

West Midlands Weekly Economic Impact Monitor



Issue 30 Publication Date 16/10/20

This monitor aims to pull together information across regional partners to understand the impacts of Covid19 on the economy. Where possible it will utilise all forms of quantitative and qualitative intelligence. However we urge caution in the use of the contents as this is an emerging situation.

This week infections continue to rise globally. Rates are surging in countless countries across the globe, with cases in Europe accelerating notably. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced bars and pubs will be closed in the [worst-hit parts of England](#) in order to suppress the spread of the virus. Chris Witty, the Chief Medical Officer, has said more measures might still be needed. Households in the Liverpool city-region are banned from mixing indoors and in private gardens, with pubs, gyms and casinos closed.

- [UK redundancies](#) increased by 74k in August, resulting in 227k redundant across the UK. The rise in unemployment, whilst steep, comes from a historically low baseline.
- [NatWest West Midlands Business Activity Index](#) – a seasonally adjusted index that measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of the region’s manufacturing and service sectors – registered at 58.5 in September. This signals that the region’s private sector activity has grown for the fourth consecutive month. It should be noted that the index was down from 61.9 in August.
- The Export Climate Index posted at 52.3 in September, signalling a third consecutive improvement in trade conditions for firms in the region. However, the latest reading was down from 52.7 in August.
- Lockdown had a far reaching impact on the **tourism sector** - 90% of businesses had temporarily closed by the end of lockdown and half have seen revenue fall by more than 75%. Those feeling that their performance has been worse than expected has nearly doubled from 25% in July to 44% now. Some 80% of businesses are concerned that, in the current climate and without additional support, they may not survive beyond the next 12 months.
- By late April 40% of businesses had temporarily closed, increasing to 80% by the end of May and the proportion had reached 90% by the end of lockdown.
- Almost half of the region’s tourism businesses have seen a fall in revenue of more than 75% and a further quarter have seen revenue fall by between 50% and 75%.
- After an initial post lockdown boost to tourism business performance has deteriorated as measures such as ‘eat out to help out’ have ended and the government has started to introduce new Covid restrictions. The proportion feeling that performance has been better than expected has fallen from 33% in July to just 9% now, and the proportion feeling that performance has been worse than expected has nearly doubled from 25% to 44%. As a result 70% of businesses have had to reduce employee hours and more than 40% have made redundancies.
- [An intergenerational audit for the UK 2020](#) provides the first comprehensive assessment of the initial phase of the coronavirus crisis for different generations in Britain. The core conclusion across the analysis in this audit is that the virus itself has determined the physical health outcomes across generations, and the shape of the pre-coronavirus economy has driven the initial economic impacts. The youngest and oldest workers are hardest hit in terms of the labour market. The Job Retention Scheme and boosts to benefits, mean that incomes fell most in lockdown for those in their late 40s. Consumer debt usage has accelerated for 35-44 year-olds; falling equity prices have dented the wealth of those in their 50s; and there were no particularly clear age differences by age (within the working-age population) in the likelihood of falling behind with housing payments in mid-lockdown. Younger adults had become the most likely to fall behind with housing payments; young people risk long-term employment and pay ‘scarring’ effects from starting careers in a downturn; the prospects for a post-coronavirus home ownership increase among aspirant buyers appear limited; and the removal of temporary welfare boosts looks set to provide a major drag on the incomes of young and childrearing-age adults.

- Transport regionally is at a steady state with minor fluctuations indicating travel demand is stabilising and reducing slightly. Transport services remain at their current levels with social distancing measures in place.
- The West Midlands region has received £16.9m in funding from the Culture Recovery Fund round 1, across 95 successful bids, the second lowest level after the North East. Birmingham city centre applicants received awards totalling £5.1m, Coventry £2.3m and Wolverhampton £262k. The largest bids were to theatres with Belgrade Theatre trust (£1m) and Malvern theatres (£1m) topping the regional list.
- The Avison Young Recovery Index for Birmingham is tracking higher than the National Index. It stood at 84.2 on 11th October, compared to 76.1 for the UK index.
- [Early experimental UK data](#) on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and society has been released. It shows:
 - According to the latest survey, nearly a fifth (19%) of businesses intend to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model in the future
 - The proportion of adults who used a face covering was the highest since the data series began, at 98%, according to the latest Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
 - Between 25 September and 2 October 2020, total online job adverts increased from 59% to 61% of their 2019 average, their highest recorded level since 3 April 2020.
 - Prices of items in the food and drink basket increased by 0.4% in the latest week, driven by an increase in the prices of vegetables, bread and cereals.
 - Footfall decreased in all 10 featured countries and regions, with the largest decrease in Wales.
 - The volume of all motor vehicle traffic was nine percentage points below the levels seen on the first Monday of February, the third consecutive week showing a small fall in traffic levels, according to data from the Department for Transport.
 - In London and the North East the counts of cars were around 90% of the average level seen pre-lockdown, and counts of pedestrians and cyclists 80%, according to traffic camera data.
 - The average number of daily ship visits was 289, which is slightly higher than the low point of 279 visits in the week ending 3 May 2020.
- In the West Midlands ONS data highlights:
 - For the week ending the 4th October, overall footfall fell below 70% of the 2019 level. High streets were the main reason for the overall decrease, although there was a small decrease in shopping centres and little change was seen in retail park footfall.
 - There were 17,940 incorporations in the week ending 2nd October 2020, this is above the incorporations recorded in the same week as 2019 which was 13,791. Also, there were 6,198 voluntary dissolution applications. This is also above the same week as the previous year at 4,900.
 - 53.0% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported their turnover had decreased by at least 20%. However, 27.7% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported that their turnover was unaffected and 11.5% reported their turnover had increased by at least 20%.
 - 1.1% of West Midlands businesses reported that operating costs exceeded turnover by at least 20% (UK 13.4%) and 10.7% reported that turnover was equal to operating costs (UK 12.7%). While 55.5% of West Midlands businesses reported turnover exceeded operating costs by at least 20% (UK 49.9%)
 - For the West Midlands, the highest industry ceased trading was accommodation and food services activities at 3.4%.

Global Outlook

Ben Brittain WMREDI

Global Outlook

Covid infection rates are surging in countless countries across the globe, with cases in Europe accelerating notably. Non-essential movement in and out of Madrid has been [banned](#), the Czech government has touted an ["improved" version of the first-styled lockdown](#), closing schools, restaurants and bars through to early November. Italy is also reviewing its current social distancing and restriction measures. Curfews have been announced in several cities across France.

In global businesses news, during the past week there have been some big takeovers. The biggest banking takeover this year has come from the Middle East, as Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank agreed to buy rival Samba Financial Group for \$15 billion. The recent weekend also brought news that private equity firm EQT AB is said deliberating a takeover of Dutch phone company Royal KPN NV.

U.S. stocks have this week climbed to an almost six-week high, expressing a rally in some of the world's largest technology companies. The NYSE FANG+ index jumped 3.3% for its best session in a month, buoyed by Amazon

Prime Day and an Apple Inc. product unveiling. Apple revealed four [new 5G-enabled iPhones](#) which will also come in different screen sizes.

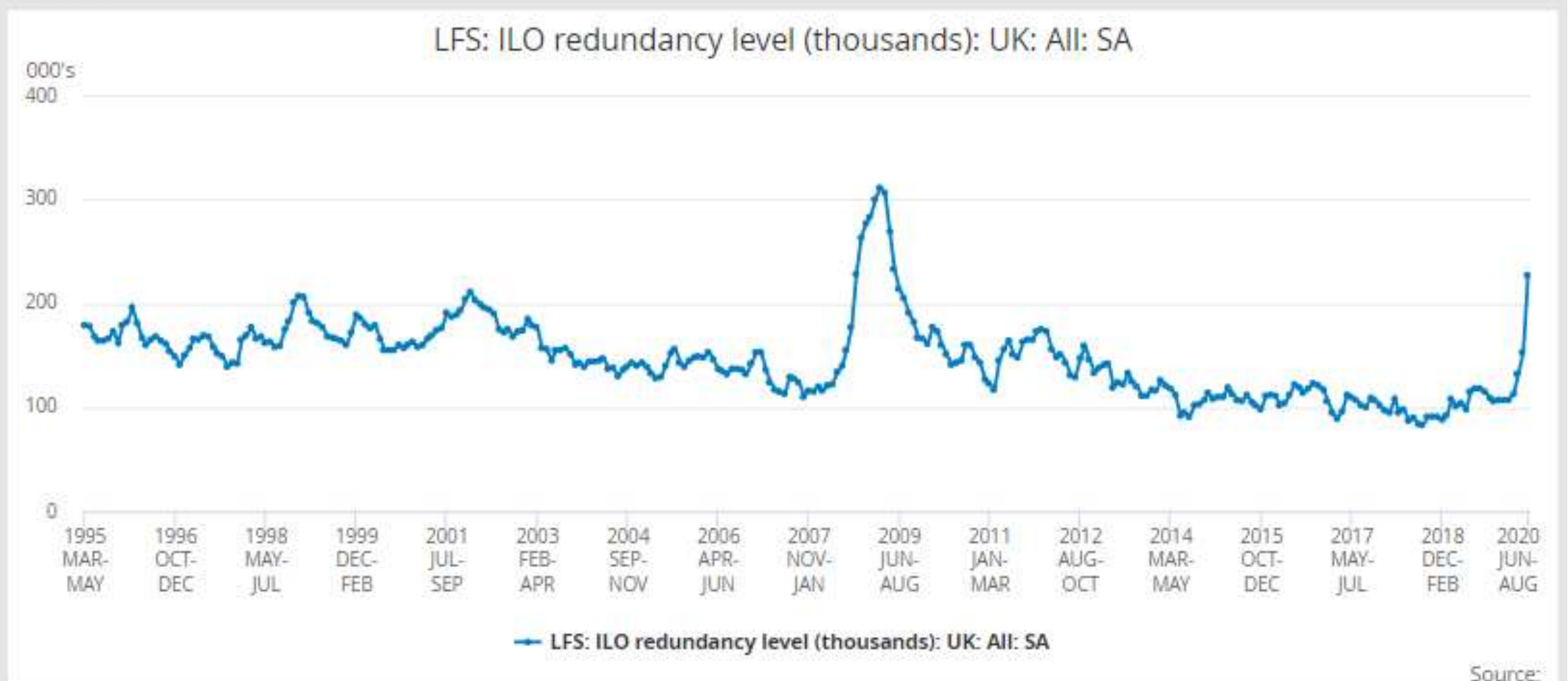
Johnson & Johnson said its Covid-19 vaccine study has been [temporarily halted](#) following a trial participant falling ill. The participant's condition is being evaluated, and J&J says it will share more information after further investigation. While pauses in late-stage testing are routine in the pharmaceutical industry, the interruption may contribute to concerns over safety with vaccine research progressing at an unprecedented speed.

National Outlook

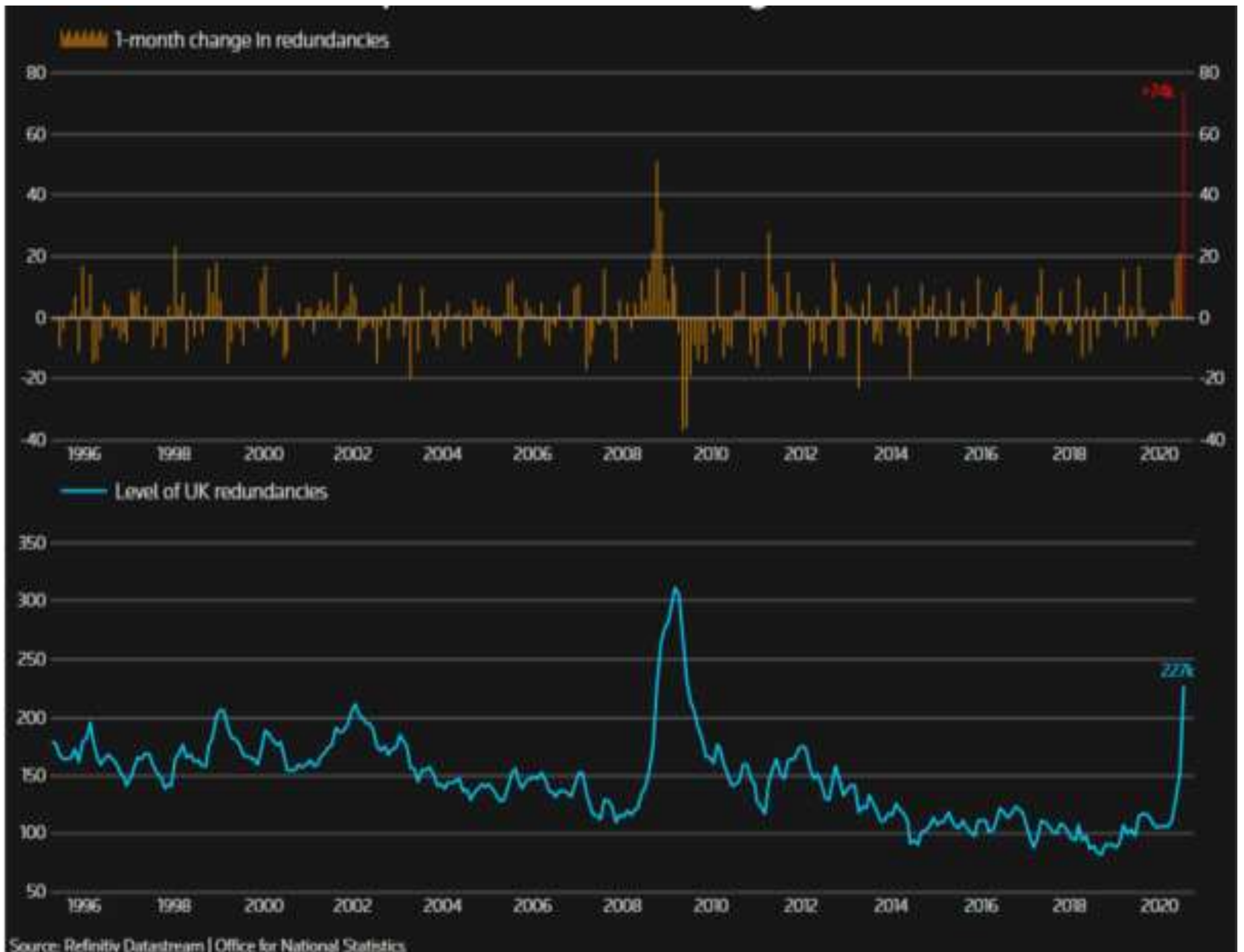
UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced bars and pubs will be closed in the [worst-hit parts of England](#) in order to suppress the spread of the virus. Chris Witty, the Chief Medical Officer, has said more measures might still be needed. Households in the Liverpool city-region will be banned from mixing indoors and in private gardens, with pubs, gyms and casinos closed.

[UK redundancies](#) increased by 74k in August, resulting in 227k redundant across the UK. The rise in unemployment, whilst steep, comes from a historically low baseline.

Chart



UK redundancies rise by record amount in August



The UK is likely to be still borrowing £100 billion a year and debt will be spiralling upwards, even until the end of this Parliament. [The International Monetary Fund](#) has upgraded the UK-growth forecast, but has cautioned that Britain will still be borrowing 4.4% of GDP in 2025. In that time total debt is likely to jump from 85% of national income to 107%.

Regional Outlook

The headline [NatWest West Midlands Business Activity Index](#) – a seasonally adjusted index that measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of the region’s manufacturing and service sectors – registered at 58.5 in September. This signals that the region’s private sector activity has grown for the fourth consecutive month.

It should be noted that the index was down from 61.9 in

August, but was, nevertheless, consistent with a substantial rate of expansion and growth.

Private sector firms in the West Midlands were strongly confident of a rise in business activity over the course of the coming 12 months, with optimism strengthening in September. The level of positive sentiment rose from August and was registered above the UK-wide average

The West Midlands Export Climate Index is calculated by weighting together national PMI output data according to their importance to the manufacturing exports of the West Midlands

The Export Climate Index posted at 52.3 in September, signalling a third consecutive improvement in trade conditions for firms in the region. However, the latest reading was down from 52.7 in August.

West Midlands Business Activity Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



Around the Web Highlights

Keziah Watson WMCA

[Onward](#) makes the case for a British Development Bank after the German model. It is estimated that a £4 billion initial investment into the Bank could release £16 billion of new investment, and at the same time address the geographic inequalities of current investment patterns. How will the increase in electric car manufacturing effect supply chains and economics, and what other changes wrought by the pandemic might effect the uptake of electric cars? These are just some of the questions addressed by [Institute for New Economic Thinking](#) addressed in their webinar, which is now available online. [The COP26 Universities Network](#) analyses the importance of a just transition to a carbon neutral economy and society. Net zero must be achieved with societal buy in and the creation of stable jobs that people have access to.

Creating a Caring Economy from [Women's Budget Group](#) is a paper that recognises the importance of care and kindness and an idea that has gained support, with 68% of people saying wellbeing should be a measure of success in economic policy. The paper recommends a higher living wage and a more robust social security system, among other reforms.

With the proposed new planning laws that wave the need to build affordable homes on site under 40 or 50 homes, local authorities would have missed out on nearly 30,000 affordable homes in the past five years, the [Local Government Association](#) reports. With waiting lists for social housing at record lengths, the Association argues the government needs to rethink their proposals.

