

# West of England Economic Briefing on Covid-19 Business Impacts

3 September 2020

# Monitoring the economic impact of coronavirus

The West of England Combined Authority is working with partners and bringing the region together to tackle some of the urgent issues caused by coronavirus. We are taking our businesses' concerns back to government and influencing national decisions. While in this difficult time, we are already planning for the future and adapting our work and looking for new ways to help the West of England recover - to benefit all our residents and businesses.

We have set up a new West of England Economic Recovery Board, a partnership between the West of England Combined Authority, the Local Enterprise Partnership, business, universities and the region's councils ([westofengland-ca.gov.uk/support-for-business-through-coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/support-for-business-through-coronavirus-covid-19))

We are building a regional picture of the specific industrial and labour market challenges we're facing:

- We're talking to businesses of all sizes, answering their queries and helping them to find the support they need;
- We have set up a Covid-19 Business Insight Panel, chaired by West of England Mayor Tim Bowles and including regional leads from across the business support and banking sector;
- The Local Enterprise Partnership Board is providing further intelligence and strategic support.

This briefing summarises this business intelligence, and WECA's economic analysis so far of the pandemic. The intention is to update it as intelligence and analysis develops. Comments are sought on what should be expanded.

- A. State of the economy (emerging data)
- B. Impact on the region's sectors
- C. Government Support
- D. Details of areas under local lockdowns across England

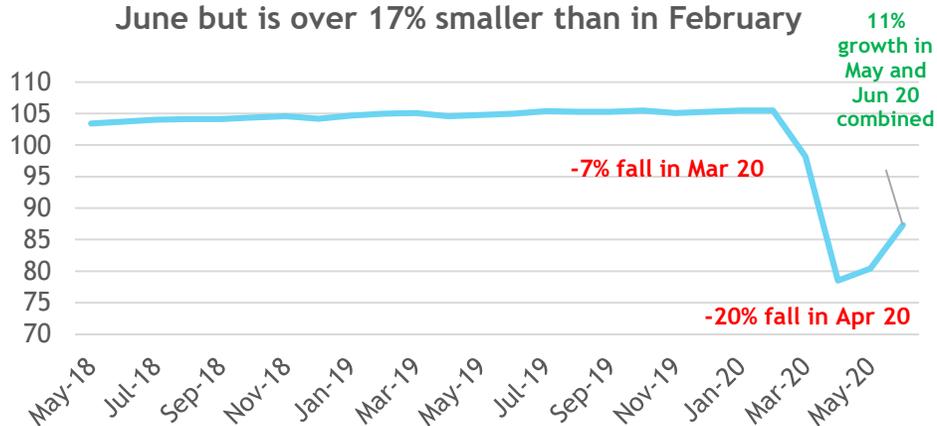
# Updates this week

For ease of reference, this brief collates material from over the past few months (while it remains current). The key updates in this briefing are:

Section	Updates	Pages
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Impacts: UK quarterly GDP was estimated to have fallen by over 20% in the second quarter of 2020</li><li>• As of 26 August, 238 businesses based in the West of England have appointed liquidators since 16 March. This number still appears stable and at a similar magnitude to last year.</li><li>• Labour Market: 5.2% of the region's workforce claimed out of work benefits in July 2020 (38,800 residents). This is similar to the 5% reported for June 2020.</li><li>• Mobility: Footfall in the UK is around 50% of normal levels and is gradually rising in retail and leisure outlets. Public transport patronage is increasing though less so in Bristol.</li><li>• Local authorities in the region are distributing grants to support businesses. As of 16 August, 16,703 grants have been distributed, amounting to £209.4 million in the West of England.</li></ul>	4-17
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key sectors of the economy will be impacted differently, depending on changes in demand; ability to open; and ability to work from home, but national GDP data reveals a drop in economic output across almost all sectors.</li><li>• Accommodation and food services experience the largest negative growth in March to June 2020, followed by other services; and education.</li></ul>	18-19
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of the government's current coronavirus support schemes</li></ul>	20
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With the majority of the country now leaving lockdown, the government's strategy for reducing infection rates will be for localised lockdowns</li><li>• We provide an overview of the areas currently under local lockdowns, and what additional measures are in place</li></ul>	21-22

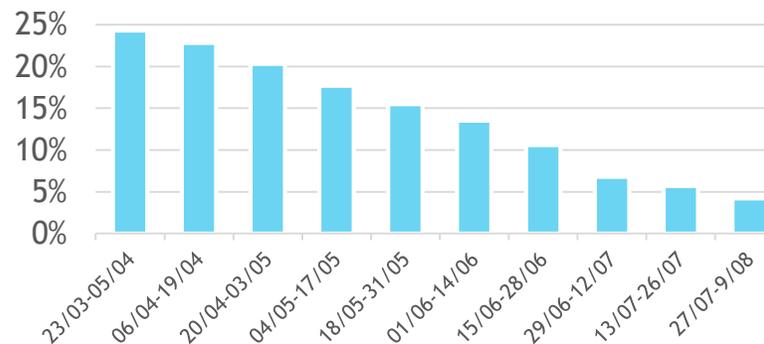
# Business impacts are significant: GDP has fallen dramatically and many businesses are still facing financial pressures

UK monthly GDP returned to growth in May and June but is over 17% smaller than in February



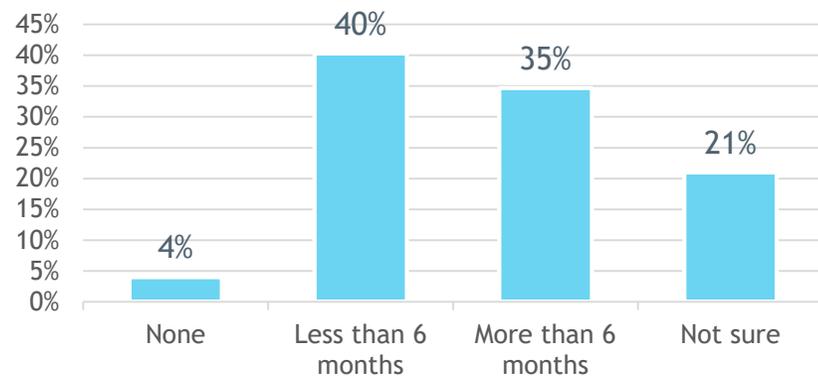
Source: [ONS GDP estimates, June 2020](#)

4% of UK businesses have temporarily paused trading, down from over 24% during lockdown



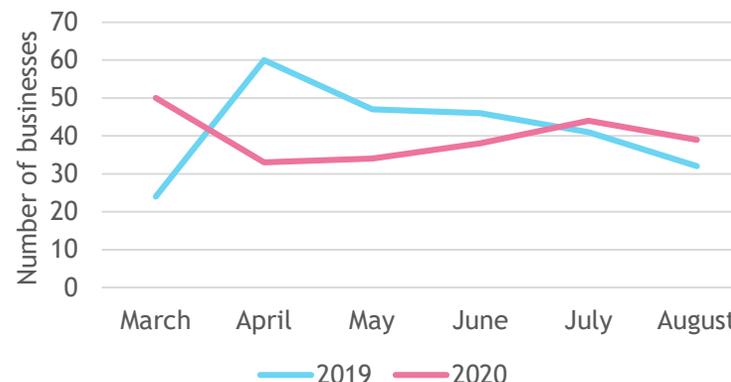
Source: [ONS Business Impact Survey](#), 27 July to 9 August 2020

