



West Midlands Weekly Economic Impact Monitor

Issue 32

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The West Midlands Combined Authority and Research England/UKRI fund this monitor.

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.

Key Issues

- Infections are surging in Europe and the USA. There are local and national lockdowns in various parts of Europe. A short, sharp firebreak has been introduced across Wales. In England infection rates are now rising across all age groups. In the West Midlands region Dudley and Staffordshire are due to enter Tier 2 restrictions, with Coventry and Stoke-on-Trent being the most recent entrants in this region to Tier 2. The UK has recorded its highest death toll since the first wave.
- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends this week (on 31 October) to be replaced by the Job Support Scheme which will run from 1 November for six months. The aim is to protect viable jobs in businesses facing lower demand over the winter months. Employees must work at least 20% of their hours to qualify, with employers and Government sharing the wage bill. The scheme ensures employees earn a minimum of 73% of their normal wages. Where a business is required to close its premises due to national or local Coronavirus restrictions the Job Support Scheme will apply.
- The WMCA 3 LEP area had 205,500 employments furloughed on 31 August. This was 11.3% of eligible employments for the scheme. The local authorities with the highest percentage of workers furloughed on 31 August were Solihull with 12.8% (12,600), followed by Stratford-on-Avon and Birmingham both with 12.4% (5,100 and 55,400, respectively).
- Across the WMCA 3 LEP area there were 173,200 of the population eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). There were 119,100 claims made to 30 September, which equates to a value of £284.6m or on average nearly £2,500 per claim. The take-up rate for the WMCA 3 LEP area was 69%, above the UK average of 67%.
- A *Jobs, Jobs, Jobs* report from the Resolution Foundation analyses how the labour market situation has evolved over the pandemic. It is largely based on an analysis of 6,061 adults aged 18-65 surveyed on 17-22 September. Key points include that previously furloughed 18-24 year olds, BAME workers and the low paid were most likely to have lost jobs; the employment effects of the crisis have hit London especially hard; and the self-employed are hard hit with more than half of self-employed workers receiving lower earnings than before the crisis.
- There is little sign that workers are reallocating to less affected sectors of the economy.
- The majority of the rise in unemployment is accounted for by lower than normal flows into work – highlighting the importance of looking at labour market flows and underscoring the difficulties facing those searching for work.

- Across sectors the availability of funding and finance to support investment required to adapt to the Covid crisis is an issue for some businesses. Many are concerned about potentially having to shut down in a new lockdown.
- With regard to Brexit some companies report that they are still in 'crisis management' mode and so have not had the opportunity to properly consider preparations for the end of the Transition period.
- Businesses are looking for support in handling redundancies from HR service providers.
- On a positive note, there is a good pipeline of investment projects emerging in various sectors. There has also been an increase in enquiries from businesses looking to upskill their staff as they seek to adapt their businesses to new market opportunities and conditions.
- In the West Midlands online job adverts increased from 73.6% (9 October) to 77.3% (16 October) of the 2019 average. This is above the national figures of 62.8% and 65.6% respectively for the two dates.
- ONS Weekly Indicators show that for the West Midlands less than 1% of businesses have permanently ceased trading, 98.1% of businesses have been trading and 1.3% of businesses have temporarily closed or paused trading. 28.5% of responding West Midlands businesses reported that they were at no risk of insolvency. 49.6% of West Midlands businesses reported that they were at low risk and 8.3% at moderate risk of insolvency.
- 20% of adults reported leaving the house to eat or drink at a restaurant, café, pub or bar this week (19% in a local lockdown area and 21% not in a local lockdown area). This is a decrease on last week (26%). 84% of adults said they often or always maintained social distancing; a slight increase from 82% the previous week.
- 60% of adults travelled to work this week: a 5 percentage point decrease from the previous week. 25% of adults were working exclusively from home – the highest since the beginning of August.

Global, National and Regional Outlook

Ben Brittain WM REDI

Global Outlook

Surging case numbers in Europe and United States are weighing heavily on business and investor sentiment. European and U.S. equity futures are trending lower once again on Wednesday, following [declines](#) in Asian stocks.

Italy has introduced its strictest [virus restrictions](#) since the country ended a national lockdown in May. Similarly, Spain is also imposing new measures, including a curfew. [Bulgaria's](#) prime minister and [Poland's](#) president have both tested positive for Covid-19, while [three staff](#) and advisers close to U.S. Vice President Mike Pence have also tested positive for the virus.

Software giant Microsoft's sales [beat estimates](#) but its stock slipped in extended trading showing that even tech giants are not escaping the reduced confidence.

Oil prices [dipped](#) after a report indicated higher U.S. crude stockpiles. And to add to the gloomy global economic mood, there are [mixed signals](#) on China's economic recovery.

France has sadly reported their highest Covid-19 death toll since the first wave of the coronavirus, underlining the ongoing challenge the continent faces in getting the virus under control. France is [readying](#) new measures, reportedly including a one-month lockdown.

National Outlook

The U.K has also experienced its highest death toll since the first wave of the pandemic in spring. U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, is facing the challenge of his own lawmakers over restrictions. He is [facing a revolt](#) of more than 50 conservative MPs, mostly from red wall seats, who are demanding a clear route out of lockdown for northern parts of the country, most of which are in Tier 3 restrictions.

The renewed and extended trade talks between the U.K. and the European Union are continuing, with little indication this week of how the negotiations have progressed. The U.K. however, has maintained that it remained hopeful that a deal can be struck. [Fishing](#) remains a significant barrier to a deal.

A short, sharp firebreak has been introduced across Wales to help regain control of coronavirus. This means that a series of restrictive measures will be in place from 6pm Friday 23 October until 12:01am Monday 9 November 2020.

Regional Outlook

The West Midlands has had its highest number of weekly coronavirus deaths for nearly four months. Covid-19 was involved in 49 deaths in the West Midlands in the seven days up to October 16 – the highest weekly figure since early July.

[Two more areas](#) of the region has entered into Tier 2 restrictions. Staffordshire and Dudley are set to move to Tier 2 restrictions after reporting rising infection rates of Covid-19. Staffordshire council said the new measures are expected to come into force by the end of the week after the seven-day infection rate reached 239 people per 100,000 for the week up to Saturday.

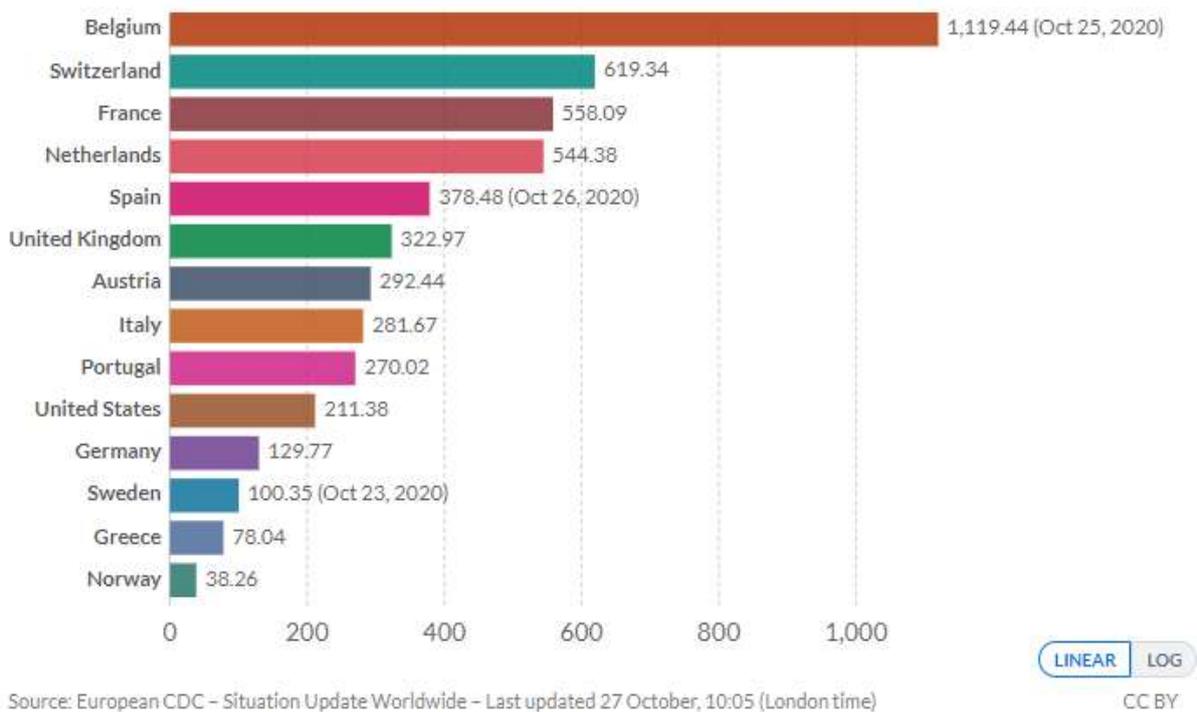
Infection rates

Anne Green WM REDI

Europe has seen a continuing increase in infection rate [resurgence in infection rates](#) which is continuing (see graph below showing the daily new confirmed Covid-19 cases per million people, 27 October 2020). Since 31 December 2019 and as of 27 October 2020, **43,598,033 cases** of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including **1,160,995 deaths**. In Europe: there are 8,786,209 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (1,547,774), France (1,165,278), France (1,165,278), **United Kingdom (894,690)** and Italy (542,789).

Latest [ONS infection survey data](#) (23 October) states:

- The number of infections continues to increase; an estimated 433,300 people (95% credible interval: 407,500 to 459,300) within the community population in England had the coronavirus (COVID-19) during the most recent week, from 10 to 16 October 2020, equating to around 1 in 130 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 130 to 1 in 120).
- There has been growth in COVID-19 infection rates in all age groups over the past two weeks including those aged over 70 years (not evident previously in this latter group), with the current rates highest in older teenagers and young adults (as previously).
- The highest COVID-19 infection rates continue to be seen in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the North East.
- During the most recent week (10 to 16 October 2020), it is estimated that there were around 6.46 new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people per day (95% credible interval: 5.46 to 8.55) in the community population in England, equating to around 35,200 new cases per day (95% credible interval: 29,800 to 46,600). (
- The incidence rate has continued to increase in recent weeks.
- In England, an estimated 5.6% (95% confidence interval 5.0% to 6.2%) of people would have tested positive for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 on a blood test in September, suggesting they had the infection in the past; the highest antibody positivity was seen in London, followed by the North East, Yorkshire and The Humber and the North West.



Job Support Scheme

The **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** ends on 31 October. It was announced on 22 October that this is to be replaced by the Government’s **Job Support Scheme** that commences on 1 November 2020 and will run for 6 months until the end of April 2021.

The stated aim of the Job Support Scheme is to protect viable jobs in businesses who are facing lower demand over the winter months due to Covid-19, to help keep their employees attached to the workforce (where a business has been required to close its premises due to local or national Coronavirus restrictions the **Job Support Scheme extension** provisions will apply. Under the Job Support Scheme the company will continue to pay its employee for time worked, but the burden of hours not worked will be partially split between the employer and the Government (through wage support) and the employee (through a wage reduction), and the employee will keep their job.

The employee must work at least 20% of their hours for the scheme to apply. The Government will then pay 61.67% of hours not worked up to a cap of £1,541.75 per month, with the employer contributing a further 5% (up to a cap of £125 per month). This will ensure employees earn a minimum of 73% of their normal wages, where the Government and employer contributions have not been capped.

Employers using the Job Support Scheme will also be able to claim the **Job Retention Bonus** for employees if they have previously claimed payments for those employees under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and they retain them in employment until 31 January 2021 if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Where a business is required to close its premises due to local or national Coronavirus restrictions, the **Job Support Scheme extension** provisions will apply. The main provisions of the extended scheme are as follows:

- The extension will run for six months from 1 November 2020.
- Employees must be instructed to and cease work for a minimum of 7 consecutive days, and a Real Time Information submission notifying payment to that employee to HMRC must have been made on or before 23 September 2020.
- It will not apply where businesses are required to close by local public health authorities because of specific workplace outbreaks by local public health authorities.
- The amount that is available per eligible employee is two-thirds of their normal pay up to a limit of £2100 per month, and employers may top up that amount should they wish. Employer NICs and pension contributions will remain payable by the employee.
- Employees cannot be made redundant or put on notice of redundancy during the period within which their employer is claiming the grant for that employee.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

A [report published this week from the Resolution Foundation](#) presents new evidence on the effects of the Covid-19 crisis on workers.

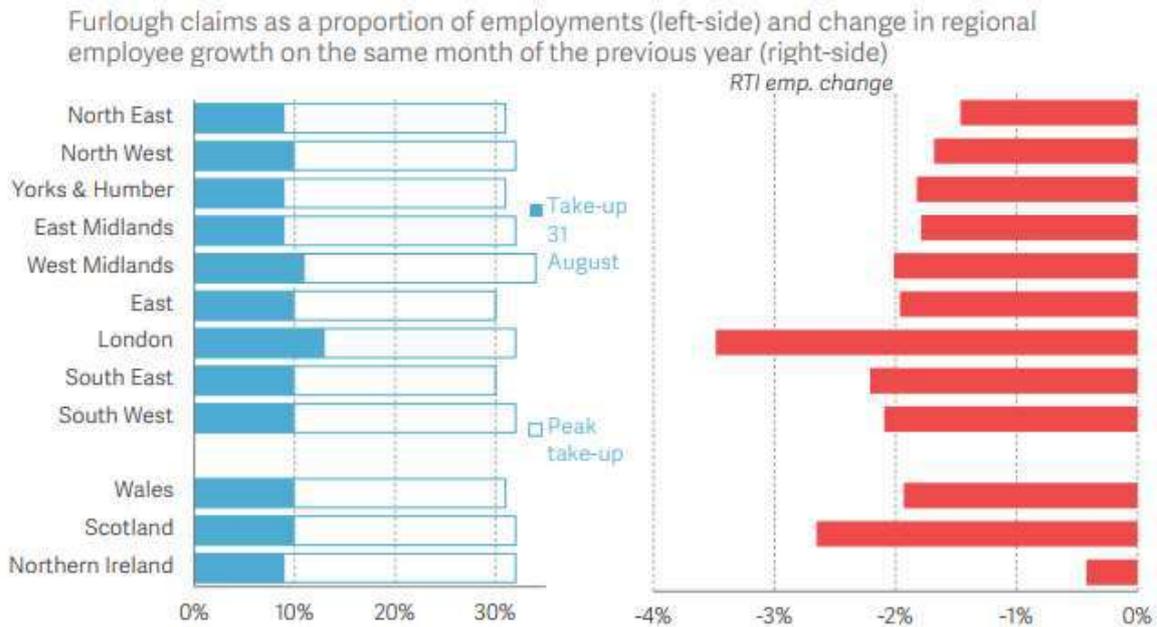
The first stage of the Covid-19 crisis saw a huge lockdown-driven economic shock characterised by unprecedented falls in hours worked. The impact on employment and household incomes was heavily mediated by the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme (CJRS). There was some rebound in GDP and total hours worked but GDP growth slowed in August and output remaining 9% below its pre-crisis level. The return of the virus after the summer and major restrictions on economic activity to try to contain it are key determinants of labour market outcomes in the months ahead.

The Resolution Foundation report analyses **how the labour market situation has evolved from when the pandemic first hit through to September**. The core of the analysis is based on a survey of 6,061 adults aged 18-65, which took place on 17th–22nd September.