[Independent Age](#) finds that only 12% of people aged 65+ think that they are given the support they need to manage their mental health. The report recommends

that a range of talking therapy options are given and ensuring that older people are represented in mental health campaigns like Every Mind Matters.

The UK looks unlikely to meet it's goal of full fibre connections to every premises by 2025 without significant changes to the regulatory framework. The [Social Market Foundation](#) expresses concerns about poorer households being pushed out of the market when copper connections become redundant, and recommends that the government remains technology agnostic where 5G may provide a better connection than full fibre.

Prof. J.R. Shackleton has written a briefing paper for [IEA](#) on the importance of job creation, but not from government schemes which often prove costly and unsuccessful. Instead, the paper recommends encouraging the growth of the private sector and deregulation of employment law, including a rethink on the apprenticeship levy.

[The Sutton Trust](#) warns that children from lower social economic groups could miss out on up to 34% of their predicted earnings, with children from higher social economic groups only missing out on 21%. This could equate to up to £1,100 losses per student for the Exchequer for all students sitting GCSE's this year.

[The Local Government Association](#) criticises the government's approach of short term funding solutions and competitive grants for local authorities. After losing £15 billion in the last decade, numerous short term grants are having a negative impact on local authorities' ability to plan ahead.

The impact of Covid-19 on the region's tourism sector – key findings from a business survey conducted 5th-7th October 2020

Andy Philips WMGC

Summary points

Lockdown had a far reaching impact on the sector - 90% of businesses had temporarily closed by the end of lockdown and half have seen revenue fall by more than 75%.

After an initial post lockdown boost business performance has deteriorated as measures such as 'eat out to help out' have ended and the government has started to introduce new Covid restrictions - those feeling that their performance has been worse than expected has nearly doubled from 25% in July to 44% now.

While businesses welcome the initiatives announced in the Chancellor's Winter Recovery Plan, additional support is critical. Some 80% of businesses are concerned that, in the current climate and without additional support, they may not survive beyond the next 12 months

Introduction

The WMGC has collaborated with Shakespeare's England and colleagues in Coventry, Solihull, the Black Country and

Shropshire to run a regular survey of hotels, conference venues and attractions across the region. This is the 7th survey, conducted between 5th and 7th October.

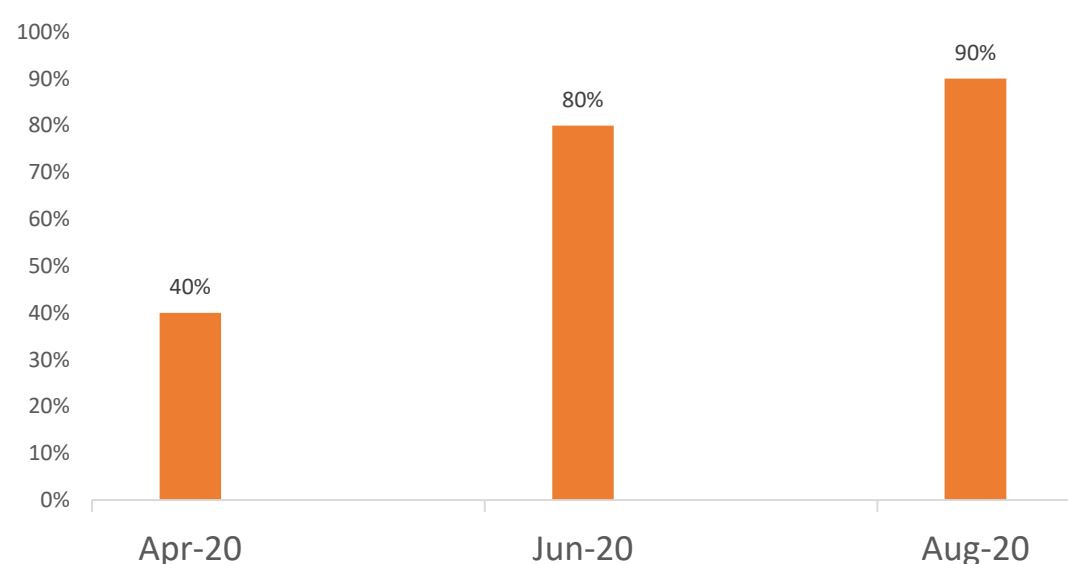
Recent business performance

Lockdown had a far reaching impact on the sector. By late April 40% of businesses had temporarily closed, increasing to 80% by the end of May and the proportion had reached 90% by the end of lockdown.

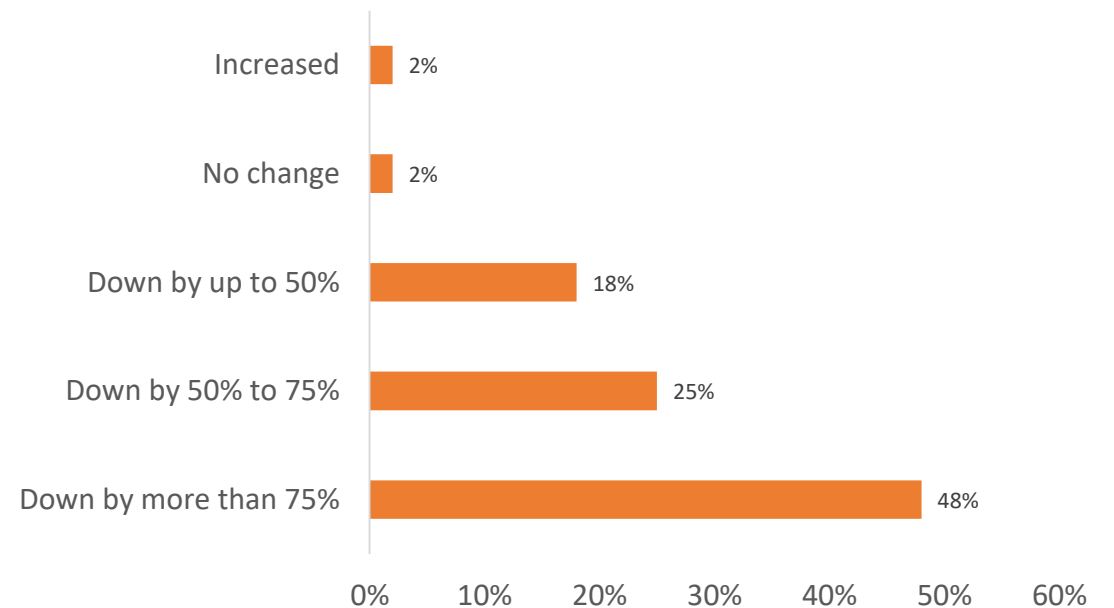
Almost half of the region's tourism businesses have seen a fall in revenue of more than 75% and a further quarter have seen revenue fall by between 50% and 75%.

After an initial post lockdown boost business performance has deteriorated as measures such as 'eat out to help out' have ended and the government has started to introduce new Covid restrictions. The proportion feeling that performance has been better than expected has fallen from 33% in July to just 9% now, and the proportion feeling that performance has been worse than expected has nearly doubled from 25% to 44%. As a result 70% of businesses have had to reduce employee hours and more than 40% have made redundancies.

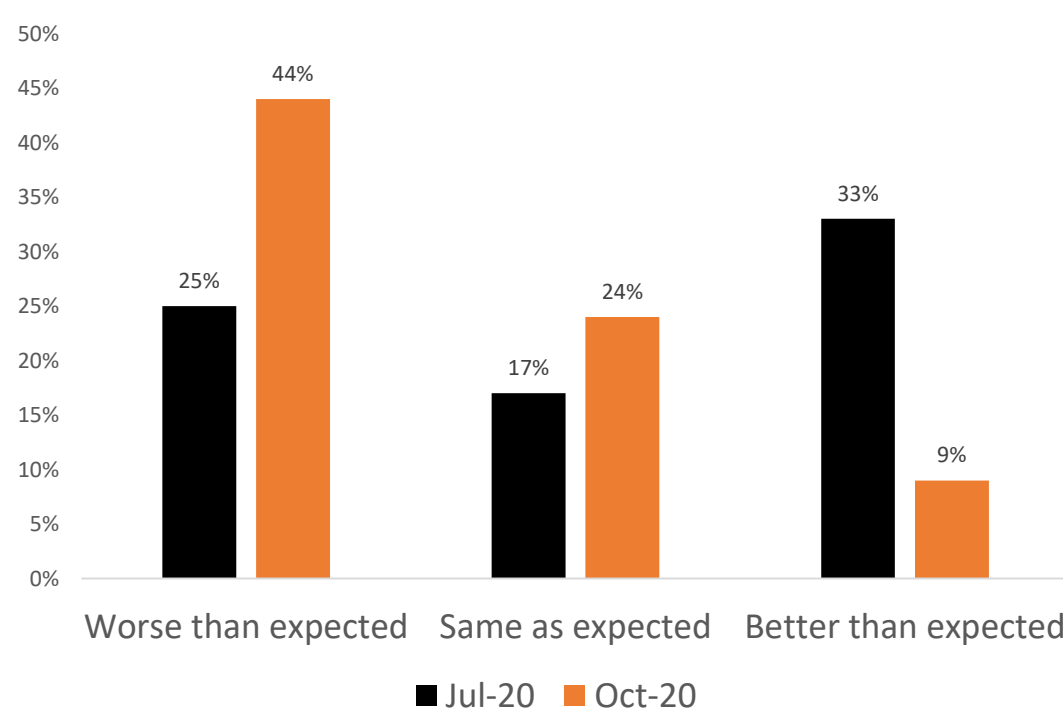
West Midlands tourism businesses temporarily closed



Trends in revenue since the start of lockdown



Business performance



The most popular government support schemes have been furloughing (used by 65% of businesses), the £25,000 cash grants to SMEs (used by 45%) and the job retention scheme and business rate holiday (used by 43% in both cases).

Future prospects

Nearly two thirds of businesses feel that the additional lockdown measures announced by the government (e.g. the 'rule of six', local lockdowns and the return of advice to work from home) have created new challenges.

'Less bookings due to more people working from home. Local lockdown means less bookings as different households cannot mix. Weekend trade reduced dramatically due to 10pm closure'

'Can't offer guided tours, group education visits or craft activities. We are also restricted on visitor numbers we can allow on site'

Businesses welcome the initiatives announced in the Chancellor's Winter Recovery Plan (56% say they will use the job support scheme and 32% say they are pleased to see the extension of the VAT reduction) but feel that a lot more is needed. In particular businesses feel that the following additional measures are needed to ensure their survival:

- An extension of both the business rate holiday and the job retention scheme for the hospitality sector
- Targeted support for the conference and events industry

- More support for the self-employed – many of whom are not eligible for existing support
- Lifting of the 10pm curfew for hotels
- Additional financial support to help seasonal businesses survive the winter
- More marketing support and promotion of the 'good to go' label

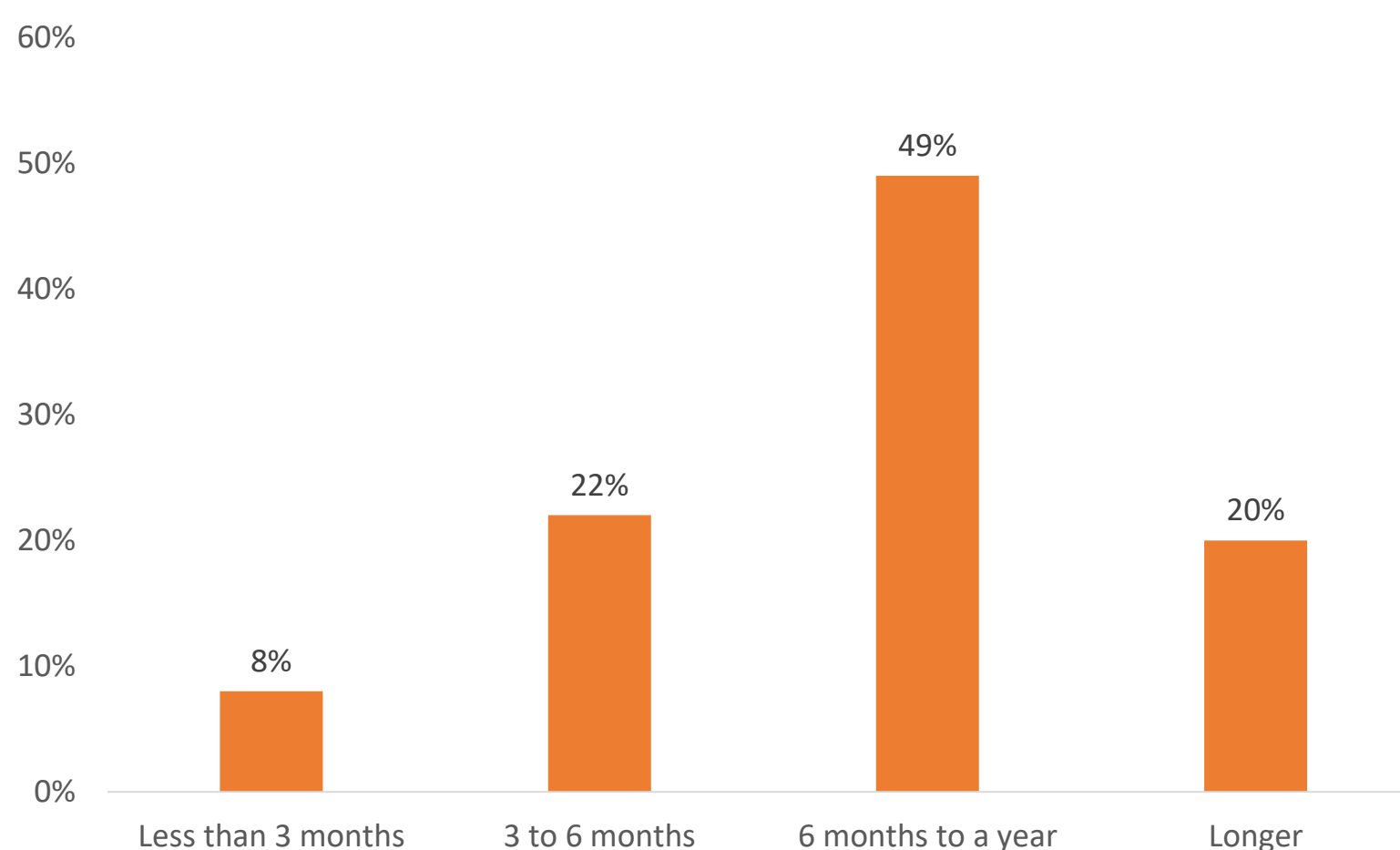
'The 10pm curfew should be lifted for hotel residents - there is no incentive to stay in a hotel in the UK if you have to go to your room at 10pm - UK hotels desperately need the tourism and the market is there to support it, but not with the curfew. If this isn't lifted ASAP many hotels will fail'

'Targeted support for hospitality and event industries - JSS is not good enough when we don't have a third of business to bring currently furloughed staff back on 1st Nov to do. We need to see commitment to hosting events again'

'Improved customer confidence, a cure; better weather - not easy to resolve any of these, so we need to hang in there'

These pressures mean that additional support is critical. Some 80% of businesses are concerned that, in the current climate and without additional support, they may not survive beyond the next 12 months and 30% are worried that they may not survive the next 6 months.

How long businesses feel they can survive



Lives Livelihoods and Lifestyles

Mike Lewis WMCA

The Resolution Foundation hosted the [Lives, livelihoods and lifestyles webinar](#) on October 7 2020 to discuss the findings in the think tank's report on the intergenerational impact of COVID-19. [An intergenerational audit for the UK 2020](#) provides the first comprehensive assessment of the initial phase of the coronavirus crisis for different generations in Britain. The core conclusion across the analysis in this audit is that the virus itself has determined the physical health outcomes across generations, and the shape of the precoronavirus economy has driven the initial economic impacts.

Key Findings

Coronavirus has determined the impacts of the crisis on physical health and social interaction across cohorts, while the nature of the pre-pandemic economy has largely driven the impacts on living standards. This has manifested itself in profound physical health risks to older adults, and a very clear distinction between the economic experiences of pensioners and working-age families during the lockdown. For example, working-age household incomes (across the whole population, not just benefit recipients) were on average around £200 per year lower in 2019/20 than they would have been had benefits risen with prices since 2015, but pensioner incomes were around £200 per year higher than if the State Pension had followed prices over this period. The youngest and oldest workers are hardest hit in terms of the labour market. Employment numbers (which include furloughed workers and those temporarily absent from work) fell for under 25s and 65+ year-olds from the beginning of the year through to May-July 2020, while actually rising slightly at other ages. However, policies to support incomes, including the Job Retention Scheme and boosts to benefits, mean that incomes fell most in lockdown for those in their late 40s.

Consumer debt usage has accelerated for 35-44 year-olds; falling equity prices have dented the wealth of those in their 50s; and there were no particularly clear age differences by age (within the working-age population) in the likelihood of falling behind with housing payments in mid-lockdown.

Post-lockdown impacts may be more clearly tilted towards the bottom of the age range. By July, younger adults had become the most likely to fall behind with housing payments; young people risk long-term employment and pay 'scarring' effects from starting careers in a downturn; the prospects for a post-coronavirus home ownership increase among aspirant buyers appear limited; and the removal of temporary

welfare boosts looks set to provide a major drag on the incomes of young and childrearing-age adults.