44% of UK businesses have cash reserves to last six months or less



Source: [ONS Business Impact Survey](#), 27 July to 9 August 2020

238 West of England businesses have appointed liquidators since lockdown - this appears fairly stable



Source: [London Gazette, Insolvency Notices](#)

## As of 16 August:

16,703 grants, totalling £209.4m distributed by West of England local authorities (as of 16 Aug)

£35.5bn lent across the UK in Bounce-Back loans

£13.7bn lent to UK SMEs in Business Interruption Loans

9.6m UK workers furloughed by 1.2 million employers - costing £35.4bn

2.7m UK claims for Self-Employment Income Support, totalling £7.8bn (as of 19 July)

Source: [HMRC Coronavirus Support Statistics](#)

# The labour market is severely affected: 30% of the region's workforce are furloughed; unemployment benefit claims have risen; and vacancies fell sharply

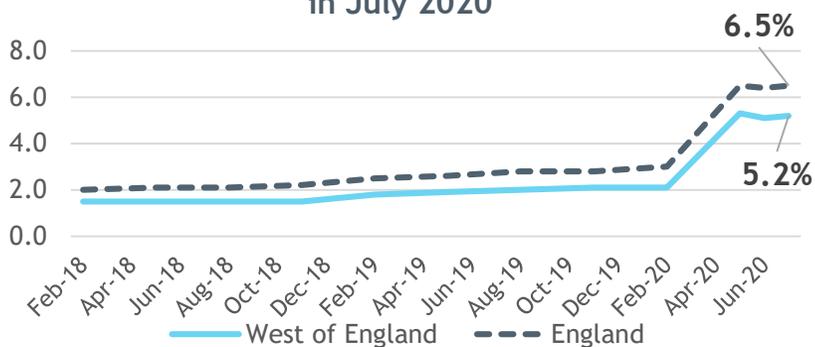
**170,900 West of England employees have been furloughed (30% of the eligible workforce) as of 31 July**

Top 5 sectors using furlough in South West



Source: [HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Statistics](#)

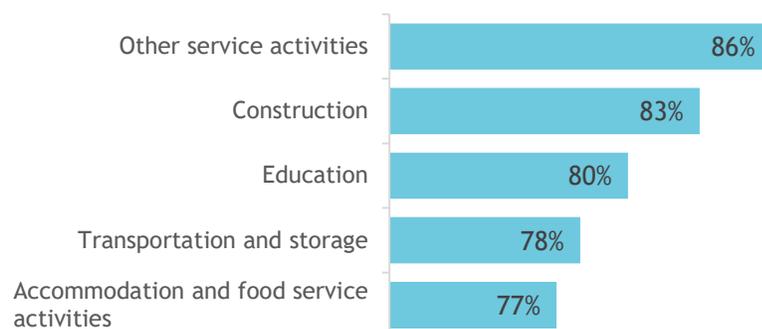
**5.2% of the West of England's working age population claimed unemployment benefits in July 2020**



Source: [Nomis Labour Market Profile](#)

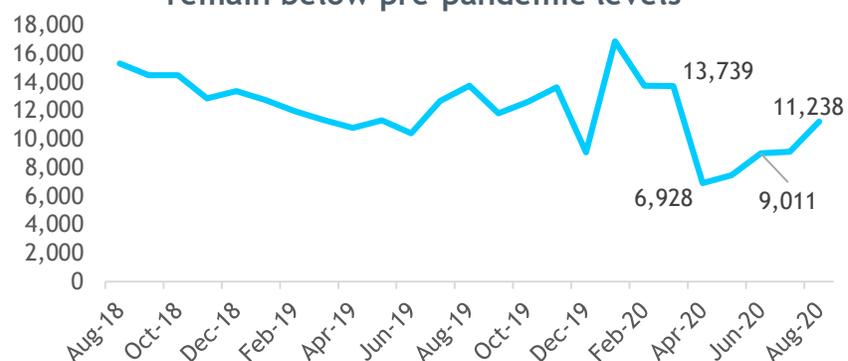
**44,100 West of England residents have claimed Self-Employment Income Support (SEIS) with claims amounting to £132.7m as of 31 July**

Top 5 sectors claiming SEIS in South West



Source: [HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Statistics](#)

**Vacancies in the WoE fell sharply in April 2020, but now appear to be recovering, although remain below pre-pandemic levels**



Source: [Labour Insight](#)

**For Great Britain, as of 16 August:**

41% of people said their well-being was being affected by the pandemic - through stress, anxiety, boredom and loneliness

15% of people have had to borrow more or use more credit since the start of the pandemic

26% of people say they feel unsafe outside of their homes due to COVID-19

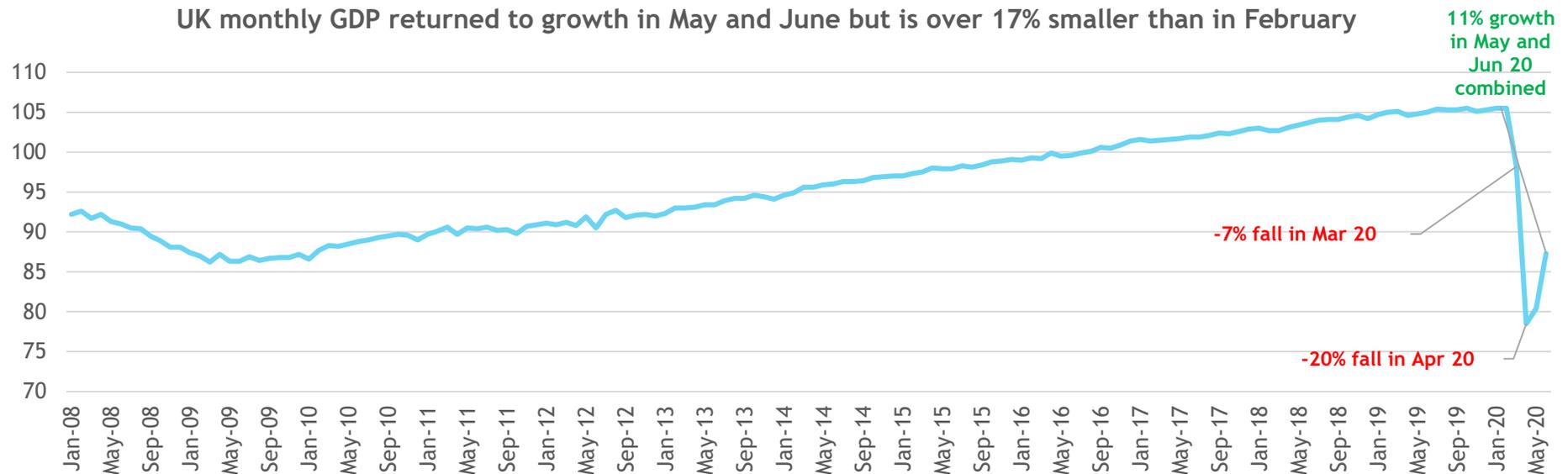
35% of people said they would feel uncomfortable eating at a restaurant indoors; 58% visiting an indoor swimming pool; and 53% attending an indoor concert with a socially distanced audience

Source: [ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey \(12-16 August\)](#)

# A. Overview: The economic impacts are significant and we are in recession

The pandemic will have a significant impact on economic output, particularly in the short term:

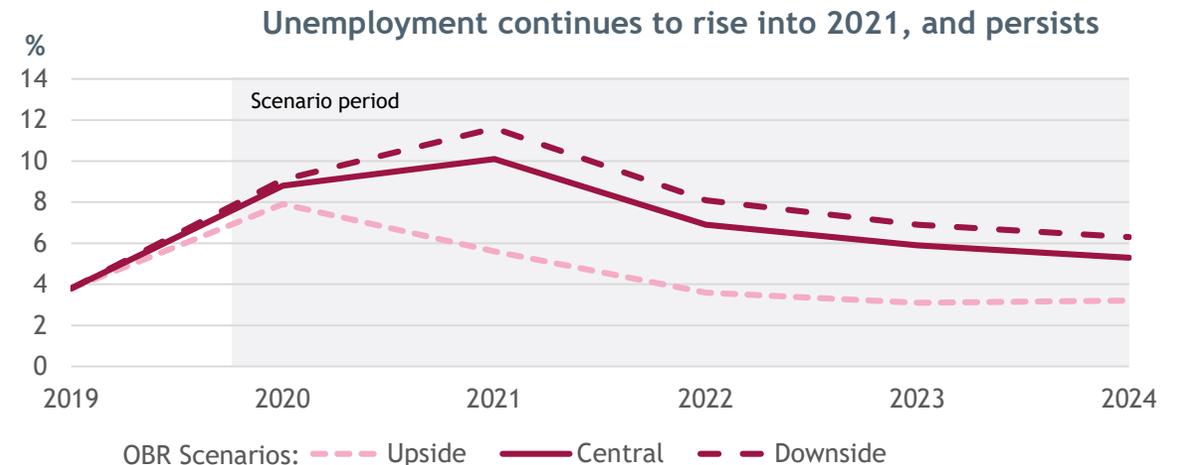
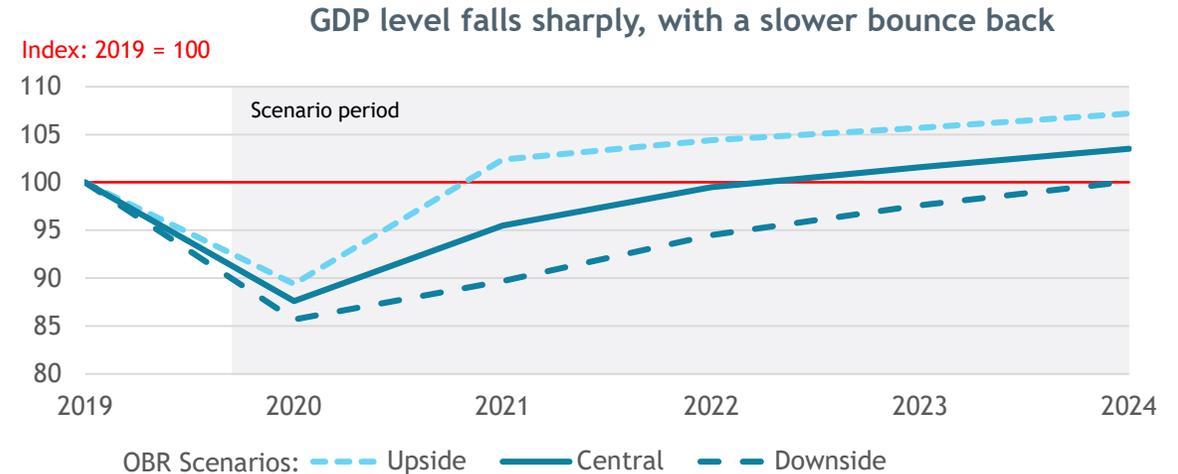
- **UK quarterly GDP was estimated to have fallen by over 20% in the second quarter of 2020 (ONS).** This is the second consecutive quarterly fall and means the UK is in recession.
- Since the end of February, the services sector is estimated to be smaller by 17.6%, production by 11.6% and construction by 24.8%.
- **An increase of monthly GDP levels has been recorded, as growth was 11% over May and June combined after a 20% fall in April.** However real GDP is at a level last seen at the beginning of 2010.



# A. A range of scenarios have been produced for bounce back of economy by 2022, modelling GDP and unemployment

The Office for Budget Responsibility has published three scenarios for the economy over the next five years in its [Fiscal Sustainability Report](#).

- In the central scenario, the economy returns to its peak before the pandemic by the end of 2022. Unemployment rises to 10% by 2021. This scenario is based on a vaccine or treatment in a year's time, or faster health progress but greater economic scarring.
- In the upside scenario, with a rapid decline in virus threat, the economy recovers its peak by early 2021, and unemployment peaks at 8% before falling to 2019 levels.
- In the downside scenario, recovery is delayed by continuing social distancing, and the 2019 level of GDP is not regained until 2024; unemployment rises to 11.6% and falls slowly.



# A. Business activity and finance impacts are significant, but many businesses have reopened

Many businesses have reopened, with 4% of businesses closed nationally compared to 24% when lockdown restrictions were first imposed in late March.

**Trading Status:** The latest [ONS Business Impact Survey](#) (data from 27 July to 9 August) reports that 4% of businesses across the UK were temporarily closed or had paused trading.

- The sectors reporting the largest percentages of closures were arts, entertainment and recreation; and accommodation and food, reporting 25% and 10% respectively.
- **3% of businesses said did not intend to restart trading in the next two weeks.** The vast majority of these businesses belong to the arts, entertainment and recreation, or accommodation and food services, industries.

**Financial performance:** Of businesses continuing to trade between 27 July to 9 August, **51% reported their turnover had decreased outside of normal range in this period (down from 67% at the height of lockdown)**; 32% said their turnover had not been affected; and 11% reported an increase in turnover.

- Sectors appearing to be worst hit are accommodation and food (78% reporting decreased turnover); and arts and entertainment (73%).
- The main sector reporting increased turnover was wholesale and retail (20% of businesses).

**Business Resilience:** All businesses were asked about their cash reserves. **4% reported they had no cash reserves**; 40% will last less than 6 months; and 35% more than 6 months. (21% were unsure).

- The accommodation and food service sector reported the largest proportion of businesses with no cash reserves, with over 5% of businesses in the sector reporting this.

**Business Operations:** 60% of respondents to a recent Business West Business Impact Survey for the South West region stated there would be no change in their business premises requirement as a result of the pandemic.

## A. Business activity: bankruptcies have not risen to date

Some businesses have entered administration or liquidation but so far this appears no higher than the same time period in 2019. The small numbers of businesses in these categories makes it difficult to draw conclusions, but it is possible that the combination of government support schemes and bans on evictions and winding-up petitions are temporarily protecting firms.

### Administration

- As of 26 August, 29 businesses based in the West of England have appointed administrators since 16 March<sup>1</sup>. 35 businesses appointed administrators in the same time period last year.

### Liquidations

- As of 26 August, 238 businesses based in the West of England have appointed liquidators since 16 March<sup>1</sup>, including 39 so far in August. 254 businesses appointed liquidators in the same time period last year.

