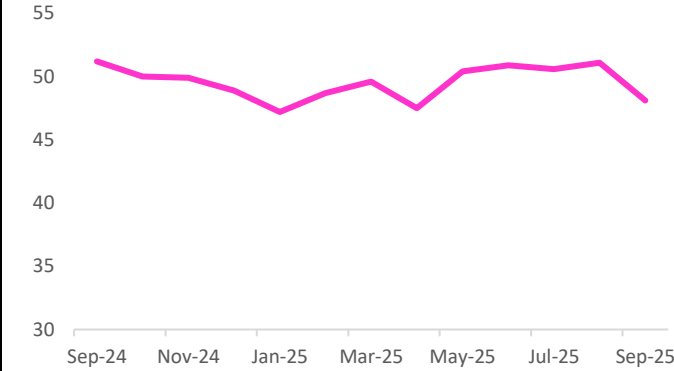
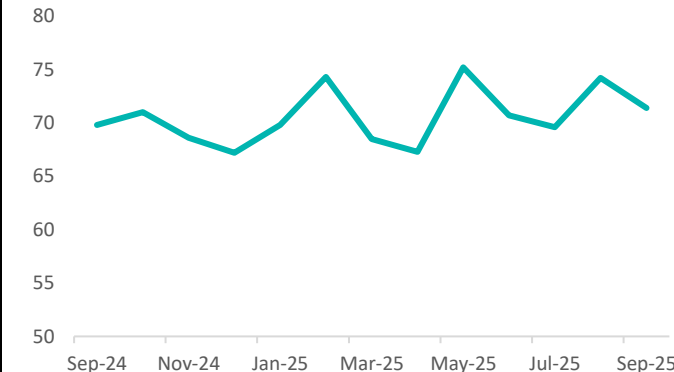
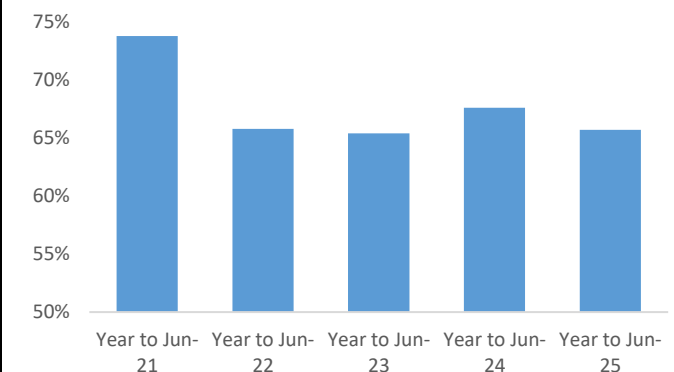
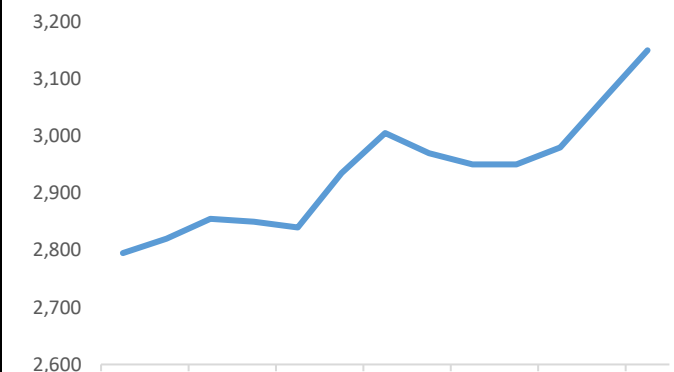


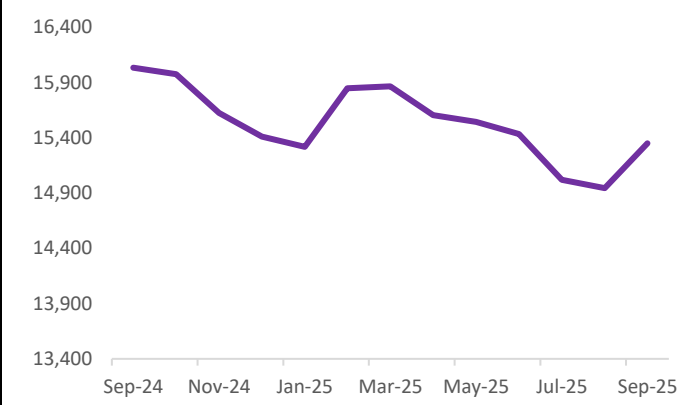
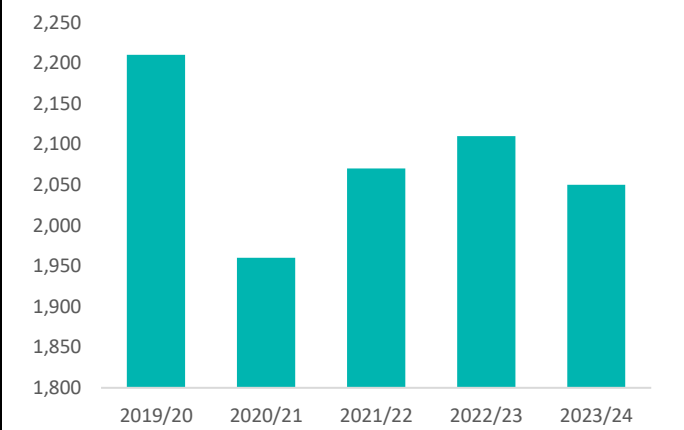
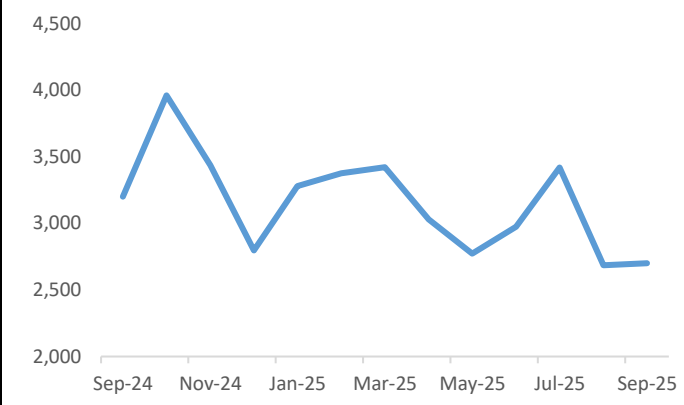
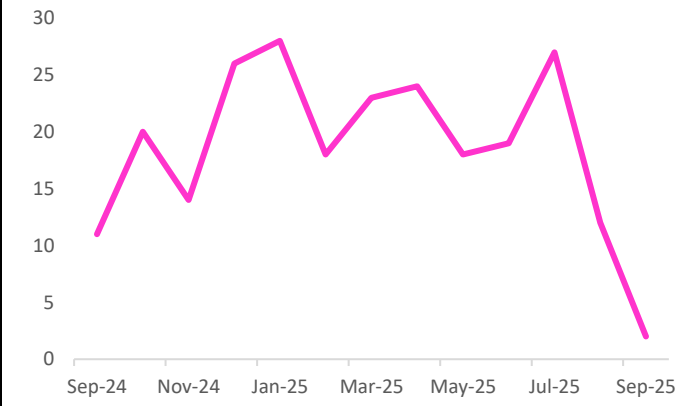
SANDWELL ECONOMIC DASHBOARD – OCTOBER 2025																		
Indicator ¹	Pre-Pandemic (Context) ²		September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	Trend	National/ Regional or LA Comparator ³	Commentary/ Context
Regional Business Activity Index	51.2 (Feb 2020)		51.2	50.0	49.9	48.9	47.2	48.7	49.6	47.5	50.4	50.9	50.6	51.1	48.1		WM: 6 th Lowest UK: 50.1 London: 53.8 (1 st) Northern Ireland: 44.9 (12 th)	The West Midlands Business Activity Index decreased from 51.1 in August 2025 to 48.1 in September 2025, the first fall in activity since April 2025. The decline was linked to local firms having a lack of work.