Webinar discussion

Lord David Willetts, President of the Resolution Foundation chaired the session and **Maja Gustafsson**, (Researcher) summarised the audit and then two guest speakers provided substantive inputs:

Dr Jennifer Dixon, Chief Executive of the Health Foundation

The NHS needs to become an anchor institution and play a central role in recovery, suggested role includes finding ways to utilise unemployed people i.e. through volunteering.

Questioned whether there is a role for think tanks and other groups to develop potential solutions alongside government.

Health Foundation did research assessing the prospects for young people and found four key – key assets that help young people to flourish - Skills; Personal Connections, Practical and Financial Support and Emotional Support. Dr Dixon called for some disaggregation in future analysis to see where young people featured across this spectrum.

Jonathan Reynolds MP, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary

Young people – are at risk being poorer than their parents and as such there is need to ensure interventions like Kickstart are helping those most in need.

Working age – inequalities are based on labour market position, support seems to be a sliding scale; furlough support, Universal Credit, contributory benefit and those that don't qualify for any benefits.

Pensioners – nuanced discussion is needed over triple lock pensions, there have been calls to reform or scrap this, but we need to ensure decisions made now don't negatively impact young people when they become pensioners.

Policy implications

The M9 is developing a number of policy options for government to consider to ease the economic burden of local restrictions. The WMCA will need to consider how and if it should work with think tanks and other organisations to share learning and collectively support government efforts in this space.

Policy makers will need to consider how COVID-19 might impact the behaviours of the different age groups after the pandemic and develop potential solutions. For example, it was mentioned in the webinar that the potential of older people not attending events for health reasons will have huge impact on the arts sector.

Infection rates

Rebecca Riley WMREDI

Europe has seen a [resurgence in infection rates](#) which is continuing (see graph below). Since 31 December 2019 and as of 14th [October 2020](#), **38 197 063 cases** of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including **1 087 035 deaths**. In Europe: 6 365 049 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (1 326 178), Spain (896 086), France (756 472), **United Kingdom (634 920)** and Italy (365 467). The distributions of global infections and deaths are below.

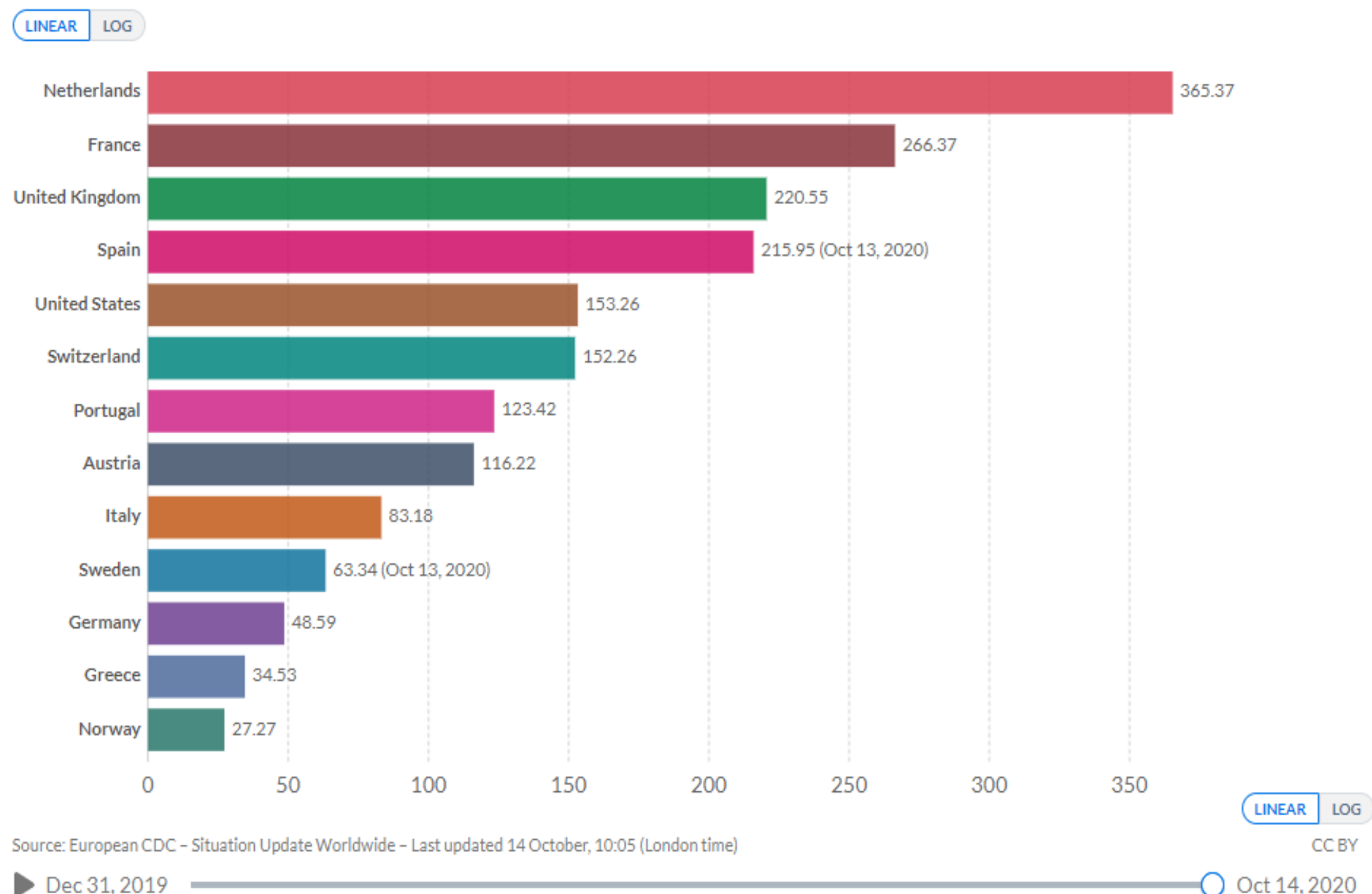
Latest [ONS infection survey data](#) (9th October) states

- An estimated 224,400 people (95% credible interval: 203,800 to 245,700) within the community population in England had the coronavirus (COVID-19) during the most recent week, from 25 September to 1 October 2020, equating to around 1 in 240 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 270 to 1 in 220).
- The estimate shows the number of infections has increased rapidly in recent weeks.
- In recent weeks the highest rates of people testing positive for COVID-19 are among older teenagers and young adults.
- There is clear evidence of variation in COVID-19 infection rates across the regions of England, with highest rates seen in the North East, North West, and Yorkshire and The Humber.
- During the most recent week (25 September to 1 October 2020), it is estimated that there were around 3.16 new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people per day (95% credible interval: 2.53 to 4.19) in the community population in England, equating to around 17,200 new cases per day (95% credible interval: 13,800 to 22,900).
- There has been a marked increase in the incidence rate over the last six weeks.
- During the most recent week (25 September to 1 October 2020), it is estimated that 6,100 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 1,900 to 14,600), equating to 1 in 500 people (95 % credible interval: 1 in 1,600 to 1 in 200).
- During the most recent two weeks (18 September to 1 October 2020), it is estimated that 0.22% of people in Northern Ireland had COVID-19 (95% confidence interval: 0.05% to 0.60%), which is around 1 in 500 people (95 % credible interval: 1 in 1,900 to 1 in 200).

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people, Oct 14, 2020

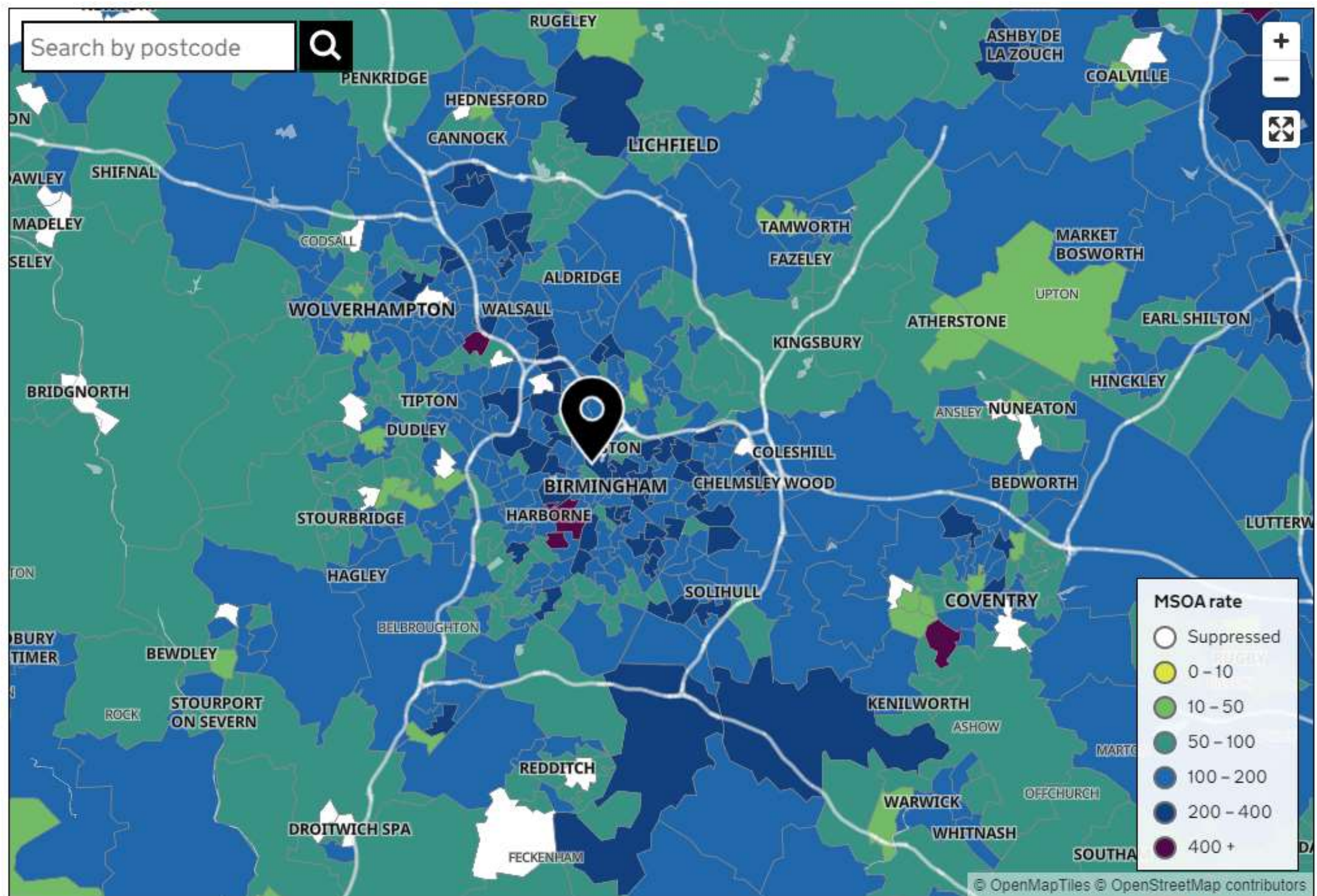
Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World
in Data



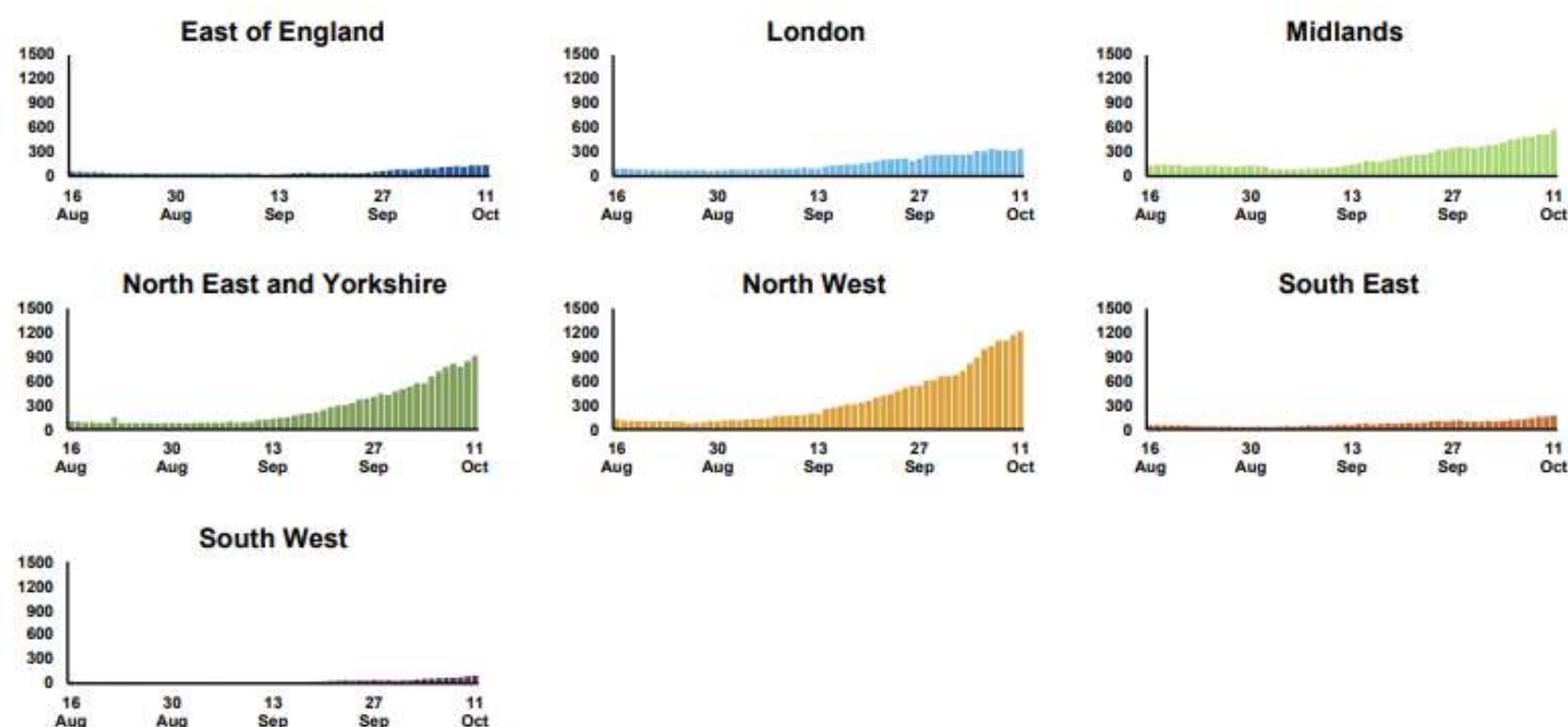
The image below shows that there are hotspots for infections emerging; significant ones are in the area around the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) positive cases by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) in England – 27th Sept to 3rd October



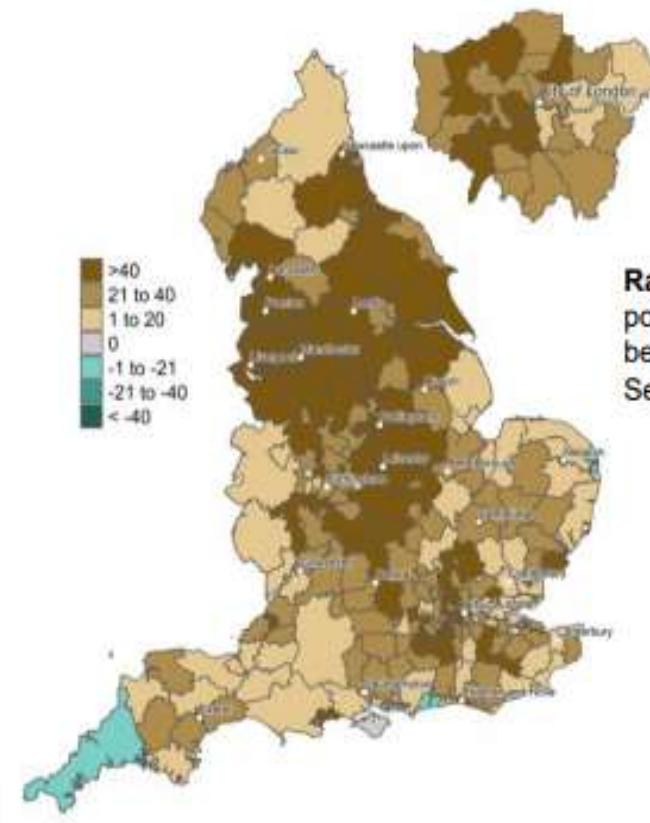
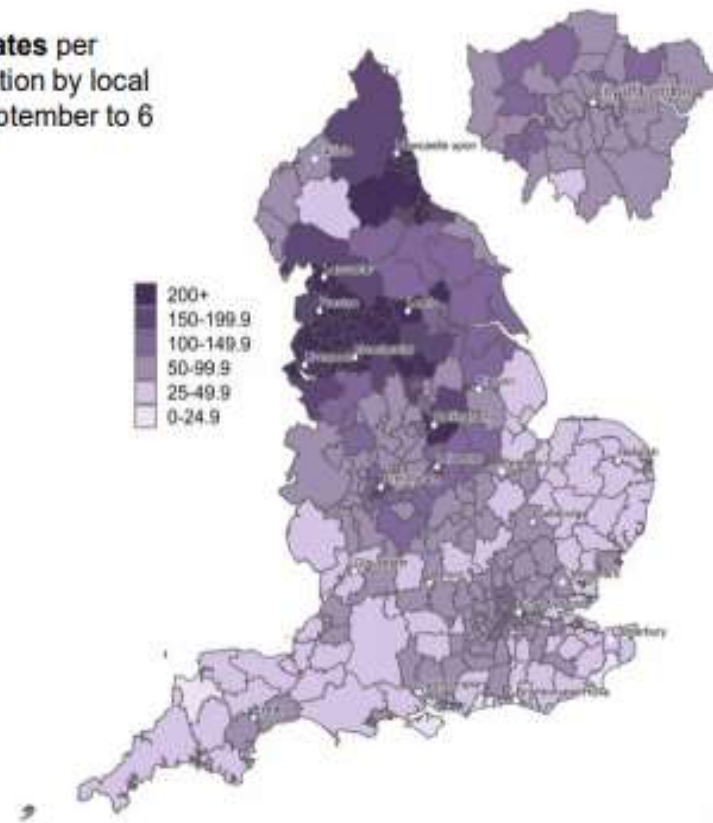
On the 12th October the government held a press conference which presented latest data on various indicators:

Patients in hospital with COVID-19 in England by NHS region



Geographical spread of COVID-19 in England

Weekly case rates per 100,000 population by local authority 30 September to 6 October



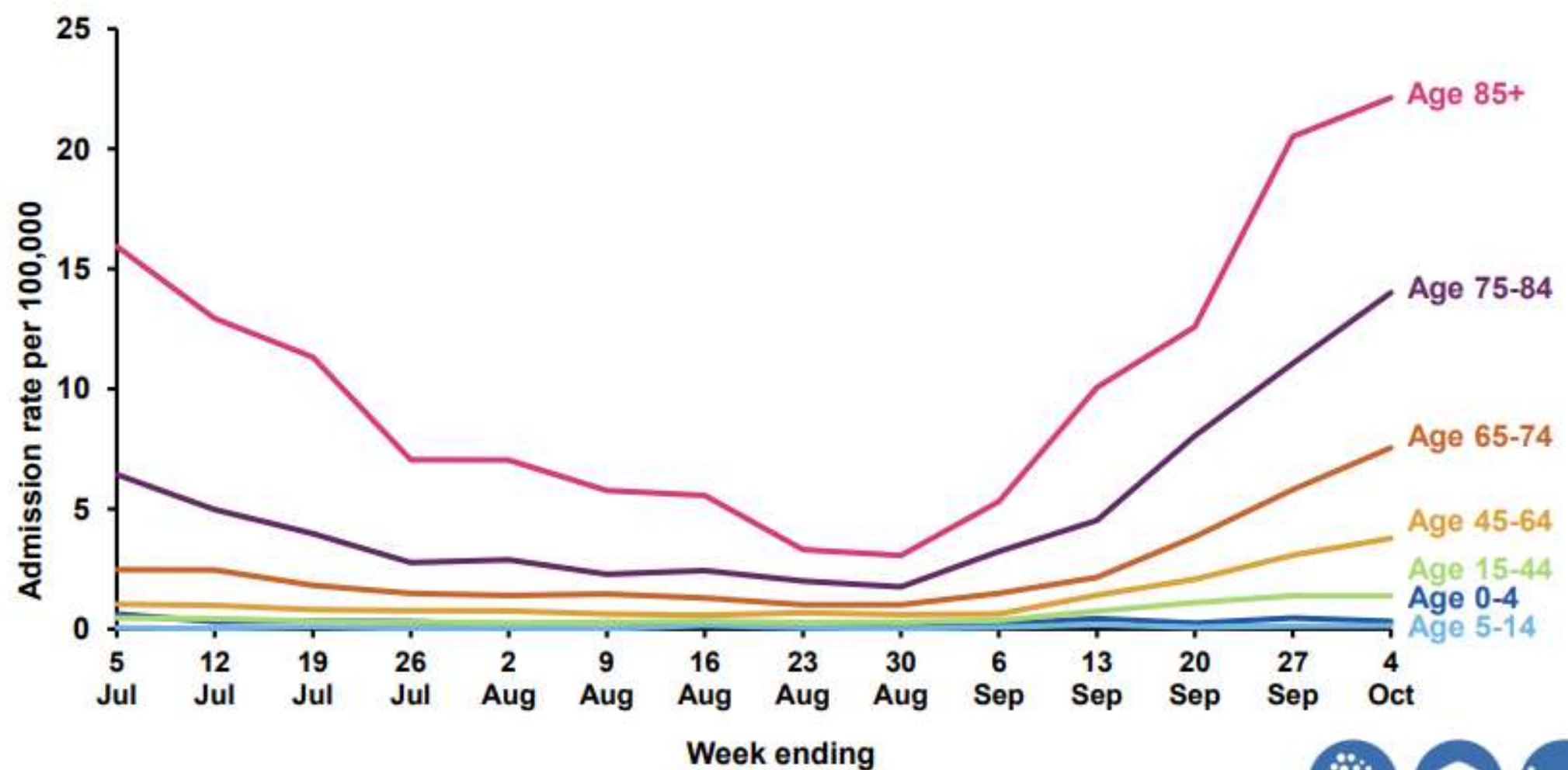
Rate change per 100,000 population by local authority between 23-29 Sept and 30 Sept to 6 Oct



Source: Data from Pillar 1 and 2 testing. Figure by Outbreak Surveillance Team, Public Health England, and ONS 2018 mid-term population estimates



Weekly COVID-19 hospital admission rates in England by age group



Source: PHE Severe Acute Respiratory Infections data (SARI-Watch)



Transport Data

Anne Shaw TFWM

Levels of use – 13th October 2020 (data 1 day behind)

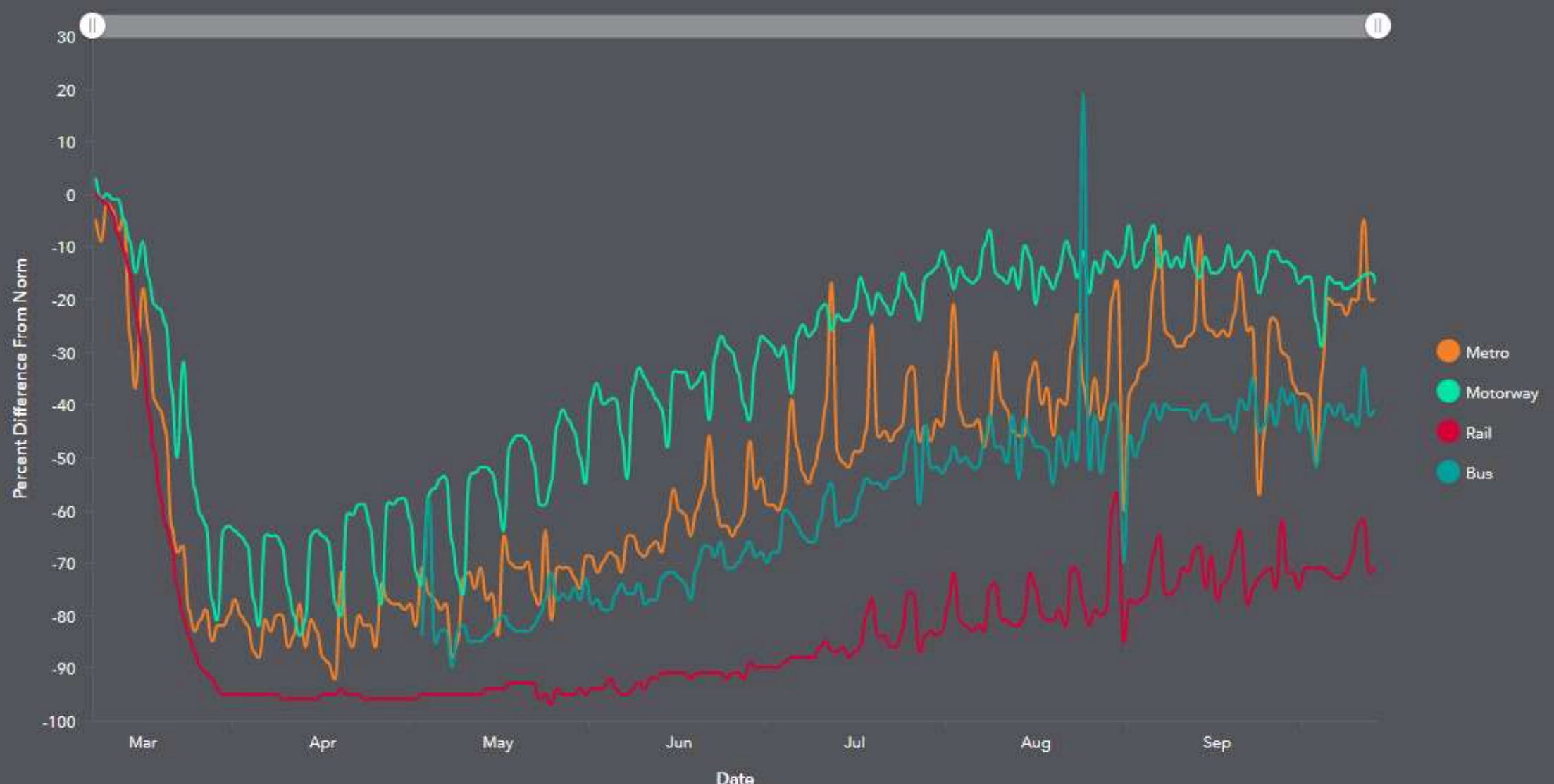
- The Graph below shows the level of use on all modes. This is at a steady state with minor fluctuations indicating travel demand is stabilising and reducing slightly.
- The table provides intelligence in terms of the levels of services and the use of the network per mode compared to this time last year.
- 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, and to walk and cycle where possible.
- Continued monitoring of the network and appropriate actions are being implemented to assist with managing capacity to ensure compliance with social distancing and use of face coverings where required.

Mode	% service compared to this time last year	% patronage compared to this time last year (7 th October 2020)
Roads	N/A	83% (down from last week by 4%)
Bus	>100%	59% (up 1% from last week)
Train	95%	29% (up 1% from last week)
Tram	>100%	80% (up 1% from last week)

Network Overview

Multi-Modal Comparison

Percentage Difference From Norm Over Time



Headline Data for Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) Grants Round One Under £1million

Rebecca Riley WMCA

Culture Recovery Fund: Grants – Round 1 – Under £1 million

On Monday 12 October, Arts Council England (ACE) announced an investment of £257 million in 1,385 venues, theatres, museums and cultural organisations, through the first tranche of Culture Recovery Fund (CRF): Grants programme, administered by the Arts Council. This announcement is only for Round 1 of grants applications that are under £1 million.

Millions more pounds worth of CRF funding is set to be announced over the coming weeks.

About the data

The geographic data ACE published this week is based on the postcodes supplied by applicants in their applications. Please note that in some cases this postcode will not align with where the organisation that is benefiting from the investment is based, and in other cases an applicant may have applied for funding that will

benefit multiple organisations in various geographic areas.

Once ACE announced the investment across all the Culture Recovery Fund rounds and programmes they are administering, they plan to publish another dataset which will include more accurate data about where the investment is going. This data will be based on geographic areas of benefit rather than the postcode provided by applicants.

Further announcements to follow

Over the coming weeks ACE will add more data to the webpage as further Culture Recovery Fund awards are announced- such as round two of Grants under £1 million, grants over £1 million, and the Capital Kickstart and Repayable Finance programmes.

The table below shows the regional breakdown of the fund awards, in terms of number of awards and the £ms.

The West Midlands region has received £16.9m in funding across 95 successful bids. This is the second lowest level after the North East.

ONS Region*	Awards	Amount
London	428	£87,027,172
South East	189	£32,289,761
North West	163	£30,165,250
South West	129	£26,560,756
Yorkshire & Humber	122	£18,555,202
East of England	103	£18,431,352
East Midlands	96	£17,164,443
West Midlands	95	£16,950,243
North East	58	£10,096,050
Scotland	1	£55,393
Wales	1	£112,000
Totals	1,385	£257,407,622

*Figures based on applicant post code

Birmingham city centre applicants received awards totalling £5.1m, Coventry £2.3m and Wolverhampton £262k.

The largest awards in the West Midlands region are listed below.

- The largest bids were to theatres with Belgrade Theatre trust (£1m) and Malvern theatres (£1m) topping the regional list.
- The Courtyard Trust (£535k) and University of Warwick (£483k) were the highest awards in

combined arts

- In Dance the highest awards went to Birmingham Royal Ballet (£500k) and 2 Faced Dance Company (£148k)
- In music Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (£843k) and Albert's Shed (£580k)
- In the visual arts the highest awards were in Compton Verney House Trust (£980k) and Midlands Arts Centre (£680k)
- The largest bids for Museums were considerably lower with the largest awards to Weston Park Foundation Trust (£250k) and Museum of Royal Worcester (£107k)

Organisation Name	£ Award	Discipline
Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Ltd	£999,999	Theatre
Compton Verney House Trust	£980,000	Visual arts
Malvern Theatres	£971,251	Theatre
City of Birmingham Symphony orchestra	£843,000	Music
Midlands Arts Centre	£680,668	Visual arts
Albert's Shed	£580,000	Music
The Courtyard Trust	£535,565	Combined arts
Birmingham Royal Ballet	£500,000	Dance
University of Warwick	£483,000	Combined arts
The Mill Birmingham	£283,000	Music
Lichfield Garrick Theatre	£279,446	Theatre
Nightingale UK Ltd	£265,000	Combined arts
village inn	£253,143	Combined arts
S4E Ltd	£250,000	Music
The Albany Theatre	£250,000	Theatre
Weston Park Foundation	£250,000	Museums
Freedom Leisure	£249,901	Theatre
Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire Theatre Trust	£248,990	Theatre
Comic Enterprises Ltd	£246,402	Combined arts
Imagine Theatre	£245,000	Theatre
Velico Ltd	£240,000	Music
The Crescent Theatre Limited	£215,000	Theatre
Fife Street Social Club Nuneaton Ltd	£200,000	Music

Avison Young Cities Recovery Index

Carl Potter Managing Director

[Avison Young's UK Cities Recovery Index](#) monitors the diversity of market activity and the speed and trajectory of the recovery following the ongoing impact experienced across our cities as a result of Covid-19.

The Recovery Index for Birmingham is tracking higher than the National Index. It stood at 84.2 on 11th October, compared to 76.1 for the UK index.