Key findings

- While more than half of those furloughed during lockdown had returned to work by September 9% of those previously furloughed had lost their jobs. This rate was highest for 18-24-year-olds (19% were no longer working by September), Black, Asian and minority ethnic workers (22%) and the low paid.
- The employment effects of the crisis have borne down particularly hard on London. The West Midlands saw the highest level of furlough claims as a proportion of employments by region, but relative to other regions the decline in employee growth has been less marked than some other regions (see Figure below). The crisis has also impacted markedly in the most deprived areas of the country. Over one-in-five workers (21%) in the most deprived quartile of the country were either not working, furloughed, or had lost hours (and pay) in early September because of coronavirus: of this group, 28% live in London.

- Of those respondents who were still employed by September, 12% reported being paid less than they were in February. Pay reductions were more common in hard-hit sectors and (to a lesser extent) among younger workers, though pay cuts have become more evenly distributed as the crisis has evolved.



NOTES: The estimated fall in employees is assessed based on where employees live rather than the location of their place of work.

SOURCE: RF analysis of ONS & HMRC

- In every month since April, more than half of self-employed workers were receiving lower earnings than before the crisis. At its peak, three-in-ten were not receiving any pay at all, compared to just 4% cent of employees.
- 9% of respondents who were in work in February spent some time out of work between March and September, of whom fewer than half (43%) had found a new job by September. The youngest workers seem to struggle most, with only 33% of 18-24-year-olds whose job ended being back in work by September, compared to 57% of 35-44-year-olds. This difference comes on top of younger workers' increased likelihood of losing work in the first place.
- Workers in hospitality, leisure and other sectors affected by lockdown are much more likely in September to have stopped working, to have been furloughed, or to have lost hours and pay. Others more affected by the crisis include those in 'insecure' job in February; younger and older workers; those working in the lowest-paid jobs; and those working for smaller employers.
- There is little sign that workers are reallocating to less-affected sectors of the economy: people who previously worked in hospitality, leisure, or non-food retail are most likely to be looking for a new job in one of those same sectors or administrative positions. 21% of those looking for work indicated they would look for vacancies in the leisure sector despite the fact that the leisure sector had the fewest listed vacancies of all major industry categories. Strikingly this is 17% of those looking for work who said that they were considering jobs in the sector posting the most vacancies in July-Sept: social care.

- Asking workers about their expectations for the future reveals clear signs of a shift from initial job losses amongst the young and lower paid to a more widespread impact on the labour market. 28% of respondents in work in September are worried about redundancies occurring, have been told a redundancy process either may or will happen, or have been told they will be made redundant. This reflects more traditional recession impacts from a lack of demand impacting the economy.
- The survey suggests that the unemployment rate in September may be around 3 percentage points higher than pre-crisis. This would imply 2.5 million unemployed in September, or a rate of just over 7%. For the 18-to-24-year old group, our survey suggests a rise in the unemployment rate of 10 percentage points since February, and this would mean an unemployment rate of 20% in September, or approximately 750,000 people. The majority of the rise in unemployment is accounted for by lower-than-normal flows into work, with a minority caused by higher-than-usual job exits. This highlights the importance of looking at flows in the labour market. It also underlines the difficulties faced by those searching for work.

Based on the findings, the Resolution Foundation **recommends** that:

- The full furlough version of the Job Support Scheme should be extended to firms that are not legally required to close, but which in reality cannot open, such as conference centres.
- The Government should take a more proactive approach to job creation, including helping the unemployed find work and investing in job creation in sectors such as social care.
- The £1,000 a year boost to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits should be retained beyond April 2021, and the Government should extend the grace period for the benefit cap, continue the suspension of the Minimum Income Floor for self-employed Universal Credit claimants, and ease the capital rules in Universal Credit.
- The Government should improve the financial incentives to self-isolate, either by raising Statutory Sick Pay and extending it to the two million low earners who are not eligible or by broadening the eligibility for the £500 self-isolation payment.

Source: [M Brewer, N Cominetti, K Henehan, C McCurdy, R Sehmi & H Slaughter, Jobs, jobs, jobs: Evaluating the effects of the current economic crisis on the UK labour market, Resolution Foundation, October 2020](#)

Social Housing, Employment and the Economy

Anne Green WM REDI

Introduction

This month the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Housing and Social Mobility published a report on [Improving Opportunities: How to support social housing tenants into sustainable employment](#). The report outlines the role that social housing providers can play in supporting households and communities into sustainable livelihoods through employment both to support their well-being and to contribute to the broader levelling up agenda. This reflects the role of social

housing providers play as local anchor institutions – as employers, builders, deliverers of employment support programmes, partners and placemakers in local areas.

A function for social housing in stimulating the economy

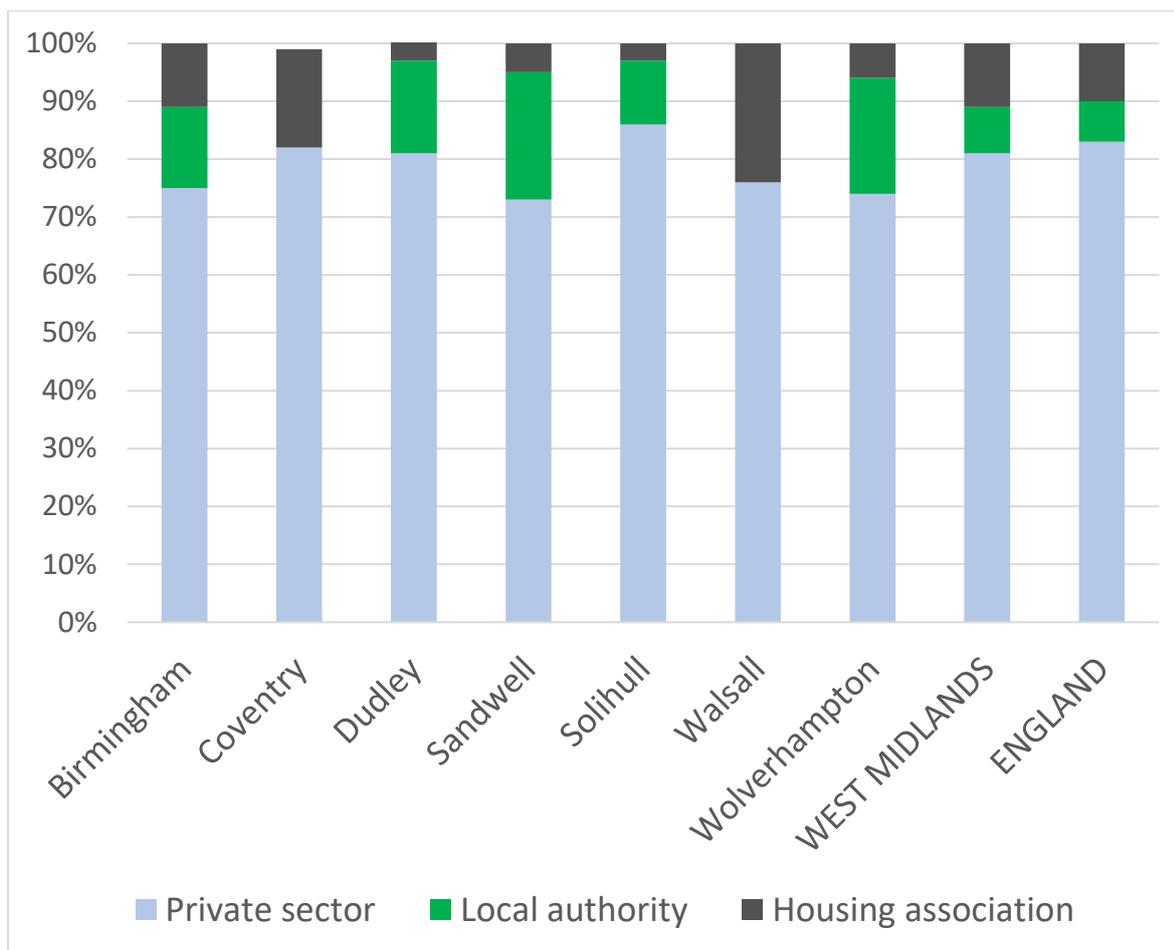
A [recent briefing from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) highlighted a role for social housing in stimulating the economy. It highlights four main reasons why investing in housing (with a greater prioritisation of homes for social rent) has fiscal advantages, including over and above investing in market-based tenures. First, in the short-term, investment in housing can reduce the housing benefit bill and universal credit expenditure for those in the construction sector. Secondly, investment in housing creates jobs, both direct in the construction sector and indirectly through the supply chain. This is exemplified through both new build housing and schemes to retrofit the existing stock. Thirdly, the lag between investment and impact is often far shorter in housing than in other types of investments. Fourthly, housing investment can create significant tax revenues.

The role of social housing

Social housing has a key role to play in addressing challenges of housing affordability. This has been identified as a key issue in the West Midlands with the [WMCA introducing a localised definition of affordable housing](#) earlier in 2020, based on local people paying no more than of their salary on rent or mortgages. Two of the defining characteristics of the sector are (1) tenure security, and (2) sub-market rents.

In recent decades the stock of social rented housing in England has decreased. Initially this occurred via the 'Right to Buy' programme and then through building failing to keep up with demand. In recent years the proportion of people living in the private rented sector has increased. Traditionally, private renting played an important role in providing accommodation for young people and for those wanting a short-term solution to housing need, but increasingly families with children and older people are housed in the private rented sector for longer durations. Yet [private renters face the highest housing costs of any tenure](#).

Housing stock data by local authority for 2019 published by MHCLG shows that in all parts of the West Midlands Metropolitan area except Solihull the social rented sector (with a distinction made in the chart below between social rented housing provided by local authorities and housing associations) accounts for a larger share of total housing than in England (13%). The diagram below shows that the share of social rented housing is highest in Sandwell (27%), Wolverhampton (26%), Birmingham (25%) and Walsall (24%).



Tenure, work and poverty

Research studies have shown poorer labour market outcomes associated with living in social rented housing. [Analyses for the period from 2014 to 2018](#) showed that just over half of working age social tenants were at work compared to 80% of those owning or in the market rented sector. The rate of economic inactivity was twice as high in the social rented sectors as in other tenures combined.

These poorer labour market outcomes are explained largely, but not entirely, the characteristics of working age social housing tenants in social housing that are associated with low levels of labour market participation. These include lower level qualifications (which weaken individuals' position in the labour market), long-term illness and disability and having dependent children – [lone parents are disproportionately social housing tenants](#).

These characteristics are reflective of the way that social rented housing is allocated to those people with priority housing needs. Contextual factors, such as the concentration of social rented housing in weaker labour market areas, also help to explain part of the poorer labour market outcomes for tenants in the social rented sector.

A more recent [report by the Resolution Foundation in April 2020](#) highlighted how for many tenants in the social rented sector entering work reduces poverty, but that in-work poverty remains a key issue. Low pay and short hours increase the risk of poverty. Moreover, when in work interacting with the benefits system can be problematic, which in turn leads to some tenants being risk averse in entering employment when sustainability is uncertain.

Barriers to employment for tenants in the social rented sector highlighted by the APPG report on Housing and Social Mobility include:

- *Personal characteristics*: lack of/ low educational qualifications, lack of/ poor digital skills (which are increasingly important in the Covid-19 crisis), poorer mental and physical health, low aspirations;
- *Contextual factors*: notably cost and reliability of public transport (especially on peripheral estates) and cost and availability of childcare.

Housing associations as anchor institutions

Housing associations play a social purpose and are embedded in and committed to the communities they house and the local places where they operate. They can improve local economic and social wellbeing in the way they spend, employ and use their land and assets. Their economic footprint extends beyond the people they employ and has an impact beyond their residents.

They are in a strong position to act to link social housing tenants to employment because of the long-term (and perceived trusted) relationship with tenants. Many social housing providers have shown their commitment to employment support by building up advice teams providing intensive but flexible and bespoke one-to-one support, including post-placement monitoring. Many occupy a leading and/or strategic partner role in local labour market employment support and training collaborations. They have supply chains and procurement purchasing power which they can and do use to support tenants and residents in the labour market, alongside their role as direct employers.

Currently the [Birmingham Anchor Network](#) – which includes two universities, University Hospitals Birmingham, the West Midland Police and Crime Commissioner and housing providers - is working to link social housing residents to employment. The [Pioneer Group](#)'s team of employment advisors is working to link residents to job opportunities in hospitals and the police force (which are recruiting during the Covid-19 crisis), while at the same time enabling these large employers to learn how to engage disadvantaged neighbourhoods in their recruitment campaigns.

Recommendations from the APPG Inquiry into Housing and Employment

On the basis of previous research and new evidence, the Inquiry's recommendations included:

- More regional and national public funding resources should invest in neighbourhoods to reinforce positive social networks helping social landlords be better placed to work with statutory bodies and deliver employment and training programmes locally
- Greater use of tailored, joined up one-to-one support which focuses not only on employment opportunities, but also finding out what the individual wants and how to actually help them train and get them into a job and to give them confidence in their jobs
- Devolution of employment support programmes to more functional labour market areas and encouragement of providers to form consortia at this scale to deliver key local programmes
- Encourage and support greater partnership working between housing associations and other organisations – e.g. further education colleges, employers and other organisations that could then help provide access to the job market
- Provision of time-limited financial support on entering the labour market to cover costs associated with the transition to employment – in recognition that [keeping a job is hard](#)

- Promotion of better labour market outcomes for local people via procurement and supply chain routes through local labour clauses, apprenticeships and other matching of people to opportunities
- Greater clarity and certainty about future funding (such as the Shared Prosperity Fund)
- Support across the whole employment journey – from pre-employment, to job entry, to sustaining employment, to progression in work

In the context of the Covid-19 crisis, social rented housing providers have a key role to play in helping some of their residents who have been hard hit by job loss link to new employment opportunities.

The Impact of the Covid-19 Crisis on Childcare and Implications for Participation in the Labour Market

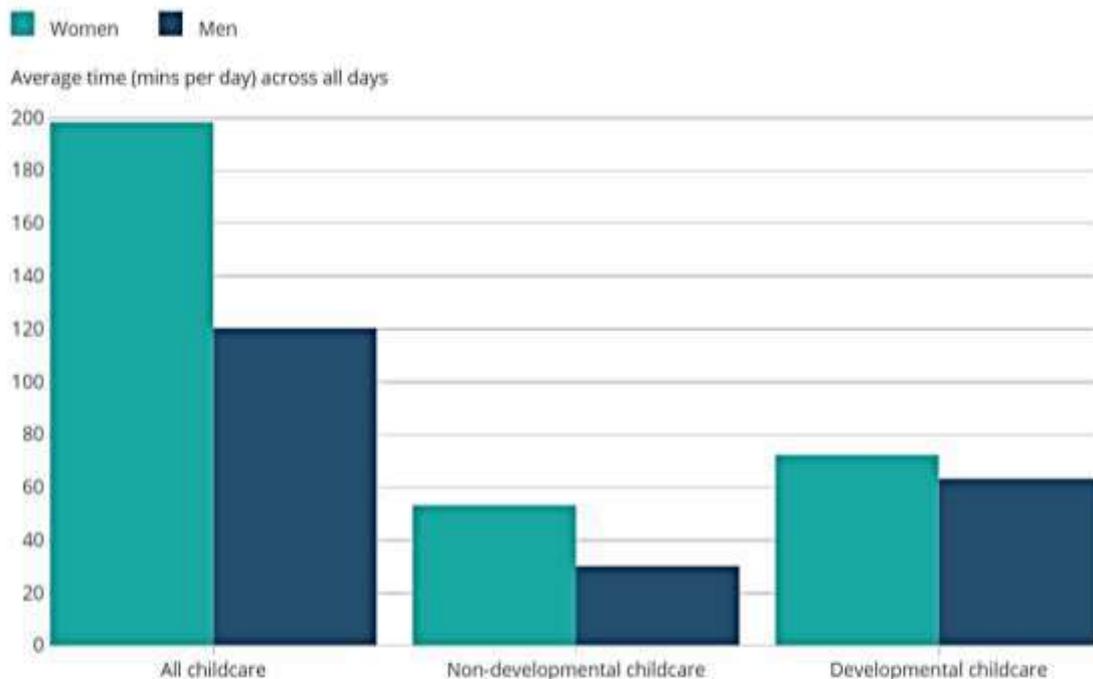
Sara Hassan WM REDI

Since lockdown, many working parents have experienced difficulty in being able to work with some childcare providers closing their doors. Covid-19 has severely impacted on the systems and structures in place to support these parents. Formal childcare providers such as nurseries, childminders, babysitters and nannies are an essential part of that support structure. In addition, they are the major route to delivery of government entitlements for free early education. These entitlements are fundamentally a lifeline for families from low income and vulnerable groups. This stress to families across the UK had potentially an overwhelming effect on ability to work and participate in the labour market.

