

SANDWELL ECONOMIC DASHBOARD – JULY 2025

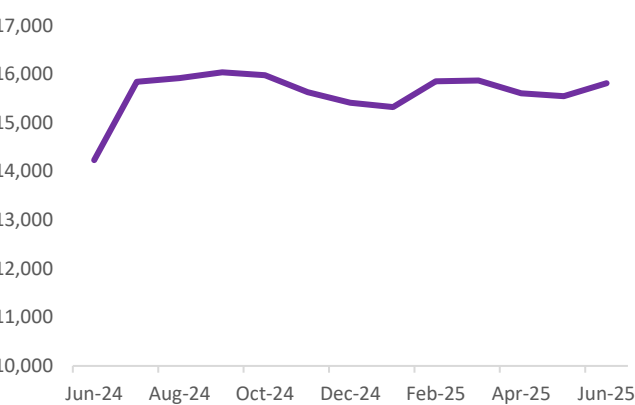
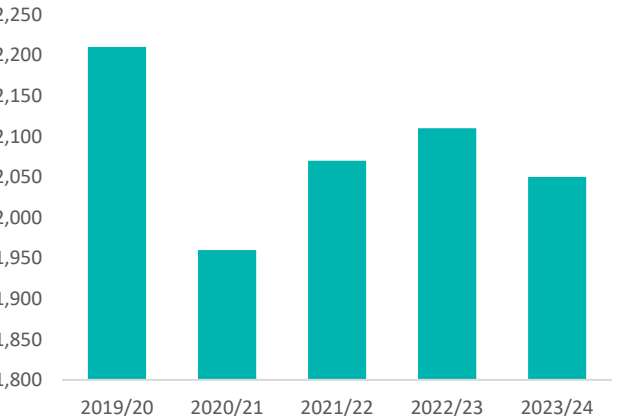
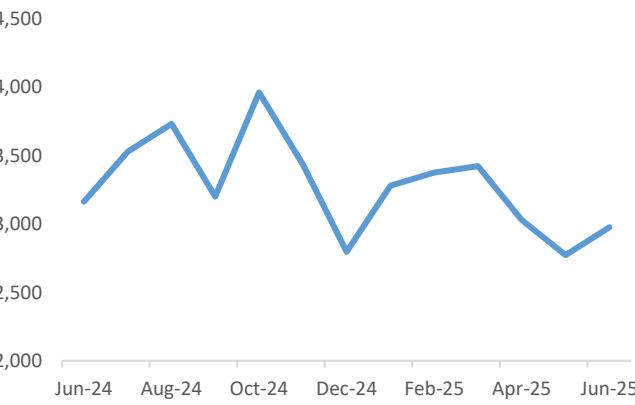
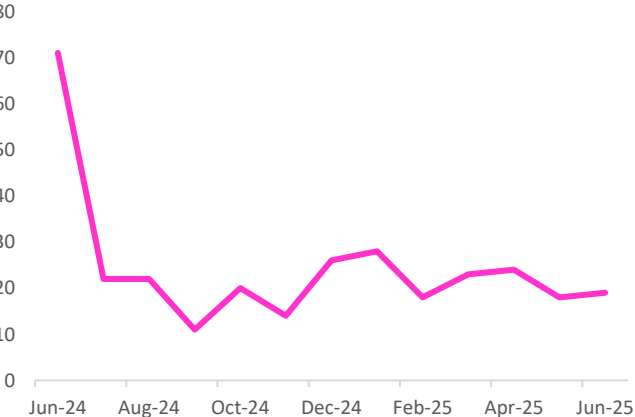
Indicator ¹	Pre-Pandemic (Context) ²		June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	Trend	National/ Regional or LA Comparator ³	Commentary/ Context
Regional Business Activity Index	51.2 (Feb 2020)		51.6	51.2	52.2	51.2	50.0	49.9	48.9	47.2	48.7	49.6	47.5	50.4	50.9		WM: 6 th Highest UK: 52.0 East of England: 55.6 (1 st) Northern Ireland: 48.2 (12 th)	The West Midlands Business Activity Index increased from 50.4 in May 2025 to 50.9 in June 2025, signalling a quicker rate of expansion and one that was the fastest for nine months. Survey participants attributed output increases to better-than-usual weather, greater demand for some services and the approval of pending orders.
Regional Future Business Activity Index	72.3 (Feb 2020)		74.8	77.9	76.1	69.8	71.0	68.6	67.2	69.8	74.3	68.5	67.3	75.2	70.7		WM: Highest Region London: 67.5 (2nd) North East: 50.2 (12th)	The West Midlands Future Business Activity Index decreased from 75.2 in May 2025 to 70.7 in June 2025, the highest of any region across the UK. Confidence in a rise in output came from new product releases, pending quotations and hopes of better demand conditions.
Employment Rate (Aged 16-64) ⁴	70.7% Full Year 2019 69.4% Apr 2019 – Mar 2020		67.4% Jul 2023 – Jun 2024			66.4% Oct 2023 – Sep 2024			67.3% Full Year 2024			66.5% Apr 2024 – Mar 2025					Sandwell: 16 th Lowest /349 UK: 75.4% City of London: 100% (1 st) Kensington & Chelsea: 61.0% (349 th)	Since the year ending March 2024, the employment rate for Sandwell decreased by 1.5 percentage points (pp) to 66.5% in the year ending March 2025. The UK-wide employment rate remained unchanged at 75.4% For Sandwell to reach the UK-wide employment rate requires an increase of 18,680 residents to be in employment.
Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24)	2,130 (6.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.) (Mar 2020)		2,680 (6.9% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,710 (7.0% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,790 (7.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,795 (7.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,820 (7.3% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,855 (7.4% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,850 (7.4% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,840 (7.3% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,935 (7.6% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	3,005 (7.8% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,970 (7.7% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,950 (7.6% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	3,010 (7.8% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)		Sandwell: 5 th Highest LA / 318 UK: 4.3% of Pop. aged 16-24 years old Birmingham: 8.6 (1 st) Isles of Scilly: 0% (318 th)	Sandwell had 3,010 youth claimants in June 2025, an increase of 60 claimants (+2.0%, UK +1.3%) from the previous month. When compared to June 2024, the number of youth claimants has increased by 330 (+12.3%, UK +9.7%).

