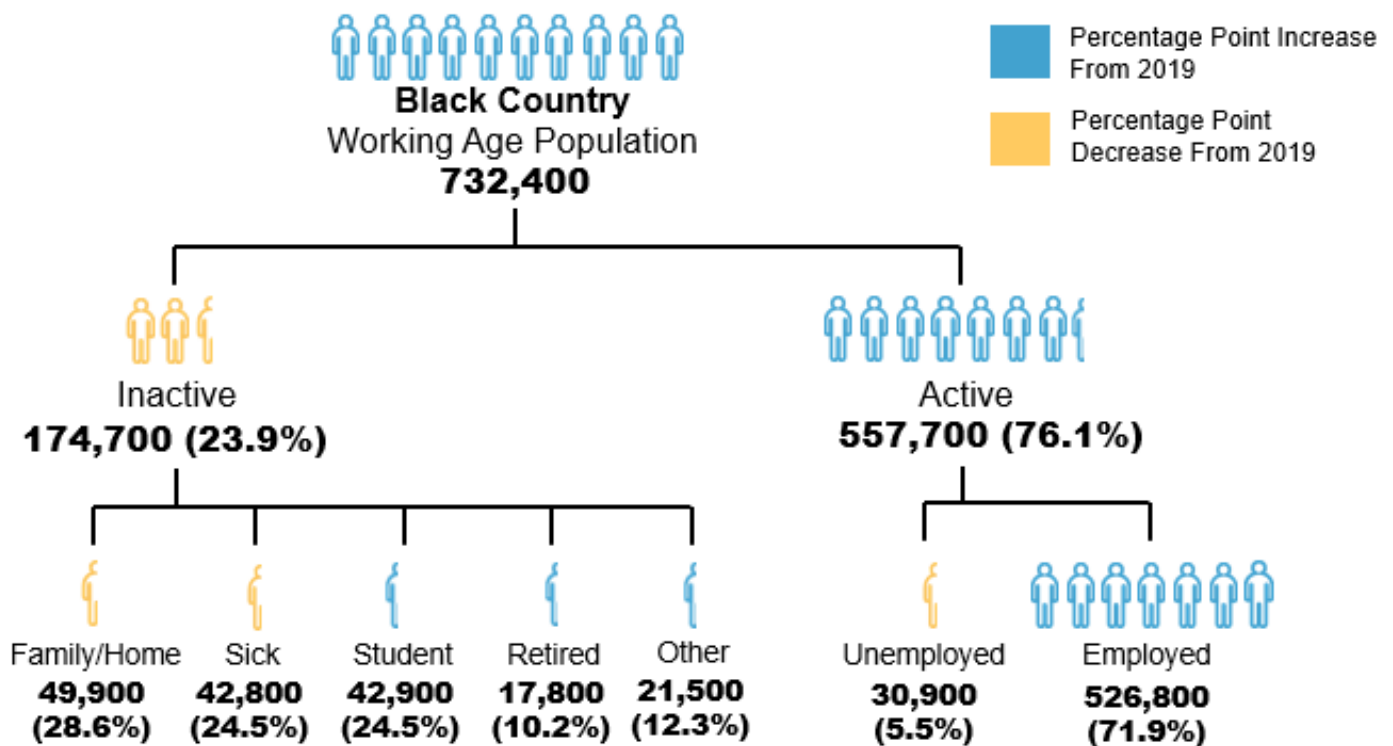


## Annual Population Survey: Employment Activity: 2020<sup>1</sup>

### Summary

- In 2020, the employment rate in the Black Country was 71.9%, compared to 75.7% for England overall. This has increased by 1.5 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.3pp decrease nationally since 2019.
- In 2020, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 5.5%, compared to 4.8% for England overall. This has decreased by 0.3pp compared to a 0.8pp increase nationally since 2019.
- The economic activity rate for the Black Country LEP was 76.1% compared to 79.5% for England in 2020. For the Black Country LEP this is a 1.3pp increase compared to the England increase of 0.3pp since 2019.
- For economic inactivity, the Black Country LEP's rate was 23.9% compared to 20.5% in England overall in 2020. For the Black Country LEP, this is a 1.3pp decrease compared to a 0.3pp decrease nationally since 2019.

