WMCA Business Demography[1] Headlines

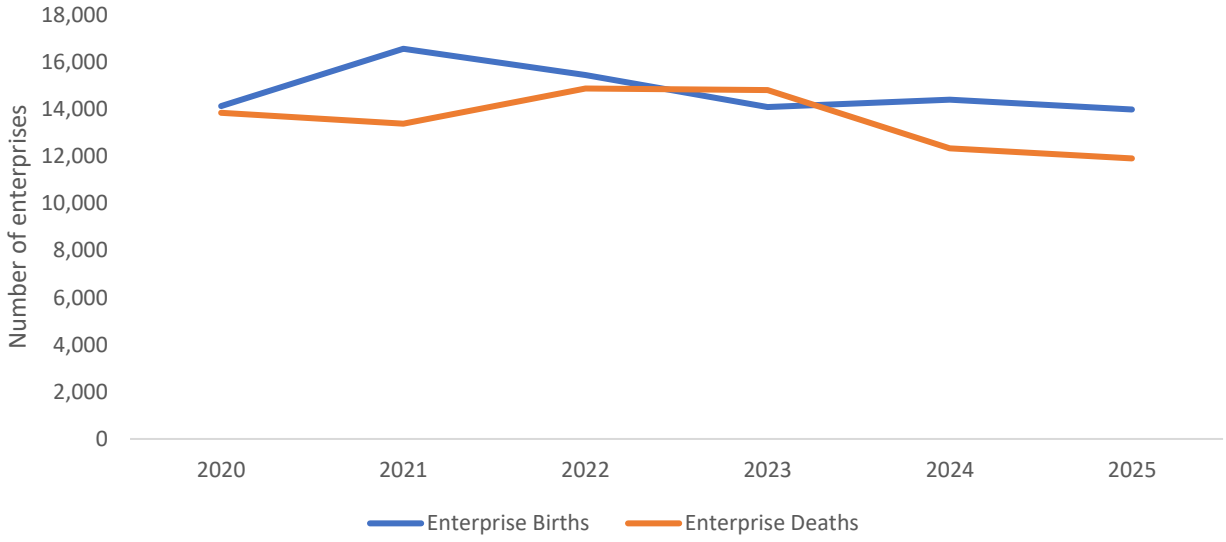
Enterprise Births and Deaths

- In 2025, there were 13,975 enterprise births in the WMCA area. Since 2024, this decreased by 2.9% (-420), compared to a 2.6% increase nationally. Within the WMCA, the latest annual change shows there were increases in Solihull (+105), Sandwell (+20), and Walsall (+10).
- When compared to 2020, the WMCA area has decreased by 1.1% (-150) while nationally there was a decline of 2.2%.
- The WMCA enterprise birth rate decreased from 13.7% in 2024 to 13.2% in 2025, while nationally the birth rate increased from 11.1% to 11.3%.

- In 2025, there were 11,900 enterprise deaths in the WMCA area. Compared to 2024, this is a decrease of 3.5% (-430), following the national trend (-4.2%). Within the WMCA, the latest annual change shows there were decreases in Coventry (-110), Solihull (-130), Walsall (-170), and Wolverhampton (-190).
- When compared to 2020, the WMCA area has decreased by 14.0% (-1,930) compared to nationally where there was a decrease of 9.7%.
- The WMCA enterprise death rate decreased from 11.8% in 2024 to 11.2% in 2025. While nationally the rate decreased from 9.9% to 9.4%.

- WMCA enterprise births were above enterprise deaths (by 2,075) in 2025, following the UK trend.

Trends in WMCA enterprise births and deaths:



[1] Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Business Demography, released November 2026. Please note, Birmingham has been identified as having more than 500 businesses at a single postcode (meaning this affects the number of births, deaths and survival rates) – more information is available here - Multiple business registrations at a single postcode.

Active Enterprises and High Growth

- In 2025, there were 106,020 active enterprises in the WMCA area. Since 2024, the WMCA area increased by 1.1% (+1,150) matching the national increase (+1.1%). Within the WMCA, there were increases in Birmingham (+680), Sandwell (+320), Dudley (+120), Solihull (+90), Walsall (+65) and Coventry (+15).
- When compared to 2020, WMCA active enterprises have increased by 1.7% (+1,795) compared to a national decrease of 0.3%.

