

## Business Register and Employment Survey<sup>1</sup> – 2021 Release

The following briefing is based on the number of employees.

Please note, Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) reference date is 11 September 2020, meaning that COVID-19 had a tangible effect on producing estimates, as borne out when calculating the coefficients of variation, which indicate lower levels of precision than in previous years. The response rate for the 2020 BRES was 72.6%, which was lower than the 2019 BRES response rate of 83.6%. Survey contributor-level comments provided to ONS over the telephone or electronically suggested the estimates were affected by COVID-19 planning and response.

### Key points:

- In the Black Country area there were approximately 436,000 jobs in 2020. Since 2019, for Black Country area this was a decrease of 1.8% (-8,000 jobs) and nationally there was a 1.9% decrease. In 2020, there were approximately 294,000 full-time employees and 141,000 part time employees in the Black Country area. When compared to 2019, the decrease in Black Country jobs was due to part-time jobs which declined by approximately 10,000.
- In 2020, the Black Country had a higher proportion of jobs than the national proportion in six sectors, these were; advanced manufacturing and engineering (14.6% vs 10.3%), building technologies (5.0% vs 4.7%), environmental technologies (1.3% vs 1.1%), health (16.0% vs 13.4%), retail (19.1% vs 15.0%) and transport technologies (6.5% vs 5.2%).

### Full Briefing:

- In the Black Country area there were approximately 436,000 jobs<sup>2</sup> in 2020. Since 2019, for Black Country area this was a decrease of 1.8% (-8,000 jobs) and nationally there was a 1.9% decrease. In 2020, there were approximately 294,000 full-time employees and 141,000 part time employees in the Black Country area. When compared to 2019, full time employee jobs increased by 0.3%; equivalent to an additional 1,000 full-time jobs (England -1.8%) while part time jobs decreased by 6.6%; equivalent to 10,000 less jobs (England- 2.0%).
- Within the Black Country, Wolverhampton was the only local authority to remain at 103,000 overall jobs since 2019 as there was an increase of 1,000 jobs in full-time employees and a decrease of 1,000 part-time employees.
- In 2020, there were approximately 100,000 jobs in Walsall, a decrease of 2.9% (-3,000) since 2019. In 2020, there were approximately 66,000 full-time employees and 33,000 part time employees in Walsall. When compared to 2019, both full time and part time employee jobs decreased by 2,000 each.
- In 2020, there were approximately 121,000 jobs in Sandwell, a decrease of 2.4% (-3,000) since 2019. In 2020, there were approximately 85,000 full-time employees and 36,000 part time employees in Sandwell. When compared to 2019, the decrease in jobs was due to part-time employees decreasing by 3,000, as full-time employees remained at the same level.
- In 2020, there were approximately 112,000 jobs in Dudley, a decrease of 1.8% (-2,000) since 2019. In 2020, there were approximately 73,000 full-time employees and 39,000 part time employees in Dudley. When

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS)/Nomis, Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2021

<sup>2</sup> Black Country figures is based off the four local authority totals

compared to 2019, the decrease in jobs was due to part-time employees decreasing by 4,000, as full-time employees had increased by 2,000.

**The following table shows jobs (split by full-time and part-time) and change within the Black Country and England-wide for 2019 & 2020:**

	Employees 2019	Employees 2020	Employees Change	Full-time employees 2019	Full-time employees 2020	Full-time employees Change	Part-time employees 2019	Part-time employees 2020	Part-time employees Change
Dudley	114,000	112,000	-1.8%	71,000	73,000	2.8%	43,000	39,000	-9.3%
Sandwell	124,000	121,000	-2.4%	85,000	85,000	0.0%	39,000	36,000	-7.7%
Walsall	103,000	100,000	-2.9%	68,000	66,000	-2.9%	35,000	33,000	-5.7%
Wolverhampton	103,000	103,000	0.0%	69,000	70,000	1.4%	34,000	33,000	-2.9%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>444,000</b>	<b>436,000</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>	<b>293,000</b>	<b>294,000</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>151,000</b>	<b>141,000</b>	<b>-6.6%</b>
England	26,302,000	25,805,000	-1.9%	17,906,000	17,581,000	-1.8%	8,397,000	8,225,000	-2.0%

### Jobs by Sector<sup>3</sup>

- In 2020, the Black Country had a higher proportion of jobs than the national proportion in six sectors, these were; advanced manufacturing and engineering (14.6% vs 10.3%), building technologies (5.0% vs 4.7%), environmental technologies (1.3% vs 1.1%), health (16.0% vs 13.4%), retail (19.1% vs 15.0%) and transport technologies (6.5% vs 5.2%).
- In the Black Country area, retail accounts for the highest percentage of jobs at 19.1% (approximately 83,250 jobs). For the Black Country this sector has decreased by 0.3% the since 2019, while nationally there was a decrease of 2.8%.
- Out of the ten sectors, five have decreased in the Black Country area since 2019. The highest percentage decrease was in visitor economy sector at 16.5% (-4,465 to 22,610 jobs), nationally there was a decrease of 8.1%. In 2020, the visitor economy sector accounted for 5.2% of jobs in the Black Country area, below the national proportion of 7.7%. The highest number decrease was in advanced manufacturing at 5,365 (-7.8%), nationally there was a decrease of 4.1%.

**The following table shows jobs per sector for the Black Country area and England-wide, 2019 & 2020:**

	Black Country 2019	Black Country 2020	Black Country % change	Black Country Change	Black Country % of 2020 Total	Eng. 2019	Eng. 2020	Eng. Change	Eng. % of 2020 Total
Advanced Manufacturing	68,925	63,560	-7.8%	-5,365	14.6%	2,768,750	2,656,570	-4.1%	10.3%
Building Technologies	21,725	21,650	-0.3%	-75	5.0%	1,271,000	1,219,000	-4.1%	4.7%
Business Services	71,290	71,105	-0.3%	-185	16.3%	6,701,000	6,558,000	-2.1%	25.4%
Environmental Technologies	5,910	5,600	-5.2%	-310	1.3%	275,000	282,000	2.5%	1.1%
Health	68,775	69,775	1.5%	1,000	16.0%	3,404,000	3,456,000	1.5%	13.4%
Public Sector	62,250	61,000	-2.0%	-1,250	14.0%	3,962,000	4,018,000	1.4%	15.6%
Retail	83,500	83,250	-0.3%	-250	19.1%	3,973,000	3,861,000	-2.8%	15.0%
Sports	7,350	6,850	-6.8%	-500	1.6%	461,000	434,000	-5.9%	1.7%
Transport Technologies	28,365	28,405	0.1%	40	6.5%	1,326,000	1,339,000	1.0%	5.2%
Visitor Economy	27,075	22,610	-16.5%	-4,465	5.2%	2,160,000	1,986,000	-8.1%	7.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>444,000</b>	<b>436,000</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>	<b>-8,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26,302,000</b>	<b>25,805,000</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>3</sup> Please note, when broken down by 2-digit sic code for sectors the figures will vary and when all sectors added together it will not equal the overall figure. The overall figure is also subject to rounding.