### The Black Country Working Age Population Breakdown for 2020:



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey (For 2020) - Released April 2021

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS (Nomis): Annual Population Survey, April 2021

## Full Briefing

### Employment Rate

- In 2020, the employment rate in the Black Country was 71.9%, compared to 75.7% for England overall. This has increased by 1.5 percentage points (pp) compared to a 0.3pp decrease nationally since 2019.
- Wolverhampton was the fastest growing local authority in the Black Country during this period, increasing its employment rate from 67.2% in 2019 to 72.5% in 2020 (+5.3pp). Walsall has the highest employment rate of the four local authorities at 72.9%, increased by 2.3pp since 2019. Sandwell's employment rate increased from 70.7% in 2019 to 70.9% in 2020. Dudley was the only local authority in the Black country to decrease, from 72.6% in 2019 to 71.6% in 2020.

#### Black Country employment rate for 2019 and 2020:

|                      | Employment Num. 2019 | Employment Rate 2019 | Employment Num. 2020 | Employment Rate 2020 | PP Change    |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Dudley               | 138,600              | 72.6%                | 136,900              | 71.6%                | -1.0pp       |
| Sandwell             | 145,400              | 70.7%                | 145,900              | 70.9%                | 0.2pp        |
| Walsall              | 121,200              | 70.6%                | 126,300              | 72.9%                | 2.3pp        |
| Wolverhampton        | 110,200              | 67.2%                | 117,700              | 72.5%                | 5.3pp        |
| <b>Black Country</b> | <b>515,400</b>       | <b>70.4%</b>         | <b>526,800</b>       | <b>71.9%</b>         | <b>1.5pp</b> |
| England              | 26,454,800           | 76.0%                | 26,444,200           | 75.7%                | -0.3pp       |

### Unemployment Rate

- In 2020, the unemployment rate in the Black Country was 5.5%, compared to 4.8% for England overall. This has decreased by 0.3pp compared to a 0.8pp increase nationally since 2019.
- Within the Black Country, Walsall and Wolverhampton experienced a decrease in the unemployment rate. Walsall's unemployment rate was 6.7% in 2019, decreasing to 5.0% in 2020. Wolverhampton's unemployment rate decreased by 1.9pp to 5.1% over the same period. Dudley's unemployment rate increased from 4.7% in 2019 to 6.3% in 2020 and Sandwell increased from 5.3% in 2019 to 5.6% in 2020.

#### Black Country unemployment rate for 2019 and 2020:

|                      | Unemployment Num. 2019 | Unemployment Rate 2019 | Unemployment Num. 2020 | Unemployment Rate 2020 | pp Change     |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Dudley               | 6,900                  | 4.7%                   | 9,200                  | 6.3%                   | 1.6pp         |
| Sandwell             | 8,100                  | 5.3%                   | 8,700                  | 5.6%                   | 0.3pp         |
| Walsall              | 8,800                  | 6.7%                   | 6,700                  | 5.0%                   | -1.7pp        |
| Wolverhampton        | 8,300                  | 7.0%                   | 6,300                  | 5.1%                   | -1.9pp        |
| <b>Black Country</b> | <b>32,000</b>          | <b>5.8%</b>            | <b>30,900</b>          | <b>5.5%</b>            | <b>-0.3pp</b> |
| England              | 1,111,700              | 4.0%                   | 1,319,800              | 4.8%                   | 0.8pp         |

### Economic Activity Rate

- The economic activity rate for the Black Country LEP was 76.1% compared to 79.5% for England in 2020. For the Black Country LEP this is a 1.3pp increase compared to the England increase of 0.3pp since 2019.
- All the local authorities in the Black Country experienced an increase in economic activity between 2019 to 2020. Wolverhampton economic activity rate increased by 4.2pp to 76.4% in 2020. Walsall increased by 1.1pp to 76.8%, Sandwell increased by 0.5pp to 75.2% and Dudley increased by 0.2pp to 76.4%.

