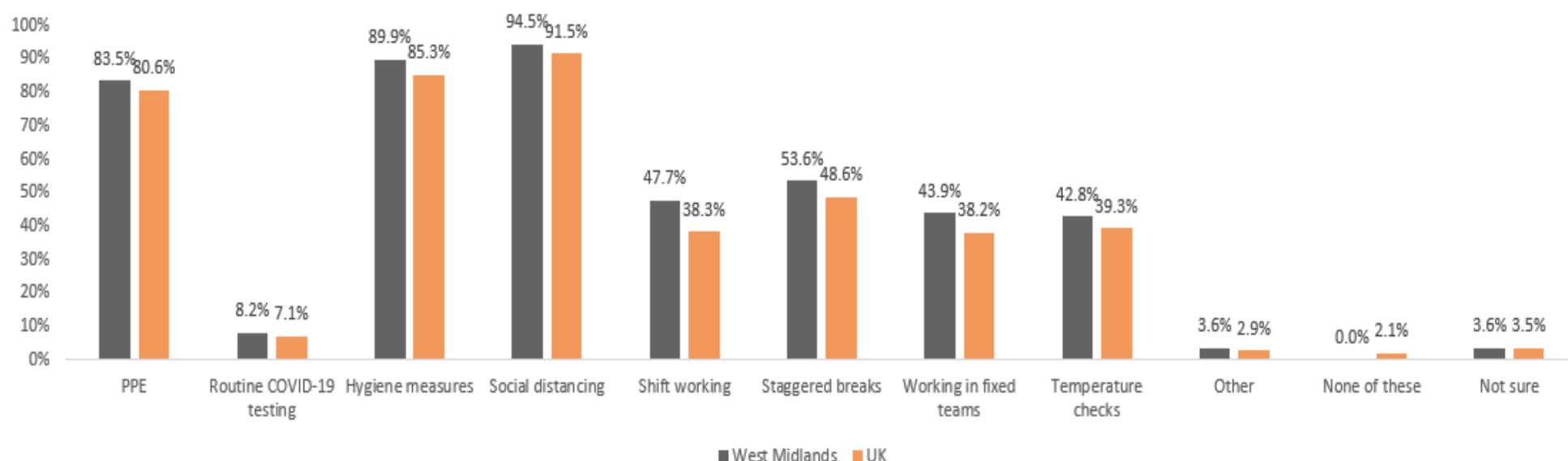
Industry	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	East of England	East Midlands	Greater London	North East of England	North West of England	South East of England	South West of England	West Midlands	Yorkshire and The Humber
Manufacturing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.0%	*	*	*
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.0%	3.2%	3.2%	1.6%	1.6%	4.8%	3.2%	1.6%	4.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Construction	*	4.9%	1.6%	1.3%	*	2.9%	*	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%	*
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	1.2%	2.0%	1.0%	*	*	1.9%	*	1.0%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	*
Transportation and Storage	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	*	2.0%	2.0%	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	1.4%	3.8%	2.4%	2.0%	3.2%	10.9%	2.4%	5.0%	4.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.6%
Information and Communication	*	*	*	*	*	3.1%	*	1.1%	1.1%	*	1.1%	1.1%
Real Estate Activities	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	*	1.2%	*	*	*	2.2%	*	1.5%	2.4%	1.4%	*	1.1%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	1.1%	3.4%	2.1%	1.6%	2.6%	7.0%	1.8%	2.7%	4.5%	2.7%	3.0%	2.2%
Education	*	2.3%	1.4%	3.2%	1.4%	1.8%	*	2.7%	3.6%	3.6%	1.4%	2.3%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	0.0%	*	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.7%	2.9%	1.2%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.0%	8.0%	4.5%	3.0%	1.5%	5.0%	1.5%	5.0%	2.0%	3.5%	1.5%	5.0%
All Industries	*	2.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	3.4%	*	1.9%	2.3%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%

### Business Interest

26.1% of West Midlands businesses reported in the last two weeks customer interest in their businesses good or services had decreased when compared to the normal expectations for the time of year (UK 25.3%). 9.8% of West Midlands businesses reported interest had increased (UK 10.8%) and 37.4% reported to interest staying the same (UK 39.3%).