Active enterprises:

Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	1 Year Change	5 Year Change
Birmingham	44,505	43,015	43,400	42,970	43,175	43,855	1.6%	-1.5%
Coventry	11,450	11,740	12,125	11,790	11,290	11,305	0.1%	-1.3%
Dudley	11,145	11,660	11,455	11,070	10,970	11,090	1.1%	-0.5%
Sandwell	10,885	11,545	11,530	11,465	11,495	11,815	2.8%	7.9%
Solihull	8,890	8,940	8,860	9,045	8,935	9,025	1.0%	1.5%
Walsall	8,810	9,430	9,545	9,545	9,525	9,590	0.7%	8.1%
Wolverhampton	8,540	9,745	10,485	10,315	9,480	9,340	-1.5%	8.6%
WMCA	**104,225**	**106,075**	**107,400**	**106,200**	**104,870**	**106,020**	**1.1%**	**1.7%**
UK	2,897,115	2,939,675	2,924,685	2,870,295	2,859,535	2,889,575	1.1%	-0.3%

- In 2025, there were 465 high growth enterprises in the WMCA area. Since 2024, the WMCA area increased by 8.1% (+35) while nationally there was a decrease of 2.7%. Within the WMCA, there were increases in five of the local authorities with Sandwell and Solihull remaining the same and Coventry declining by 5.
- When compared to 2020, high growth enterprises have increased by 22.4% (+85) compared to a national increase of 15.7%.

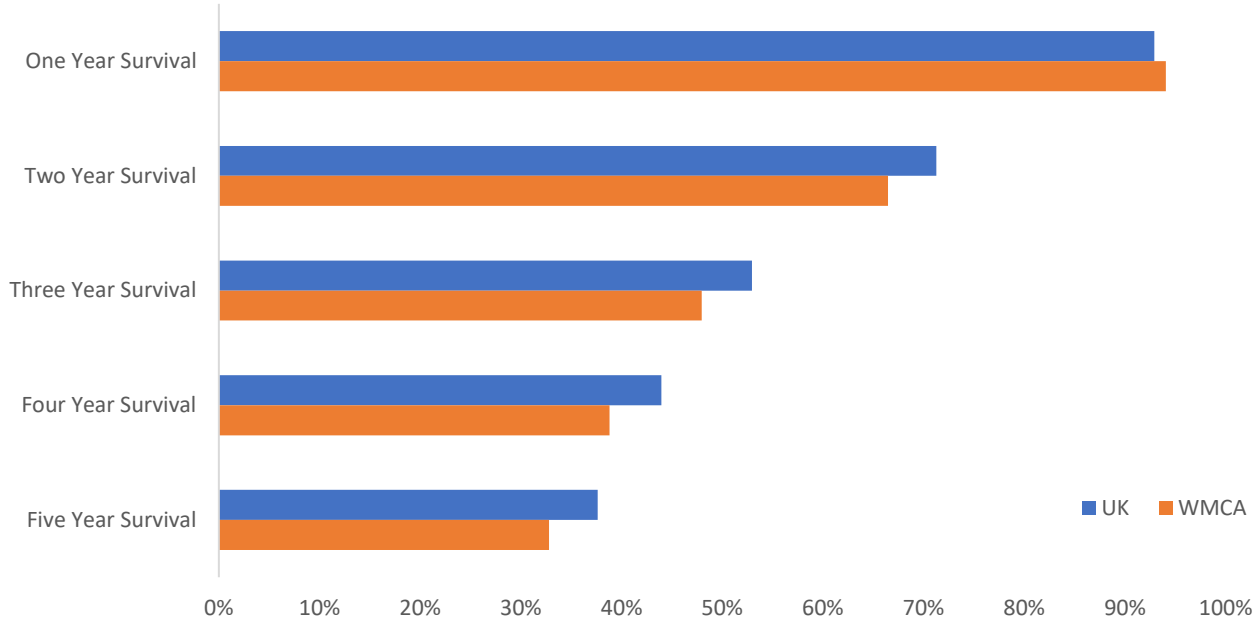
High-growth enterprises:

Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	1 Year Change	5 Year Change
Birmingham	150	130	150	155	180	190	5.6%	21.1%
Coventry	40	35	35	40	50	45	-10.0%	11.1%
Dudley	45	45	45	40	45	55	22.2%	18.2%
Sandwell	40	40	45	50	50	50	0.0%	20.0%
Solihull	35	35	30	40	45	45	0.0%	22.2%
Walsall	35	35	20	30	25	35	40.0%	0.0%
Wolverhampton	35	20	20	30	35	45	28.6%	22.2%
WMCA	**380**	**340**	**345**	**385**	**430**	**465**	**8.1%**	**18.3%**
UK	12,045	10,695	11,485	13,750	14,330	13,940	-2.7%	13.6%

Enterprise Survival Rates

- Of the 14,125 WMCA enterprise births in 2020, after five years 32.8% (4,635) were still active which was below the UK rate of 37.6%.

WMCA and UK enterprise five-year survival rates (2020 births):



- Of the 16,550 WMCA enterprise births in 2021, after four years 37.8% (6,260) were still active which was below the UK rate of 44.6%.
- Of the 15,435 WMCA enterprise births in 2022, after three years 46.6% (7,200) were still active which was below the UK rate of 53.9%.
- Of the 14,080 WMCA enterprise births in 2023, after two years 70.0% (9,860) were still active which was below the UK rate of 73.7%.
- Of the 14,395 WMCA enterprise births in 2024, after one year 89.0% (12,805) were still active which was below the UK rate of 90.1%.