

## UK Business Counts: October 2019<sup>1</sup>

UK Business Counts provides the number of enterprises as of the 15<sup>th</sup> March each year.

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

### Key points:

- The snapshot from March 2019 shows there were 33,555 enterprises in the Black Country, an increase of 0.7% (+225 enterprises) compared to March 2018 snapshot, while nationally there was an increase of 1.8%.
- In the Black Country, 87.0% (29,200) of enterprises employ between 0-9 people, below the national average of 89.6%. The Black Country mirrors the national average with 0.4% of the enterprise total employing 250+ people.
- The Black Country is above the national average in the £5m+ turnover band with 2.9% (970) of enterprises compared to 2.4%.
- In the Black Country, enterprises with a turnover band of £100,000 - £249,999 experienced the highest increase at 3.4% (+340), which was above the England average increase of 3.1%.
- In the Black Country, business services accounts for 28.5% (9,565) of the business base, this is below the UK average of 40.1%.
- Transport technologies increased by 4.2% (+125 enterprises) to 3,070 in 2019, nationally there was an increase of 1.2%.

### In Summary:

- The snapshot from March 2019 shows there were 33,555 enterprises in the Black Country, an increase of 0.7% (+225 enterprises) compared to March 2018 snapshot, while nationally there was an increase of 1.8%.
- Within the Black Country, Walsall experienced the highest percentage increase from 2018 at +1.8% (+135 enterprises) to reach 7,660 enterprises in 2019. In contrast, Wolverhampton decreased by 2.5% (-185 enterprises) to 7,360 enterprises.

**Figure 1: Enterprise Count, 2018 and 2019**

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Dudley	9,490	9,645	155	1.6%
Sandwell	8,775	8,885	110	1.3%
Walsall	7,525	7,660	135	1.8%
Wolverhampton	7,545	7,360	-185	-2.5%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>33,330</b>	<b>33,555</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>2,318,060</b>	<b>2,360,780</b>	<b>42,720</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

<sup>1</sup> ONS: UK Business; activity, size and location: 2019 – released 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/bulletins/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation/2019>



## Employment by Size Band

- In the Black Country, 87.0% (29,200) of enterprises employ between 0-9 people, below the national average of 89.6%. Within the Black Country, Dudley has the highest percentage of enterprises with 0-9 employees at 87.5% (8,435). While Sandwell was the lowest at 86.5% (7,685).
- The Black Country mirrors the national average with 0.4% of the enterprise total employing 250+ people. Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are above the national average (0.5%, 0.6% and 0.5% respectively), while Dudley stands at 0.3%.

**Figure 2: Employment by Size Band, 2019**

	Black Country	Black Country % of total	England	England% of total
<b>Total</b>	33,555		2,360,780	
<b>Micro (0 to 9)</b>	29,200	87.0%	2,114,965	89.6%
<b>Small (10 to 49)</b>	3,530	10.5%	200,070	8.5%
<b>Medium-sized (50 to 249)</b>	670	2.0%	36,500	1.5%
<b>Large (250+)</b>	150	0.4%	9,250	0.4%

## Turnover Band

- Reflecting the national trend, the Black Country has the highest percentage of enterprises with a turnover between £0- £99,999 at 37.4% (12,565 enterprises), with the national average at 38.5%. The Black Country has decreased by 2.4% (-315 enterprises) since 2018, with the national average decreasing by 0.3%.
- The Black Country is above the national average in the £5m+ turnover band with 2.9% (970) of enterprises compared to 2.4%. The Black Country is also above the national average in the £1m - £4.99m turnover band with 8.4% of enterprises compared to 7.0% and the £250,000 - £999,999 turnover band with 20.5% of the Black Country total, compared to 19.7%.
- In the Black Country, enterprises with a turnover band of £100,000 - £249,999 experienced the highest increase at 3.4% (+340), which was above the England average increase of 3.1%.

**Figure 3: Enterprises by Turnover Band for the Black Country and England in 2018 & 2019**

	Black Country 2018	Black Country 2018 % of total	Black Country 2019	Black Country 2019 % of total	Black Country Change	England 2018 % of total	England 2019 % of total	England Change
<b>£5m+</b>	940	2.8%	970	2.9%	+30 (+3.2%)	2.3%	2.4%	5.1%
<b>£1m - £4.99m</b>	2,835	8.5%	2,815	8.4%	-20 (-0.7%)	6.9%	7.0%	2.8%
<b>£250,000 - £999,999</b>	6,695	20.1%	6,880	20.5%	+185 (+2.8%)	19.4%	19.7%	3.2%
<b>£100,000 - £249,999</b>	9,985	30.0%	10,325	30.8%	+340 (+3.4%)	32.0%	32.4%	3.1%
<b>£0-£99,999</b>	12,880	38.6%	12,565	37.4%	-315 (-2.4%)	39.3%	38.5%	-0.3%
<b>Total</b>	33,330		33,555		+225 (+0.7%)			1.8%

### Enterprises by Sector

- In the Black Country, business services accounts for 28.5% (9,565) of the business base, this is below the UK average of 40.1%. Compared to 2018, business services have increased by 0.4%, however this is below the national average of 2.1%.
- Transport technologies increased by 4.2% (+125 enterprises) to 3,070 in 2019, however this accounts for 9.1% of the total enterprises. Nationally there was an increase of 1.2% increase and accounts for 4.2% of the total.
- From 2018, the highest percentage decrease in enterprises in the Black Country was in the health sector at -7.4% (-130) which follows the national trend of -6.3%.

**Figure 4: Black Country Enterprises by Sector, 2019**

	Black Country (2018)	Black Country (2019)	Black Country % of total (2019)	Black Country Difference	Black Country % Difference	England % Change
<b>Advanced Manufacturing</b>	4,395	4,350	13.0%	-45	-1.0%	0.2%
<b>Building Technologies</b>	4,490	4,565	13.6%	75	1.7%	3.8%
<b>Business Services</b>	9,530	9,565	28.5%	35	0.4%	2.1%
<b>Environmental Technologies</b>	235	230	0.7%	-5	-2.1%	2.4%
<b>Transport Technologies</b>	2,945	3,070	9.1%	125	4.2%	1.2%
<b>Health</b>	1,745	1,615	4.8%	-130	-7.4%	-6.3%
<b>Public Sector</b>	825	835	2.5%	10	1.2%	1.1%
<b>Retail</b>	6,715	6,785	20.2%	70	1.0%	2.8%
<b>Sports</b>	305	315	0.9%	10	3.3%	9.2%
<b>Visitor Economy</b>	2,145	2,225	6.6%	80	3.7%	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	33,330	33,555		225	0.7%	1.8%