Table 1: Businesses entering administration in recent months compared to 2019

Unitary Authority	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Mar - Aug 20	Mar-Aug 2019
Bath and North East Somerset	1	0	0	0	3	0	4	1
Bristol City	3	3	3	5	4	3	21	27
North Somerset	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	4
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>West of England Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>

Table 2: Businesses entering liquidation in recent months compared to 2019

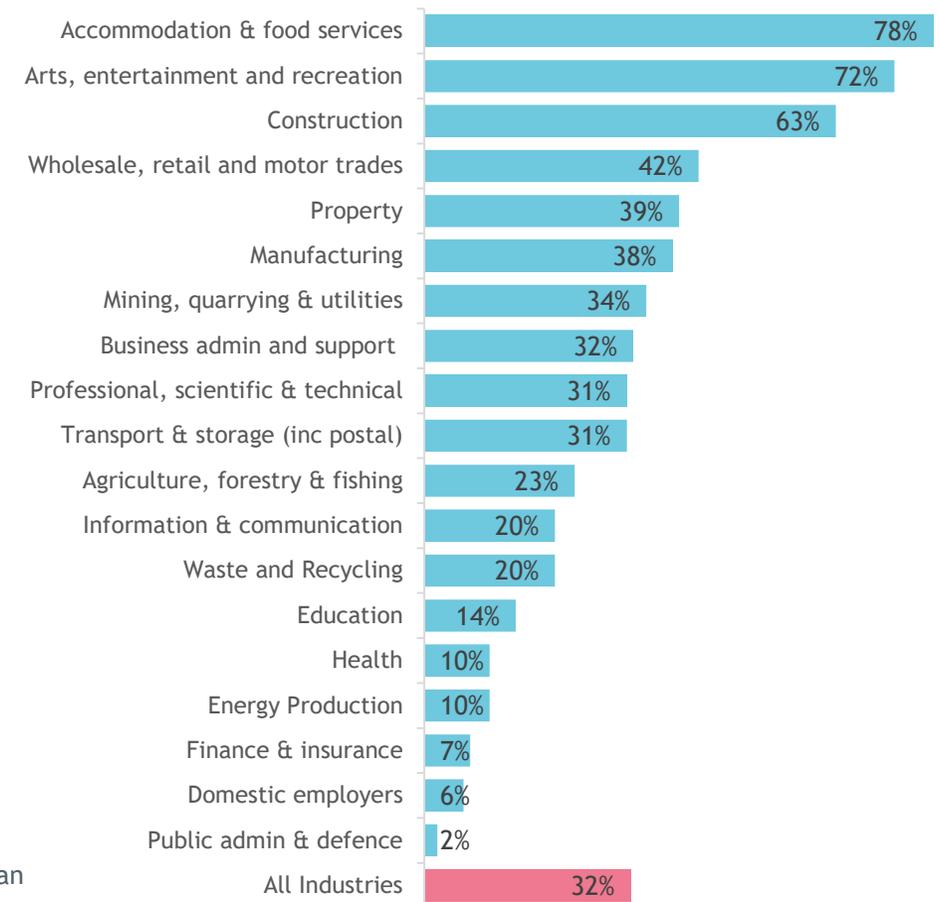
Unitary Authority	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Mar - Aug 20	Mar-Aug 2019
Bath and North East Somerset	9	4	6	6	7	7	39	41
Bristol City	25	17	19	20	30	25	136	150
North Somerset	9	7	6	6	5	3	36	39
South Gloucestershire	7	5	3	6	2	4	27	24
<b>West of England Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>254</b>

1) 16 March being the date the Government first advised people to work from home and avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and other social venues.

# Labour Market: 30% of the West of England workforce has been furloughed at some point

- As of 16 August 2020, 9.6 million people in the UK have been furloughed, by 1.2 million employers, with claims amounting to £35.4 billion. This represents 32% of those eligible. Note that this is cumulative and some of these workers will now have returned from furlough.
- As of 31 July, 170,900 West of England employees have been furloughed, representing around 30% of those eligible for furlough.
- Nationally employees aged 16-21 are most likely to be furloughed, with a take-up rate of over 52% of those eligible.
- Nationally, at age 22 and above females were less likely to be furloughed than males. In part this reflects the sectors men and woman tend to work in - for example relatively more women work in education and health sectors, which have experienced a relatively low level of furloughing.
- In the South West, furlough levels are highest among the accommodation and food sector (78% of the eligible workforce); arts, entertainment and recreation (72%); and construction (63%). This information is not yet available at a local authority level.

% South West workforce furloughed by industry (31 July)

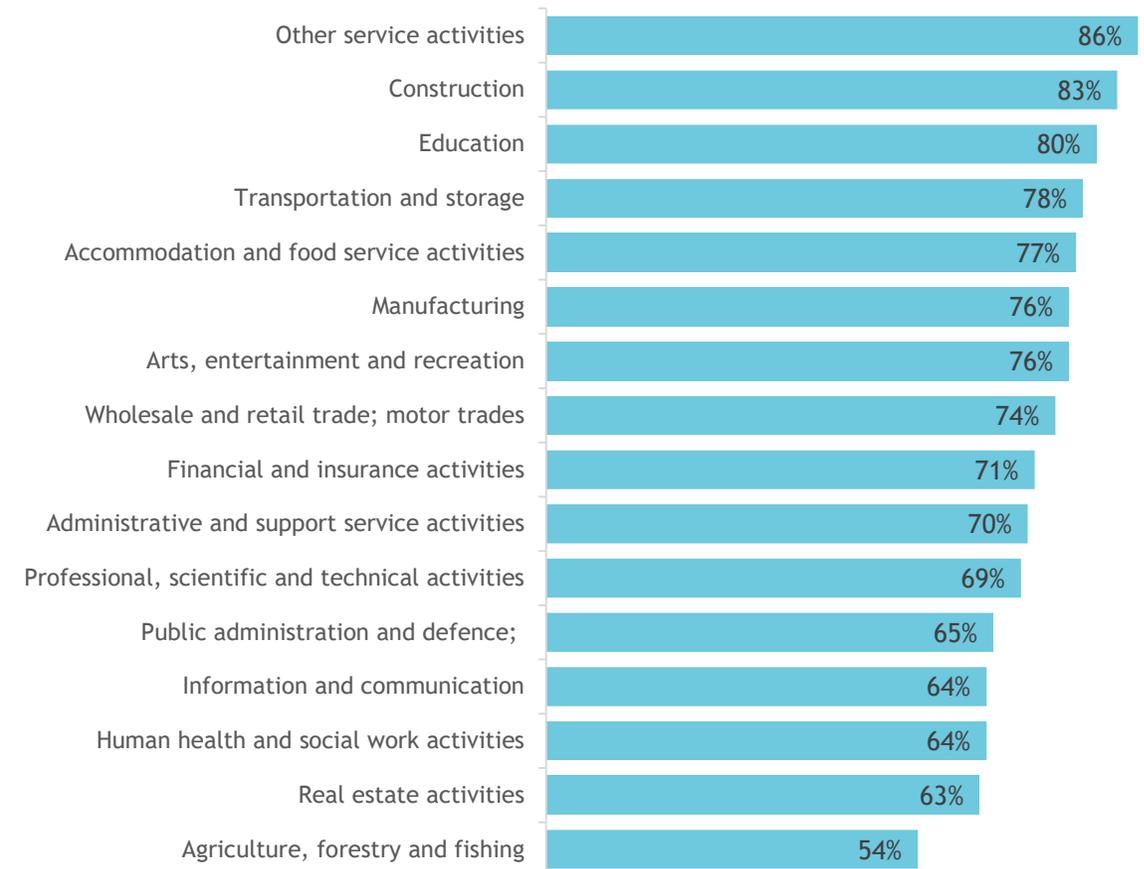


**NB:** Percentages are calculated based on number of employments eligible for furlough, which may be slightly less than the total workforce, due to a small number of people not eligible for furlough (e.g. new starters)

# Labour Market Overview: 76% of West of England residents eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme have accessed support

- As of 31 July 2020, 44,100 claims have been made on the Self-employment Income Support scheme by West of England residents, amounting to £132.7 million.
- This represents 76% of people in the region eligible for the support and is in line with the national average.
- Across the South West, the take up rate for self employment support was highest amongst service activities (86%); construction (83%); and education (80%).
- Construction accounted for the highest proportion of claims - 31% of total number of claims in the South West.
- Note that not all self-employed people were eligible for this support. Notable exceptions include new businesses, freelancers, and those set up as 1-person limited companies. These figures may therefore underestimate the true impact of the pandemic on the self-employed, and sectors with a high concentration of freelancers.