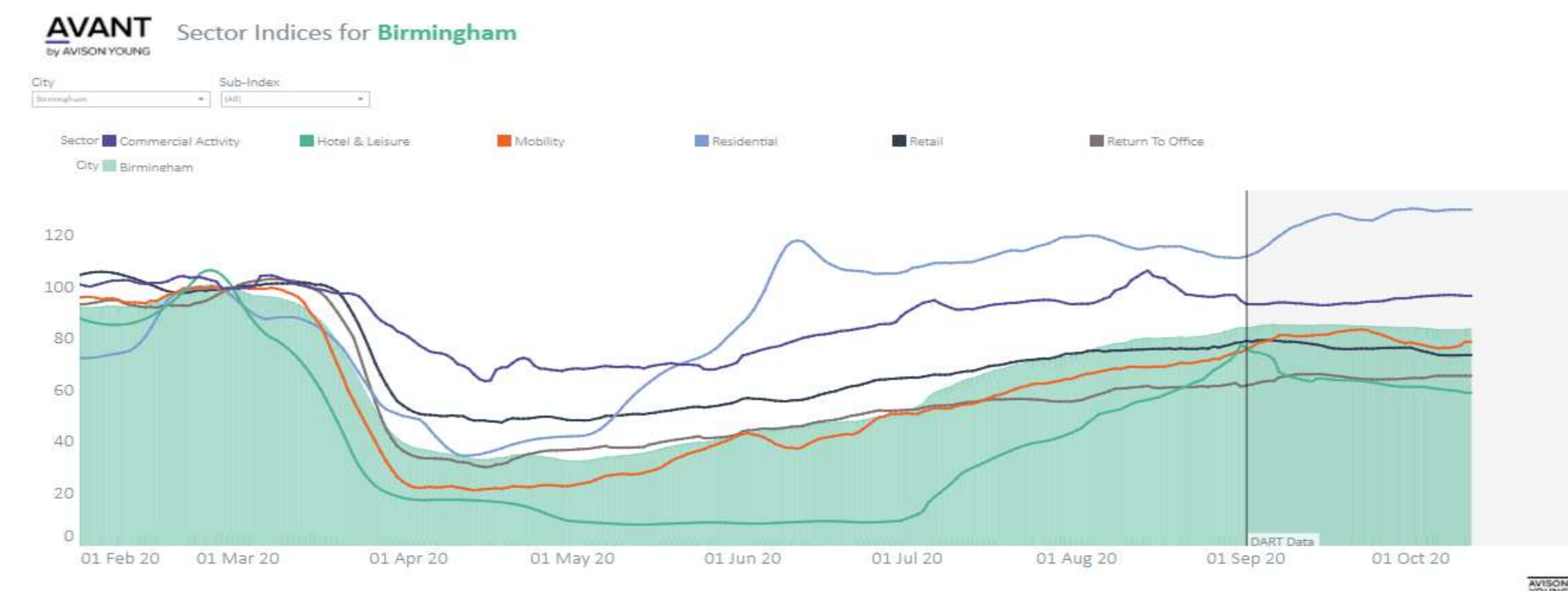
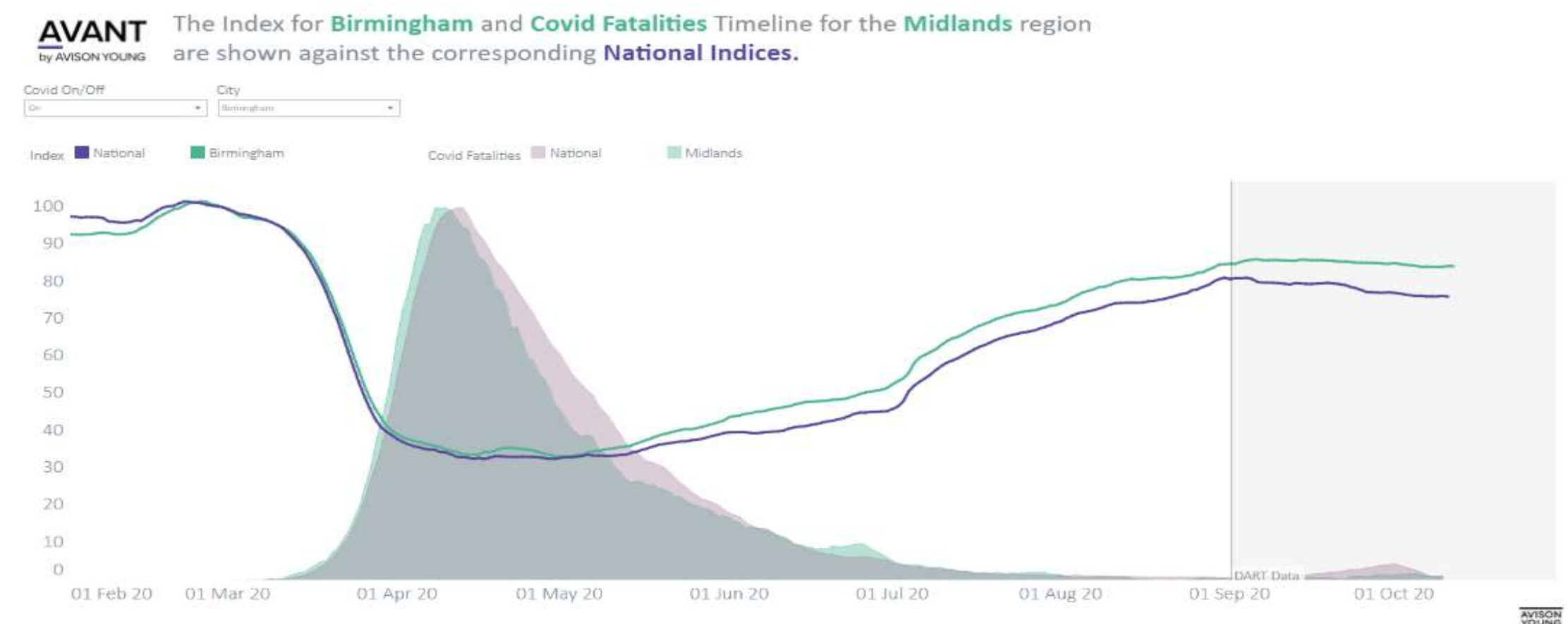
“Birmingham has performed comparatively well on the Residential, Commercial Activity and Retail sub-indices. However, similar to the larger cities London and Manchester, Birmingham has lagged on the Mobility and Return To Office indices.

On Monday 12th October, new restrictions have been announced for Birmingham as a result of the new three-tier system. These come into place on Wednesday 14th October. The City is now at Covid Alert level 2.

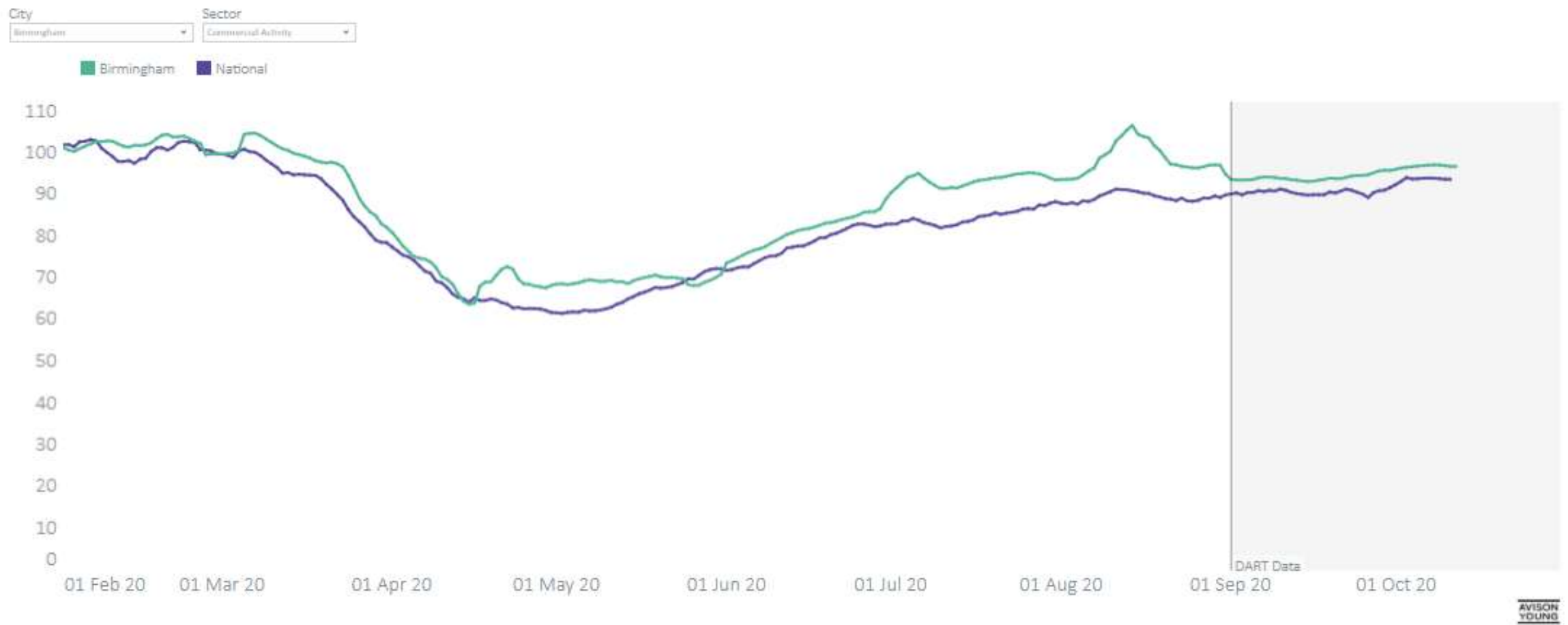
“Birmingham has a well-earned reputation for

leveraging its strong conference and exhibition credentials and an enviably high-quality restaurant offering to attract visitors and locals alike. The effects of COVID-19 and lockdown have hit the hospitality and leisure sectors particularly hard. The city, its professional business and financial services sectors and its population need to work very hard to ensure long lasting damage and irreplaceable losses do not impact upon Birmingham's strong reputation. As the City works through its growth prospects for the post COVID-19 recovery it must be mindful of its needs, ensuring the wellbeing of its people is at the forefront of policy and decision making.

The need for swift reactions is exemplified by the time proximity of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be hosted by the city and will, with a positive trajectory, enable Birmingham to continue its journey to recognition as one of the most enjoyable cities in Europe. Time is absolutely of the essence in ensuring we build forward positively and embrace the cultural and climatic changes required to ensure sustainable progress.”



The **Commercial Activity** sector Index for **Birmingham** is shown against the **National Commercial Activity** Sector Index.



Birmingham Sector Indices



Commercial Activity

- The Commercial Activity Sector has been relatively robust. A surge in the Commercial Activity Sector Index during the third week of April was due to higher HGV movements, possibly due to the construction and preparation of the Nightingale Hospital in Birmingham which opened on the 16th April.
- At 97 on 11th October, the Commercial Activity Sector Index has recovered strongly in Birmingham. This is reflected in the substantial levels of industrial leasing activity that has been observed in the West Midlands.
- With the colder temperatures, an increase in energy usage over the past two weeks has contributed to an uptick in the index.



Hotel & Leisure

- The Hotel & Leisure Sector Index for Birmingham made a strong recovery during July and August.
- Gains observed over the bank holiday weekend at the end of August have not been sustained. They have since fallen by 24% to 59.4 on 11th October. A significant drop in restaurant activity has coincided with smaller falls in cinema and hotels revenue.



Mobility

- The Mobility Sector Index for Birmingham climbed steadily from 21.5 on 21st April to a peak of 84 on 22nd September.
- The return to schools caused a noticeable increase in transit usage across Birmingham, jumping to 81.7 on 7th September from 75.1 on 31st August. However, it has since fallen back to 79.2 by 11th October, as local restrictions have taken effect.



Residential

- The substantial post-lockdown boom in the Residential Sector Index levelled off during the summer but picked up again in September. It recorded a near-high 130.4 on 11th October, greater than pre-lockdown levels.



Retail

- Whilst the Retail Sector Index was outperforming the National Index for Birmingham, recovery levels plateaued in September and have subsequently fallen to 74.0. Contributing to this fall were declines in trips for essentials and retail and recreational visits along with a reduction in footfall levels. Consumers may be reacting to ongoing restrictions in the leisure sector and the "rule of six".



Return To Office

- The Return To Office Sector Index has flattened over the past month but not declined following the change in government guidance on people returning to offices. This is despite public transport falling back 12% over the past month.
- The Return To Office Sector Index was at 66 on the 11th October. As with other big cities it has tracked lower than the National Index which read 67.3 on the 11th.

Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and the society 8th October 2020

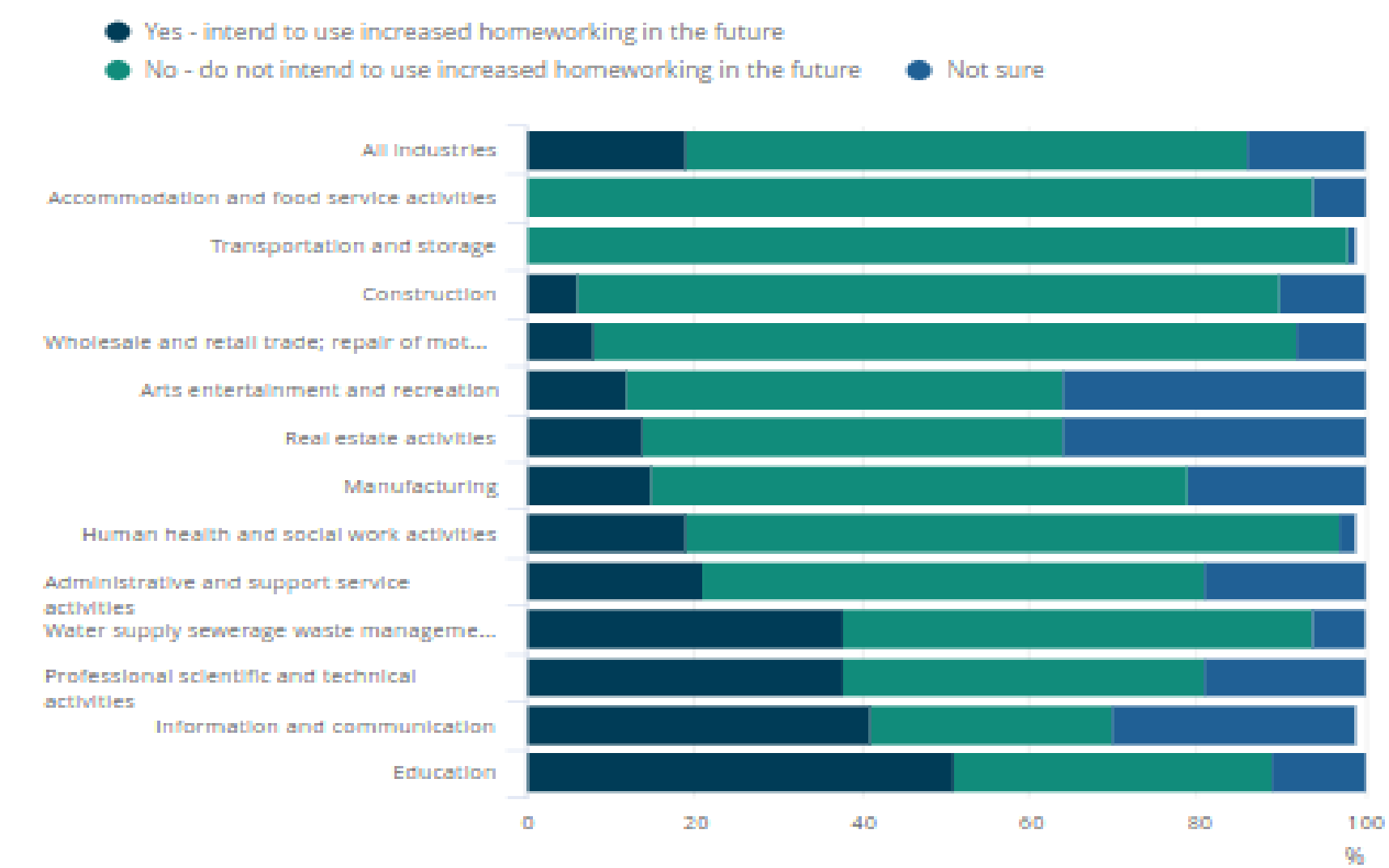
Rebecca Riley WMREDI

[Early experimental data](#) has been published on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and society. These faster UK level indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and experimental methods.

- According to the latest Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey, nearly a fifth (19%) of businesses intend to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model in the future. [See Section 3.](#)
- The proportion of adults who used a face covering was the highest since the data series began, at 98%, according to the latest Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. [See Section 4.](#)
- Between 25 September and 2 October 2020, total online job adverts increased from 59% to 61% of their 2019 average, their highest recorded level since 3 April 2020. [See Section 6.](#)
- Prices of items in the food and drink basket increased by 0.4% in the latest week, driven by an increase in the prices of vegetables, bread and cereals. [See Section 7.](#)
- In the week ending 4 October, footfall decreased in all 10 featured countries and regions, with the largest decrease in Wales. [See Section 8.](#)
- On Monday 5 October, the volume of all motor vehicle traffic was nine percentage points below the levels seen on the first Monday of February, the third consecutive week showing a small fall in traffic levels, according to data from the Department for Transport. [See Section 9.](#)
- In the week ending 4 October, in London and the North East the counts of cars were around 90% of the average level seen pre-lockdown, and counts of pedestrians and cyclists 80%, according to traffic camera data. [See Section 9\).](#)
- In the week ending 4 October, the average number of daily ship visits was 289, which is slightly higher than the low point of 279 visits in the week ending 3 May 2020. [See Section 10.](#)

