

Indicator ¹²	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020 ³	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	Trend	Latest Data Relative to UK and Peer Group ⁴	Commentary/ Context
Percentage of Registered Deaths That Are COVID-19	0%	3.8%	39.4%	26.7%	10.4%	2.4%	1.9%	1.6%	6.8%		BCLEP – 13 th Highest LEP UK: 7.3% Liverpool City Region: 21% (1 st) Cornwall and Isles of Scilly: 0.2% (38 th)	Monthly analysis shows after a steady decrease in deaths since May there has been an increase from September (1.6%) to October (6.8%). The latest weekly analysis shows the proportion of COVID-19 deaths decreased from 11.5% (23 rd Oct.) to 12.0% (30 th Oct.).
Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24)	7,445 (6.0% of 16-24 years old pop.)	7,750 (6.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	10,720 (8.6% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	13,130 (10.6% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	13,405 (10.8% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	13,580 (11.1% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	13,695 (11.2% of 16-24 years old pop.)	13,850 (11.3% of 16-24 years old pop.)	13,915 (11.4% of 16-24 years old pop.)		BCLEP – Highest LEP UK: 7.4% Tees Valley: 10.8% (2 nd) Oxfordshire: 3.9% (38 th)	There were 13,915 youth claimants in the BCLEP area in October 2020, an increase of 65 from September 2020. Compared to March 2020 the BCLEP area have 6,165 more youth claimants.
Claimants (Aged 16+)	37,115 (3.9% of pop. aged 16+)	38,275 (4.1% of pop. aged 16+)	54,965 (5.8% of pop. aged 16+)	64,930 (6.9% of pop. aged 16+)	64,010 (6.8% of pop. aged 16+)	64,790 (6.9% of pop. aged 16+)	66,060 (7% of pop. aged 16+)	65,945 (7% of pop. aged 16+)	65,450 (7% of pop. aged 16+)		BCLEP – Highest LEP with GBSLEP UK: 4.8% Enterprise M3: 2.7% (38 th)	In the BCLEP there were 65,450 claimants in October 2020, a decrease of 495 (-0.8%) from September 2020, notably, there were decreases for the UK as a whole by -1.6%. Although, the BCLEP area have 27,175 more claimants since March 2020.
Business Activity Index	51.2	36.1	10.9	27.9	50.4	61.9	61.9	58.5	51.2		WM – 5 th Lowest Region UK: 52.1 South East: 57.1 (1 st) Scotland: 43.2 (12 th)	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 – posted 51.2 in October, signalling the weakest rate of expansion in private sector output since June.
Future Business Activity Index	72.3	55.9	62.1	61.1	69.1	75.2	65.5	67.8	64.8		WM: 6 th Lowest Region Yorkshire & The Humber: 79.1 (1 st) Northern Ireland: 44.5 (12 th)	Although private sector companies in the West Midlands remained confident of a rise in output in the coming 12 months, the overall level of positive sentiment fell to a five-month low in October and was below its long-run average.

¹ indicators that are in hatched marked boxes represent regional level analysis.

² Sources: ONS, Number of provisional; weekly deaths involving coronavirus, November 2020, Department for Work and Pensions, Claimant count, November 2020, IHS Market/NatWest, PMI Survey, November 2020, EMSI, November 2020, HMRC: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Statistics, October 2020, ONS, GDP UK regions and Countries, November 2020, HM Revenue & Customs, UK Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, September 2020,

³ The green shading illustrates indicators which have moved in a positive direction compared to the UK or England average. The red shading indicates the reverse and orange indicates a change in the right direction but less than the UK or national average.

⁴ The peer group selected varies by indicator – regional is based on all the regions in the UK – showing a range from highest to lowest to understand how where the West Midlands compares and where available the BCLEP has been used and compared to 37 other LEPs.

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Apprenticeship Vacancies	409	395	270	234	277	243	351	382	392		BCLEP: 17 th Highest LEP London: 2,303 (1 st) Cumbria LEP: 109 (38 th)	The latest data shows that apprenticeship vacancies stood just over 390 in October 2020, this has increased for the third month in a row.
Unique Job Postings	19,630	20,162	16,703	14,923	14,598	15,706	16,736	18,644	21,389		BCLEP: 10 th Lowest LEP London: 463,091 (1 st) Cumbria: 11,161 (38 th)	The latest data shows that the number of unique jobs postings stood at nearly 21,400 in October 2020. This is the fourth consecutive month for an increase in the number of job postings and also the largest number recorded in the last 12 months.
Total Number of Staff Furloughed				142,800 (Claims Received Up To 31 st May 2020) Cumulative	167,300 (Claims Received Up To 30 th June 2020) Cumulative	177,500 (Claims Received Up To 31 st July 2020) Cumulative			54,900 Workers Furloughed On 31 st Aug.			177,500 employments in the BCLEP area have been furloughed at some point, but 54,900 remain furloughed as of 31 st August 2020. On the 31 st August the BCLEP had a take-up rate of 10.7%, for the UK it was 10.8%.
Quarterly Regional GDP	-1.4% (2019 Q2)			+0.3% (2019 Q3)		-0.8% (2019 Q4)			-3.5% (2020 Q1)		WM– 4 th Lowest Region UK: -2.5% Northern Ireland: -4.5% (1 st) East of England and London: both -1.5% (12 th)	Percentage change quarter on quarter shows for the West Midlands region there was negative GDP growth of 0.8% in Q4 2019, this was followed by 3.5% negative growth in Q1 2020. The UK recorded flat growth in Q4 2019 followed by negative growth of 2.5% in Q1 2020.
Quarterly Regional Exports		£31.6bn (9.1% of UK) Full Year: 2019			£30.6bn (9.1% of UK) Year to: Q1 2020			£27.5bn (8.7% of UK) Year to: Q2 2020			WM – 4 th Highest Region South East: £47.2bn (1 st) Northern Ireland: £9.2bn (12 th)	West Midlands regional exports fell by nearly £4.6bn (-14.1%) over the year of 2020 Q2 to £27.5bn - the UK decreased by 9.0%. The West Midlands region imports decreased by 18.0% to £31.3bn - leading to a trade deficit of £3.8bn