South West take-up rate by industry (31 July)



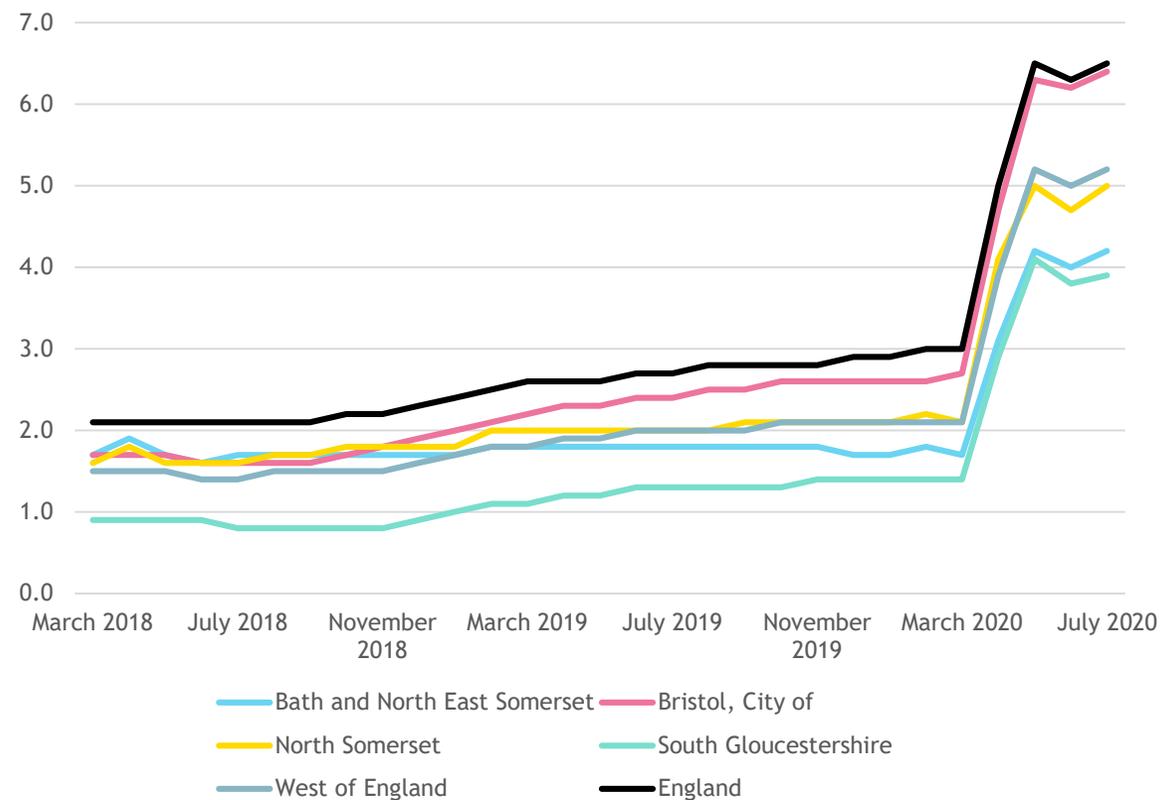
# A. Labour market: unemployment rose sharply in May 2020 but now appears more stable

- Table 3 shows the number of people claiming out of work benefits. 5.2% of the region's workforce claimed out of work benefits in July 2020 (38,800 residents). This is similar to the 5% reported for June 2020.
- All four unitary authorities in the West of England saw a spike in the number of claimants in April and May 2020 primarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- This appears relatively stable in July 2020, however, there are now 23,025 more claimants in the West of England than there were in February 2020, before the effects of the pandemic hit.

Table 3: Claimant Count

	June 2020		July 2020	
	Number	% workforce	Number	% workforce
Bath and North East Somerset	5,035	4.1	5,220	4.2
Bristol City	19,950	6.3	20,470	6.4
North Somerset	5,970	4.8	6,180	5.0
South Gloucestershire	6,870	3.9	6,930	3.9
<b>West of England Total</b>	<b>37,825</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>38,800</b>	<b>5.2</b>

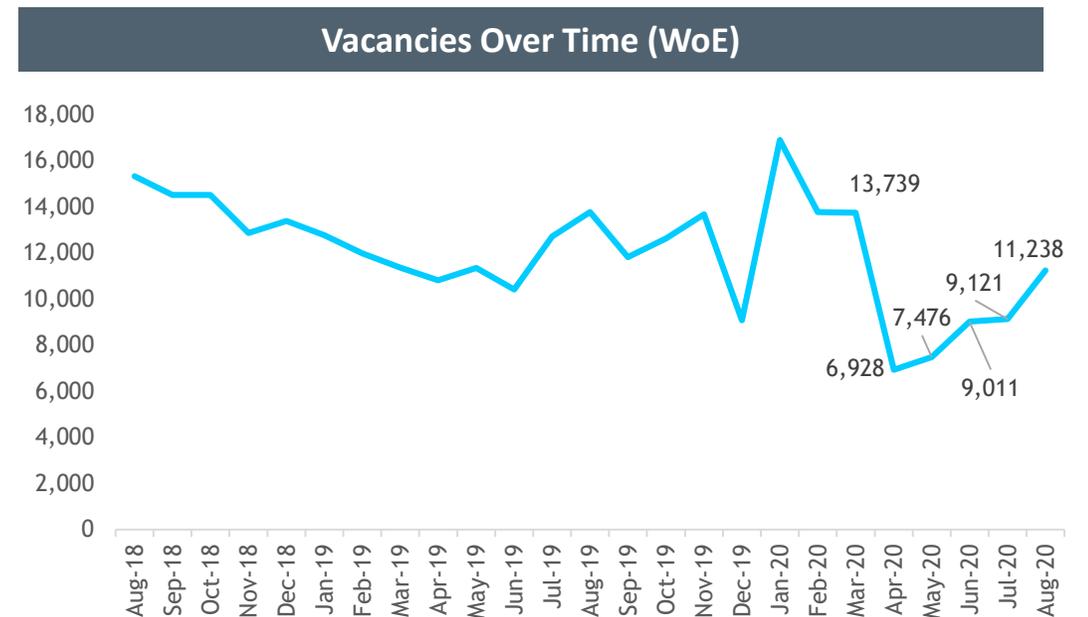
Percentage of Working Age Residents Claiming Unemployment Related Benefits



Sources: [Nomis Labour Market Profile](#)

# A. Labour market: the number of jobs advertised has declined sharply in April but now appears stable

- There were 11,238 jobs advertised in the West of England in August 2020, up 23% from July 2020 suggesting some level of recovery in terms of available jobs. However the level of availability is 18% lower than the level of jobs advertised in August 2019.
- The impact of changes in number of jobs available as a result of lockdown measures and social distancing became visible in April, with significantly fewer jobs advertised. This has risen in last few months and continues to increase as lockdown measures are eased.
- Comparing the type of jobs advertised by industry:
- Although the total number of jobs advertised remains lower than it was pre-pandemic, nearly all industries saw a rise in job postings in August 2020. Advertisements increased in accommodation and food services; and finance and insurance.
- Comparing the occupations in demand:
  - Demand for most occupations has fallen since March although there has been an increase in demand in the last month for road transport drivers and Public Services and Other Associate Professionals.



