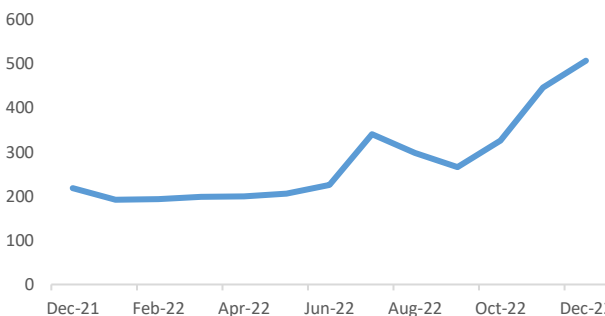
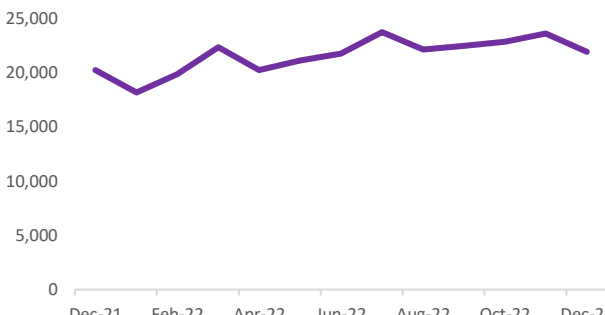
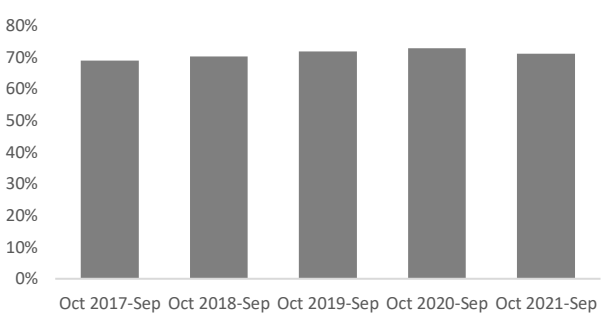
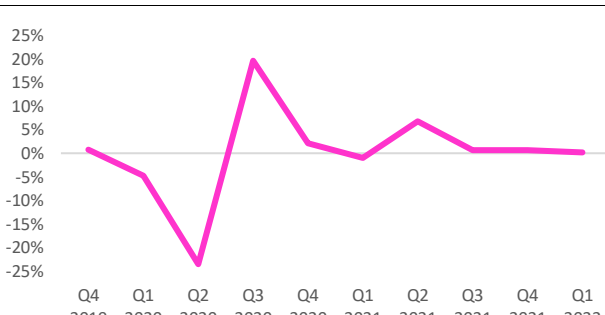


Indicator ¹	Pre - Pandemic (Context) ²	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	Trend (12-Month Period)	Latest Data Relative to UK & Peer Group ³	Commentary/ Context
Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24)	7,750 (6.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.) (Mar 2020)	8,795 (7.2% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,485 (6.9% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,505 (7.0% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,360 (6.8% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,080 (6.6% of 16-24 years old pop.)	7,880 (6.4% of 16-24 years old pop.)	7,680 (6.3% of 16-24 years old pop.)	7,770 (6.4% of 16-24 years old pop.)	7,930 (6.5% of 16-24 years old pop.)	7,900 (6.5% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,020 (6.6% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,130 (6.7% of 16-24 years old pop.)	8,370 (6.8% of 16-24 years old pop.)		BCLEP: Highest LEP UK: 3.7% Tees Valley: 6.1% (2 nd) Oxfordshire: 1.7% (38 th)	There were 8,370 claimants aged 16-24 years old in the BCLEP area in December 2022, an increase of 240 (+3.0%, UK +1.3%) from November 2022. Compared to March 2020 (pre-pandemic) the BCLEP area has 620 more claimants aged 16-24 years old.
Claimants (Aged 16+)	38,275 (4.1% of pop. aged 16+) (Mar 2020)	49,550 (5.2% of pop. aged 16+)	48,735 (5.2% of pop. aged 16+)	48,720 (5.2% of pop. aged 16+)	48,085 (5.1% of pop. aged 16+)	46,720 (4.9% of pop. aged 16+)	45,365 (4.8% of pop. aged 16+)	44,720 (4.7% of pop. aged 16+)	44,095 (4.7% of pop. aged 16+)	43,990 (4.6% of pop. aged 16+)	43,645 (4.6% of pop. aged 16+)	43,355 (4.6% of pop. aged 16+)	43,790 (4.6% of pop. aged 16+)	44,855 (4.7% of pop. aged 16+)		BCLEP: 2 nd Highest LEP UK: 2.8% GBSLEP: 4.9% (1 st) York & North Yorkshire: 1.4% (38 th)	There were 44,855 claimants in the BCLEP area in December 2022, an increase of 1,065 (+2.4%, UK +1.9%) from November 2022. Compared to March 2020 (pre-pandemic) the BCLEP area has 6,580 more claimants.
Business Activity Index	51.2 (Feb 2020)	50.7	51.9	58.4	59.1	54.5	49.7	51.1	50.3	49.3	47.8	49.6	48.8	48.9		WM: 4 th Highest Region UK: 49.0 Wales: 52.0 (1 st) Northern Ireland: 41.6 (12 th)	The West Midlands Business Activity Index slightly rose from 48.8 in November 2022 to 48.9 in December 2022 – although, remained below the 50-growth mark for the fifth consecutive month. West Midlands firms reported lower sales, staff absences, high stock levels and uncertainty restricted business activity.
Future Business Activity Index	72.3 (Feb 2020)	79.8	80.3	76.7	75.2	71.8	66.1	70.3	68.3	67.8	64.4	60.7	64.7	65.3		WM: 3 rd Highest Region South East: 68.3 (1 st) Northern Ireland: 48.8 (12 th)	The West Midlands Future Business Activity Index increased from 64.7 in November 2022 to 65.3 in December 2022. West Midlands firms that were optimistic for the next 12 months reported new product releases, projects in the pipeline and marketing efforts. Optimism was restricted due to recession risks, a challenging economic climate and weak underlying demand.