During the lockdown, almost all the children aged (0-4) ceased use of childcare except for vulnerable and key worker children. Furthermore, even after easing the restrictions in July 2020 only 25% returned to their childcare provider settings, this went up to 47% in September 2020 (see statistics [here](#)). These closures of childcare providers to most families during COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of access to childcare providers not only as means of shaping young children's environment and affecting their mental wellbeing but also to support paid work for these families. Unsurprisingly, ONS data in July 2020 shows that more women have carried out more childcare duties overall (see website [here](#)). The consequences of having to care for children in this early years' stage hit women's employment disproportionately as a report by Working Families charity indicates (see report [here](#)).

Many childcare providers saw a long lasting fall in demand for their services while they attempted to get their business back at an ever-increasing cost of providing a service that is in line with the social distancing rules and requirements. A [report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies \(IFS\)](#) questions whether the childcare sector will recover and return in the next 6–12 months as the support from the government is phased out. The childcare market was argued to witness a huge turnover in services provision even before the pandemic. With providers increasingly facing cuts in support from local councils, many providers leave and new businesses open, trying to adjust to parents' preferences. The instability of this market threatens the support of working parents and increases

the likelihood of socio-economic inequalities.



Source: Office for National Statistics - Parenting in Lockdown

The report recommends two approaches to support the childcare market. One is the support of businesses reliant upon parent fees and the other is to prioritise support towards publicly funded childcare through free early years' entitlements. Although, the government kept directly public funded hours for childcare during lockdown, most childcare providers were still in a vulnerable position as many combine public and private income and so were often still vulnerable during the lockdown. This signals a turbulent future for the market as it adjusts to changing levels of demand. The drop in demand triggered by the pandemic poses a risk and a challenge to both childcare providers' finances and policy makers. Both need to monitor the capacity and demand for all types of providers for all age groups.

Research by LSE and Centre for Economic performance suggests that the providers who faced a significant deficit during lockdown are those who operate in more deprived areas, those providers with highly qualified staff and smaller providers such as self-employed childminders (see report [here](#)). Failure to support childcare providers risks the closure of otherwise healthy businesses that tipped into temporary deficit as result of the pandemic. Providers who rely on free entitlements were financially more cushioned than those who relied on parents' fees. The unprecedented drop in demand coupled with impact of lockdown restrictions and following social distancing and hygiene measures can have a negative impact on their incomes in 2021.

Demand on these providers is further affected by changing perceptions of working parents. In a report, by the Working Families' charity (See report [here](#)), 1,063 working parents and carers were surveyed many of whom experienced flexible working during the lockdown. The survey shows that 89% of working parents and carers did not want their employers to return to revert to business as usual after lockdown is lifted. For some parents, their hours may have been reduced because their employer has less work for them to do. Whilst this may be welcome for some families because

schools and childcare settings have closed, it will affect their earnings. This illustrates the inter-related challenges faced by working parents, childcare providers and employers.

References:

Claudia Hupkau and Barbara Petrongolo, 2020, Work, care and gender during the Covid-19 crisis, CEP COVID-19 ANALYSIS, Paper No.002, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE

Jo Blanden, Claire Crawford, Elaine Drayton, Christine Farquharson, Megan Jarvie & Gillian Paull, 2020, Challenges for the childcare market: the implications of COVID-19 for childcare providers in England, IFS Report R175, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Working Families, June 2020, COVID-19 and flexible working: the perspective from working parents and carers

Working Families, 2020, [Weathering the storm: the COVID-19 pandemic and working parents](#), ONS website.

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#), Education statistics website.

Employer Skills Survey

Alex Smith, ODA, WMCA, WM REDI

Results of the 2019 Employer Skills Survey were published this month.

The 2019 Employer Skills Survey (ESS) gathers information on skills needs and training from employers via telephone survey. It asks questions about which skills are in short supply in job applicants for different roles, as well as any training the firm is delivering.

Although the survey was conducted before the Covid-19 pandemic it provides useful information on some of the underlying skills challenges facing employers in the region and nationally. Here information is disaggregated to the 3 LEP areas.

Summary

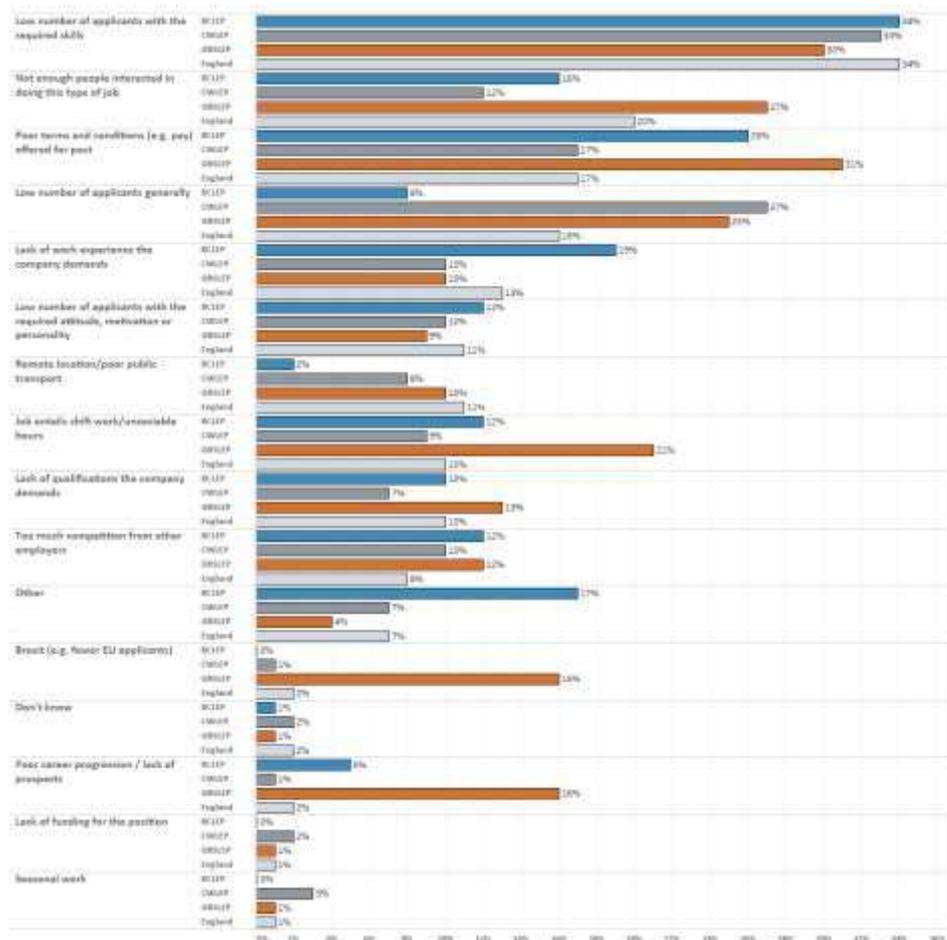
- Lack of the necessary skills is the single greatest obstacle to recruitment in BCLEP and CWLEP, while in GBSLEP it is second after poor terms and conditions on offer. Far more vacancies in GBSLEP have been affected by Brexit uncertainty, unsociable hours, and lack of career progression opportunities than the other LEP areas or the England average.
- In both CWLEP and GBSLEP, recruitment is made more difficult by a lack of advanced IT, statistics, and data science skills. In advanced IT in particular, both LEP areas considerably outstrip the England average of **20%** in terms of the proportion of skills-shortage vacancies that are difficult to fill for this reason (**25%** in CWLEP, **22%** in GBSLEP.)
- BCLEP still has a very high demand for manual and machinery operating skills, driven by the need to replace its ageing workforce.
- A large proportion of skills-shortage vacancies prove difficult to fill due to the lack of necessary social skills, such as teamwork and presentation skills. While the West Midlands

does not differ greatly from the England average in this area, in both areas social skills of one form or another are a constraint on recruitment for around half of positions.

- There is a fairly low level of awareness amongst West Midlands employers of the apprenticeship system and how it can support them. Only **41%** of employers in the Black Country, **37%** in CWLEP, and **40%** in GBSLEP were aware of the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. Of these, **58%**, **60%**, and **60%** were aware that this levy applies to employers with an annual wage bill of more than £3million. Fewer still were aware of the premium available for recruiting apprentices from deprived areas, with **21%** in the Black Country and **22%** in CWLEP and GBSLEP being aware of this. Small businesses between 10 and 49 employees are more common in the West Midlands, and may be missing out through financial pressure and the administrative time it takes to arrange apprenticeships.

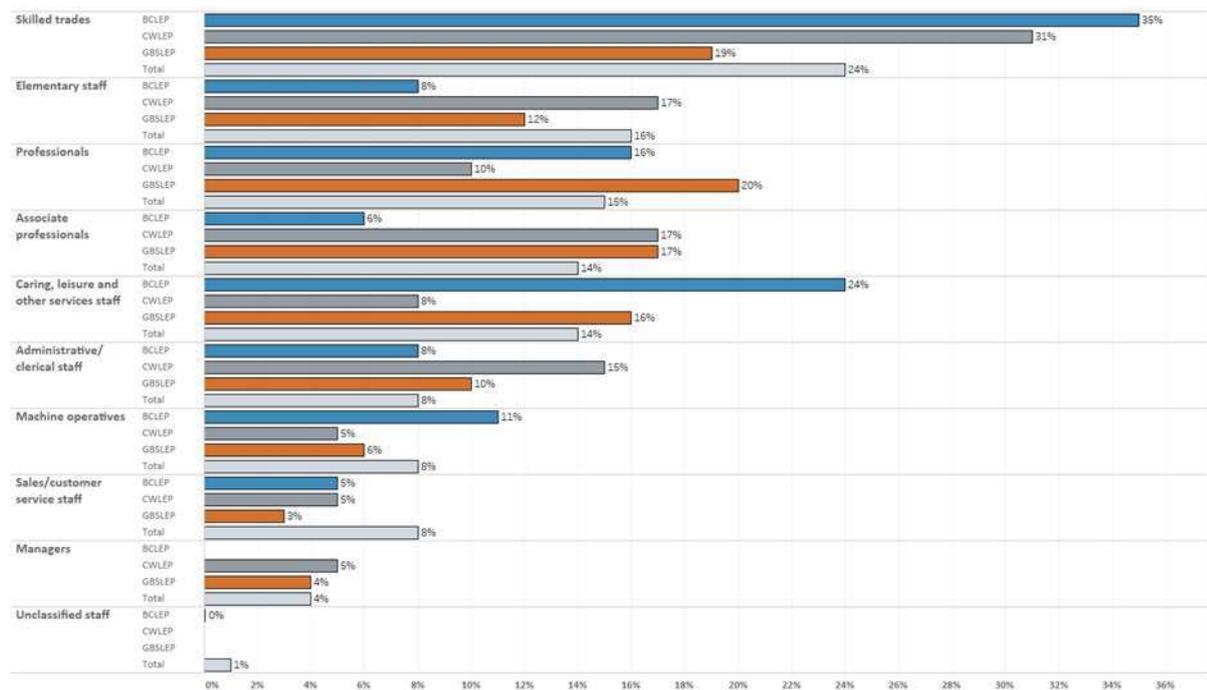
Reasons for Vacancies

The contribution that skills shortages make to vacancies is similar in the West Midlands to the England average. Shortage of the necessary qualifications is likewise considered neither better nor worse. However, there are some marked differences in other questions about how the labour market affects recruitment. GBSLEP has far more of a problem with shift work and unsociable hours deterring applicants (likely stemming from the city centre’s strength in retail, restaurants, and leisure.) The concentration of professional services may also have contributed to the much higher concern about Brexit impacts (due to greater inter-connectedness) and career progression.



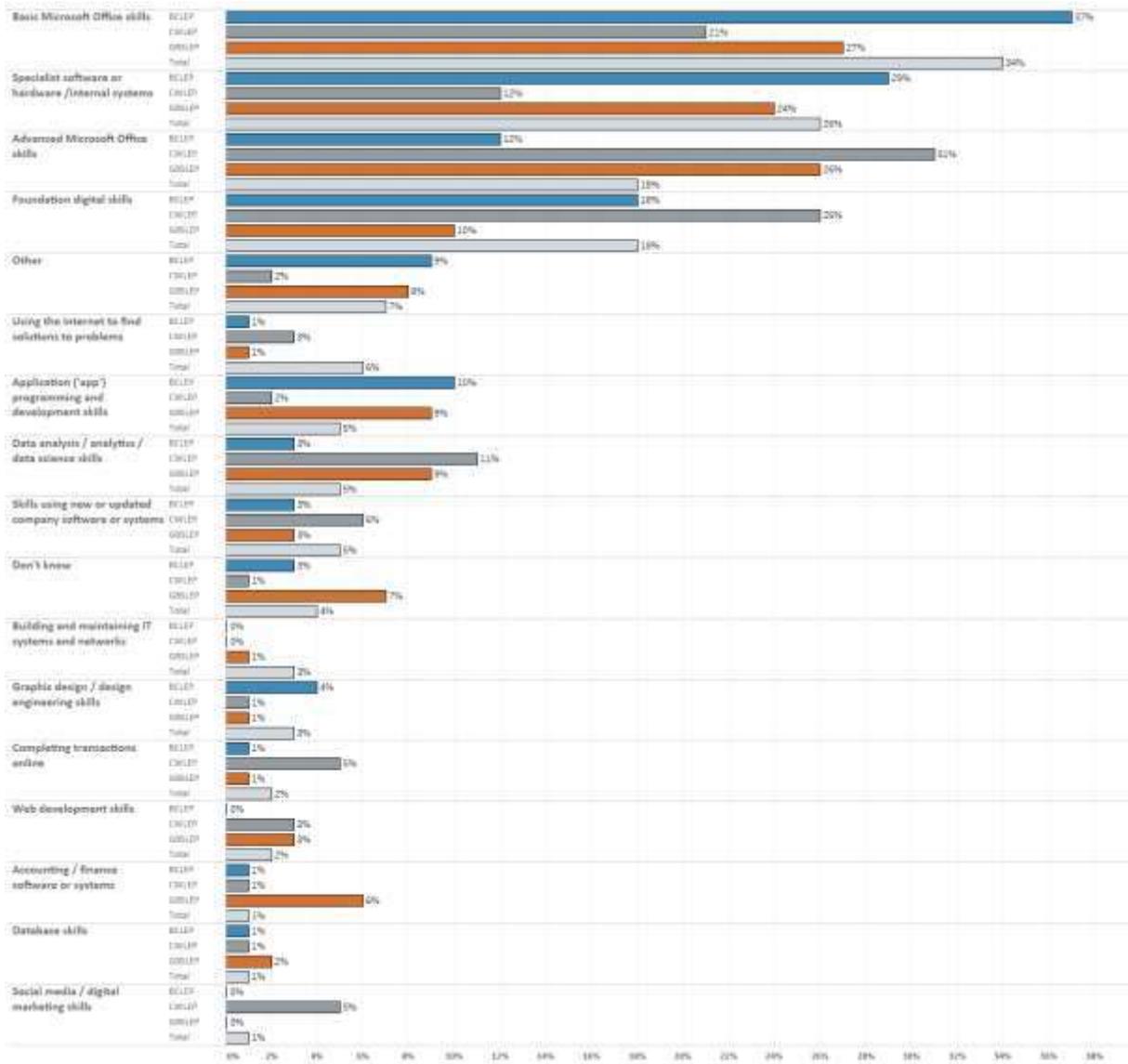
Skill Shortage Vacancies by Type

Skilled trades occupations are frequently in short supply in the Black Country, with lack of skills cited for **35%** of firms as constricting their ability to hire, versus **24%** in England. This likely reflects significant replacement demand for existing workers in these lines of work rather than growth in total employment. BCLEP also lacks sufficient skilled workers in care, leisure and other services (**24%**) compared to the England average (**14%**). In this case, the sector is both large and growing. Lack of the necessary skills is also strongly affecting professional-level recruitment in GBSLEP (**20%** of vacancies affected). These figures are presented below against the England average, with each percentage figure representing the proportion of firms, which had skills shortage vacancies of the given type.