### Regional Footfall

23.4% of West Midlands businesses reported in the last two weeks that footfall had decreased when compared to normal expectations for the time of the year (UK 23.7%). Although 3.0% of West Midlands businesses reported footfall had increased (UK 3.7%) and 9.5% reported footfall has stayed the same (UK 11.1%).



### Safety Measures

94.5% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading intend to or have implemented social distancing, compared to 91.5% across all UK businesses.

Examples of other safety measures intended to or have implemented across these West Midlands businesses include 89.9% will use hygiene measures (85.3% UK) and 83.5% will use PPE (80.6% UK).

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

### International Trading

For businesses in the West Midlands continuing to trade who have exported and/or imported in the last 12 months and have exported and/or imported during Covid-19, 40.8% of exporting businesses in the West Midlands, and 35.4% in the UK, reported their businesses were still exporting but less than normal. Of those businesses who continued to trade and import, 35.5% in the West Midlands were importing less than normal, compared to 28.5% across the UK.

46.1% of West Midlands businesses who were exporting reported that they had not been affected, compared to 52.3% across the UK, and 52.0% of West Midlands businesses said that importing had not been affected, compared to 58.7% across the UK.

2.2% of businesses in the West Midlands are exporting more than normal, compared to 2.5% across the UK. The figures for importing more than normal are 3.6% and 3.7% respectively.

2.2% of businesses in the West Midlands have not been able to export in the last two weeks - matching the UK average. The figures for business that have not been able to import in the last two weeks were less than 1% for the

West Midlands and 1.2% for the UK.

### Logistics

90.9% of West Midlands businesses reported when they have used logistics services that all distribution demands were met (UK 91.5%) and 4.7% reported some distribution demands were met (5.5%).

### Choice of Suppliers

8.2% of West Midlands businesses reported that the choice of suppliers had decreased for sourcing materials, goods or services since the start of the pandemic (UK 8.0%). 5.2% reported the choice of supplier had increased (UK 5.1%). However, 71.2% of businesses in the West Midlands reported the choice of supplier had not changed (UK 73.4%).

### Similar Businesses

Since the start of the pandemic, 9.0% of businesses in the West Midlands reported the number of businesses selling similar goods had decreased (UK 8.8%) and 1.6% of businesses in the West Midlands reported the number had increased (UK 2.2%). However, 55.2% of West Midlands businesses reported the number had not changed (53.4%).

**Increase in Demand**

Between 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September, 17.6% of West Midlands businesses reported an increase in demand for goods or services sold in the last two weeks (17.3% UK). 62.2% reported no increase (65.4% UK) and 2.4% of West Midlands businesses reported not applicable (2.9% UK).

**Stock Levels**

In the last two weeks (between 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September), 10.5% of West Midlands businesses reported stock levels are higher than normal (9.2% UK). 15.3% of West Midlands businesses reported stock levels are lower than normal (13.3% UK) and 39.7% reported stock levels have not changed (40.5% UK).

5.9% of West Midlands are stockpiling materials or goods (5.5% UK).

**Capital Expenditure**

31.4% of West Midlands businesses reported capital expenditure had not been affected (36.0% UK), with 11.9% reporting capital expenditure had stopped (13.1% UK).

3.3% of West Midlands businesses reported capital expenditure was higher than normal (5.3% UK) and 36.5% reported capital expenditure was lower than normal (25.4% UK).

**Government Schemes and Initiatives**

84.7% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading have applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (77.3% across the UK).

13.6% of West Midlands businesses have applied for business grants funded by the UK and devolved

government (16.6% UK) and 17.1% for government backed accredited loans or finance agreement (22.4% UK). While 14.2% of West Midlands businesses have not applied for any of these schemes (20.1% UK).