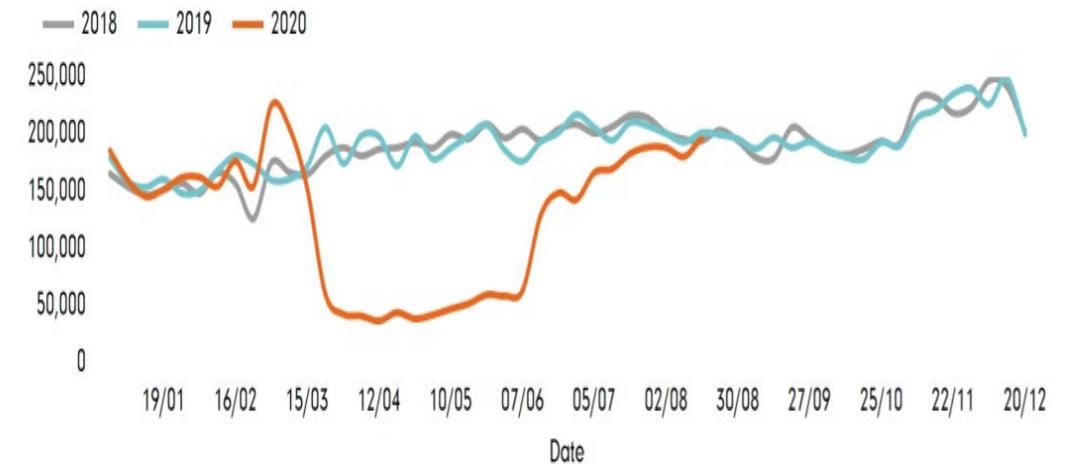
## Top Occupations in August 2020 (WoE)

- Programmers and software development professionals (702)
- Nurse (557)
- Caregiver/personal care aide (410)
- Sales (288)
- IT / Business Analysts (265)

# A. Mobility: Regional mobility fell dramatically but activity appears to be rising in retail and leisure outlets

- People’s mobility initially reduced dramatically compared to a pre-lockdown baseline of Jan-Feb 2020 but is now rising steadily.
- Retail and leisure facilities have been hit hard but activity has risen following the reopening of non-essential retail from 15 June and some leisure from 4 July. This varies by local authority, with activity in North Somerset almost back at pre-lockdown levels, and Bristol furthest away (Source: [Google Community Mobility Reports](#), 23 Aug).
  - Bristol will have a higher concentration of office workers who are continuing to work remotely, and much of its student population has been absent.
  - This could also be due to the seasonal nature of North Somerset’s visitor market.
- **Footfall:** Intelligence from the local Improvement Districts suggests total footfall for the year to date is down 45% on normal levels in Broadmead, Bristol but current footfall is approaching a similar level to previous years on a weekly basis (see the chart to the right).
- **The Eat Out to Help Out Scheme**, which launched on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August closed on 31 August. As of 23 August it had been used 64m times, with an average claim of £5. Several [national chains](#) and a number of [local independent restaurants](#) in the region have all indicated they **will continue to offer discounts**, despite the government no longer reimbursing them, in order to continue to attract customers.
- Data from [Centre for Cities](#) suggests that all applicable cities have seen an increase in footfall in the evenings on Monday to Wednesday in early August, with an average rise of 8% compared to late July.
  - Smaller city centres appear to have benefited more than larger ones.
  - The good weather in early August and more UK holiday makers this year must also be factored into consideration here.
  - They did not find evidence of a displacement from other times of the week.

Footfall by week

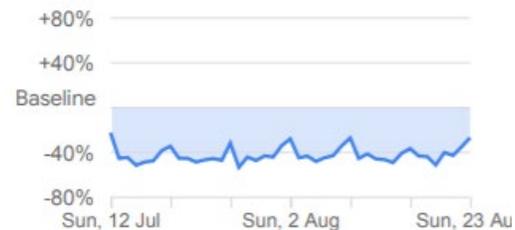


Source: [Footfall Report for Broadmead BID, 16 - 22 Aug 20](#)

# A. Mobility: Public transport usage is beginning to rise, although patronage varies across the region

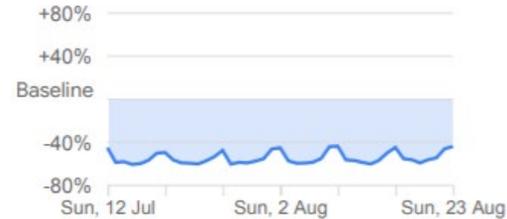
**Bath and North East Somerset**

**-27%** compared to baseline



**Bristol**

**-44%** compared to baseline



**North Somerset**

**-30%** compared to baseline



**South Gloucestershire**

**-29%** compared to baseline



- Public transport usage initially declined sharply but has risen since then. Patronage in Bristol is noticeably lower than other areas of the region.
- The charts above represent all modes of public transport. [Department for Transport data](#) shows that nationally, rail usage is around 30% of pre-pandemic levels and bus use is around 44%. Car usage is around 90% of pre-pandemic levels during the week and close to 100% at weekends.
- Travel to work baseline information:
  - Data on pre-pandemic travel patterns provides context to travel planning issues facing the country. **The 2011 Census found that 62% of the West of England workforce travelled to work by car or van; 13% on foot; 6% by bus; 5% cycled; and 3% by train. 10% mainly worked from home.**
  - Car was the most common method of travel across all industries.
  - Some industries are more dependent on public transport than others - those most likely to use the bus work in retail (12% of the workforce); accommodation and food services (11%) ; and finance and insurance (11%).**
  - Those most likely to use the train work in information and communication, finance and insurance; professional services; and public administration.**

## A. Infrastructure: The reduction in mobility is contributing to a decrease in air pollution and shift in energy use

- The effect of the reduction in mobility is reflected in air quality data for the period immediately after lockdown:
  - [Air pollution in Bristol](#) initially fell by more than half compared with last year and [effects were seen globally](#), with global carbon emissions per day in April 17 percent lower than the average daily emissions in 2019.
  - One analysis suggested the [UK's total daily carbon emissions have decreased 36% since lockdown began](#), with a 60% drop in emissions from road transport. Emissions from residential addresses have however risen by 20%.
- However, as lockdown restrictions ease around the world this effect is being diminished. [Daily carbon emissions are still down on 2019, but only by 5% on average globally](#).
- Energy use is shifting as workplace activity reduces:
  - National Grid forecasted a 20% drop in electricity demand, as use shifts from commercial property to homes.
  - [Data from the International Energy Agency](#) (IEA) shows global electricity demand decreased by 2.5% in Q1 2020. Full lockdown measures introduced in March 2020 reduced electricity demand by at least 15% in the UK, France, Italy and Spain.
  - The IEA predicts global electricity demand will fall by 5% in 2020
- Internet usage has risen during lockdown [according to Ofcom](#):
  - Adults spent an average of four hours a day online, up from three and a half in September 2019, as people seek new ways to keep connected, informed and entertained. Younger adults (18 to 24 years) spend an average of 5 hours online each day.
  - 70% of adults made video calls at least once a week in April 2020, compared to 35% in February. Consumption of news sites; communications tools such as WhatsApp; video platforms; and online games have all risen.
  - This highlights the importance of digital access for all

# A. Businesses are taking up available Government support

Local authorities in the region are distributing grants to support businesses. As of 16 August, **16,703 grants have been distributed** in the West of England. Local authorities estimate that 17,800 businesses in the region are eligible for these grants.