IT Skills

The chart below displays the proportion of skills-shortage vacancies which are made difficult to recruit due to a lack of specific IT skills. Basic IT skills such as Microsoft office are still cited as a major constraint in the Black Country (**39%** of posts), less so in CWLEP (**20%**) and similar to the England average in GBSLEP (**30%** in GBSLEP versus **33%** in England). GBSLEP has a notable shortage of data analysis and data science skills, likely reflecting its concentration of professional services firms. The density of game development firms in Leamington Spa in CWLEP appears to have been picked up in the sample, with a far greater shortage of skills in online transactions, data science, and social media/marketing in CWLEP than the other two LEPs or England average.



Practical Skills

The survey also assessed the proportion of skills-shortage vacancies for which key technical and practical skills were making them difficult to fill. Comparison of LEP areas based on general practical skills is revealing:

| | Total | BCLEP | CWLEP | GBSLEP |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Reading and understanding instructions, guidelines, manuals or reports | 30% | 23% | 27% | 40% |
| Basic numerical skills and understanding | 23% | 23% | 19% | 30% |
| More complex numerical or statistical skills and understanding | 23% | 20% | 22% | 36% |
| Adapting to new equipment or materials | 21% | 32% | 15% | 17% |
| Computer literacy / basic IT skills | 20% | 14% | 17% | 29% |
| Manual dexterity - for example, to mend, repair, assemble, construct or adjust things | 18% | 35% | 18% | 11% |
| Advanced or specialist IT skills | 17% | 11% | 25% | 22% |
| Communicating in a foreign language | 17% | 6% | 12% | 9% |
| None of the above | 8% | 4% | 5% | 12% |
| Don't know | 9% | 9% | 9% | 8% |

The greater prevalence of professional services and concentration of research activity in the GBSLEP is readily apparent in the much greater demand (relative to supply in the labour market) for mathematics and IT skills. That **36%** of skills-shortage vacancies in GBSLEP are affected by difficulty in obtaining complex numerical or statistical skills is very striking. This is much higher than the England average (**23%**) and implies that this shortage is a major impediment to growth and recruitment. High demand for advanced/specialist IT skills are also constraining recruitment, particularly in CWLEP.

Equally pronounced is the demand in BCLEP for manual dexterity and equipment skills, likely to be 'replacement demand' for new staff to replace an ageing workforce in the manufacturing sector, rather than the creation of new jobs. The lower demand for numerical and IT skills in BCLEP is likely due to weaker growth in sectors such as professional services, rather than a greater availability of these skills in the workforce.

Social Skills

The summary below presents the proportion of skills-shortage vacancies which are difficult to recruit for owing to lack of particular social skills in applicants:

| | Total | BCLEP | CWLEP | GBSLEP |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ability to manage own time and prioritise own tasks | 60% | 68% | 55% | 64% |
| Team working | 50% | 60% | 44% | 58% |
| Managing their own feelings, or handling the feelings of others | 49% | 48% | 42% | 34% |
| Customer handling skills | 45% | 37% | 48% | 59% |
| Managing or motivating other staff | 41% | 32% | 41% | 35% |
| Persuading or influencing others | 39% | 47% | 41% | 33% |
| Instructing, teaching or training people | 30% | 21% | 29% | 27% |
| Sales skills | 29% | 18% | 31% | 25% |
| Setting objectives for others and planning human, financial and other resources | 26% | 18% | 19% | 17% |
| Making speeches or presentations | 19% | 12% | 26% | 18% |

Shortfalls in social skills are not greatly different in the three LEP areas versus the England; it is notable how high a proportion of skills-shortage vacancies are difficult to fill due to lack of team working, polish, and general social skills. In light of the shortage of IT and mathematical skills

identified above, it is likely that supporting training courses that inculcate high-level technical skills combined with strong team working and presentation skills would be a winning combination in the current job market.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

A significant impediment to the delivery of higher number of apprenticeships in the region is a lack of employer awareness of how the apprenticeship system works. As of the survey date in 2019, only **41%** of employers in the Black Country, **37%** in CWLEP, and **40%** in GBSLEP were aware of the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. Of these, **58%**, **60%**, and **60%** were aware that this levy applies to employers with an annual wage bill of more than £3million.

While none of the figures depart markedly from the England averages, they do indicate a lack of awareness amongst employers of the financial setup of apprenticeships which would allow them to make decisions about whether it would benefit them to take an apprentice on. For instance, only **27%** of employers in the Black Country and CWLEP and **30%** in GBSLEP were aware of the **5%** co-investment payment employers provide to support apprenticeship costs. Fewer still were aware of the premium available for recruiting apprentices from deprived areas, with **21%** in the Black Country and **22%** in CWLEP and GBSLEP being aware of this.

It would not be expected that all employers would be aware of the details of the apprenticeship system, particularly if the recruitment of apprenticeships is not directly applicable to their business - for instance if they are a very small firm. Financial constraints and the administrative overhead of organising an apprenticeship are also major contributors to lower take up, particularly in the current circumstances. However, the West Midlands has a significant share of small firms relative to the England average which might benefit from greater access to apprenticeships. The table below shows the distribution of different sizes of firm as a proportion of the total number of firms in a given area:

| Employees | <i>England</i> | <i>BCLEP</i> | <i>CWLEP</i> | <i>GBSLEP</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2-4 | 55% | 49% | 53% | 52% |
| 5-9 | 21% | 19% | 16% | 18% |
| 10-24 | 15% | 20% | 20% | 19% |
| 25-49 | 5% | 7% | 6% | 6% |
| 50-99 | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% |
| 100-249 | 1% | 2% | 1% | 2% |
| 250 or more | 1% | *% | 1% | 1% |

Notes on Methodology

Unlike all other regions, in the West Midlands the ESS did not conform to a strict quota of business sizes and sectors. This will have affected the accuracy of the work. However, many metrics for the West Midlands match closely to the England average, implying that this bias is not uniform. In some instances, the data for a given category for a given LEP is missing due to insufficient sample size. Significant overlap between categories and responses mean percentages will not sum to 100% for each LEP area. For instance, a vacancy may exist for more than one reason.

Transport Data

Anne Shaw TFWM

Levels of use – 27th October 2020 (data 1 day behind)

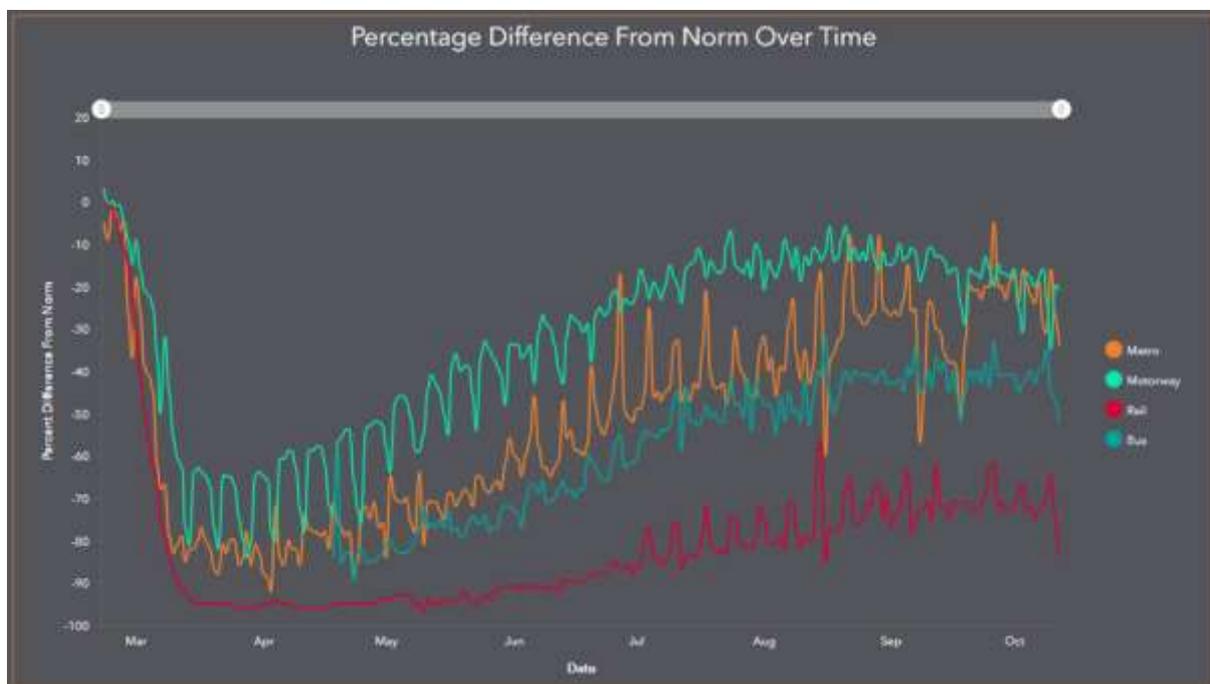
The Graph below shows the level of use on all modes. The table provides intelligence in terms of the levels of services and the use of the network per mode compared to this time last year.

Figures below reflect the half term week where we generally see a reduction in travel. This may disguise a genuine reduction in travel in line with Covid Guidance.

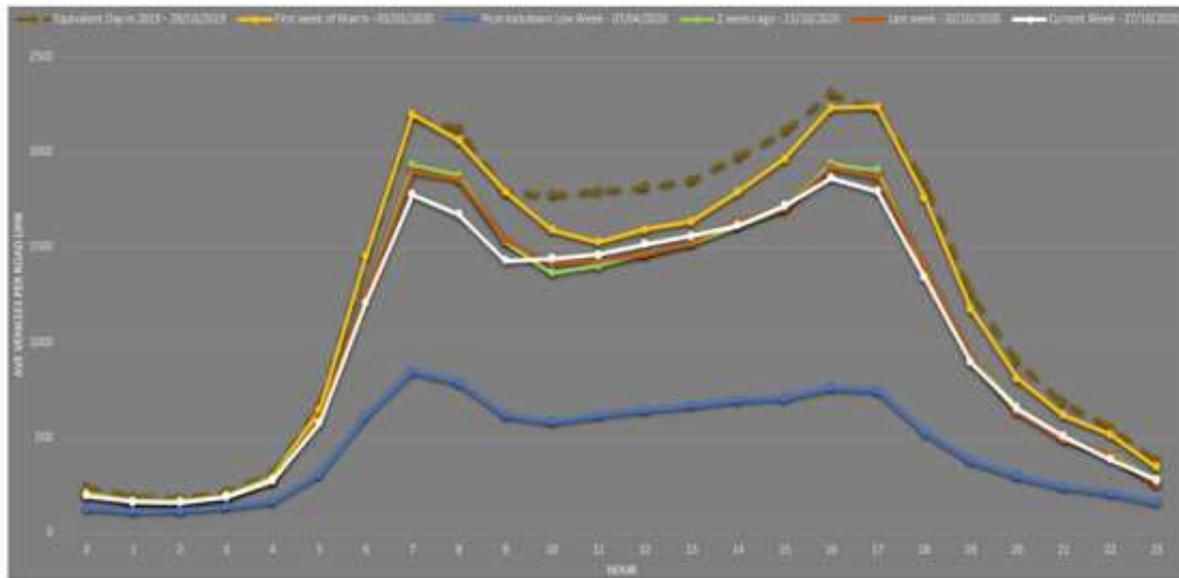
Following the introduction of further Covid measures, transport services remain at their current levels with social distancing measures in place. Advice in the areas in the High category is to reduce travel, walk and cycle where possible.

We continue to monitor the network and carry out relevant actions to assist with managing capacity to ensure compliance with social distancing. In addition, we are also continuing to encourage and enforce on the network the wearing of face coverings.

| Mode | % service compared to this time last year | % patronage compared to this time last week (20 th October 2020) |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Roads | N/A | 79% (down from last week by 3%) |
| Bus | >100% | 48% (down from last week by 12%) |
| Train | 95% | 16% (down from last week by 12%) |
| Tram | >100% | 66% (down from last week by 12%) |



Tuesday 27th October



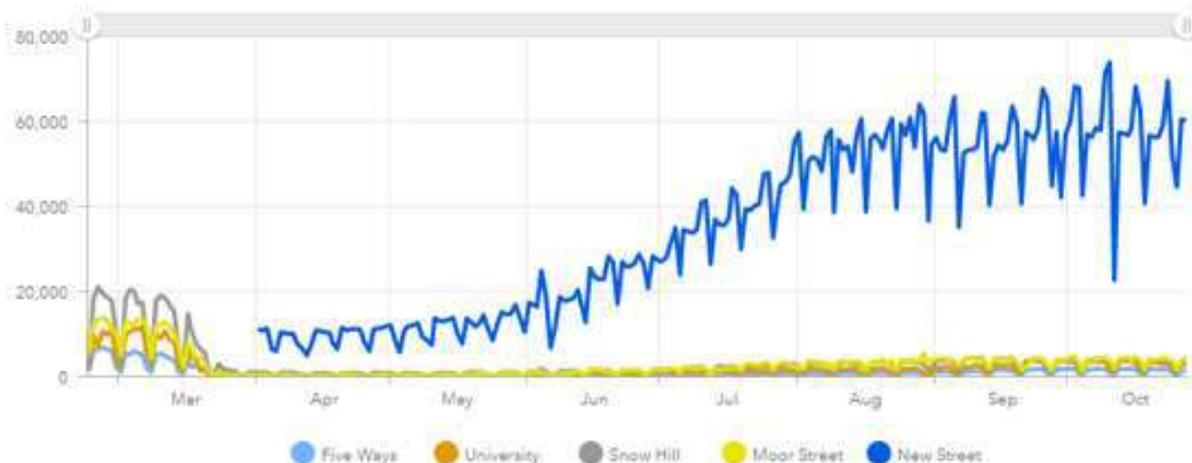
Traffic **decreased by 2%** compared to the previous Tuesday.

Traffic on Tuesday was 20% lower than it was this time last year and 15% below where it was during the first week of March.

Key:

- Brown dotted line – this time last year
- Yellow line – 1st week March
- Blue line – post lockdown, lowest weekly figures, showing the best compliance
- Green line – 2x weeks ago
- Bronze line – 1x week ago
- White line – the days figures

Daily Footfall - Birmingham Rail Stations



ONS Weekly Indicators

BCCEIU

On the 22nd October 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.