98.3% of West Midlands businesses have received funds from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (97.1% UK), 15.8% of businesses received funds from a Government backed accredited loans or finance agreements (23.7% UK). While 1.1% have not received any funds from these schemes (1.0% UK).

59.5% of West Businesses are using the Deferring VAT payments initiative (47.4% UK), 27.2% are using business rates holiday initiatives (22.3% UK) and 14.1% are using HMRC Time to Pay Scheme (12.9% UK). 7.2% of West Midlands businesses are using the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme (8.5% UK). 32.3% of West Midlands businesses are not using any of these initiatives (42.0% UK).

68.5% of West Midlands businesses who received support from schemes or initiatives reported that it helped them to continue trading, while 22.4% reported that it did not impact their ability to continue trading.

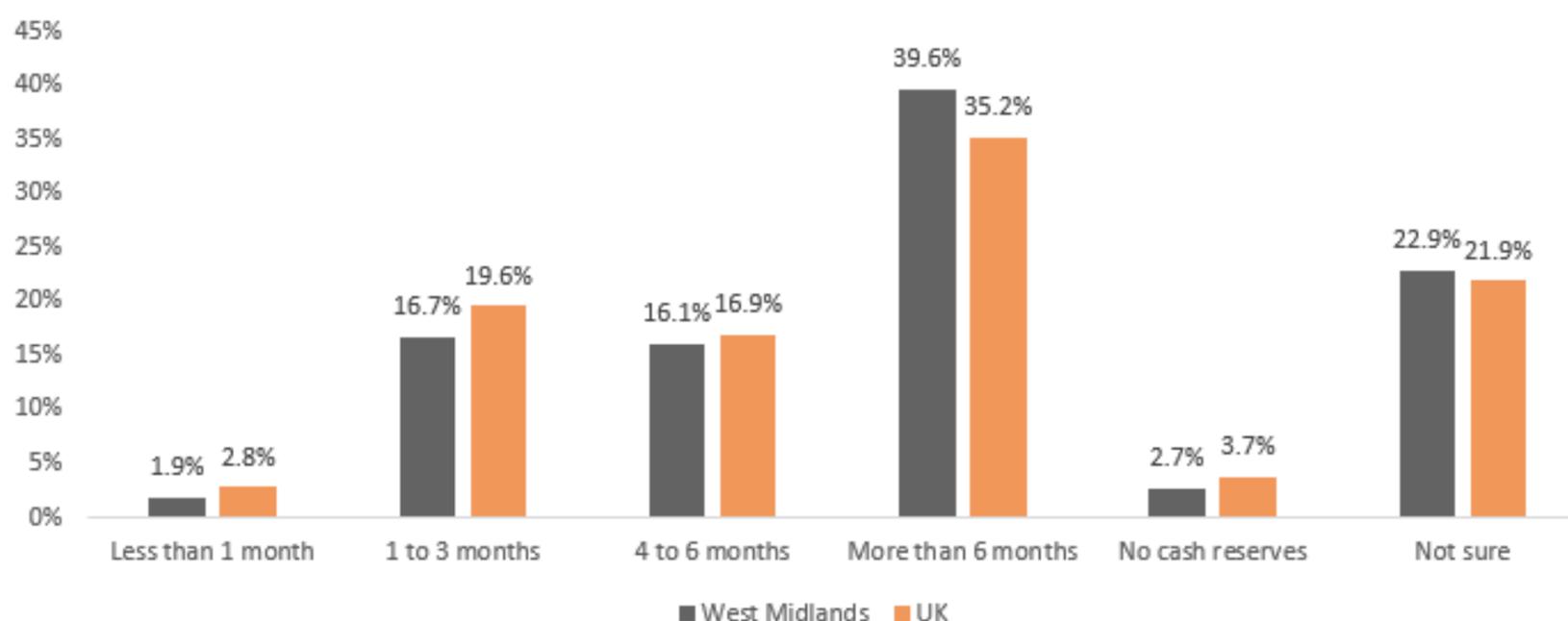
**Financial Assistance**

10.6% of businesses in the West Midlands have received financial assistance from banks or building societies. Of these businesses, 76.9% reported this assistance helped them to continue trading, however 21.2% reported there was no impact on their ability to continue trading.