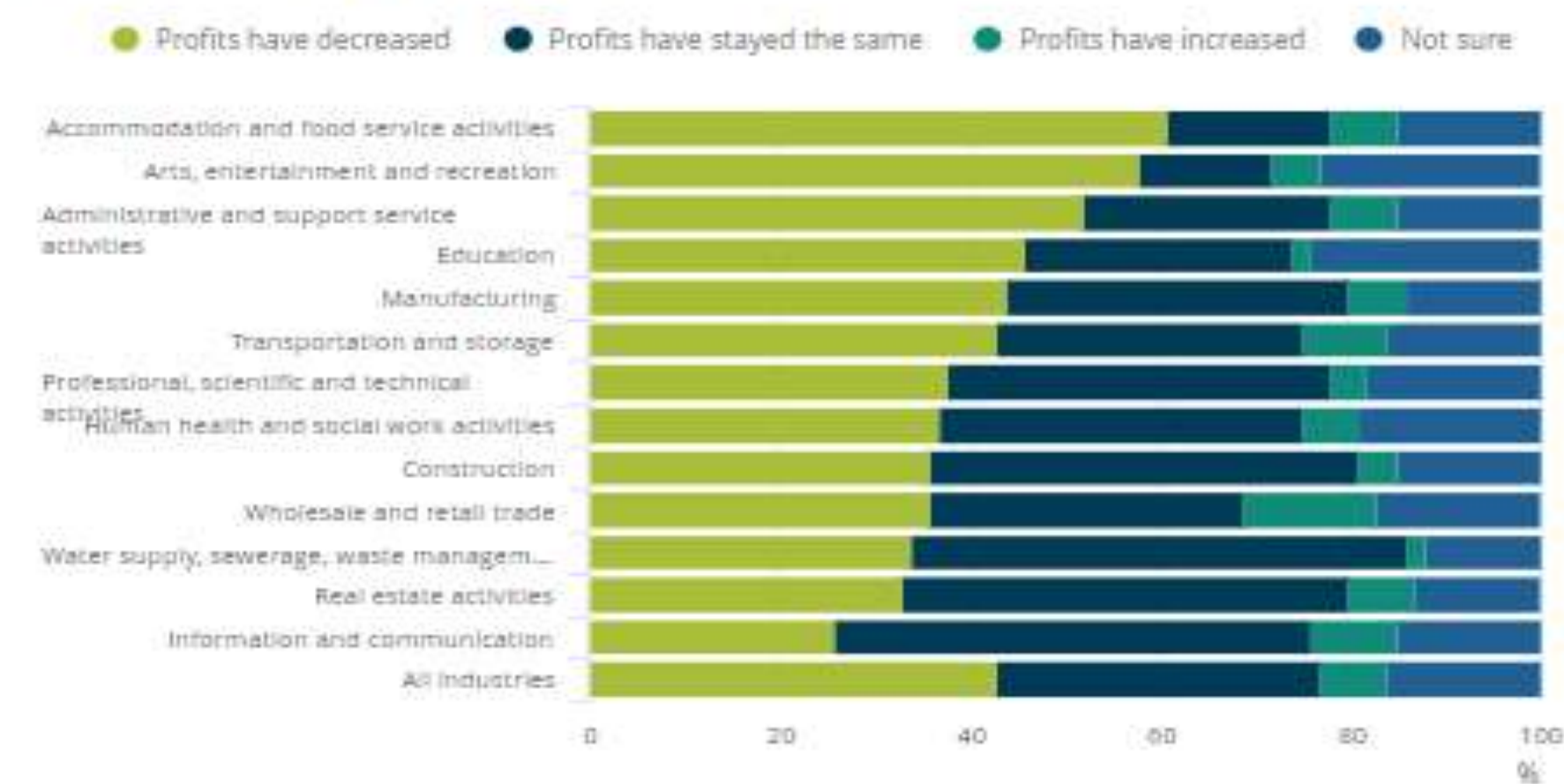
Indicator	Units	weekly change ▲	Timeline
Proportion of workforce on Furlough Leave	Percentage of all responding businesses (excluding those permanently ceased trading)	-1.7pp ▼	 29.5 1 to 14 Jun 7 to 20 Sep
Percentage travelled to work	Proportion of adults in the survey	2pp ▲	 37 14 to 17 May 30 Sep to 4 Oct
Company incorporations	Number of incorporations, on a weekly basis	3.3% ▲	 7,366 03/01/2020 02/10/2020
Company voluntary dissolution applications	Number of voluntary dissolution applications, on a weekly basis	14.8% ▲	 4,109 03/01/2020 02/10/2020
Total weekly online job adverts	Percentage point change, index: 2019 average = 100	1.8pp ▲	 81.9 03/01/2020 02/10/2020
Online price change in food and drinks basket	Percentage point change, index: week 1 = 100	0.5pp ▲	 100.0 1 to 7 Jun 28 Sep to 4 Oct
Road traffic, all motor vehicles	Percentage point change of the weekly average, index: equivalent day in the first week of February = 100	-4.4pp ▼	 104 01/03/2020 05/10/2020
Total ships visits	Number of daily ship visits, percentage change of the weekly average, seasonally adjusted	9.9% ▲	 407 01/02/2020 04/10/2020

Businesses who have not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, weighted, UK, 7 September to 20 September 2020



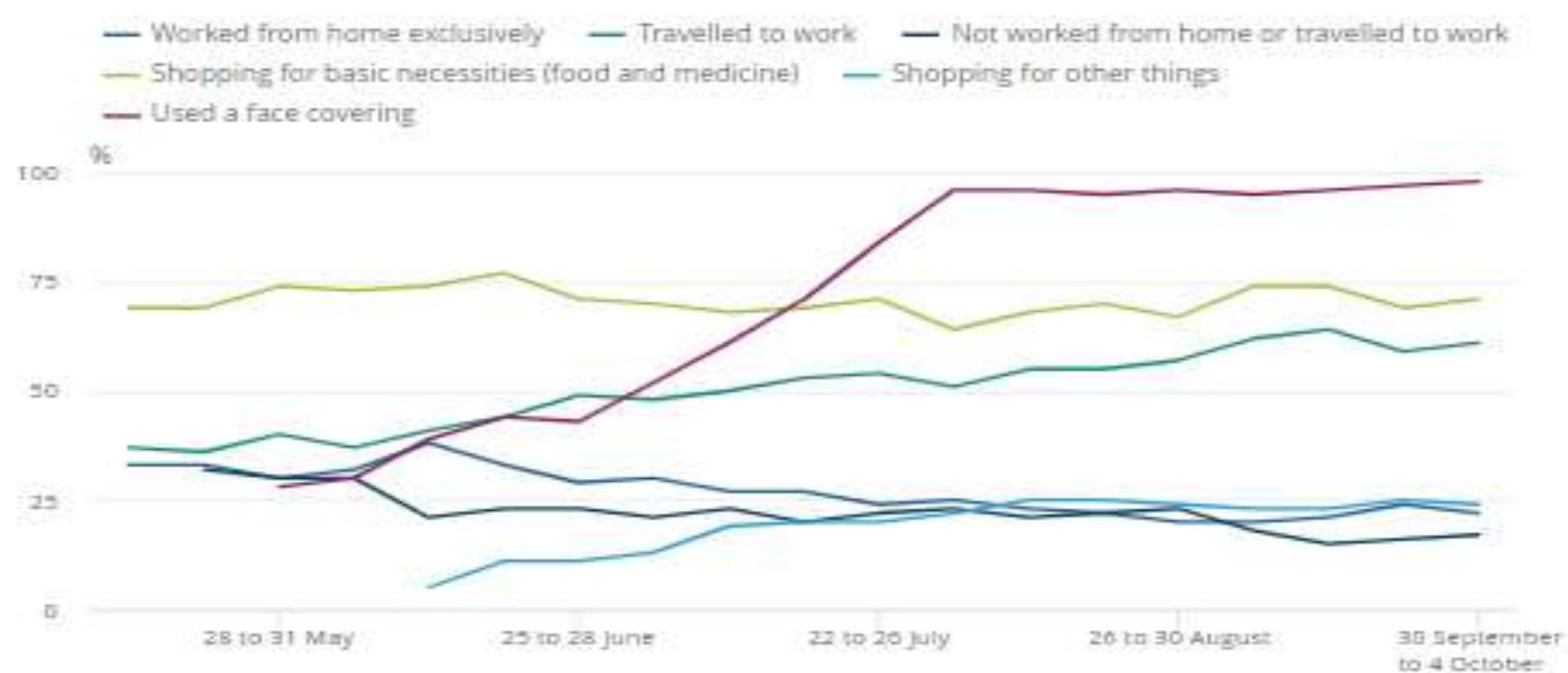
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) - Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey (BICS)

Businesses who are currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted, UK, 7 September to 20 September 2020



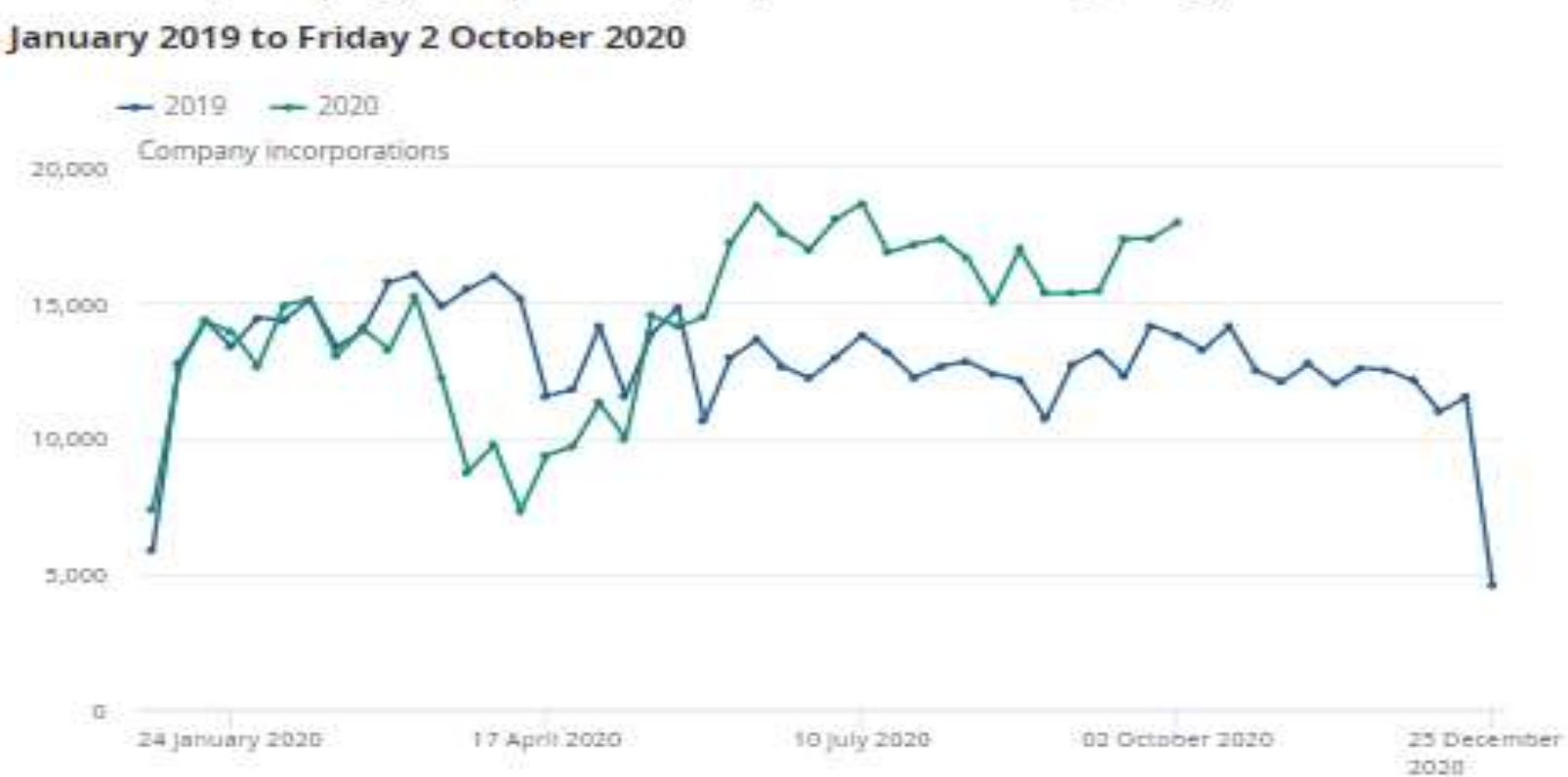
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) - Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey (BICS)

Proportion of adults, Great Britain, 30 September to 4 October 2020



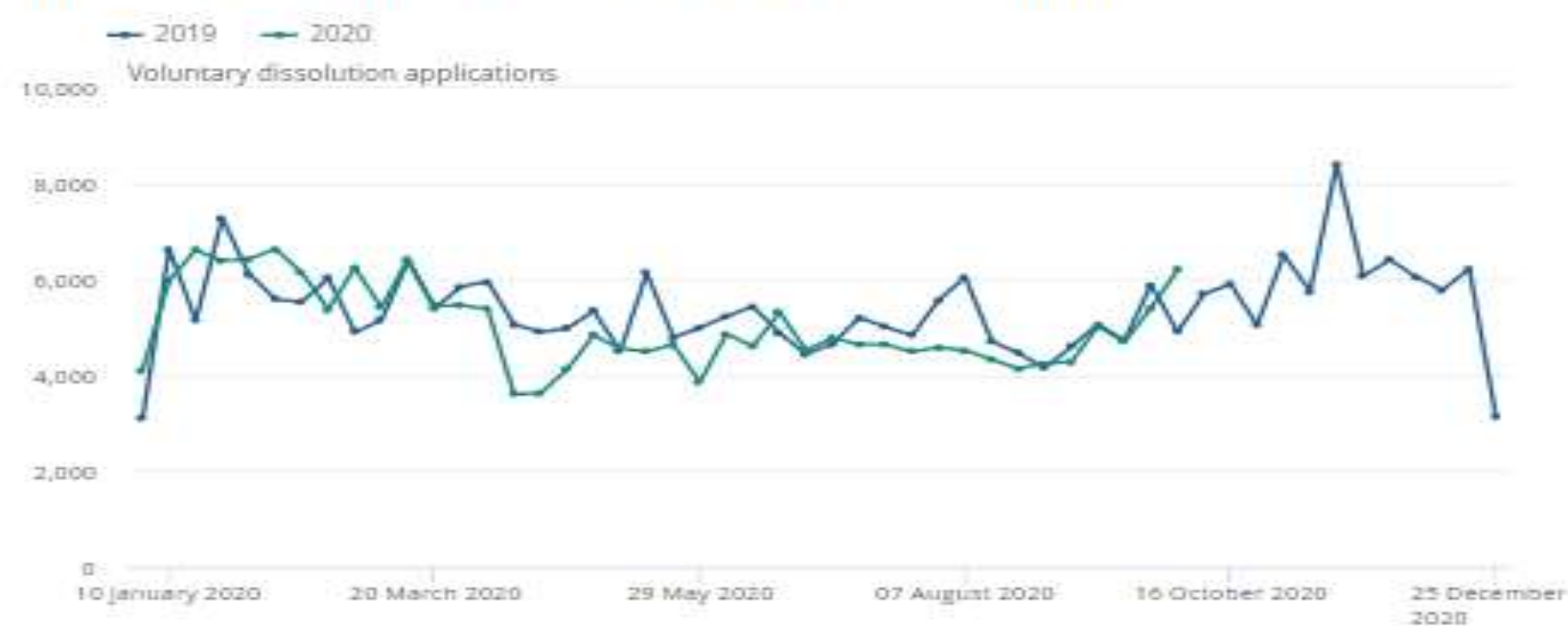
Source: Office for National Statistics - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Total weekly company incorporations, UK, from week ending Friday 4 January 2019 to Friday 2 October 2020



Source: Companies House and Office for National Statistics

Total weekly company voluntary dissolution applications, UK, from week ending Friday 4 January 2019 to week ending Friday 2 October 2020



Source: Companies House and Office for National Statistics

ONS Weekly Release Indicators
BCC EIU

On the 8th 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 14 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS), Wave 27 of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) and experimental online job advert indices.

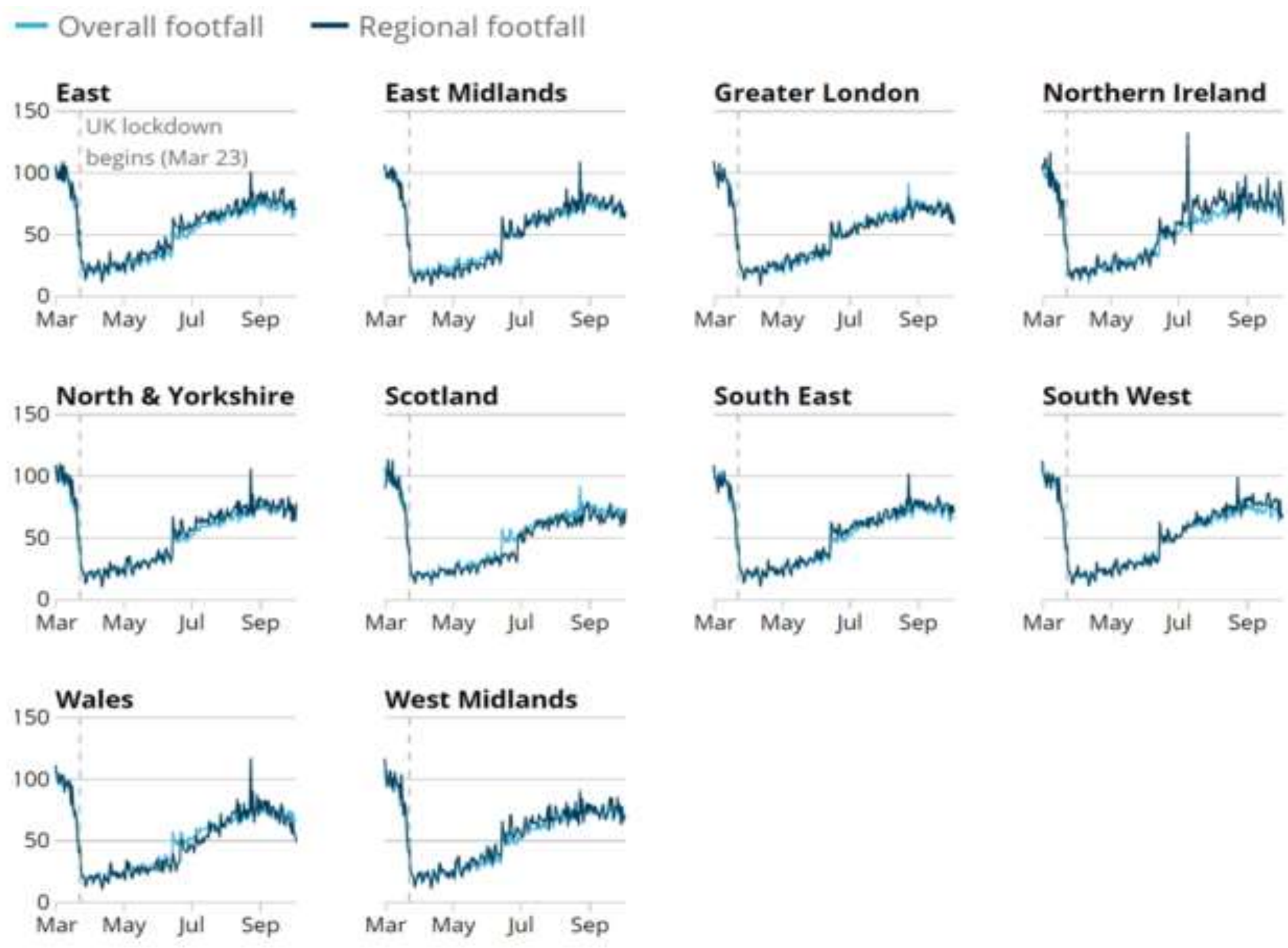
National Footfall

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

For the week ending the 4th October, overall footfall fell below 70% of the 2019 level. High streets were the main reason for the overall decrease, although there was a small decrease in shopping centres and little change was seen in retail park footfall.

