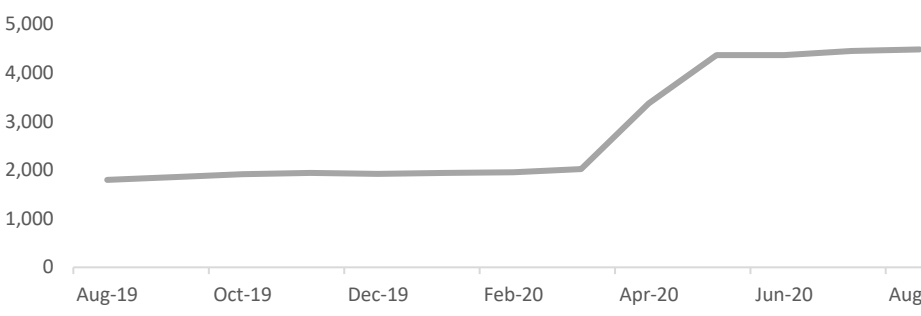
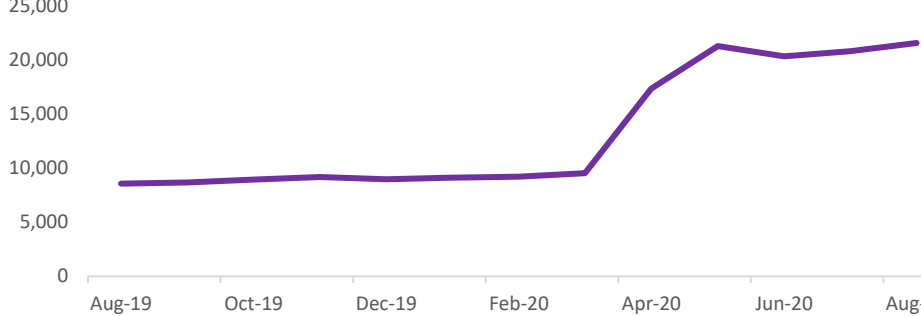
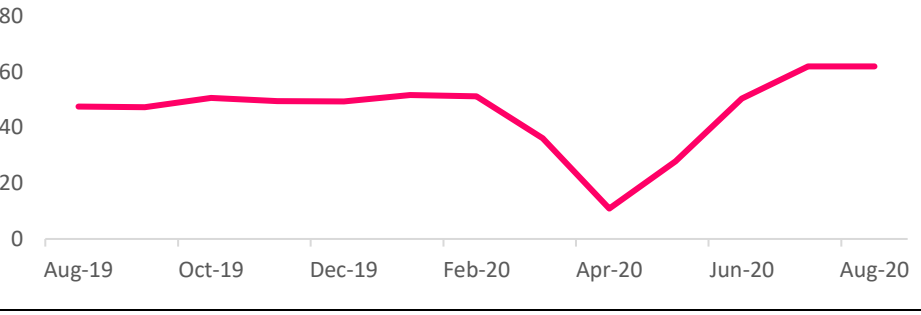
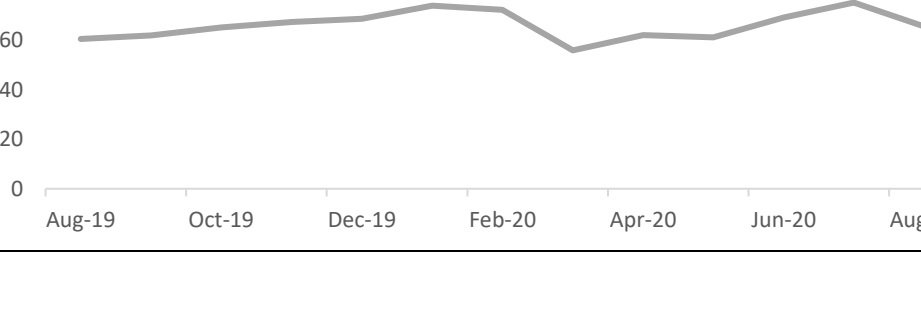