**Cash Flow**

2.7% of West Midlands businesses that have not permanently stopped trading have no cash reserves. For the UK, this figure is 3.7%.

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



## Insolvency

Less than 1% of West Midlands businesses are at severe risk of insolvency. For the UK, the figure was 1.5%.

Due to the pandemic, in the West Midlands 1.6% of

businesses reported the risk of insolvency had decreased, while 41.2% reported the risk had increased and 48.3% reported the risk had remained the same.

The following graph shows the risk of insolvency for businesses:



## Social Impact of the Coronavirus

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) is to help understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. The data relates to the final results for Wave 25, covering the period 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. In this wave there were 1,689 (68%) responding adults. Please note, this week refers to the period between 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and last week refers to the period between 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### Information about the Coronavirus

85% of adults reported they felt they had enough information about how to protect themselves from the Coronavirus.

41% of adults reported they had enough information about government plans to manage the pandemic. Levels vary depending on whether respondents asked were living in a lockdown area or not, with 35% living in an area currently under lockdown reporting they had enough information and 42% for those who are not in lockdown.

### Socialising

60% of adults reported they had socialised indoors with at least one household outside their support bubble and 59% of adults reported they had socialised outdoors with one household outside their support bubble.

26% of adults reported they had not socialised with anyone outside their household in the past week. 63% of adults had socialised between one and five other people

at the same time. 11% reported to socialising with at least six or more people.

39% of adults who were in a local lockdown area reported they had not socialised with anyone outside their household, this increased to 54% for socialising with between one and five people, this drops to 8% for socialising with six or more people. While for those not in a lockdown area, 24% have not socialised with anyone outside their household, 63% socialised with between one and five people and 13% for socialising with six or more people.

### Face Coverings

96% of adults have worn a face covering outside their home in the past week.

46% of adults reported that all or some of their children had worn a face covering in school in the past week. Of those who had worn a face covering, 75% was mandatory and 20% were voluntary.

### Work

64% of adults said they had travelled to work at some point in the past week.

For those that had worked from home in the past week, 70% reporting doing so due to their employer asking them to, 23% normally worked from home and 30% were following government advice.

36% of adults reported they had not changed their work location since the outbreak. 29% of adults reported they plan to work all their hours away from home. 23% plan to work their hours at work and home. While 6% plan to continue to work at home to cover all their hours.

**Online Jobs Adverts**

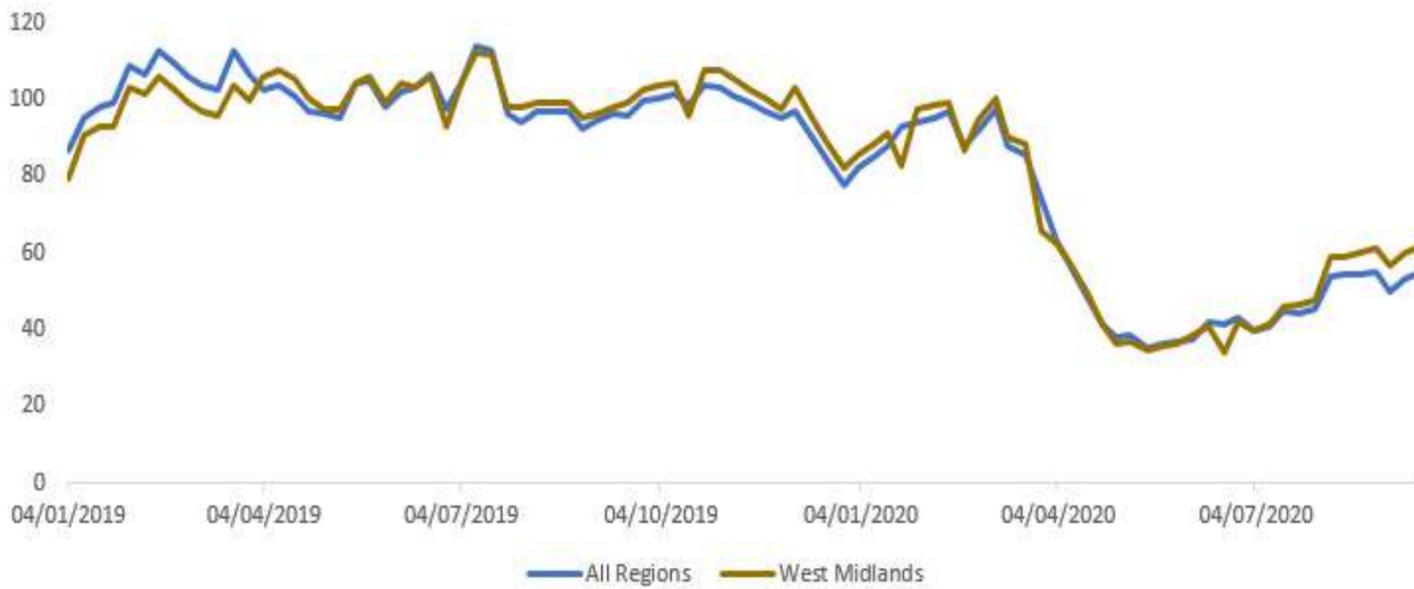
These estimates are experimental figures are taken from jobs adverts provided by Adzuna. Each value in the series measures the number of jobs adverts at a point in time, indexed for the average for 2019 (average = 100).