## Black Country Economic activity rate for 2019 and 2020:

|                      | Economically Active Num. 2019 | Economically Active Rate 2019 | Economically Active Num. 2020 | Economically Active Rate 2020 | pp Change    |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Dudley               | 145,500                       | 76.2%                         | 146,100                       | 76.4%                         | 0.2pp        |
| Sandwell             | 153,400                       | 74.7%                         | 154,600                       | 75.2%                         | 0.5pp        |
| Walsall              | 130,000                       | 75.7%                         | 133,000                       | 76.8%                         | 1.1pp        |
| Wolverhampton        | 118,500                       | 72.2%                         | 124,000                       | 76.4%                         | 4.2pp        |
| <b>Black Country</b> | <b>547,400</b>                | <b>74.8%</b>                  | <b>557,700</b>                | <b>76.1%</b>                  | <b>1.3pp</b> |
| England              | 27,566,500                    | 79.2%                         | 27,764,100                    | 79.5%                         | 0.3pp        |

## Economic Inactivity

- For economic inactivity, the Black Country LEP's rate was 23.9% compared to 20.5% in England overall in 2020. For the Black Country LEP, this is a 1.3pp decrease compared to a 0.3pp decrease nationally since 2019.
- The following figure provides a breakdown for economic inactivity by reason for the Black Country and England for 2020. The Black Country had on average for 2020 a lower percentage of people that are inactive due to being a student (24.5% vs 27.1%), sick (24.5% vs 24.8%), retirement (10.2% vs 13.5%), and those classed as other (12.3% vs 13.8%).

## Black Country and England economic inactivity by reason, 2020:

|   | BC Economic Inactivity Num. 2020 | BC % of Total Economic Inactivity Rate 2020 | England Economic Inactivity Num. 2020 | England Economic Inactivity Rate 2020 |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Economically inactive student                   | 42,900                           | 24.5%                                       | 1,939,400                             | 27.1%                                 |
| Economically inactive looking after family/home | 49,900                           | 28.6%                                       | 1,492,800                             | 20.9%                                 |
| Economically inactive sick                      | 42,800                           | 24.5%                                       | 1,774,500                             | 24.8%                                 |
| Economically inactive retired                   | 17,800                           | 10.2%                                       | 963,000                               | 13.5%                                 |
| Economically inactive other                     | 21,500                           | 12.3%                                       | 989,800                               | 13.8%                                 |

## Employment by Occupation

- The following table shows employment by occupation across the Black Country LEP and England for 2020. The Black Country LEP have a higher than national average for percentage of people employed in 5 of the 9 areas, these include: administrative and secretarial occupations (10.8% vs 10.1%), skilled trades occupations (10.1% vs 9.1%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (10.8% vs 8.7%), process, plant and machine operatives (8.1% vs 5.4%) and elementary occupations (13.4% vs 9.2%).

## Black Country and England occupations, 2020:

|  | Black Country Num. 2020 | Black Country Percentage 2020 | England Num. 2020 | England Percentage 2020 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1: managers, directors and senior officials      | 48,000                  | 9.0                           | 3,246,500         | 11.8                    |
| 2: professional occupations                      | 93,600                  | 17.5                          | 6,296,400         | 22.9                    |
| 3: associate prof & tech occupations             | 74,800                  | 14.0                          | 4,388,900         | 15.9                    |
| 4: administrative and secretarial occupations    | 58,000                  | 10.8                          | 2,779,800         | 10.1                    |
| 5: skilled trades occupations                    | 54,100                  | 10.1                          | 2,497,800         | 9.1                     |
| 6: caring, leisure and other service occupations | 58,000                  | 10.8                          | 2,400,900         | 8.7                     |
| 7: sales and customer service occupations        | 32,400                  | 6.0                           | 1,840,500         | 6.7                     |
| 8: process, plant and machine operatives         | 43,700                  | 8.1                           | 1,494,700         | 5.4                     |
| 9: elementary occupations                        | 72,000                  | 13.4                          | 2,521,800         | 9.2                     |