Indicator <sup>12</sup>	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020 <sup>3</sup>	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Trend	Latest Data Relative to UK and Peer Group <sup>4</sup>	Commentary/ Context
Percentage of Registered Deaths That Are COVID-19	0%	0.8%	18.5%	27.8%	10.6%	3.2%	0.2%		The Marches – Lowest LEP with Dorset and Worcestershire UK: 1.4% Cumbria: 5.7% (1 <sup>st</sup> ) (All of Aug.)	Monthly analysis shows a steady decrease in deaths since peaking in May 2020 and August as a whole stood at 0.2%.  The latest weekly analysis shows 1 death has been registered as Coronavirus related in the week of the 18 <sup>th</sup> September after three weeks of no Coronavirus deaths.
Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24)	1,955 (3.0% of 16-24 years old pop.)	2,025 (3.1% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	3,370 (5.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	4,365 (6.8% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	4,365 (6.8% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	4,455 (7.1% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	4,485 (7.1% of 16-24 years old pop.)		The Marches – 19 <sup>th</sup> Highest LEP UK: 7.5% Black Country: 11.3% (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Oxfordshire: 4.1% (38 <sup>th</sup> )	There were 4,485 youth claimants in The Marches area in August 2020, an increase of 0.7% (+30) from July 2020. Compared to March 2020 The Marches area have 2,460 more youth claimants.
Claimants (Aged 16+)	9,210 (1.6% of pop. aged 16+)	9,550 (1.7% of pop. aged 16+)	17,335 (3.1% of pop. aged 16+)	21,300 (3.7% of pop. aged 16+)	20,340 (3.6% of pop. aged 16+)	20,800 (3.6% of pop. aged 16+)	21,575 (3.8% of pop. aged 16+)		The Marches – 10 <sup>th</sup> Lowest LEP UK: 5.0% Black Country: 7.1% (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Enterprise M3: 2.8% (38 <sup>th</sup> )	In The Marches there were 21,575 claimants in August 2020, an increase of 3.7% (+775) from July 2020. The Marches area have 12,025 more claimants since March 2020.
Business Activity Index	51.2	36.1	10.9	27.9	50.4	61.9	61.9		WM – 4 <sup>th</sup> Highest Region UK: 59.1 North East: 66 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Wales: 51.5(12 <sup>th</sup> )	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 – came in at 61.9 in August, unchanged on July. The latest reading continued to indicate a strong increase in business activity midway through the third quarter.
Future Business Activity Index	72.3	55.9	62.1	61.1	69.1	75.2	65.5		WM: 8 <sup>th</sup> Highest Region Yorkshire & The Humber: 75.9 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Northern Ireland: 42.3 (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Business expectations regarding the outlook for output over the next 12 months were less positive in August than July. The Future Business Activity Index dropped nearly 10 points to its lowest level for three months.

<sup>1</sup> indicators that are in hatched marked boxes represent regional level analysis.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 Midland compares and where available the The Matches LEP has been used and compared to 37 other LEPs.

Indicator <sup>12</sup>	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020 <sup>3</sup>	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Trend	Latest Data Relative to UK and Peer Group <sup>4</sup>	Commentary/ Context
Apprenticeship Vacancies <sup>5</sup>	226	254	188	176	179	147	157		The Marches – 6 <sup>th</sup> Lowest LEP London: 2,452 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Cumbria LEP: 10 (38 <sup>th</sup> )	The latest data shows that apprenticeship vacancies stood at nearly 160 in August 2020, this has increased following a small decrease in July 2020.
Unique Job Postings <sup>6</sup>	17,276	16,659	13,003	11,709	11,023	11,716	13,836		The Marches – 5 <sup>th</sup> Lowest LEP London: 457,952 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Cumbria: 9,071 (38 <sup>th</sup> )	The latest data shows that the number of unique jobs postings stood over 13,800 in August 2020. This is the second consecutive month for an increase in the number of job postings and above levels seen in April 2020.
Total Number of Staff Furloughed				76,900 (Claims Received Up To 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020)	88,400 (Claims Received Up To 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020)	94,300 (Claims Received Up To 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2020)			The Marches – 8 <sup>th</sup> Highest LEP London: 1,301,000 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) York, N. Yorkshire & E. Riding: 42,800 (38 <sup>th</sup> )	The Marches area had 297,800 eligible workers during the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme. Of these, 94,300 workers have been furloughed. This is a take up rate of 32% - matching the UK average take-up rate.
Quarterly Regional GDP <sup>3</sup>	-1.7% (2019 Q2)			+0.2% (2019 Q3)			-0.6% (2019 Q4)		WM– 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lowest With 2 Other Regions (EM & SE) England: -0.1% South West: +0.8% (1 <sup>st</sup> ) North East: -1.3% (9 <sup>th</sup> )	There was negative growth in 2019 Q4 in the West Midlands by -0.6% after growth seen in 2019 Q3 of 0.2%, however the negative growth was smaller than that seen in 2019 Q2 at -1.7%.
Quarterly Regional Exports <sup>3</sup>		£31.6bn (9.1% of UK) Full Year: 2019					£30.6bn (9.1% of UK) Year to: Q1 2020		WM – 4 <sup>th</sup> Highest Region South East: £44.4bn (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Northern Ireland: £8.9bn (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Regional exports fell by nearly £2bn (-6.1%) over the year of 2020 Q1 to £30.6bn - the UK decreased by 2.2%. The West Midlands region imports decreased by 10.3% to £34.4bn - leading to a trade deficit of £3.7bn

<sup>5</sup> Please note, when new data is available the previous month figures are revised.