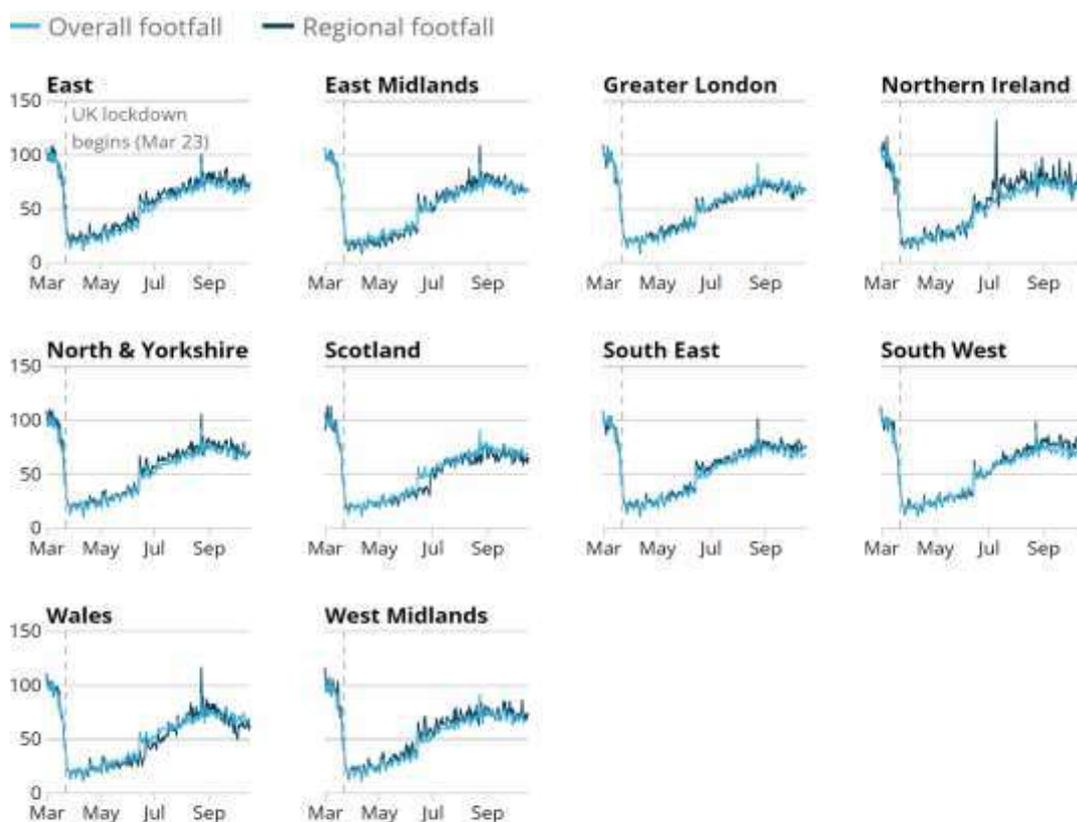
The statistics are experimental and have been devised to provide timely information. The following information contains footfall data, final results from Wave 15 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS), National Company Incorporations and Voluntary Dissolution, Wave 29 of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) and experimental online job advert indices.

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.

For the week ending the 18th October 2020, overall footfall fell below 70% of the 2019 level. High streets and shopping centres were the main causes for the overall decrease, with only a small decrease coming from retail parks.

The most recent week for regional level footfall shows there was moderate decrease in most of the regions when compared to previous week. East of England had the largest footfall decrease when compared to the previous week and the smallest decrease was in Wales.



Source: Office for National Statistics

National Company Incorporations and Voluntary Dissolution

There were 16,821 incorporations in the week ending 16th October 2020, this is below the incorporations recorded in the same week as 2019. For the week ending 16th October, there were 4,974 voluntary dissolution applications. This is also below the same week as the previous year at 5,898.

Business Impact of the Coronavirus

The final results from Wave 15 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) based on the 3,744 businesses surveyed across the West Midlands with a response rate of 27.0% (1,012). Unless stated, the following data is based on the period between 21st September to 4th October 2020 and only covers topics where there is a regional breakdown. Please note the data used is unweighted for regions and should be treated with caution when evaluating the impact of COVID-19. Due to weighted data being available for the UK a comparison has not been included.

Trading and Financial Performance

The trading status of businesses refer to the period of 21st September to 4th October and the turnover analysis is between 5th to the 18th October.

For the West Midlands, less than 1% of businesses have permanently ceased trading. While 98.1% of businesses have been trading and 1.3% of businesses have temporarily closed or paused trading.

In the West Midlands, 97.8% of responding businesses are currently trading and have been for more than the last two weeks. 1.2% of responding West Midlands businesses have paused trading and do not intend to restart in the next two weeks.

49.5% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported their turnover had decreased by at least 20%. However, 29.8% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported that their turnover was unaffected and around 12.4% reported their turnover had increased by at least 20%.

Turnover versus Operating Costs

11.5% of West Midlands businesses reported that operating costs exceeded turnover by at least 20% and 10.0% reported that turnover was equal to operating costs. While 55.5% of West Midlands businesses reported turnover exceeded operating costs by at least 20% and 23.0% were unsure.

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 5th to 18th October. For the West Midlands, the highest industry was accommodation and food services activities and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities which were both at 3.5%.

25.4% of West Midlands businesses reported interest in their goods or services had decreased. 9.0% reported interest had increased and 37.9% of West Midlands businesses reported interest had stayed the same.

| 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 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 1.3% | * | * | 1.2% |
| Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities | 1.8% | 0.0% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.8% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 3.5% | 0.0% |
| Construction | 0.0% | 2.6% | 1.9% | * | 0.0% | 1.3% | * | 1.9% | 1.7% | 1.3% | * | * |
| Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles | * | 1.3% | 1.3% | * | * | 2.0% | * | * | 1.4% | 1.0% | * | * |
| Transportation and Storage | * | 3.3% | 1.0% | 3.3% | 2.4% | 2.0% | 1.0% | 3.7% | 2.4% | 2.4% | 1.4% | 1.0% |
| Accommodation and Food Service Activities | * | 3.5% | 2.7% | 2.9% | 3.3% | 9.6% | 2.5% | 4.5% | 4.3% | 2.9% | 3.5% | 2.3% |
| Information and Communication | * | * | * | * | * | 3.6% | * | 1.1% | 1.9% | * | * | 2.2% |
| Real Estate Activities | 0.0% | 1.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.9% | 1.4% | 0.0% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities | * | 1.3% | * | * | 1.0% | 2.7% | 1.0% | 1.4% | 2.1% | 1.4% | 1.0% | 1.0% |
| Administrative and Support Service Activities | * | 2.7% | 1.4% | 1.7% | 2.0% | 6.6% | 1.5% | 2.9% | 3.8% | 2.0% | 1.8% | 1.5% |
| Education | * | 2.1% | 1.7% | 1.3% | * | 2.1% | * | 1.7% | 4.7% | 1.3% | * | 3.0% |
| Human Health and Social Work Activities | 0.0% | 1.2% | 1.2% | 1.8% | 0.0% | * | 0.0% | 1.8% | 3.1% | 1.8% | 1.8% | * |
| Arts, Entertainment and Recreation | 0.0% | 6.0% | 5.5% | 1.5% | * | 5.0% | 1.0% | 4.0% | 2.5% | 3.5% | 2.0% | 3.0% |
| All industries | * | 1.9% | 1.4% | 1.2% | 1.0% | 3.2% | 1.0% | 1.8% | 2.3% | 1.5% | 1.3% | 1.3% |

Regional Footfall

Businesses were asked in the last weeks had the Coronavirus affected their businesses footfall when compared with normal expectations for the time of year. Responses may cover to the point of completion of the questionnaire (5th to 18th October).

22.8% of West Midlands businesses reported that footfall had decreased when compared to the previous year, 2.5% reported that footfall had increased. 10.9% of West Midlands businesses reported that footfall had stayed the same, while 54.5% responded not applicable and 9.5% of West Midlands businesses were not sure.

Choice of Suppliers

Businesses were asked if the choice of suppliers for sourcing materials, goods or services have changed since the start of the Coronavirus.

Businesses Selling Similar Goods

Businesses were asked if the number of businesses selling similar goods or services to their business had changed since the start of the Coronavirus.

In the West Midlands, 54.6% of businesses responded the number had not changed. 2.0% of West Midlands businesses responded the number had increased and 10.3% reported the number had decreased.

Increase in Demand

Business were asked if there had been an increase in demand for goods or services sold in the last two weeks. Responses may cover to the point of completion of the questionnaire (5th to 18th October). Please note that response rates vary across regions and between waves. Low response can impact the interpretation of these estimates.

16.1% of West Midlands businesses responded there had been an increase in demand for goods or services in the last two weeks – which is the highest UK region. 64.2% of West Midlands businesses reported no increase.

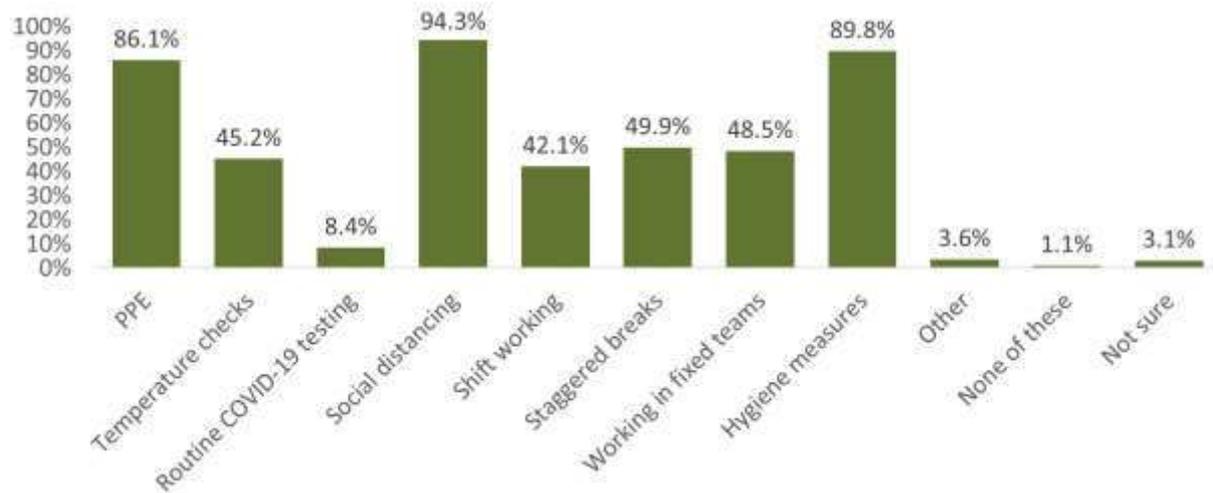
Capital Expenditure

13.1% of responding West Midlands businesses reported capital expenditure had stopped and 32.2% of businesses reported capital expenditure has not been affected. While, 33.8% of West Midlands businesses reported capital expenditure was lower than normal and 4.9% found capital expenditure was higher than normal.

Safety Measures

94.3% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading intend to or have implemented social distancing.

Examples of other safety measures intended to or have implemented across these West Midlands businesses include 89.8% will use increased hygiene measures and 86.1% will use PPE.



International Trading

Businesses were asked in the last weeks, had their businesses exporting or importing of goods or services been affected by the Coronavirus in the last two weeks. Responses may cover to the point of completion of the questionnaire (5th to 18th October).

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 Coronavirus, 38.3% of exporting businesses in the West Midlands reported their businesses were still exporting but less than normal. Of those businesses who continued to trade and import, 32.4% in the West Midlands were importing less than normal.

51.6% of West Midlands businesses who were exporting reported that they had not been affected and 55.1% said that importing had not been affected.

Government Schemes and Initiatives

Responses may cover to the point of completion of the questionnaire (5th to 18th October).

82.5% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading have applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. 13.3% of West Midlands businesses have applied for business grants funded by the UK and devolved government and 19.1% for government backed accredited loans or finance agreement. While 15.8% of West Midlands businesses have not applied for any of these schemes.

97.3% of West Midlands businesses have received funds from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. 18.0% of businesses received funds from a Government backed accredited loans or finance agreements. While 1.4% have not received any funds from these schemes.

3.9% of responding West Midlands businesses intend to apply for Government backed accredited loans or finance agreements and 2.9% are intending to apply for business grants funded by the UK and devolved governments. 56.3% of responding businesses intend to apply for the Job Retention Bonus and 7.5% are intending to apply for the Kickstart Job Scheme for young people. While 41.1% of responding West Midlands businesses do not intend to apply for any of these schemes.

58.7% of West Midlands businesses are using the Deferring VAT payments initiative. 25.6% are using business rates holiday initiatives and 14.9% are using HMRC Time to Pay Scheme. 33.3% of West Midlands businesses are not using any of these initiatives.

68.6% of West Midlands businesses who received support from schemes or initiatives reported that it helped them to continue trading, while 22.7% reported that it did not impact their ability to continue trading.

Financial Assistance

12.2% of businesses in the West Midlands have received financial assistance from banks or building societies. Of these businesses, 85.0% reported this assistance helped them to continue trading, however 12.5% reported there was no impact on their ability to continue trading.

Cash Flow

Responses may cover to the point of completion of the questionnaire (5th to 18th October).

3.2% of West Midlands businesses that have not permanently stopped trading have no cash reserves. Across the UK region the percentage of businesses with no cash reserves varies from 2.3% in Northern Ireland to 4.9% in the North East.

Insolvency

Responses may cover to the point of completion of the questionnaire (5th to 18th October).

28.5% of responding West Midlands businesses reported they were at no risk from insolvency. 49.6% of West Midlands businesses reported they were at low risk and 8.3% were at moderate risk of insolvency. For the West Midlands less than 1% of responding businesses were at severe risk of insolvency.

40.8% of West Midlands businesses reported that due to the Coronavirus insolvency risk had increased, 48.7% reported the risk had stayed the same. 2.8% of West Midlands businesses reported insolvency risk had decreased.

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 29, covering the period 14th to 18th October 2020. In this wave there were 1,653 (75%) responding adults. Please note, this week refers to the period between 14th to 18th October 2020 and last week refers to the period between 7th – 11th October 2020.

Socialising

20% of adults reported leaving home to eat or drink at a restaurant, café, bar or pub this week, this is a decrease when compared to last week at 26%. In a local lockdown the percentage of adults leaving home to eat or drink at a restaurant, café, bar or pub this week was 19% and the figures for not in a local lock down was 21%.

12% of adults living in a local lockdown met up with people in a personal space compared to 25% for those not in a local lockdown.

68% of adults tend to or strongly support the rule of six measures. 14% of adults had not met up with anyone indoors in the past week. 82% reported that they had met up indoors with between two and six people (including themselves).

4% of adults reported that they had met up indoors with more than six people in the last week. Of these adults, 11% met up with only people from their household. With 56% of people who had met with more than six people indoors due to worship service, sports/exercise or child's activity class.

When comparing areas in a local lock down and not in a local lock down the following was seen; 17% in a local down had not met up with anyone indoors compared to 11% for not in a local lock down, 79% in a local lock down had met indoors with between two and six people, figures stood at 85% for not in a local lockdown and 4% in a local lockdown and not in a local lockdown had met up indoors with more than six people.

Social Distancing

84% of adults said they often or always maintained social distancing; this is a slight increase from 82% from the previous week. 16% of adults reporting they never, not very often or sometimes maintained social distancing.

84% in a local lockdown reported to often or always maintained social distancing (83% not in a local lockdown) and 14% in a local lockdown reporting they never, not very often or sometimes maintained social distancing (15% not in a local lockdown).

Work

60% of adults travelled to work this week: a 5-percentage point decrease from the previous week.

25% of adults reported working from home exclusively this week – the highest seen since the beginning of August.

56% of adults who had worked from home in the last week did so due to their employer asking them to do so, 48% were following government advice and 28% reported they normally worked from home.

