

## UK Business: Activity, Size and Location - September 2020<sup>1</sup>

The UK Business: activity, size and location dataset released today provides a snapshot of the Business Demography dataset from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and provides a breakdown by 2-digit SIC codes, employment by size band and turnover band. **Please note, the impacts from Coronavirus will not be captured in this release.**

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

The following briefing is based on enterprises as opposed to local units<sup>2</sup>.

### In Summary:

- The March 2020 snapshot shows there were 34,360 enterprises in the Black Country, an increase of 2.4% (+805 enterprises) compared to the March 2019 snapshot, while nationally there was an increase of 1.3%.
- 10.2% of enterprises in the Black Country employ between 10-49 people (8.4% England). 1.9% of enterprises employ between 50-249 people (England 1.5%). Also, 0.5% of enterprises employ between over 250 people, above the national average of 0.4%.
- There were 1,010 “**High Achiever**” enterprises with a turnover of more than £5 million a year, this is an increase of 40 enterprises compared to the 2019 snapshot. These enterprises accounted for 3.0% of the business base and above the national average of 2.5%.
- In the Black Country, business services accounts for 28.0% (9,615) of the business base, this is below the national average of 39.8%. Compared to 2019 snapshot, business services have increased by 0.5%, however this is below the national average increase of 0.7%.

### In Detail:

- The March 2020 snapshot shows there were 34,360 enterprises in the Black Country, an increase of 2.4% (+805 enterprises) compared to the March 2019 snapshot, while nationally there was an increase of 1.3%.
- Within the Black Country, all the local authorities saw an increase in the number of enterprises. Dudley had the highest increase at 295 enterprises (+3.1%) to reach a total of 9,940, while Wolverhampton had the lowest increase at an additional 90 enterprises (+1.2%) to reach 7,450.

---

<sup>1</sup> ONS: UK Business; activity, size and location, released 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

<sup>2</sup> ONS state that an enterprise can be thought as the overall business, made up of all the individual sites or workplaces. It is defined as the smallest combination of legal units that has a certain degree of autonomy within an enterprise group. A local unit is an individual site (for example a factory or shop) associated with an enterprise. It can also be referred to as workplace.

**Figure 1: Enterprise Count and Change between 2019 snapshot and 2020 snapshot:**

	2019 Snapshot	2020 Snapshot	Number Change	Percentage Change
Dudley	9,645	9,940	+295	+3.1%
Sandwell	8,885	9,105	+220	+2.5%
Walsall	7,660	7,865	+205	+2.7%
Wolverhampton	7,360	7,450	+90	+1.2%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>33,555</b>	<b>34,360</b>	<b>+805</b>	<b>+2.4%</b>
England	2,360,780	2,390,970	+30,190	+1.3%

### Employment by Size Band

- In the Black Country, 87.4% (30,045) of enterprises employ between 0-9 people, below the national average of 89.7%. This has increased by 0.4 percentage points (pp) compared to an increase of 0.1pp nationally since the 2019 snapshot.
- 10.2% of enterprises employ between 10-49 people, above the national average of 8.4%. This has decreased by 0.3pp compared to 0.1pp decrease nationally since 2019 snapshot.
- 1.9% of enterprises employ between 50-249 people, above the national average of 1.5%. This has decreased by 0.1pp compared to no change nationally since 2019 snapshot.
- 0.5% of enterprises employ between over 250 people, above the national average of 0.4%. This has increased by 0.1pp compared to no change nationally since 2019 snapshot.

**Figure 2: Employment by Size Band, 2020 snapshot**

	Black Country	Black Country % of total	England	England% of total
<b>Total</b>	34,360		2,390,970	
<b>Micro (0 to 9)</b>	30,045	87.4%	2,144,180	89.7%
<b>Small (10 to 49)</b>	3,490	10.2%	200,445	8.4%
<b>Medium-sized (50 to 249)</b>	670	1.9%	36,885	1.5%
<b>Large (250+)</b>	155	0.5%	9,460	0.4%