Regional Future Business Activity Index	72.3 (Feb 2020)		69.8	71.0	68.6	67.2	69.8	74.3	68.5	67.3	75.2	70.7	69.6	74.2	71.4		WM: Highest Region North East: 69.0 (2nd) Northern Ireland: 55.4 (12th)	The West Midlands Future Business Activity Index decreased from 74.2 in August 2025 to 71.4 in September 2025. Despite some firms being concerned about budgets, subdued client confidence and US tariffs, in general firms remained optimistic due to reports of new product releases and expansion into new markets.
Employment Rate (Aged 16-64) ⁴	70.7% Full Year 2019 69.4% Apr 2019 – Mar 2020		67.0% Oct 2023 – Sep 2024			68.0% Full Year 2024			66.5% Apr 2024 – Mar 2025			65.7% Jul 2024 – Jun 2025					Sandwell: 11 th Lowest /348 UK: 75.4% Dacorum: 89.1% (1 st) Kensington & Chelsea: 61.8% (348 th)	Since the year ending June 2024, the employment rate for Sandwell decreased by 1.9 percentage points (pp) to 65.7% in the year ending June 2025. The UK-wide employment rate increased by 0.1pp at 75.4% For Sandwell to reach the UK-wide employment rate requires an increase of 20,255 residents to be in employment.
Youth Claimants (Aged 16-24)	2,130 (6.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.) (Mar 2020)		2,795 (6.9% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,820 (6.9% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,855 (7.0% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,850 (7.0% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,840 (7.0% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,935 (7.2% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	3,005 (7.4% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,970 (7.3% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,950 (7.3% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,950 (7.3% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	2,980 (7.3% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	3,065 (7.5% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)	3,150 (7.7% of 16 – 24 years old pop.)		Sandwell: 4 th Highest LA / 361 st UK: 4.3% of Pop. aged 16-24 years old Birmingham: 8.7% (1 st) Isles of Scilly: 0% (361 st)	Sandwell had 3,150 youth claimants in September 2025, an increase of 85 claimants (+2.8%, UK +2.7%) from the previous month. When compared to September 2024, the number of youth claimants has increased by 355 (+12.7%, UK +10.2%).

¹ Indicators that are in hatched marked boxes represent regional level analysis. The dashboard sources are as followed: NatWest, UK Regional Tracker, released October 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 October 2025, ONS/Department for Work and Pensions, Claimant count (provisional), released October 2025, Department for Education, released March 2025 and updated July 2025, Adzuna Intelligence, accessed October 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		September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	Trend	National/ Regional or LA Comparator ³	Commentary/ Context	
All Claimants (Rates Aged 16-64)	10,780 (5.0% of pop. aged 16-64) (Mar 2020)		16,035 (7.3% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,975 (7.3% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,625 (7.1% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,410 (7.0% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,320 (7.0% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,850 (7.2% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,865 (7.2% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,605 (7.1% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,545 (7.1% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,435 (7.0% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,020 (6.8% of pop. aged 16-64)	14,945 (6.8% of pop. aged 16-64)	15,350 (7.0% of pop. aged 16-64)		Sandwell: Joint 12 th Highest LA (with Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest) /361 st UK: 4.0% of Pop. Aged 16-64 Birmingham: 10.4% (1 st) Isle of Scilly and Shetland Islands: 1.2% (Joint 361 st)	Sandwell had 15,350 claimants in September 2025, an increase of 405 (+2.7%, UK +2.1%) claimants from the previous month. When compared to September 2024, the number of claimants has decreased by 685 (-4.3%, UK -4.0%).	
Apprenticeship Starts ⁵	2,870 (Q4 Full Year 2018/19)			690 (Q1 Aug-Oct 2024/25)			1,130 (Q2 Aug-Jan 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)		3,200	3,960	3,435	2,796	3,279	3,375	3,421	3,029	2,772	2,975	3,418	2,685	2,700		This number of postings is high compared to the average for all local authority districts	In Sandwell, there were 2,700 unique job postings in September 2025, a monthly increase of 15. When compared to September 2024, postings decreased by 500. In September 2025, the Interest Quotient was 1.8 (high).	
Adzuna Apprenticeship Postings	14 (Mar 2020)		11	20	14	26	28	18	23	24	18	19	27	12	2		-	In Sandwell, there were 2 apprenticeship postings in September 2025, a monthly decrease of 10. When compared to September 2024, apprenticeship postings decreased by 9.	

⁵ Data is not comparable across the table.