School

26% of adults with dependent children of school age reported the coronavirus is affecting their child's feelings about going to school or college a lot.

64% of adults with dependent children were very or somewhat worried about them going to school or college this term. Among those who were worried about going to school and college this term, the most common concern reported was about them catching the Coronavirus at school or college at 58%. In addition, 50% of adults with dependent children were worried about the impact on their child's mental health or wellbeing due to changes in school or college because of the coronavirus.

66% of adults with dependent children reported that they had a lot or some support from a school or college in helping their oldest child catch up with education missed.

8% of adults with dependent children reported that the oldest child or young person in the household had been sent home from school or college this term due to a coronavirus outbreak in their class, year group or bubble. Of the remaining adults whose oldest child had not been sent home, 41% said their school or college has had an outbreak of coronavirus this term.

74% of adults reported that they strongly agree or agree that their school or college had done a good job in their handling of their coronavirus outbreak this term.

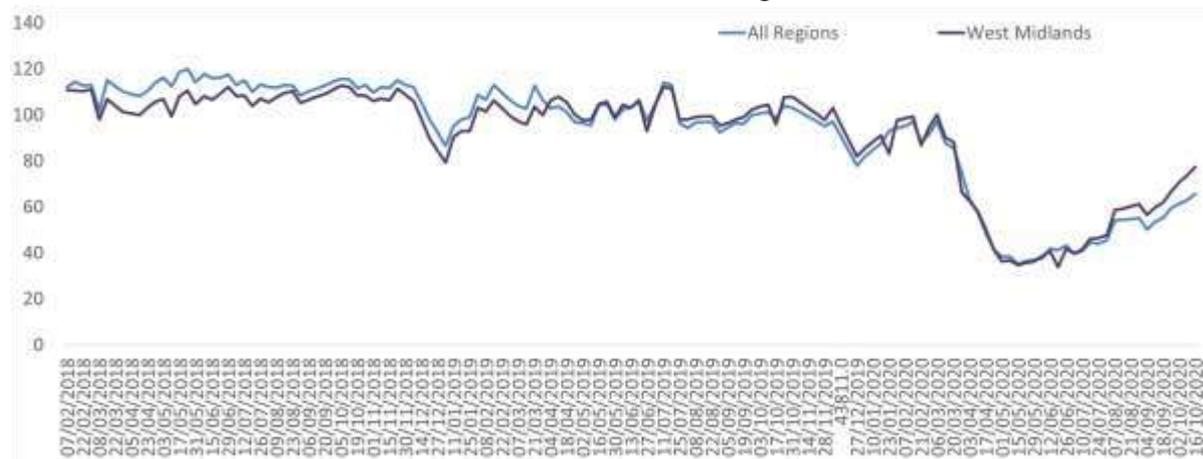
Online Jobs Adverts

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). The Adzuna categories do not correspond to SIC categories and therefore not comparable with the ONS Vacancy Survey.

Nationally, total online job adverts increased from 62.8% (of the 2019 average) in the week of the 9th October to 65.6% (of the 2019 average) in the week of the 16th October. For the latest week, out of the 28 categories (excluding unknown), 25 had increased from the previous week with a 25.0pp increase in part-time weekend work to reach 184.3% of the 2019 level. In contrast, the largest drop was in catering and hospitality by 0.6pp to 31.7% of the 2019 level.

For the West Midlands region, the total online jobs adverts increased from 73.6% (9th October) to 77.3% (16th October) of its 2019 average. Scotland was the only region to see a decrease in online job adverts from 60.7% (9th October) to 59.9% of its 2019 average. Yorkshire and The Humber had the increased between the two weeks by 4.8pp to 67.0% of its 2019 average. The latest week data

shows that the East Midlands was the closest to its 2019 average at 86.6%.



Weekly Deaths

The following analysis compares the latest time period (week of the 16th October 2020) to the previous week period (week of the 9th October 2020) for the number of deaths registered and the number of deaths related to the Coronavirus.

Across England and Wales, the overall registered death figures increased from 9,954 in the week of 9th October to 10,534 (+5.8%) in the week of 16th October. The number of deaths registered that state Coronavirus on the death certificate increased from 438 people to 670 people (which equates to an increase of 53.0%) over the same period.

Regional level analysis shows that the West Midlands the overall registered death figures increased from 1,053 in the week of 9th October to 1,154 in the week of 16th October. The number of registered deaths related to Coronavirus increased from 43 to 49 over the same period. Notably, the West Midlands region had the slowest increase in numbers across the nine English regions, while the North West was the highest at an additional 76 deaths (to 229), followed by the Yorkshire and The Humber by 35 (to reach 87).

There was a total of 815 deaths registered across the WMCA (3 LEP) area in the week of the 16th October. There were 41 deaths registered that were related to Coronavirus over the same period – this accounts for 5.0% of total deaths. The WMCA (3 LEP) area accounts for 83.7% of the Coronavirus related deaths registered in the West Midlands Region.

In comparison to the week of the 9th October, the overall registered death figures across the WMCA (3 LEP) area increased by 129 people and the number of registered Coronavirus related deaths increased by 11.

At local authority level, there were eight that did not record any Coronavirus related deaths within the WMCA (3 LEP) area. Birmingham recorded the highest number of Coronavirus related deaths at 15, down to 1 being registered in four local authorities (Tamworth, North Warwickshire, Rugby and Dudley).

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, of the deaths involving Coronavirus registered in the week of 16th October, 30 of the deaths were in hospital.

| | Care home | Elsewhere | Home | Hospice | Hospital | Other communal establishment | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------|----------|------------------------------|-------|
| Cannock Chase | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Staffordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lichfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tamworth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| North Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 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 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Birmingham | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 15 |
| Coventry | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Dudley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sandwell | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Solihull | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Walsall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Wolverhampton | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| WM 7 Met. | 3 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 23 | 0 | 32 |
| Black Country LEP | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 12 |
| Coventry & Warwickshire LEP | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 10 |
| Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 19 |
| WMCA (3 LEP) | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 30 | 0 | 41 |

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)



Produced by the Office for Data Analytics and the Black Country Consortium Economic Intelligence Unit

The figures are based on claims submitted for the second SEISS grant by 19:51pm on 30 September 2020.

Summary

- Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, there were 173,200 of the population eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). There were 119,100 claims made to the 30th September, which equates to a value of £284.6m or on average nearly £2,500 per claim. The take-up rate for the WMCA (3 LEP) was 69%, above the UK average of 67%. (Take-up is based on total number of claims to date (excludes error and rejected cases) over total potentially eligible population (includes error and rejected cases).)
- At the West Midlands regional level, there were around 261,000 of the population eligible for the SEISS, which is a take up rate of 67% based on the total number of claims of 175,000. This can be split further by gender and there was a total potentially eligible male population of 186,300 for the SEISS, which equates to a take-up rate of 69% at the end of September which is based on the total number of claims of 129,000; (due to rounding the total figure

may not equal the gender split). There were 74,600 eligible female population for the West Midlands region with a take-up rate of 61% based on the total number of claims of 45,800.

- For the West Midlands region, the industry with the highest eligible population for the SEISS is in construction at 81,100 and also had the highest number of claims with 59,200 and a total value of £180.2m and for the take-up rate at 31%.

In Depth

WMCA (3 LEP)

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, there were 173,200 of the population eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). There were 119,100 claims made to the 30th September, which equates to a value of £284.6m or on average nearly £2,500 per claim. The take-up rate for the WMCA (3 LEP) area was 69%, above the UK average of 67%. (Take-up is based on total number of claims to date (excludes error and rejected cases) over total potentially eligible population (includes error and rejected cases).

The following table shows a breakdown by local authority for eligible population, claims and take-up rate for the SEISS up to 30th September 2020. The take-up rate varies from 71% in Cannock Chase, Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall to 61% in Stratford-on-Avon.

| | Total potentially eligible pop. | Total no. of claims made to 30/9/20 | Total value of claims made to 30/9/20 | Average value of claims made to 30/9/20 | Take-Up Rate |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cannock Chase | 5,000 | 3,600 | £9,800,000 | £2,700 | 71% |
| East Staffordshire | 5,200 | 3,400 | £7,800,000 | £2,300 | 65% |
| Lichfield | 4,800 | 3,200 | £8,700,000 | £2,700 | 67% |
| Tamworth | 3,000 | 2,000 | £5,100,000 | £2,500 | 69% |
| North Warwickshire | 3,200 | 2,100 | £5,600,000 | £2,600 | 67% |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 4,900 | 3,300 | £8,200,000 | £2,500 | 67% |
| Rugby | 4,400 | 2,700 | £7,000,000 | £2,600 | 62% |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 7,600 | 4,600 | £12,600,000 | £2,700 | 61% |
| Warwick | 5,600 | 3,500 | £9,100,000 | £2,600 | 63% |
| Birmingham | 46,100 | 32,800 | £70,700,000 | £2,200 | 71% |
| Coventry | 12,900 | 8,900 | £20,800,000 | £2,300 | 69% |
| Dudley | 14,400 | 10,200 | £25,200,000 | £2,500 | 71% |
| Sandwell | 13,000 | 9,200 | £20,400,000 | £2,200 | 71% |
| Solihull | 7,900 | 5,400 | £14,900,000 | £2,800 | 68% |
| Walsall | 11,900 | 8,500 | £20,500,000 | £2,400 | 71% |
| Wolverhampton | 9,800 | 6,600 | £15,200,000 | £2,300 | 67% |
| Bromsgrove | 4,500 | 3,000 | £8,200,000 | £2,700 | 67% |
| Redditch | 3,800 | 2,700 | £6,700,000 | £2,500 | 70% |
| Wyre Forest | 5,200 | 3,400 | £8,100,000 | £2,400 | 66% |
| WM 7 Met. | 116,000 | 81,700 | £187,700,000 | £2,300 | 70% |
| BCLEP | 49,100 | 34,500 | £81,300,000 | £2,400 | 70% |
| CWLEP | 38,600 | 25,100 | £63,300,000 | £2,600 | 65% |
| GBSLEP | 85,500 | 59,500 | £140,000,000 | £2,500 | 70% |
| WMCA (3 LEP) | 173,200 | 119,100 | £284,600,000 | £2,500 | 69% |
| UK | 3,390,000 | 2,261,000 | 5,703,000,000 | 2,500 | 67% |

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, there were 126,600 of the male population eligible for the SEISS. There were 90,200 claims made to the 30th September, which equates to a value of £229.9m or on average nearly £2,500 per claim. The male take-up rate for the WMCA (3 LEP) area was 71%.

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, there were 46,600 of the female population eligible for the SEISS. There were 29,100 claims made to the 30th September, which equates to a value of £54.5m or on average nearly £2,500 per claim. The female take-up rate for the WMCA (3 LEP) area was 62%.

Regional Analysis

West Midlands Region: Claims by Age and Gender

At a West Midlands regional level, there were around 261,000 of the population eligible for the SEISS, which is a take up rate of 67% based on the total number of claims of 175,000. (Due to rounding the total figure may not equal the gender split.) This can be split further by gender and there was a total potentially eligible male population of 186,300 for the SEISS, which equates to a take-up rate of 69% at the end of September which is based on the total number of claims of 129,000. There were 74,600 eligible female population for the West Midlands region with a take-up rate of 61% based on the total number of claims of 45,800.

The highest take-up rate in the West Midlands for males were those aged 35- 44 years old at 74%, with the lowest take-up rate for those aged 65 years and over at 51%. While for females, the highest take-up rate was those aged 25-34 years old at 65%, with the lowest take up rate for those aged 65 years and over at 43%.

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

| Gender | Age bands | Total potentially eligible population | Total no. of claims made to 30/9/20 | Total value of claims made to 30/9/20 | Average value of claims made to date | Take-Up Rate |
|--------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Male | 16-24 | 7,200 | 4,600 | £8,700,000 | £1,900 | 64% |
| | 25-34 | 34,500 | 24,900 | £65,300,000 | £2,600 | 72% |
| | 35-44 | 41,900 | 31,100 | £80,000,000 | £2,600 | 74% |
| | 45-54 | 47,700 | 33,900 | £89,700,000 | £2,600 | 71% |
| | 55-64 | 39,900 | 26,400 | £69,900,000 | £2,700 | 66% |
| | 65+ | 13,300 | 6,800 | £19,700,000 | £2,900 | 51% |
| | Missing | 1,900 | 1,300 | £3,100,000 | £2,300 | 70% |
| | All | 186,300 | 129,000 | £336,600,000 | £2,600 | 69% |
| Female | 16-24 | 1,900 | 1,100 | £1,600,000 | £1,400 | 57% |
| | 25-34 | 12,400 | 8,100 | £14,300,000 | £1,800 | 65% |
| | 35-44 | 17,400 | 11,100 | £19,900,000 | £1,800 | 64% |
| | 45-54 | 20,400 | 13,000 | £25,200,000 | £1,900 | 64% |
| | 55-64 | 16,400 | 9,800 | £19,900,000 | £2,000 | 60% |
| | 65+ | 5,300 | 2,300 | £5,500,000 | £2,500 | 43% |
| | Missing | 700 | 400 | £900,000 | £2,200 | 63% |
| | All | 74,600 | 45,800 | £87,300,000 | £1,900 | 61% |
| All | 16-24 | 9,100 | 5,700 | £10,300,000 | £1,800 | 63% |
| | 25-34 | 46,900 | 33,000 | £79,600,000 | £2,400 | 70% |
| | 35-44 | 59,300 | 42,200 | £100,000,000 | £2,400 | 71% |
| | 45-54 | 68,100 | 46,900 | £114,900,000 | £2,500 | 69% |
| | 55-64 | 56,300 | 36,200 | £89,800,000 | £2,500 | 64% |
| | 65+ | 18,500 | 9,000 | £25,200,000 | £2,800 | 49% |
| | Missing | 2,600 | 1,800 | £4,100,000 | £2,300 | 69% |
| | All | 261,000 | 175,000 | £424,000,000 | £2,400 | 67% |

West Midlands Region: Claims by Broad Industry

The industry with the highest eligible population for the SEISS is in construction at 81,100 and also had the highest number of claims with 59,200 and a total value of £180.2m and for the take-up rate at 31%.

The following table shows a breakdown by broad industry for the West Midlands Region:

| | Total potentially eligible pop. | Total no. of claims made to 30/9/20 | Total value of claims made to 30/9/20 | Average value of claims made to date | Take-Up Rate |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Accommodation and food service activities | 6,500 | 4,000 | £8,900,000 | £2,200 | 2% |
| Administrative and support service activities | 19,300 | 10,900 | £19,200,000 | £1,800 | 7% |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 8,700 | 3,100 | £8,400,000 | £2,700 | 3% |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation | 5,400 | 3,800 | £7,900,000 | £2,100 | 2% |
| Construction | 81,100 | 59,200 | £180,200,000 | £3,000 | 31% |
| Education | 8,900 | 6,500 | £13,000,000 | £2,000 | 3% |
| Financial and insurance activities | 1,600 | 1,000 | £3,600,000 | £3,500 | 1% |
| Human health and social work activities | 11,500 | 6,300 | £15,900,000 | £2,500 | 4% |
| Information and communication | 2,400 | 1,300 | £3,500,000 | £2,600 | 1% |
| Manufacturing | 7,000 | 4,600 | £11,600,000 | £2,500 | 3% |
| Other service activities | 18,000 | 13,700 | £25,600,000 | £1,900 | 7% |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 11,900 | 7,100 | £20,400,000 | £2,900 | 5% |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 11,900 | 7,100 | £20,400,000 | £2,900 | 5% |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 500 | 300 | £700,000 | £2,200 | 0% |
| Real estate activities | 1,100 | 600 | £1,700,000 | £2,800 | 0% |
| Transportation and storage | 23,900 | 19,200 | £32,400,000 | £1,700 | 9% |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 17,900 | 10,900 | £24,600,000 | £2,300 | 7% |
| Unknown and other | 35,300 | 22,300 | £46,500,000 | £2,100 | 14% |

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

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Statistics: October 2020 edition



Produced by the Office for Data Analytics and the Black Country Economic Intelligence Unit

Summary

- In total, the WMCA 3 LEP area had 205,500 employments furloughed on the 31st August. This was 11.3% of eligible employments for the scheme. (619,800 individuals in the WMCA 3 LEP area have been furloughed at some point).
- There were a higher percentage of males furloughed in the WMCA 3 LEP area, 11.7% (106,900) compared to females, 10.9% (98,400).
- The West Midlands region had 278,400 employments furloughed on the 31st August, this was a decrease of 39.1% from the 456,800 employments furloughed on 1st July. This is a similar decrease to the UK figure of 42.3%.
- Preliminary figures show that 41.0% of employments furloughed on the 31st August were in the age range of 25 to 44. The next highest percentage was 34.0% for those between 45-64 years old, followed by 18-24 years old at 13.9%.
- In all age bands the number of employments furloughed in the UK decreased from 1st July to 31st August. The decrease has been greater in percentage terms for younger workers, with number of employments furloughed in the under 18's category at -55.5% (-82,700) and

the 18 to 24 years old category the figure was -49.9% (-454,400). The percentage decrease for all ages across the UK was -42.3% (-2,399,100).