¹ Indicators that are in hatched marked boxes represent regional level analysis. The dashboard sources are as followed: NatWest, UK Regional Tracker news release, released July 2025 (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), Office for National Statistics (ONS)/Annual Population Survey (APS), released July 2025, ONS/Department for Work and Pensions, Claimant count (provisional), released July 2025, Department for Education, released March 2025 and updated July 2025, Adzuna Intelligence, accessed July 2025.

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 (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 or at 50, green if improved from previous month).

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 the West Midlands compares and then where available, Sandwell has been used and compared to all available local authorities.

⁴ Data is not comparable across the table as they are rolling quarterly years.

Indicator ¹	Pre-Pandemic (Context) ²		June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	Trend	National/ Regional or LA Comparator ³	Commentary/ Context
Claimants (Aged 16+)	10,780 (4.2% of pop. aged 16+) (Mar 2020)		14,230 (5.3% of pop. aged 16+)	15,840 (5.9% of pop. aged 16+)	15,915 (5.9% of pop. aged 16+)	16,035 (5.9% of pop. aged 16+)	15,975 (5.9% of pop. aged 16+)	15,625 (5.8% of pop. aged 16+)	15,410 (5.7% of pop. aged 16+)	15,320 (5.7% of pop. aged 16+)	15,850 (5.9% of pop. aged 16+)	15,865 (5.9% of pop. aged 16+)	15,605 (5.8% of pop. aged 16+)	15,545 (5.8% of pop. aged 16+)	15,810 (5.8% of pop. aged 16+)		Sandwell: Joint 14 th Highest LA (with Lambeth and Wolverhampton) /318 UK: 3.1% of Pop. Aged 16+ Birmingham: 8.8% (1 st) Isle of Scilly: 0.5% (318 th)	Sandwell had 15,810 claimants aged 16 years and over in June 2025, an increase of 265 (+1.7%, UK +2.8%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to June 2024, the number of claimants has increased by 1,580 (+11.1%, UK +6.0%).
Apprenticeship Starts ⁵	2,870 (Q4 Full Year 2018/19)			2,050 (Q4 Aug-Jul 2023/24)			690 (Q1 Aug-Oct 2024/25)			1,130 (Q2 Aug-Jan 2024/25)			1,630 (Q3 Aug-Apr 2024/25)				Sandwell: 32 nd Highest LA (With Central Bedfordshire) /295 Birmingham: 6,020 (1 st) City of London: 50 (295 th)	In the 2023/24 academic year there were 2,050 apprenticeship starts in Sandwell, a decrease of 2.8% (-60) since 2022/23. Nationally, apprenticeship starts were up by 0.7% (to a total of 339,580 in 2023/24).
Adzuna Unique Job Postings	2,868 (Mar 2020)		3,162	3,527	3,730	3,200	3,960	3,435	2,796	3,279	3,375	3,421	3,029	2,772	2,975		This number of postings is high compared to the average for all local authority districts	In Sandwell, there were 2,975 unique job postings in June 2025, a monthly increase of 203. When compared to June 2024, postings decreased by 187. In June 2025, the Interest Quotient was 1.8 (high).
Adzuna Apprenticeship Postings	14 (Mar 2020)		71	22	22	11	20	14	26	28	18	23	24	18	19		-	In Sandwell, there were 19 apprenticeship postings in June 2025, a monthly increase of 1. When compared to June 2024, apprenticeship postings decreased by 52.

⁵ Data is not comparable across the table.