- As of 16 August: nationally **£35.5bn has been lent in Bounce Back loans** of up to £50,000 each; £13.7bn to SMEs under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme; and £3.5bn in loans to larger companies.
- As of 19 July, nationally 2.7m people have claimed Self-Employment Income Support, with claims amounting to £7.8bn; and as of 16 August, 9.6m people have been furloughed by 1.2m employers, at a cost of £35.4bn.
- The ONS Business Impact Survey found that **nationally, 23% of businesses have applied for a Government backed loan or finance agreement; and 18% applied for a Government grant.**
  - Sectors most commonly applying for loans are accommodation & food services (38% of businesses); admin and support services (30%); and construction (29%).
  - Sectors most commonly applying for grants are accommodation & food services (35%); arts and entertainment (30%); and real estate (28%).

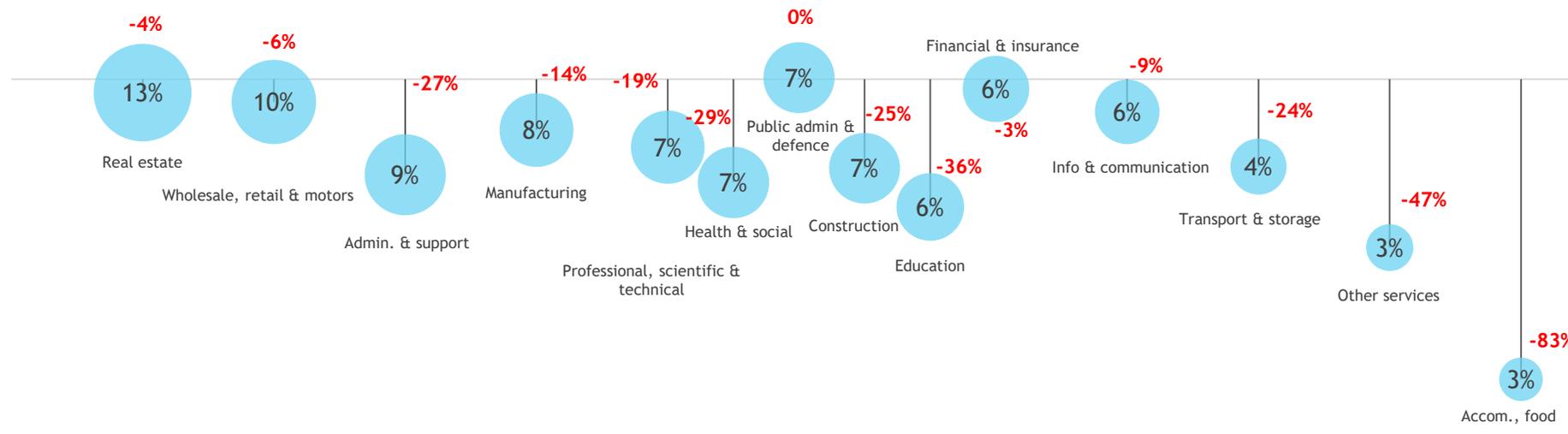
**Only 6% of respondents** to the Business West Impact said they consider the £1,000 Job Retention Bonus would have a significant impact on their decision making. 28% reported back that it would have a minor impact.

The Growth Hub and Unitary Authorities are taking a low number of calls for business support from businesses seeking support to deal with issues relating to the pandemic. These are primarily from businesses struggling financially and ineligible for government support schemes, including the discretionary top-up grant scheme.

## B. Key sectors of the economy will be impacted differently, depending on changes in demand; ability to open; and ability to work from home

- The chart below shows the recent impact on GVA of key sectors of the economy, at a national level.
- Whilst almost all sectors have experienced a drop in economic output, some are clearly more negatively impacted than others, with the largest negative growth evident in accommodation and food services.

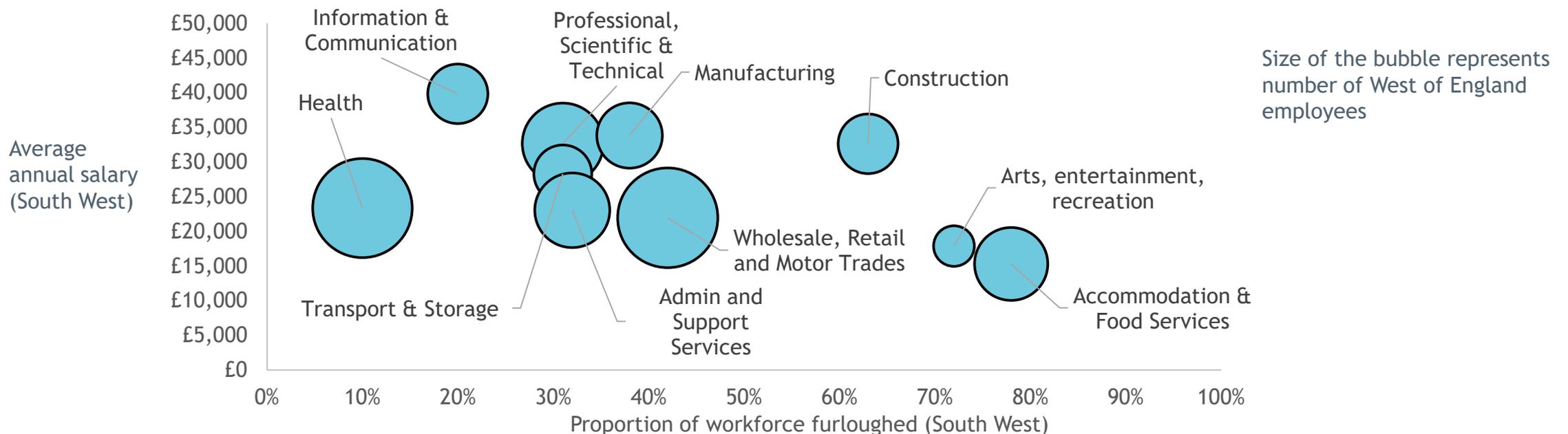
Size of bubble represents % of regional GVA in 2018 and red figure is national change in activity from February to June 2020  
NB Figures do not sum to 100% due to the exclusion of agriculture, mining, utilities and waste



- We will develop our understanding of how sectors of our economy are affected by gathering business intelligence and identifying support needs through our Economic Recovery Taskforce.

## B. Employees in some sectors may be disproportionately affected by the pandemic: many furloughed were lower income workers

- Those with lower average annual earnings may be most impacted - 78% of the accommodation and food services workforce, and 72% of the arts, entertainment and recreation workforce have been furloughed. In the South West, average annual earnings for these workers in these workers is £15,300 and £17,900 respectively, compared to an average salary of £26,700 across all industries.
- Conversely the information and communication sector, and professional, scientific and technical sectors have each furloughed 20% and 31% of their workforces respectively. Average annual South West earnings for these sectors are £39,800 and £32,600 respectively.