The most recent week for regional level footfall shows there was moderate decrease in most of the regions when compared to previous week. Wales had the largest decrease in footfall this was followed by the West Midlands with the smallest decrease in Northern Ireland.

The following graph shows the volume of daily footfall for regions between 1st March to 4th October, year on year percentage change between footfall on the same day:



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

National Company Incorporations and Voluntary Dissolution

There were 17,940 incorporations in the week ending 2nd October 2020, this is above the incorporations recorded in the same week as 2019 which was 13,791.

Also, for the week ending 2nd October, there were 6,198 voluntary dissolution applications. This is also above the same week as the previous year at 4,900.

Business Impact of the Coronavirus

The final results from the fourteenth round of the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) based off the 3,732 businesses surveyed across the West Midlands with a response rate of 24.5% (911). Unless stated, the following data is based on the period between 7th to 20th September 2020 and only covers topics where there is a regional breakdown. Please note the data used is unweighted and should be treated with caution when evaluating the impact of COVID-19.

Trading and Financial Performance

The trading status of businesses refer to the period of 7th to 20th September and the turnover analysis is between 21st September – 4th October.

For the West Midlands, less than 1% of businesses have permanently ceased trading. While 97.4% of businesses have been trading and 2.1% of businesses have temporarily closed or paused trading.

In the West Midlands, 97.0% of responding businesses were trading and have been for more than the last two weeks. 1.9% of responding West Midlands businesses have paused trading and do not intend to restart in the next two weeks

53.0% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported their turnover had decreased by at least 20%. However, 27.7% of trading businesses in the West Midlands reported that their turnover was unaffected and 11.5% reported their turnover had increased by at least 20%.

Turnover versus Operating Costs

11.1% of West Midlands businesses reported that operating costs exceeded turnover by at least 20% (UK 13.4%) and 10.7% reported that turnover was equal to operating costs (UK 12.7%). While 55.5% of West Midlands businesses reported turnover exceeded operating costs by at least 20% (UK 49.9%) and 22.8% were unsure (UK 24.0%).

Paused or Ceased Trading Business Sites Location

The following table shows where businesses are located who have currently paused or ceased trading by region and industry between 21st September to 4th October. For the West Midlands, the highest industry was accommodation and food services activities at 3.4%.

Safety Measures

93.6% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading intend to or have implemented social distancing compared to 91.5% across all UK businesses.

Examples of other safety measures intended to or have implemented across these West Midlands businesses include 90.9% will use increased hygiene measures (88.9% UK) and 85.2% will use PPE (82.3% UK).

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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%
Construction	*	4.0%	3.0%	1.4%	*	2.6%	*	1.9%	2.1%	1.6%	1.4%	*
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	*	2.0%	1.4%	*	*	2.4%	*	1.2%	1.7%	1.0%	1.2%	*
Transportation and Storage	0.0%	2.1%	1.2%	2.5%	2.1%	2.1%	1.2%	2.5%	2.1%	2.5%	1.2%	1.7%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	1.1%	4.7%	3.6%	3.6%	3.0%	8.5%	2.3%	5.1%	4.1%	2.3%	3.4%	1.9%
Information and Communication	*	0.0%	*	*	*	3.1%	*	*	2.1%	*	1.8%	*
Real Estate Activities	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	1.5%	0.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	*	1.2%	*	*	*	3.5%	*	2.4%	1.9%	1.3%	*	*
Administrative and Support Service Activities	*	2.2%	1.4%	2.7%	1.9%	5.8%	1.2%	3.4%	3.6%	1.9%	1.9%	1.6%
Education	0.0%	1.7%	1.3%	4.3%	0.0%	2.2%	*	*	5.6%	2.6%	1.7%	1.7%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	*	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	*	1.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1.1%	7.4%	5.3%	2.7%	1.6%	6.4%	2.7%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	2.1%	5.3%
All Industries	*	2.1%	1.6%	1.5%	1.0%	3.3%	*	2.1%	2.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%

*Less than 1%

68.6% of West Midlands businesses reported that using one or more safety measure has increased operating costs a little (UK 68.6%) with a further 8.5% reporting to operating costs substantially increased (UK 10.3%). 13.0% of west midlands businesses reported operating costs had stayed the same (UK 13.9%).

International Trading

40.6% of exporting businesses in the West Midlands reported their businesses were still exporting but less than normal (this applies to those businesses in the West Midlands continuing to trade who have exported and/or imported in the last 12 months and have exported and/or imported during Covid-19). Of those businesses who continued to trade and import, 31.8% in the West Midlands were importing less than normal.

48.2% of West Midlands businesses who were exporting reported that they had not been affected and 54.4% said that importing had not been affected.

1.3% of businesses in the West Midlands are exporting more than normal. The West Midlands figures for importing more than normal was 5.2%.

1.6% of businesses in the West Midlands have not been able to export in the last two weeks. The figures for business that have not been able to import in the last two weeks were less than 1% for the West Midlands.

Stock Levels

In the last two weeks (between 21st September – 4th October), 10.1% of West Midlands businesses reported stock levels are higher than normal (UK 8.5%). 18.3% of West Midlands businesses reported stock levels are lower than normal (UK 14.5%) and 38.7% reported stock levels have not changed (UK 40.0%).

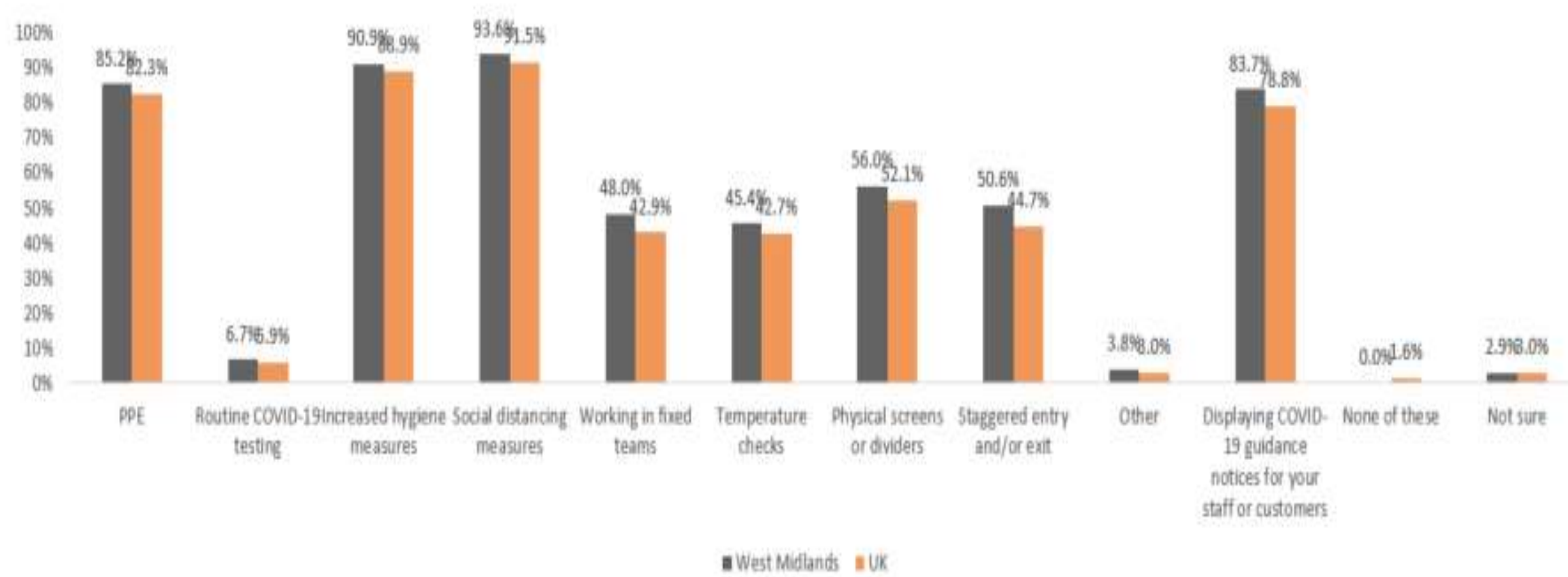
Government Schemes and Initiatives

82.8% of businesses in the West Midlands who have not permanently stopped trading have applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, compared to 76.1% for the UK.

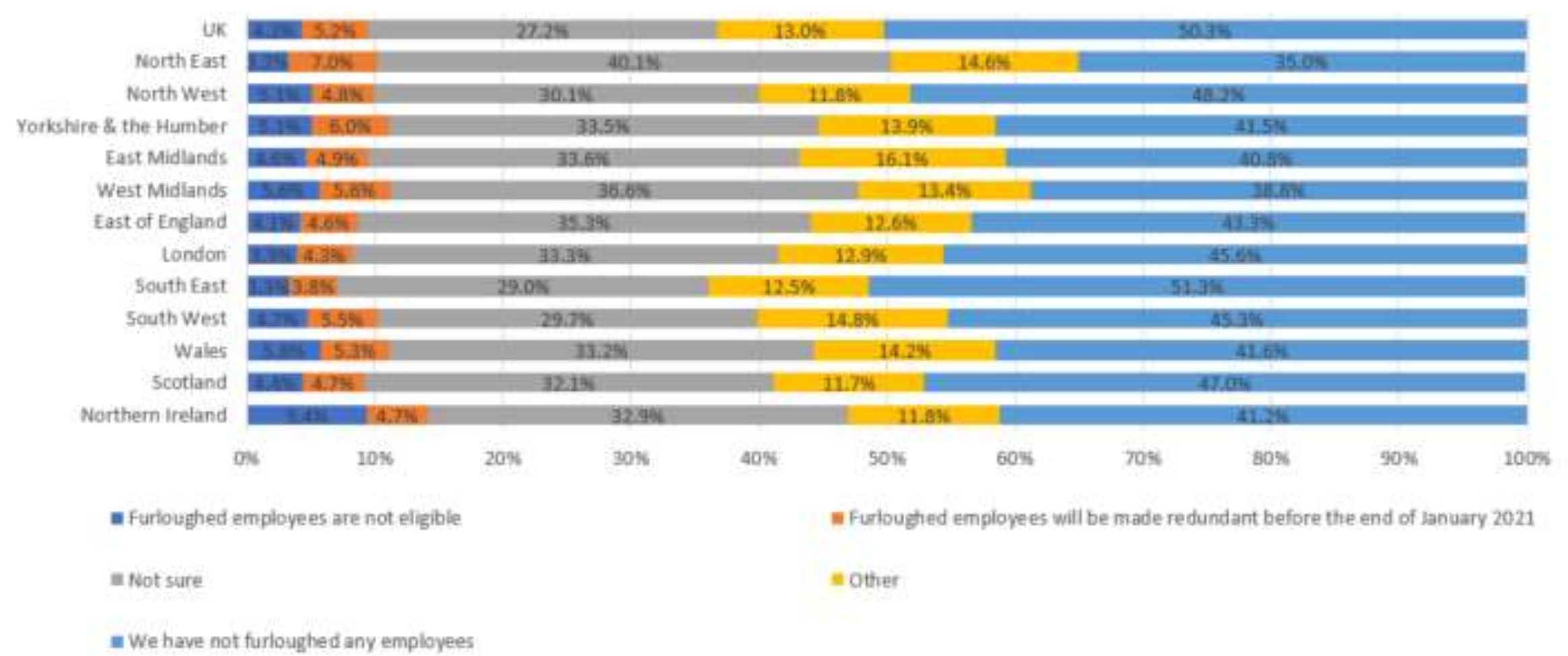
13.5% of West Midlands businesses have applied for business grants funded by the UK and devolved government (UK 16.4%) and 17.7% for government backed accredited loans or finance agreement (UK 23.2%). While 15.9% of West Midlands businesses have not applied for any of these schemes (UK 21.0%).

98.3% of West Midlands businesses have received funds from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, compared to 96.8% for the UK. 15.8% of businesses received funds from a Government backed accredited loans or finance agreements (UK 24.7%). While 1.1% have not received any funds from these schemes (UK 1.3%).

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



Businesses were asked why they were not intending to apply for the Job Retention Bonus, the most common reason at 38.8% of West Midlands businesses had not furloughed any employees compared to 50.3% for the UK. The following graph shows the five responses across the UK regions:



20.4% of West Businesses are using the Deferring VAT payments initiative (UK 16.4%). 11.3% are using business rates holiday initiatives (UK 9.1%) and 7.3% are using HMRC Time to Pay Scheme (UK 6.7%). 73.8% of West Midlands businesses are not using any of these initiatives (UK 77.6%).

71.5% of West Midlands businesses who received support from schemes or initiatives reported that it helped them to continue trading, while 18.8% reported that it did not impact their ability to continue trading.

Financial Assistance

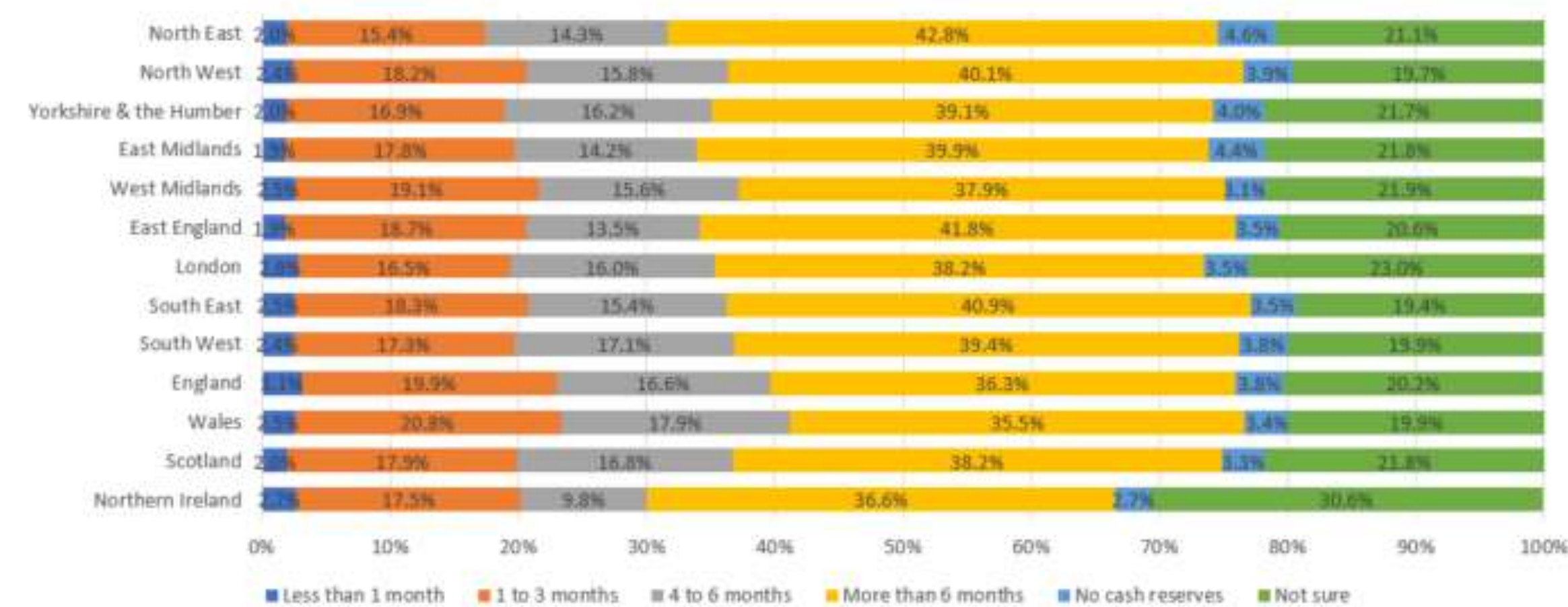
11.3% of businesses in the West Midlands have received

financial assistance from banks or building societies. Of these businesses, 83.3% reported this assistance helped them to continue trading, however 13.7% reported there was no impact on their ability to continue trading.

Cash Flow

3.1% 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 2.7% in Northern Ireland to 4.6% in the North East.