### Turnover Band

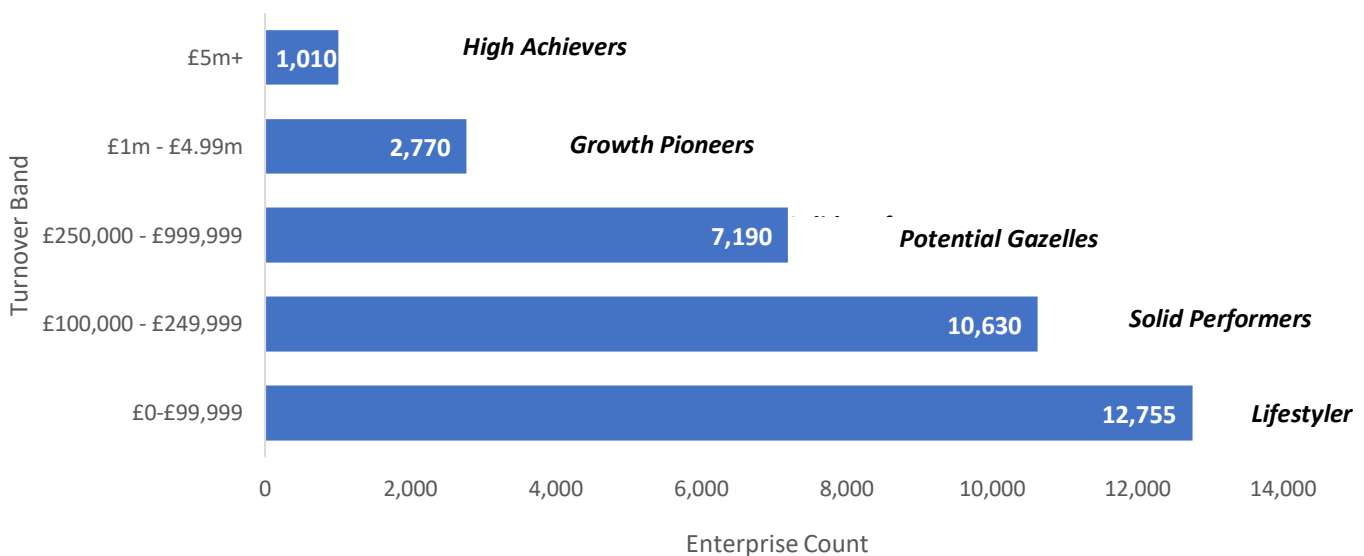
The 34,360 Black Country enterprises have been categorised into five groups based on their turnover band:

1. There were 1,010 **“High Achiever”** enterprises with a turnover of more than £5 million a year, this is an increase of 40 enterprises compared to the 2019 snapshot. These enterprises accounted for 3.0% of the business base and above the national average of 2.5%.
2. **“Growth Pioneers”** with a turnover band between £1m-£4.99m, contains 2,770 enterprises. These accounted for 8.3% of the business base compared to 7.1% nationally. There was a decrease of 45 enterprises in this cohort for the Black Country.
3. The 7,190 **“Potential Gazelles”** enterprises that turnover between £250k to £999k accounted for 21.4% of the business base compared to 20.4% nationally. There was an increase of 310 enterprises in this cohort.

4. The 10,630 enterprises that had a turnover between £100k to £249k are classified as **“Solid Performers”** and accounted for 31.7% of the business base, this is an increase of 305 enterprises when compared to the 2019 snapshot. The national average for this cohort was 33.5%.

5. Enterprises with a turnover less than £100k are classed as **“Lifestylers”**, there were 12,775 enterprises which accounted for 38.0%. This is an increase of 190 enterprises when compared to the 2019 snapshot. The national average for this cohort was 37.8%.

**Figure 3: Enterprises by Turnover Band for the Black Country, snapshot 2020**



### Enterprises by Sector

- In the Black Country, business services accounts for 28.0% (9,615) of the business base, this is below the national average of 39.8%. Compared to 2019 snapshot, business services have increased by 0.5%, however this is below the national average increase of 0.7%.
- Retail accounts for 19.6% of the business base in the Black Country in the 2020 snapshot, nationally it was 14.1%. This is followed by 13.7% for building technologies compared to 12.8% nationally.
- Transport technologies increased by 16.1% (+495 enterprises) to 3,565 in 2020, however this accounts for 10.4% of the total enterprises. Nationally there was an increase of 11.3% increase and accounts for 4.6% of the total.
- Compared to the 2019 snapshot, two sectors in the Black Country decreased – advanced manufacturing by 0.8% (-35 enterprises to 4,315), nationally there was a decrease of 0.5%. Retail also decreased by 0.8% (-55 enterprises to 6,730), nationally there was a decrease of 0.4%.

**Figure 4: Black Country and England Enterprises by Sector, 2020 Snapshot**

	BCLEP 2019	BCLEP 2020	BCLEP 2020 % of Total	BCLEP % Change 2019-2020	England 2020	England 2020 % of Total	England % Change 2019-2020
Advanced Manufacturing	4,350	4,315	12.6%	-0.8%	300,060	12.5%	-0.5%
Building Technologies	4,565	4,710	13.7%	3.2%	306,260	12.8%	2.4%
Business Services	9,565	9,615	28.0%	0.5%	952,495	39.8%	0.7%
Environmental Technologies	230	240	0.7%	4.3%	11,200	0.5%	2.5%
Transport Technologies	3,070	3,565	10.4%	16.1%	109,550	4.6%	11.3%
Health	1,615	1,640	4.8%	1.5%	93,035	3.9%	1.4%
Public Sector	835	840	2.4%	0.6%	86,280	3.6%	2.1%
Retail	6,785	6,730	19.6%	-0.8%	337,090	14.1%	-0.4%
Sports	315	320	0.9%	1.6%	31,235	1.3%	2.1%
Visitor Economy	2,225	2,385	6.9%	7.2%	163,760	6.8%	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,555</b>	<b>34,360</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2,390,965</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>