# C. The Government continues to offer support schemes for businesses and workers

The government has a number of support schemes available for businesses and workers affected by coronavirus. Listed below is information about the major support schemes, including eligibility criteria and application deadlines

Scheme	Launched	Criteria	Deadline (If known)
Kickstart Scheme	2 September 2020	As part of its Plan for Jobs, the government has introduced a new Kickstart Scheme, a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long term unemployment. Funding available for each job will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.	First wave of placements to begin November 2020
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	April 2020	At its launch, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme paid up to 80% of wages for furloughed workers, up to a cap of £2,500 for the hours the employee is on furlough, as well as employer National Insurance Contributions (ER NICs) and pension contributions for the hours the employee is on furlough. From June, government subsidies have continued, but employers will have to pay employees for the hours they work. From August, the government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 for the hours an employee is on furlough and employers began to pay ER NICs and pension contributions for the hours the employee is on furlough. During September, the government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50 for the hours the employee is on furlough. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and top up employees' wages to ensure they receive 80% of their wages up to a cap of £2,500, for time they are furloughed. For October, the government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875 for the hours the employee is on furlough. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and top up employees' wages to ensure they receive 80% of their wages up to a cap of £2,500, for time they are furloughed.	31 October 2020
Self-Employment Income Support Scheme	April 2020	The Self-Employment Income Support scheme provides self-employed people whose business has been adversely affected by coronavirus with a grant of £6,570. The first wave of grants concluded on 14 July. The second and final wave of grants launched on 14 July and individuals will be able to apply for a grant from any specified date until 19 October.	19 October 2020
Get Building Fund	August 2020	The government has announced the allocation of £900m of funding under the Getting Building Fund to invest in "shovel-ready" housing and infrastructure projects. WECA and the Local Enterprise Partnership has secured £13.7 million of funding under the scheme, which will fund Town Centre improvements, new homes and office space, road and cycling improvements and a new railway station. More than 265 businesses will benefit from the projects, with 2,403 jobs created or safeguarded, plus another 153 during construction.	-
Local Digital Fund	July 2020	The government has announced the allocation of £800,000 of funding to local authorities for innovative digital projects to solve common problems facing councils as they respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Of WECA's constituent UAs, only South Gloucestershire has been awarded funding. South Gloucestershire Council and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames will jointly receive £80,000 to build on increased online access to public meetings which has been improved quickly due to social distancing measures stopping people attending in person. This will also cover citizens' assemblies and statutory consultations.	-
Self-Isolation Fund	August 2020	People on low incomes who need to self-isolate due to testing positive for COVID-19 and are unable to work from home in areas with high incidence of COVID-19 will be eligible to receive £130 for their 10-day period of self-isolation. Other members of their household, who have to self-isolate for 14 days, will be entitled to a payment of £182. Non-household contacts advised to self-isolate through NHS Test and Trace will also be entitled to a payment of up to £182, tailored to the individual length of their isolation period.	-
Dairy Response Fund	May 2020	The Dairy Response Fund offers dairy farmers will be able to access up to £10,000 each to help them overcome the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.	11 September 2020

# D. The Government is continuing with its lockdown exit strategy

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, the Prime Minister announced the Government’s official lockdown exit strategy in a command paper [Our Plan To Rebuild: The UK Government’s COVID-19 recovery strategy](#). Contained details of localised lockdowns, which would be put in place in the event of a rise in the R-rate within a particular location. On 2 July, it [was announced](#) that WECA’s constituent Unitary Authorities had published their own Local Lockdown Management Plans. Below are details of areas currently in local lockdowns, and what restrictions are still in place (as of 2 September).

Area	Date Initiated	Area(s) affected	Measures in place	Review Date
North of England		<p><b>Greater Manchester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City of Manchester</li> <li>- Bury</li> <li>- Tameside</li> <li>- Rochdale</li> <li>- Salford</li> </ul> <p><b>Lancashire:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preston</li> </ul> <p><b>West Yorkshire:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bradford</li> <li>- Calderdale</li> <li>- Kirklees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across all areas, indoor venues such as Casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas, including soft play areas, and exhibition centres &amp; conference halls should remain closed.</li> <li>• In Bradford (within the limits of Bradford Metropolitan Council) indoor gyms, indoor fitness &amp; dance studios, indoor sports courts &amp; facilities and indoor swimming pools and water parks also remain closed.</li> <li>• Across all areas, Indoor performances in theatres and music venues are not able to take place, even with socially distanced audiences</li> <li>• Close contact services (i.e. any treatments on the face such as eyebrow threading or make-up application) are prohibited</li> <li>• People are not able to host or visit families from outside their households in their homes or gardens, unless those individuals are part of their support bubble</li> </ul>	-
Blackburn with Darwen, Oldham, Pendle	28 August	<p><b>Oldham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whole area</li> </ul> <p><b>Pendle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- whole area subject to wider restriction</li> </ul> <p><b>The following parts have additional restrictions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whitefield</li> <li>- Walverden</li> <li>- Southfield</li> <li>- Bradley</li> <li>- Clover Hill</li> <li>- Brierfield</li> <li>- Marsden</li> </ul> <p><b>Blackburn with Darwen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audley &amp; Queen’s Park</li> <li>- Bastwell &amp; Daisyfield</li> <li>- Billinge &amp; Beardwood</li> <li>- Blackburn Central</li> <li>- Little Harwood &amp; Whitebirk</li> <li>- Roe Lea</li> <li>- Shear Brow &amp; Corporation Park</li> <li>- Wensley Fold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across all areas, indoor venues such as Casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas, including soft play areas, and exhibition centres &amp; conference halls should remain closed.</li> <li>• In Blackburn with Darwen indoor gyms, indoor fitness &amp; dance studios, indoor sports courts &amp; facilities and indoor swimming pools and water parks also remain closed.</li> <li>• Across all areas, Indoor performances in theatres and music venues are not able to take place, even with socially distanced audiences</li> <li>• Close contact services (i.e. any treatments on the face such as eyebrow threading or make-up application) are prohibited</li> <li>• People are not able to host or visit families from outside their households in their homes or gardens, unless those individuals are part of their support bubble</li> </ul>	-

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Area	Date Initiated	Area(s) affected	Measures in place	Review Date
Leicester	17 July	Leicester City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor venues such as Casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas, including soft play areas, exhibition centres &amp; conference halls, indoor gyms, indoor fitness &amp; dance studios, indoor sports courts &amp; facilities and indoor swimming pools and water parks remain closed.</li> <li>Indoor performances in theatres and music venues are not able to take place, even with socially distanced audiences</li> <li>Close contact services (i.e. any treatments on the face such as eyebrow threading or make-up application) are prohibited</li> <li>Wedding receptions and celebrations, including for up to 30 people in the form of a sit-down meal are also not permitted to take place</li> <li>People are not able to host or visit families from outside their households in their homes or gardens, unless those individuals are part of their support bubble</li> </ul>	11 September
Northampton	21 August	Greencore Food Production Factories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers at the Greencore Food Production Factories in Northampton are being asked to self-isolate for 10 days and their household members for 14 days, if they worked at the factory between 7 August and 21 August and have not had a COVID-19 test</li> <li>This includes agency staff and part-time staff, even if they have jobs at other companies</li> <li>The factories voluntarily closed on 21 August</li> <li>On 31 August, guidance was updated to say workers who test positive after 28 August will need to continue to self-isolate according to government guidelines</li> </ul>	11 September

# Contact us

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For further information on support available to businesses, visit the West of England Growth Hub: [wearegrowth.co.uk](http://wearegrowth.co.uk)