Nationally, total online job adverts increased from 53.5% (of the 2019 average) in the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> September to 55.1% (of the 2019 average) in the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Out of the 28 categories (excluding unknown), 20 had increased from the previous week with a 14.5pp increase in transport/logistics/warehouse to reach 134.6% of the 2019 level. In contrast, the largest drop was in legal by 10.0pp to 35.1% of the 2019 level.

For the West Midlands region, the total online jobs adverts increased from 59.8% (11<sup>th</sup> September) to 61.8% (18<sup>th</sup> September) of its 2019 average. Two regions experienced a decrease in online adverts with a 1.0pp decrease to 51.3% in Scotland and a 0.3pp decrease in Northern Ireland to 60.6% of the 2019 level. The highest increase was in the North East by 3.8pp to reach 62.2% of the 2019 level.

**The following graph shows total weekly jobs adverts for all regions and the West Midlands, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Index 2019 average =100):**

The following graph shows total weekly jobs adverts for all regions and the West Midlands, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Index 2019 average =100):



Source: Adzuna

## Weekly Deaths Registered: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 BCCEIU

**The following analysis compares the latest time period (week of the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020) to the previous week period (week of the 11<sup>th</sup> September 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 decreased from 9,811 in the week of 11<sup>th</sup> September to 9,523 in the week of 18<sup>th</sup> September. The number of deaths registered that state Coronavirus on the death certificate increased from **99 people to 139 people** over the same period.

Regional level analysis shows that the West Midlands the overall registered death figure increased from 1,021 in the week of 11<sup>th</sup> September to 1,051 in the week of 18<sup>th</sup> September. The number of registered deaths related to Coronavirus increased from 7 to 15 over the same period.

There was a total of 680 deaths registered across the WMCA (3 LEP) area in the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

There were 14 deaths registered that were related to Coronavirus over the same period – this accounts for 2.1% of total deaths. The WMCA (3 LEP) area accounts for 93.3% of the Coronavirus related deaths registered in the West Midlands Region.

In comparison to the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> September, the overall registered death figures across the WMCA (3 LEP) decreased by 2 people and the number of registered Coronavirus deaths increased by 7.

At local authority level, there were six that recorded a Coronavirus related death. Five Coronavirus related deaths were in Birmingham. Three Coronavirus related deaths were in Sandwell. Two Coronavirus related deaths were in both East Staffordshire and Solihull and one in each of the following local authorities; Wolverhampton and Lichfield.