- Across the UK, businesses with over 250 employees have made the highest value of claims for periods to 31st August with £14.7bn. This is followed by businesses with employer size 25-49 with £5.6bn, and then 100-249 with £3.9bn.
- Across the UK 33% (218,400) of eligible employments were furloughed in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector as of August 31st, the highest percentage of all sectors. The next highest is accommodation and food services with 27% (592,800), and other service activities with 23% (129,500). Preliminary estimates show that furloughing of staff across all sectors continued to decrease up to 31 August across the UK.

Full Briefing

Introduction

- This is the fifth release of Official Statistics on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS). This release provides analysis of claims for periods up to 31 August 2020. The data used includes claims submitted to HMRC by 30 September 2020.
- The data for July and August is incomplete as claims relating to these months may still be filed; thus, the figures for July and August should therefore be considered preliminary results and will be revised in future releases.
- This release extends the daily time series presented in the last release up to the end of August and includes analysis of the use of CJRS as at 31 August.

Furloughed Employments per day – UK

- Since the peak of 8.9 million employments furloughed on 8th May in the UK, followed by reductions in June, preliminary figures show that the number of employments furloughed continued to fall throughout July to 5.1 million on 31st July and 3.3 million on 31st August. The diagram below shows UK employments furloughed over time.



- The West Midlands region had 278,400 employments furloughed on the 31st August; this was a decrease of 39.1% from the 456,800 employments furloughed on 1st July (see Figure 1). This is a similar decrease to the UK figure of 42.3% (see Figure 2).

Figure 1:



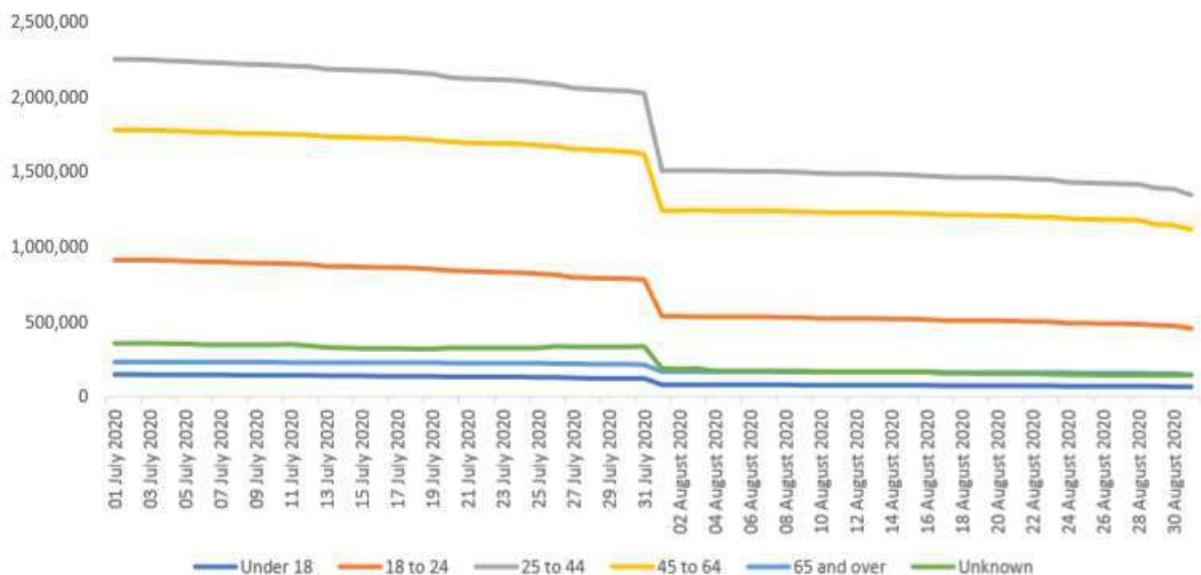
Figure 2:



Age - UK

- Preliminary figures show that across all age bands the number of employments furloughed decreased between 1st July to 31st August in the UK.

- For employments where the employee was aged 25 to 44, the number of employments was 2.25 million on 1st July. This decreased by 227,000 to 2.02 million employments furloughed on 31st July and fell further to 1.34 million by 31st August, a decrease of 40.2% in total.
- The number of employments furloughed with employees in the 18 to 24 age band was 911,000 on 1st July. Provisional figures show this decreased to 781,700 employments furloughed by 31st July and 456,600 employments furloughed by 31st August, a decrease of 41.6%.
- Where the employee was 65 or over, the number of employments furloughed was 232,700 on 1st July. Preliminary figures for this age band show the number of employments furloughed decreased to 215,300 by 31st July and 148,600 by 31st August, a decrease of 31.0%.
- The Figure below shows UK employments furloughed by age.



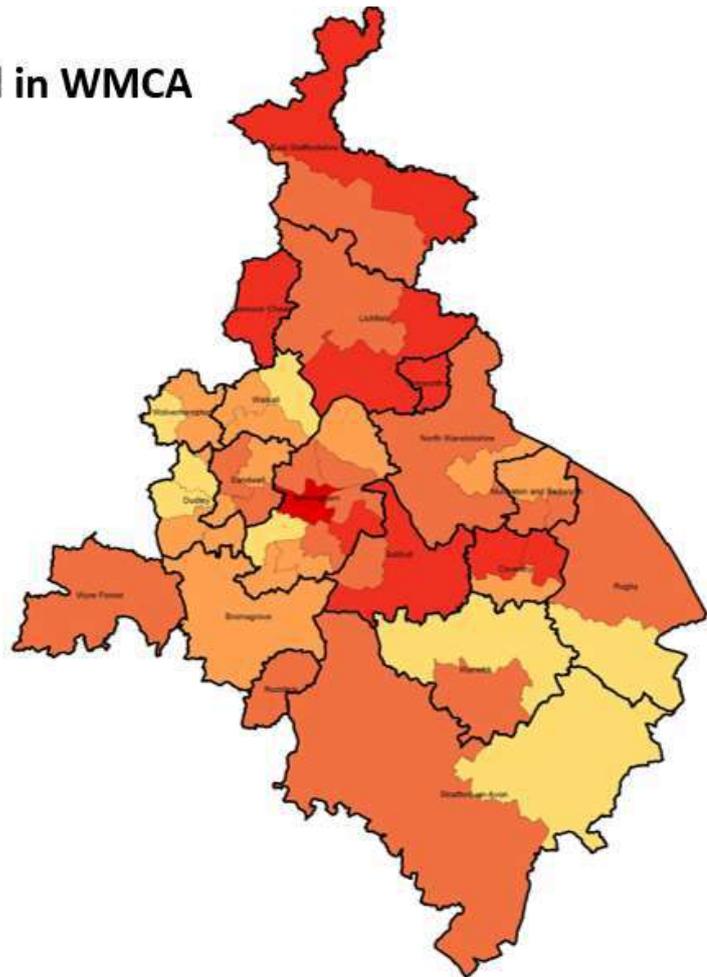
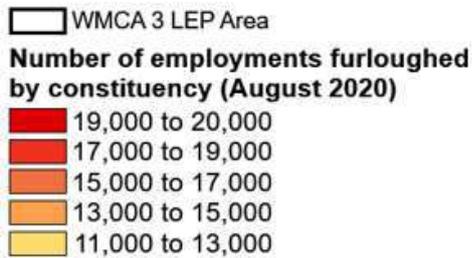
Gender – WMCA 3 LEP

- In total, the WMCA 3 LEP area had 205,500 employments furloughed as at 31st August. This was 11.3% of eligible employments for the scheme.
- There were a higher percentage of males furloughed, 11.7% (106,900) compared to females, 10.9% (98,400).
- The local authorities with the highest percentage of workers furloughed were Solihull with 12.8% (12,600), followed by Stratford-on-Avon and Birmingham both with 12.4% (5,100 and 55,400 respectively). See Table below for 3 LEP Local Authorities Eligible Employments Furloughed by Gender
- The local authority with the highest percentage of males furloughed was Redditch with 13.2% (2,800), followed by Birmingham with 13.1% (29,900) and Solihull with 12.8% (6,200).
- The local authority with the highest percentage of female employments furloughed was Stratford-on-Avon with 13.4% (4,100), followed by Solihull with 13.0% (6,500) and Warwick with 12.0% (4,100).

| Geography | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | Employments furloughed | Eligible employments | Take up-rate | Employments furloughed | Eligible employments | Take-up rate | Employments furloughed | Eligible employments | Take-up rate |
| Cannock Chase | 2,600 | 23,400 | 11.1% | 2,600 | 23,000 | 11.3% | 5,200 | 46,400 | 11.2% |
| East Staffordshire | 3,000 | 28,500 | 10.5% | 2,600 | 29,900 | 8.7% | 5,600 | 58,400 | 9.6% |
| Lichfield | 2,800 | 23,900 | 11.7% | 2,500 | 23,400 | 10.7% | 5,400 | 47,300 | 11.4% |
| Tamworth | 2,000 | 19,000 | 10.5% | 2,200 | 19,400 | 11.3% | 4,200 | 38,400 | 10.9% |
| North Warwickshire | 1,700 | 15,600 | 10.9% | 1,700 | 15,100 | 11.3% | 3,500 | 30,700 | 11.4% |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 2,900 | 31,600 | 9.2% | 3,200 | 31,600 | 10.1% | 6,100 | 63,200 | 9.7% |
| Rugby | 2,800 | 27,000 | 10.4% | 2,400 | 28,700 | 8.4% | 5,100 | 55,600 | 9.2% |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 4,100 | 30,700 | 13.4% | 3,300 | 29,800 | 11.1% | 7,500 | 60,500 | 12.4% |
| Warwick | 4,100 | 34,200 | 12.0% | 3,800 | 35,600 | 10.7% | 7,900 | 69,800 | 11.3% |
| Birmingham | 25,500 | 220,400 | 11.6% | 29,900 | 228,000 | 13.1% | 55,400 | 448,400 | 12.4% |
| Coventry | 7,800 | 77,200 | 10.1% | 8,800 | 80,200 | 11.0% | 16,600 | 157,400 | 10.5% |
| Dudley | 6,700 | 70,200 | 9.5% | 8,000 | 69,100 | 11.6% | 14,800 | 139,200 | 10.6% |
| Sandwell | 7,200 | 70,300 | 10.2% | 8,700 | 71,600 | 12.2% | 15,900 | 142,000 | 11.2% |
| Solihull | 6,500 | 50,000 | 13.0% | 6,200 | 48,400 | 12.8% | 12,600 | 98,400 | 12.8% |
| Walsall | 5,900 | 58,200 | 10.1% | 6,900 | 59,100 | 11.7% | 12,800 | 117,300 | 10.9% |
| Wolverhampton | 5,200 | 57,500 | 9.0% | 6,200 | 57,300 | 10.8% | 11,400 | 114,700 | 9.9% |
| Bromsgrove | 2,700 | 23,200 | 11.6% | 2,500 | 21,800 | 11.5% | 5,200 | 45,000 | 11.6% |
| Redditch | 2,400 | 21,600 | 11.1% | 2,800 | 21,200 | 13.2% | 5,200 | 42,800 | 12.1% |
| Wyre Forest | 2,500 | 22,400 | 11.2% | 2,600 | 21,200 | 12.3% | 5,100 | 43,600 | 11.7% |
| BCLEP | 25,000 | 256,200 | 9.8% | 29,800 | 257,100 | 11.6% | 54,900 | 513,200 | 10.7% |
| GBSLEP | 50,000 | 432,400 | 11.6% | 53,900 | 436,300 | 12.4% | 103,900 | 868,700 | 12.0% |
| CWLEP | 23,400 | 216,300 | 10.8% | 23,200 | 221,000 | 10.5% | 46,700 | 437,200 | 10.7% |
| WM 7 Met | 64,800 | 603,800 | 10.7% | 74,700 | 613,700 | 12.2% | 139,500 | 1,217,400 | 11.5% |
| WMCA (3 LEP) | 98,400 | 904,900 | 10.9% | 106,900 | 914,400 | 11.7% | 205,500 | 1,819,100 | 11.3% |

- The parliamentary constituencies in the WMCA (3 LEP) area with the highest percentage of eligible employments furloughed as on the 31st August 2020 was Birmingham, Yardley and Meriden both with a 13.8% take-up rate of the scheme (6,300 and 7,100 respectively). This was followed by Birmingham, Hodge Hill and Birmingham, Hall Green with 13.3% (5,700 and 5,800 respectively).
- Birmingham, Yardley was also the parliamentary constituency with the highest percentage of male employments furloughed with 15.0% (3,500), followed by Birmingham, Hodge Hill with 14.5% (3,400) and Birmingham, Hall Green with 14.3% (3,400).
- The parliamentary constituency with the highest percentage of female employments furloughed with 14.0% (3,700) was Meriden, followed by Stratford-on-Avon with 13.6% (3,000) and Kenilworth sand Southam with 13.0% (2,600).