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



Site Closures

27.3% of businesses in the West Midlands that are in the education industry intend to have sites permanently closed in the next three months. Overall, across all industries around 13.2% in the West Midlands will have sites that intend to permanently close in the next three months. The following table shows a breakdown by industry and region for the proportion of sites that will permanently close in the next three months:

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	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	16.7%	5.6%	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	16.7%	11.1%	16.7%
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	2.8%	8.3%	8.3%	13.9%	2.8%	22.2%	5.6%	13.9%	16.7%	11.1%	13.9%	5.6%
Transportation and Storage	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	4.0%	20.0%	8.0%	8.0%	16.0%	28.0%	12.0%	28.0%	40.0%	20.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Information and Communication	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	27.8%	0.0%	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%	16.7%	11.1%
Real Estate Activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	11.8%	17.6%	0.0%	5.9%	11.8%	17.6%	17.6%	29.4%	29.4%	17.6%	0.0%	23.5%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	3.7%	11.1%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	44.4%	3.7%	7.4%	18.5%	18.5%	14.8%	3.7%
Education	9.1%	18.2%	18.2%	27.3%	27.3%	9.1%	27.3%	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	27.3%	36.4%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
All Industries	3.8%	11.0%	6.0%	9.9%	9.3%	22.5%	7.1%	15.9%	20.3%	16.5%	13.2%	11.0%

*Less than 1%

Test and Trace

Businesses were asked if they were collecting test and trace contact details from customers, 40.9% of West Midlands businesses reported they were not (UK 45.3%) and 30.7% reported they were (UK 30.8%).

Social Impact of the Coronavirus

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) help in understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. The data relates to the final results for Wave 27, covering the period 30th September to 4th October 2020. In this wave there were 1,573 (72%) responding adults. (Please note, this week refers to the period between 30th September to 4th October 2020 and last week refers to the period between 24th – 27th September 2020.)

Socialising

27% of adults reported they had not socialised with anyone outside their household in the past week which is an increase from 25% in the previous week. 65% of adults had socialised between one and five other people at the same time. 8% reported to socialising with at least six or more people.

34% of adults who were in a local lockdown area reported they had not socialised with anyone outside their household, this increased to 59% for socialising with between one and five people, this drops to 7% for socialising with six or more people. While for those not in a lockdown area, 25% have not socialised with anyone outside their household, 66% socialised with between one and five people and 9% for socialising with six or more people.

41% of adults reported there had been no change in their social contact with friends and family living outside their household this week. Among those that had met up with people outside their household, 8% reported they often or always maintained social distancing.

Face Coverings

98% of adults have worn a face covering outside their home in the past week.

30% of adults with dependent children reported that all or some of the children or young people in their household attending school or college had worn a face covering at any point during school or college. Of those whose children had worn a face covering, 70% said it was mandatory and 27% said it was voluntary.

Work

50% of working adults reported the pandemic was affecting their work.

9% of working adults expect to increase their working hours during October; this drops to 6% expecting to reduce their working hours and 2% are expected to be made redundant.

When asked how their work had changed since the coronavirus pandemic, 68% of working adults reported that they had to work in new ways, 27% had to take on new responsibilities, 29% had to use new equipment and 23% had to learn new skills. Around 20% of working adults reported that their work has not changed since the coronavirus pandemic.

62% of working adults reported that they had either travelled to work exclusively or in combination with working from home this week compared to 59% last week. 22% worked from home exclusively, a decrease from 24% last week.

Impact on Life and Well-Being

72% of adults this week reported were very or somewhat worried about the effect of the pandemic on their life right now. The main concerns reported by adults were a lack of freedom and independence (56%), and personal travel plans being affected (54%).

Average anxiety scores for all adults have increased this week to 4.3, the highest figure since 3rd to 13th April (4.9). Of those who said their well-being has been affected by

the coronavirus, 63% said they felt stressed or anxious, and 64% said they felt worried about the future.

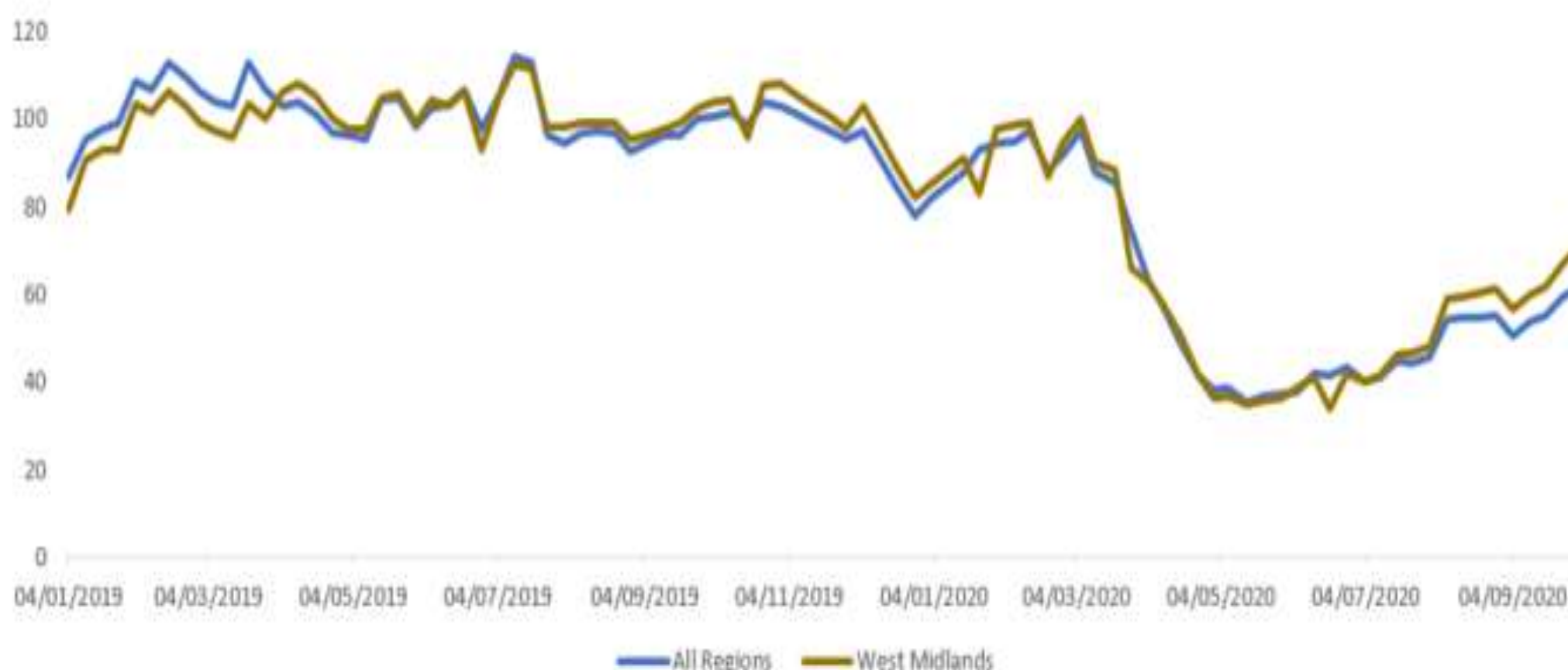
Online Jobs Adverts

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 59.4% (of the 2019 average) in the week of the 25th September to 61.2% (of the 2019 average) in the week of the 2nd October. Out of the 28 categories (excluding unknown), 18 had increased from the previous week with a 27.7pp increase in part-time weekend work to reach 157.6% of the 2019 level. In contrast, the largest drop was in healthcare and social care by 4.8pp to 91.1% of the 2019 level.

For the West Midlands region, the total online jobs adverts increased from 66.7% (25th September) to 70.6% (2nd October) of its 2019 average. All regions experienced an increase in online adverts with a 10.0pp increase to 61.1% in Yorkshire and The Humber to a 0.5pp increase to 68.6% in Northern Ireland. For the week of 2nd October, Wales was nearest to the 2019 level at 76.5% down to the East of England at 56.0% of the 2019 level.

The following graph shows total weekly jobs adverts for all regions and the West Midlands, 4th January 2019 to 2nd October 2020 (Index 2019 average =100):



Source: Adzuna

The following analysis compares the latest time period (week of the 2nd October 2020) to the previous week period (week of the 25th September 2020) for the number of deaths registered and the number of deaths related to the Coronavirus.

Across England and Wales, the overall registered death figures increased from 9,634 in the week of 25th September to 9,945 in the week of 2nd October. The number of deaths registered that state Coronavirus on the death certificate increased from 215 people to 321 people over the same period.

Regional level analysis shows that in the West Midlands the overall registered death figures increased from 1,036 in the week of 25th September to 1,045 in the week of 2nd October. The number of registered deaths related to Coronavirus decreased from 33 to 31 over the same period.

There was a total of 724 deaths registered across the WMCA (3 LEP) area in the week of the 2nd October. There were 23 deaths registered that were related to Coronavirus over the same period – this accounts for 3.2% of total deaths. In the WMCA (3 LEP) area. The WMCA (3 LEP) area accounts for 74.2% of the Coronavirus related deaths registered in the West Midlands Region.

In comparison to the week of the 25th September, the

overall registered death figures across the WMCA (3 LEP) increased by 22 people and the number of registered Coronavirus deaths decreased by 7.

At local authority level, there were ten that recorded a Coronavirus related death. Nine Coronavirus related deaths were in Birmingham. Three Coronavirus related deaths were in East Staffordshire. Two Coronavirus related deaths were in each of the following local authorities; Tamworth, Wyre Forest and Wolverhampton. There were also one in each of the following local authorities; Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Dudley, Sandwell and Solihull.

Across the WMCA (3 LEP) area, of the deaths involving Coronavirus registered in the week of 2nd October, 18 of the deaths were in hospital, 3 in a care home and 2 at home.

Source: ONS, Deaths registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board, 13th October 2020

HEADLINES	
SECTOR	KEY CONCERNS
Cross Sector	<p>Access to Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive impact of the Specialist Grants. Enquiries continue to be made for the wider economy grant as companies seek further grant funding due to covid restrictions and fear of further enhancements to these restrictions. <p>Business Confidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses are preparing themselves for a difficult winter, with winding back of furlough, further lockdowns, and uncertainty over outcome of EU Exit. <p>New Business Models including Diversification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some businesses taking a more positive line, have come to terms with the 'new normal', and are remodelling their business to find new opportunities. Businesses continue to look to downsize operations given the popularity of working from home. Both bosses and employees see home working as a long-term trend. Potential crisis for landlords as they seek to adapt to a potentially long-term change in the way businesses and employees choose to work. A possible swathe of available larger premises could dictate how property owners chose to configure their buildings. A possible opportunity to create shared office space on flexible terms. <p>Jobs & Furlough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the end of CJRS approaches, businesses have already assessed staff numbers to remain productive and redundancies are inevitable. <p>Supply Chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalisation and reduction of product ranges and businesses reviewing their supply chains apparent. <p>EU Exit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern over the availability of steel with EU exit, and the knock-on effects of having to procure more expensive Chinese and European steel due to imposed tariffs. Other main concerns noted by businesses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining and recruiting EU employees. Difficulties planning when things are not clear. No time to prepare with all the disruption and issues that responding to Covid-19 have brought. Delays from suppliers in EU and price fluctuations.
Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering	<p>Jobs & Furlough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several businesses looking to use the Kickstart programme.
Visitor Economy	<p>Consumer Confidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent downturn in consumer confidence has hurt some hospitality businesses. <p>New Government Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10pm curfew and various local lockdowns have hit hospitality firms.
Retail	<p>Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales & footfall down on last year in various areas. The fall may be partly due to city centre offices remaining closed. <p>Supply Chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some businesses have noticed delays from international suppliers. <p>Brexit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses trying to prepare for Brexit, but this is difficult until things become clearer.

NEW ECONOMIC SHOCKS			
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	SOURCE/DETAIL
VUE	Black Country and wider region	Entertainment	Vue will reduce its opening hours to four days a week at 21 of its 87 UK sites, keeping them shut on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Edinburgh Woollen Mill	Black Country and wider region	Retail	High street fashion chain Edinburgh Woollen Mill is close to collapse, with 24,000 jobs in the balance, according to documents filed with the High Court.
HSS	Black Country and wider region	Retail	Tool rental company HSS Hire plans to axe about 300 jobs as it closes dozens of branches up and down the country.
Cineworld	Rugby (Local) Multiple Venues Nationally	Arts, Entertainment, Leisure	Cineworld is to close all its venues in the UK and Ireland for an indefinite period this week – putting 5,500 jobs at risk.
The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)	Stratford-upon-Avon	Arts, Entertainment, Leisure	The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has said that it could axe as many as 158 jobs after it announced that it was shifting its focus to organising shows in only one of its venues for the next 12 months.

NEW INVESTMENT, DEALS AND OPPORTUNITIES			
COMPANY	LOCATION	SECTOR	DETAIL & SOURCE
Marston and Carlsberg	Wolverhampton	Hospitality	The new Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company, which will have its headquarters in Wolverhampton, has been cleared by the Competition and Markets Authority.
Poundland	Black Country /wider region	Retail	Poundland has bought Fultons Foods, the north of England frozen food retailer, in a move that will help accelerate its transformation programme and create 1,000 jobs.
Newg420	Black Country	Retail	An expanding household products firm is set to create 20 jobs in Smethwick after buying a 26,150 sq ft warehouse in a deal arranged by commercial property agents Siddall Jones.
Heritage organisations	Black Country /ider regions	Agriculture	The cash boost from the Government has been split across 445 groups nationally through the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund.
Walsall Leather Skills Centre	Black Country	Manufacturing	A new centre to teach a new generation of saddle, bridle and leather-goods makers has opened its doors to help young people into work in Walsall.
JLR	Solihull	Automotive	Sales for luxury car maker Jaguar Land Rover were up by 50 per cent for the three months to the end of September.
University of Birmingham	Birmingham	Education	A £210M world-class life science campus set for the West Midlands. Birmingham is set to lead the delivery of medical innovation in the Midlands through the development of Birmingham Health Innovation Campus; attracting significant inward investment, creating high value jobs in the region, and accelerating the development and deployment of new drugs, diagnostics and healthcare technologies to patients.
GHC Global	Birmingham	Healthcare	Three Birmingham-based doctors are celebrating securing a national deal to supply millions of face coverings to supermarket giant Tesco.
Octopus Energy	Warwick (Local)	Utilities	Octopus Energy, the utilities supplier, is set to create 1,000 tech jobs across sites in Leicester, Warwick, London and Brighton and a new tech hub in Manchester.
Soford Development	Leamington Spa	Construction	Stoford Developments has reached practical completion of two speculative units in a multimillion-pound business park in Leamington Spa, marking the completion of the first phase.
Warwick Acoustics	Nuneaton	Manufacturing	Mercia Asset Management has announced that its portfolio company Warwick Acoustics has secured £2.1m of syndicated investment, including £500,000 from Mercia. The company has also recently won a £400,000 grant from Innovate UK, in conjunction with the University of Warwick.
JLR	National	Automotive, Engineering, Manufacturing	Luxury car maker Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has restored two-shift working at its UK plants. Work at its Halewood site in Merseyside, and its Castle Bromwich and Solihull factories in the West Midlands had been scaled back due to reduced global sales, due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Finish Line Performance Paintwork	Coventry	Automotive	A specialist automotive business is moving to new premises in Coventry this year after receiving financial support during Covid-19. Finish Line Performance Paintwork, which was established in 2003, currently leases a unit in Kingfield Road, Foleshill, for its car and motorcycle body work repair and paint work.
CPC Foods	Coventry	Food & Drink	Turnover surged by more than £60m at the Coventry company behind bacon producer Beckett's Foods during its latest financial year, new documents have confirmed. CPC Foods has reported a turnover of £190.5m for the 12 months to 31 December 2019, up from £128.4m. Its pre-tax profits went from £2.1m to £743,531 over the same period.
JLR	National	Automotive, Engineering, Manufacturing	Jaguar Land Rover's sales significantly improved during its second quarter but continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, new figures have revealed. The Coventry-headquartered automotive giant has revealed sales for the three-month period to 30 September 2020 of 113,569 vehicles, a rise of 53.3 per cent from its first quarter. However, its second quarter performance was down 11.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2019.
Harvey UK	Henley in Arden	Design and Architecture	A Warwickshire-headquartered commercial decoration company has won a contract to carry out the decorating and finishing of Birmingham's tallest residential tower block. Henley-in-Arden-based Harvey UK will carry out all of the painting, decorating and finishing work on 481 apartments in The Mercian, a new 42-storey tower in Broad Street.
Codemasters	Southam	Digital and Technology	Revenue at Warwickshire-headquartered video game developer Codemasters is expected to more than double when the listed company announces its half-year results. The business is set to report a revenue of about £80.5m for the six months to 30 September 2020, up from £39.8m for the same period in 2019.
Alpine Electronics of UK	Coventry	Automotive, Engineering	Pre-tax profits increased at a Coventry-based electronics business which supplies to Jaguar Land Rover, Volvo and Honda during its latest financial year. Alpine Electronics of UK, which is best known for its range of car audio and navigation systems, has reported profits of £3.5m for the 12 months to 31 March 2020, up from £1.9m.
Surf and Slice	Coventry	Food and drink	The owner of a start-up pizza business in Coventry is hoping for a slice of the events industry action after innovating to ensure the firm survived lockdown. Former Coundon Court student Tom Capell launched Surf and Slice in 2019 after deciding to leave his role as quality controller at Jaguar Land Rover after five years with the company.

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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