¹ Indicators that are in hatched marked boxes represent regional level analysis. Sources as seen in order on dashboard: Department for Work and Pensions/ Office for National Statistics (ONS), Claimant count, January 2023, NatWest, UK regional PMI, January 2023 (please note, the index is seasonally adjusted and measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of the region's manufacturing and service sectors), Lightcast, January 2023, ONS, Annual Population Survey (APS), January 2023 ONS, GDP UK regions and Countries, November 2022, HM Revenue & Customs, UK Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, December 2022 (please note, trade in goods data is not comparable across the table due to rolling months).

² A pre-pandemic column has been included which will not be RAG rated as this is to show where we were before the impacts of COVID-19 were seen. However, across the dashboard RAG rating is based on change from each month (and not compared to March 2020), 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 amber indicates a change in the right direction but less than the UK or national average (average (excluding the Business Activity Index and Future Business Activity Index indicators where the threshold mark is 50 for growth – figures below 50 are red, amber if it has decreased from the previous but remains above 50, green if improved from previous month and also same rules have been applied for quarterly regional GDP where above 0% shows growth). Apprenticeships vacancies and unique job postings have remained white as growth and decrease can be seen as positive.

³ 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.

Indicator ¹	Pre - Pandemic (Context) ²	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	Trend (12-Month Period)	Latest Data Relative to UK & Peer Group ³	Commentary/ Context
Apprenticeship Postings	461 (Mar 2020)	218	192	193	199	200	206	226	341	298	266	326	446	507		BCLEP: 19 th LEP London: 2,964 (1 st) Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP: 108 (38 th)	In the BCLEP area there were 507 apprenticeship postings in December 2022. This increased by 61 from November 2022 and an increase of 289 when compared to December 2021.
Unique Job Postings	14,856 (Mar 2020)	20,237	18,152	19,857	22,309	20,197	21,121	21,722	23,711	22,129	22,436	22,824	23,588	21,908		BCLEP: 27 th LEP London: 380,149 (1 st) Cumbria LEP: 6,847 (38 th)	In the BCLEP area there were 21,908 unique jobs postings in December 2022. This decreased by 1,680 from the previous month. When compared to December 2021 there were 1,671 more job postings.
Employment Rate ⁴ (Aged 16-64)	70.4% Full Year 2019 70.7% Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	73.1% Jan – Dec 2021			72.8% Apr 2021 – Mar 2022			71.8% Jul 2021 – Jun 2022						71.0% Oct 2021 – Sep 2022		BCLEP: 3 rd Lowest LEP UK: 75.5% Buckinghamshire Thames Valley: 82.9% (1 st) Tees Valley: 69.6% (38 th)	Since the year ending September 2021, the employment rate for the BCLEP area decreased by 1.7 percentage points (pp) to 71.0% in the year ending September 2022. The UK-wide employment rate was 75.5%, an increase of 1.0pp over the same period. To reach the UK-wide employment rate of 75.5% requires an additional 29,416 Black Country residents to be in employment.
Quarterly Regional GDP	0.8% (2019 Q4) -4.8% (2020 Q1)	0.7% (Q4 2021)			0.2% (Q1 (2022))											WM: 5 th Region England +4.8% North East: +6.9% (1 st) North West: +4.0% (9 th)	Quarter on Quarter analysis shows for the West Midlands region, GDP growth increased by 0.2% (second lowest region) in Quarter 1 2022, below the UK-wide growth of 0.7%. Utilising a base year of 2019, in Q1 2022, the quarterly GDP indices for the West Midlands was 96.9, an increase from 96.7 in the previous quarter.
Quarterly Regional Exports ⁵	£31.7bn (9.3% of UK) Full Year 2019 £31.0bn (9.4% of UK) Full Year to Q1 2020	£25.5bn (8.2% of UK) Full Year 2021			£25.8bn (8.0% of UK) Full Year to: Q1 2022			£26.5bn (7.8% of UK) Full Year to: Q2 2022						£28.0bn (7.8% of UK) Full Year to: Q3 2022		WM – 6 th Highest Region London: 12.5% (1 st) Northern Ireland: 2.4% (12 th)	In the year ending Q3 2022, the West Midlands region's export in goods value was worth £28.0bn, an increase of £1.9bn (+7.2%) since the year ending Q3 2021. The UK increased by 17.4% to £359.5bn worth of exports in the year ending Q3 2022. The West Midlands had a trade deficit of £12.95bn in the year ending Q3 2022.

⁴ Data is not comparable across table as they are rolling months

⁵ Data is not comparable across table as they are rolling months.