Employments Furloughed in WMCA



Employment Size – UK

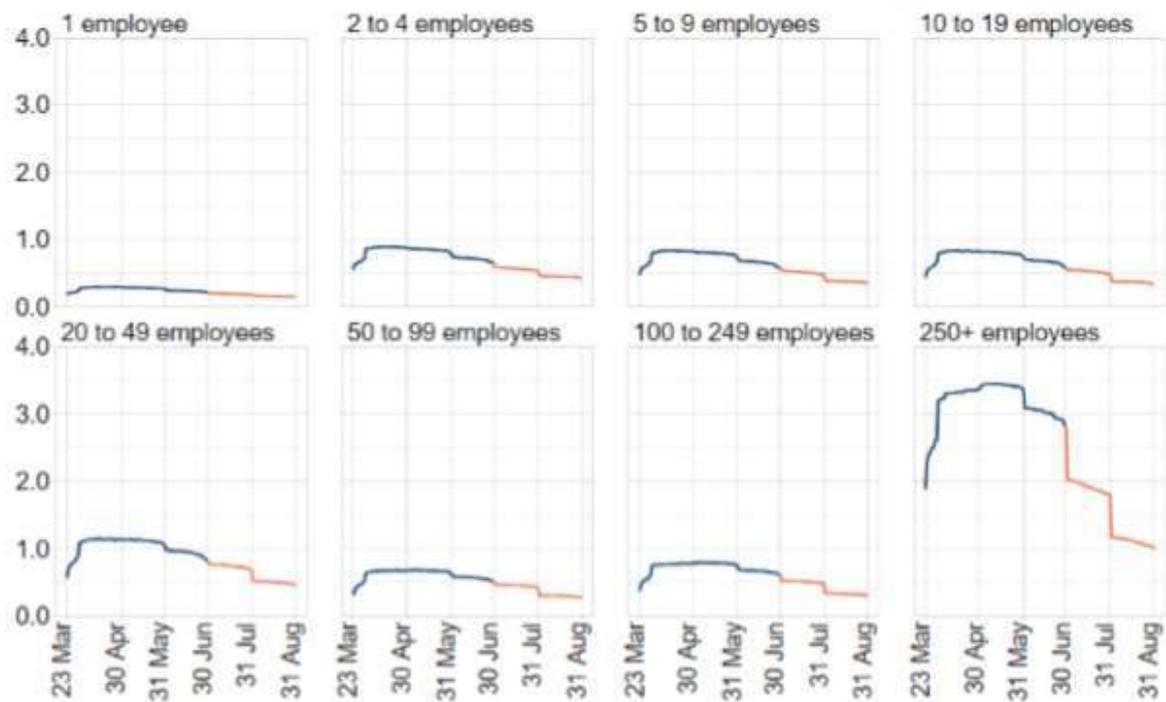
- Across the UK, businesses with over 250 employees have made the highest value of claims for periods to 31st August with £14.7bn. This is followed by businesses with employer size 25-49 with £5.6bn, and then 100-249 with £3.9bn.
- Businesses with 20-49 employees have had the highest take up rate of the scheme, with 48,700 eligible employers using it up until 31st August, 55.3% of eligible businesses. This was followed by 52.9% of eligible businesses with employer size 50-99, and then 52.6% of businesses with employer size 100-249. (See Table below for UK Eligible Employers and Employments Furloughed by Employer Size.)
- Those businesses with an employer size of 2-4 furloughed the highest percentage of eligible employments with 25.4%, followed by employer size of 5-9 with 22.3% and then businesses with employer size of 1 with 21.1%.

| Employer size | Employers | | | Employments | | | Value of claims made for periods to 31 August (£ million) |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| | Employers furloughing staff | Eligible employers | Take-up rate | Employments furloughed | Eligible employments | Take-up rate | |
| 1 | 148,400 | 727,500 | 20.4% | 153,600 | 727,600 | 21.1% | 1,039 |
| 2 to 4 | 236,100 | 667,600 | 35.4% | 427,600 | 1,682,900 | 25.4% | 3,318 |
| 5 to 9 | 104,700 | 242,700 | 43.1% | 345,100 | 1,547,800 | 22.3% | 3,429 |
| 10 to 19 | 62,700 | 136,000 | 46.1% | 333,000 | 1,792,700 | 18.6% | 3,689 |
| 20 to 49 | 48,700 | 88,000 | 55.3% | 448,900 | 2,615,200 | 17.2% | 5,554 |
| 50 to 99 | 15,400 | 29,100 | 52.9% | 272,200 | 1,977,600 | 13.8% | 3,474 |
| 100 to 249 | 9,100 | 17,300 | 52.6% | 303,400 | 2,606,900 | 11.6% | 3,944 |
| 250+ | 5,700 | 11,700 | 48.7% | 987,800 | 17,402,300 | 5.7% | 14,691 |
| Unknown | 500 | | | 3,200 | | | 36 |
| Total | 631,300 | 1,919,800 | 32.9% | 3,274,900 | 30,353,200 | 10.8% | 39,173 |

- Across all employer sizes, the number of employments furloughed continued to decrease between 30th June and 31st August in the UK.
- 3.45 million employments were furloughed by large employers with 250 or more employments on 5th May (the peak for this category). This reduced to 2.82 million employments furloughed by 30th June. Preliminary figures for the largest employers show 1.80 million employments furloughed by 31st July and 987,800 employments furloughed by 31st August. This is the largest proportionate decrease across all employer size bands between the peak and 31 August (71%). (Note that it is believed that the figures for larger employers are more subject to revision due to them submitting claims less promptly than those for smaller employers.)
- Employers with 20 to 49 employments had a peak of 1.15 million employments furloughed on 16th April, compared with a peak of 795,400 for employers with 100 to 249 employments on 1st May.
- Employers with one employment had a peak of 295,700 employments furloughed on 20th April, compared to 219,400 employments furloughed on 30th June. A net decline of 76,300. Preliminary figures show this decreased further to 182,500 employments furloughed by 31st July and 153,600 employments furloughed by 31st August.

The Figure below shows Furloughed Employments by Employer Size Over Time - UK

– Furloughed employments – Preliminary figures (incomplete data)



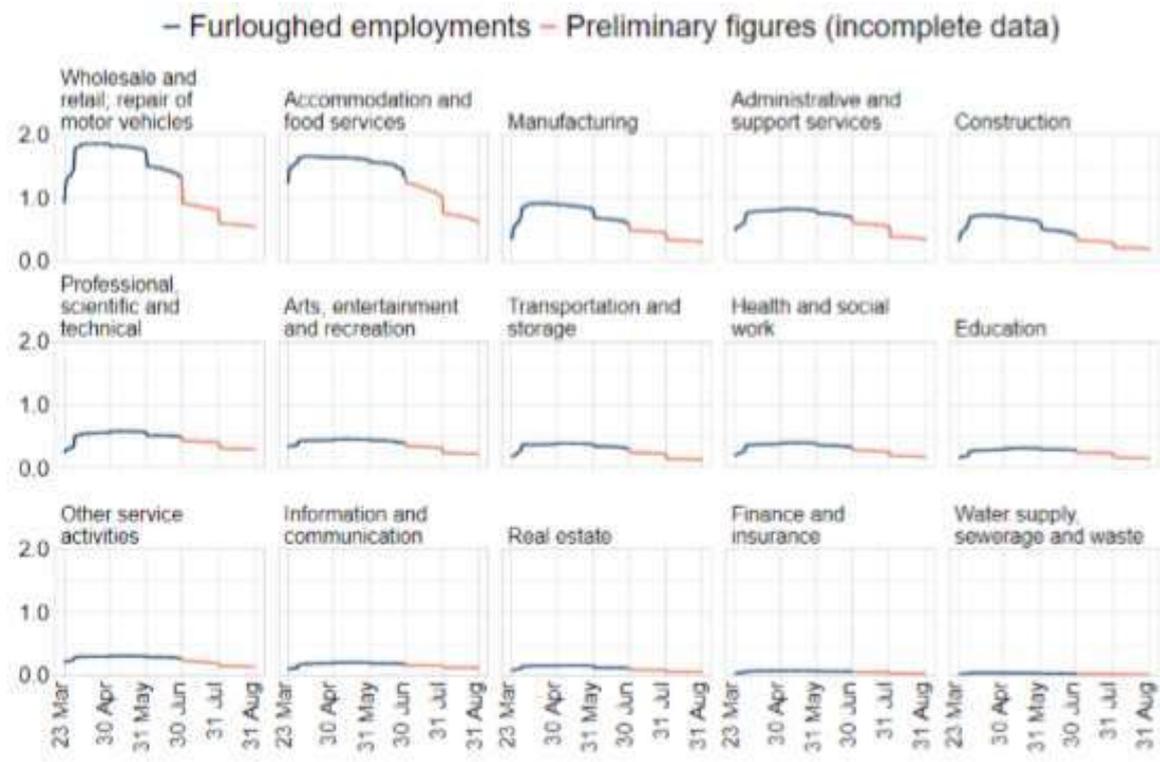
Source: HMRC CJRS data and PAYE Real Time Information

Sectors – UK

- Following on from the last release which covered the period to 31st July, preliminary estimates show that furloughing of staff across all sectors continued to decrease up to 31st August across the UK.
- Furloughing of staff in the wholesale and retail sector peaked on 24th April at 1.85 million employments furloughed. This dropped to 1.33 million employments furloughed by 30th June. Preliminary figures for this sector show 801,000 jobs furloughed at 31st July and 535,100 jobs furloughed at 31st August.
- Accommodation and food services peaked at 1.65 million employments furloughed on 10th April. There was a net decline of 325,700 employments to 1.32 million employments furloughed by 30th June. Preliminary figures for this sector show 1.03 million employments furloughed by 31st July and 592,800 employments furloughed by 31st August.
- The manufacturing sector had a peak of 911,000 employments furloughed on 17th April. This reduced to 583,600 by 30th June. Preliminary figures for this sector show 444,400 employments were furloughed at 31st July and 292,500 employments furloughed at 31st August.
- In construction, furloughing peaked on 14th April with 723,600 employments furloughed, with this falling to 404,200 employments on 30th June. Preliminary figures for this sector show 290,800 employments furloughed at 31st July and 185,700 employments furloughed at 31st August. This was the third largest proportionate decrease from the peak to 31st August across all sectors (74%) except for energy production and supply and mining and quarrying, but these sectors had far fewer employments furloughed.

- Furloughing in arts and entertainment sector peaked later than other sectors on 15th May 2020 with 455,100 employments furloughed on that date. To 30th June there was a net decrease of 61,700 employments furloughed in this sector. Preliminary figures for this sector show 314,600 employments furloughed at 31st July and 218,400 employments furloughed at 31st August.
- This means that this 33% (218,400) of eligible employments were furloughed in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector as of August 31st, the highest percentage of all sectors. The next highest is accommodation and food services with 27% (592,800), and other service activities with 23% (129,500).

The Figure below shows Furloughed Employments by Sector Over Time – UK



Source: HMRC CJRS data

Sources:

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics: October 2020](#)

This section is produced by the Black Country Consortium Intelligence Agency

Headlines

Cross Sector

Access to Finance & Cashflow

- Availability of funding and finance to support investment required to adapt to the Covid crisis is an issue for some businesses.
- Many businesses are interested in the wider economy grant.

Restrictions & Lockdowns

- Businesses concerned about potentially having to shut down in a new lockdown.

Sales

- Many sectors, and not just hospitality and leisure, are still reporting ongoing decline in sales due to the effects of Covid-19.
- This is also leading to ongoing job losses as businesses adjust to the new financial realities of their commercial base.

Investment

- Good pipeline of investment projects emerging in various sectors.

Skills & Training

- There has been an increase in enquiries from businesses looking to upskill their staff as they seek to adapt their businesses to new market opportunities and conditions.

EU Exit

- Some companies report that they are still in 'crisis management' mode and so have not had the opportunity to properly consider preparations for the end of Transition.
- Some businesses still under the misapprehension that a FTA would mean 'business as usual'.

Jobs & Redundancies

- Businesses facing the delicate task of staff redundancies are looking for support in dealing with the process correctly to ensure they meet their financial and legal responsibilities whilst handling the process of multiple redundancies. This has led for increased demand on HR service providers and subsequent B2B referrals.

Visitor Economy

Sales

- Still reporting ongoing decline in sales due to the effects of Covid-19.

Childcare Sector

Cross Theme

- With a large proportion of working families on reduced income due to furlough and redundancy added to the fact that many people are now able to work from home, businesses in the childcare industry are reporting a dramatic drop in revenues, as families do not need to send their children to childcare.
- Some businesses considering closure as they are not able meet property overheads and a return to pre-COVID custom is some way off.

New Economic Shocks

West Midlands

Automotive Sector

- [Jaguar Land Rover](#) has launched [a new voluntary redundancy](#) programme, which could affect up to 650 employees in the West Midlands. The scheme will be offered to the firm's "hourly employees," who work on manufacturing and non-manufacturing sites. Roles include manufacturing associates, inspectors in engineering and fitters and testers at sites in [Solihull](#), [Castle Bromwich](#) and [Wolverhampton](#).

West Midlands

Events Sector

- [NEC Group is set to make around 450 people redundant](#) after announcing a major restructure. The events giant will axe 55% of its permanent roles after being hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis which has let it unable to host any large-scale event since March.

Bedworth

Manufacturing

- Premier Sheet Metals - The Warwickshire company which made the 2012 London Olympic torch [is set to go into liquidation after entering administration last month](#).

Birmingham

Cultural

- **Birmingham Museums Trust** - Birmingham Museums Trust confirmed this week that it is [cutting the equivalent of 48 full-time roles](#), representing 25% of its total workforce.

Black Country

Creative Arts

- **The Grand Theatre and Black Country Living Museum** - The historic theatre in Wolverhampton [has been awarded £1.19m](#) in the latest round of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund, while Black Country Living Museum (BCLM) gets £2.56m.

Social

- **Black Country Blue Network** - Council chiefs look set to back plans to spend nearly [£700,000 on improving green spaces around Dudley's canal and river network](#).

Sutton Coldfield

Human Health and Social Care

- **The Norman Laud Assoc** - The heavy impact of the coronavirus pandemic has meant two [Sutton Coldfield short break homes will be closing their doors at the end of the year, with the loss of around 40 jobs](#). The Norman Laud Association's short break homes in Wylde Green provide overnight and day respite care services for around 60 adults and 30 children with complex learning disabilities and other associated health care needs.

Wolverhampton

Retail Sector

- Wolverhampton's iconic [Beatties building has moved a step closer to shutting its doors as a closing down sale was launched](#).

New Investments, Deals and Opportunities

Black Country

Retail

- **Victoria Carpets** - A carpets and flooring group has [secured up to £218.75 million](#) in new funding to support its continued growth.

Construction

- **Hinton Perry & Davenhill Ltd** - Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, [bosses have invested £2.5 million in a factory extension](#) and new plant at its site in Dreadnought Road, Brierley Hill, where the 215-year-old firm makes specialist bricks and quarry tiles.

Coventry

Creative, Arts, Recreation

- **Coventry UK City of Culture Trust** - Coventry's Creative Quarter is set to continue its work to support independent businesses following a boost from the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund. [FarGo Village has been awarded £150,000](#) from Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media & Sport.

Education

- **Coventry College** - [Coventry College has made a pledge to help 100 businesses](#) bounce back from the Coronavirus pandemic. The further education provider said it is committing to help 100 new companies it has never worked with before in an initiative called "COV100". Businesses will be given access to the college's apprenticeship talent pool – enabling them to connect with suitable individuals who meet specific criteria for vacancies they have.

Sports and Leisure

- **Wasps** - Coventry-based premiership rugby club Wasps have secured permission to build a [new training complex in Henley-in-Arden](#). The planning application for the 13-acre site on Stratford Road - which was ratified by Stratford District Council on 21 October - will now enable the club to press ahead with plans to relocate from Broadstreet Rugby Club.

Coventry/Bedworth

Recreation, Leisure

- **Ricoh Arena** - [A new 150-room hotel is set to be constructed at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry](#) which will create more than 30 jobs. The new £15m Hampton by Hilton hotel will go alongside the complex's 121-room DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. The application has been approved after Coventry City Council rejected an unrelated plan in November 2019 from Cryfield Investments for a 120-bedroom, six-storey hotel next to the ground.

Nuneaton

Manufacturing, Engineering, Testing Site

- **Horiba-Mira** - Nuneaton-based [Horiba Mira has invested £1.5m in a new large climatic vibration laboratory and battery abuse facility](#). Set to open this month, the new laboratory is the UK's first battery vibration test facility to also offer electrical and thermal cycling. It enables battery charging and discharging while in use, along with climatic capability, to carry out tests in ambient conditions ranging from -40°C to 100°C.

Redditch

Hand sanitiser / soap

- DCS Group - [Two hundred new jobs are coming to Redditch](#) – because of a company playing a key part in the national fight against Covid. The DCS Group are currently fitting out a unit on the Ravensbank industrial estate in a rapid move out of their existing factory which isn't big enough to cope with huge extra demand for hand sanitisers and liquid soap.

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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