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, of the deaths involving Coronavirus registered in the week of 18<sup>th</sup> September, 12 of the deaths were in hospital and 2 were at home.

Source: ONS, Deaths registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

HEADLINES	
SECTOR	KEY CONCERNS
<b>Cross Sector</b>	<p>Access to Finance and Cashflow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's new measures to support business were largely welcomed by businesses. There are concerns that the restrictions to control a resurgence in cases will have a negative impact on business recovery, alongside the impending transition period deadline.</li> <li>The government is being called on by political and business leaders in the West Midlands to grant further powers and funding, in order to support an ambitious economic and community recovery in the region.</li> <li>Wider economy grants are still making up a large proportion of enquiries, with many companies, particularly micro companies, looking to access the grant to purchase IT equipment in order to diversify services.</li> </ul> <p>Jobs &amp; Furlough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are fears the new worker support programme will not be enough to save jobs in many hard-hit sectors.</li> <li>Some businesses taking on loans and additional finance to keep afloat and maintain jobs despite reports that some businesses are without a proper sales pipeline or strategy meaning that borrowing is not sustainable and some businesses are not viable.</li> <li>Feeling across businesses in all sectors is that likely more redundancies in next 3 months, especially once furlough scheme ends.</li> </ul> <p>EU Exit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical questions arising around VAT and import/export tariffs suggesting businesses are starting to think more about the completion of the EU Exit Transition period and the possibility of a no deal with Europe.</li> </ul> <p>Kickstart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quite a lot of interest in Kickstart scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Economy</b>	<p>New Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses are urging the Government to bring forward a clear plan for next phase of support, targeted at the most impacted businesses and sectors. Businesses in the hospitality sector will be directly affected by the curbs on operating hours. Many more in urban centres will be impacted by a drop in footfall from commuters and office workers as those who can are once again encouraged to work from home.</li> <li>Reports from some business owners who are considering closing their business as they are unable to maintain payment obligations when they have drastically reduced or no income as they are unable to trade or operate profitably.</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Manufacturing</b>	<p>Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has reported that UK car manufacturing fell 44% last month compared with August 2019. Factories suffered a slump in export and a fall in domestic orders, too. Only 51,039 cars rolled off British production lines, down from 92,153 in August 2019.</li> </ul> <p>Kickstart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various manufacturing businesses looking to use the kickstart scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>Business, Professional &amp; Financial Services</b>	<p>Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses in certain subsectors such as those who work in the events or travel areas have had little to no orders throughout lockdown, and are worried about the future.</li> </ul> <p>Access to Finance and Cashflow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new restrictions are limiting opportunities to many businesses and they are looking at grants to be able to continue operating.</li> </ul>

NEW ECONOMIC SHOCKS			
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	SOURCE/DETAIL
<a href="#">NEC Group</a>	Birmingham	Events	<p>Hundreds of jobs are set to be cut at the NEC Group after coronavirus saw the company's income plummet to almost nothing. The Birmingham group has announced an organisational review that could lead to a restructure that puts hundreds of roles at risk at the National Exhibition Centre, International Convention Centre, Resorts World Arena, Utilita Arena Birmingham and the Vox Conference Venue.</p> <p>The cancellation and postponement of live events as a result of Covid-19 has hit the NEC Group hard, with pre-pandemic annual revenues of £160 million falling to almost nothing between mid-March and this month.</p> <p>The group employs 800 full-time and 1,200 part-time staff but had furloughed 90 per cent of its workforce after the lockdown was announced in March.</p> <p>The organisation contributes £3bn to the West Midlands economy annually and also assisted efforts to combat coronavirus by allowing the NEC to be converted into an NHS Nightingale hospital rent free.</p>
<a href="#">JLR</a>	Solihull	Automotive	24 workers have tested positive for coronavirus at Jaguar Land Rover plant
<a href="#">Cineworld</a>	Black Country and wider areas	Leisure	Cineworld has warned that further global coronavirus restrictions or film delays may force it to raise further cash as it revealed half-year losses of £1.3 billion.
<a href="#">Whitbread</a>	Nationwide	Hospitality and Leisure	The group said the cuts would impact 18% of its total workforce across its hotel and restaurant brands.

## NEW INVESTMENT, DEALS AND OPPORTUNITIES

COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	DETAIL & SOURCE
<a href="#">Government initiative</a>	West Midlands	Energy Efficiency/ construction	A “retrofit army” of nearly half a million builders, electricians, plumbers – including 40,000 in the West Midlands – will be needed to meet the Government’s objective of becoming Net Zero by 2050.
<a href="#">Mitchells and Butler</a>	Black Country and wider areas	Hospitality	Pubs and restaurants group Mitchells & Butlers, which includes Harvester, Toby Carvery, All Bar One and Miller & Carter, says the Government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme helped sales return to growth in September.
<a href="#">Wolverhampton City Council</a>	Wolverhampton	Property	Wolverhampton's former British Steel site has been purchased by the city council as part of the next step in a multi-million pound canalside living development.
<a href="#">Alucast</a>	Sandwell	Manufacturing	A recent £2.5 million investment in its new CNC machining shop is paying off for Alucast, with the new technology paying a pivotal role in helping it secure new contracts in the electrification sector.
<a href="#">Dunlop Systems and Components</a>	Coventry	Manufacturing, Engineering	A historic Coventry-based maker of advanced electronic control systems and air suspension components has secured additional funding to support a new contract win. Dunlop Systems and Components, which was established in 1890, has won a major contract to manufacture and supply an Electronically Controlled Air Suspension System (ECAS) to new US electric vehicle original equipment manufacturer (OEM), Rivian Automotive.
<a href="#">Meggitt</a>	Coventry	Aerospace	A Los Angeles-based investor has increased its stake in international aerospace and defence engineering company Meggitt.
<a href="#">LEVC</a>	Coventry	Automotive, Engineering, Manufacturing	Warwickshire-based LEVC's first electric van has successfully completed another milestone ahead of its production start in the fourth quarter of 2020.
<a href="#">Morgan Sindall</a>	Rugby	Construction	Rugby-headquartered Morgan Sindall has been appointed to erect a new £5.4m extension to a Stoke-on-Trent museum to house the iconic Spitfire RW388. Stoke-on-Trent City Council has hired the listed company for the project at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.
<a href="#">Lodders</a>	Stratford-upon-Avon	Professional Services	Responding to growing numbers of businesses seeking specialist legal advice on their property purchases, sales and leases, law firm Lodders has created a new team including some of the region’s leading commercial property lawyers.
<a href="#">Skyfarer</a>	Coventry	Information and Communication	A start-up Coventry business is set to begin trials in Warwickshire to test the capability of drones delivering urgent medical supplies after receiving support. Skyfarer, which was established by Elliot Parnham in 2019 after studying aerospace engineering at university, was initially planning to be part of a project in Africa that would see supplies delivered to hard-to-reach areas via drone technology.
<a href="#">Chitzo</a>	Solihull	Information and Communication	A Solihull-based lifestyle planning platform has expanded into Malta. Online marketing company Chitzo is a one-stop shop helping venues survive by promoting what they have on offer, that they are open for business and why people should go there. The international move is proving successful despite a number of industries suffering as the Covid-19 pandemic continues.
<a href="#">Zumba with Nicola</a>	Nuneaton	Retail, Human Health, Leisure	A Nuneaton mum who began running Zumba fitness classes three years ago to unite those feeling isolated is seeing her business move in the right direction following a rise in demand during the Coronavirus lockdown. Nicola Rigby, from Whitestone, decided to launch her own Zumba fitness classes – called ‘Zumba with Nicola’ – in 2017 as a way of improving her own fitness and overcoming anxiety and loneliness.

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

For any queries please contact the lead Authors:

Rebecca Riley / Anne Green  
[R.L.Riley@bham.ac.uk](mailto:R.L.Riley@bham.ac.uk) [a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk)

This programme of briefings is funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority, Research England and UKRI (Research England Development Fund)



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

In partnership with:

