

UK Business: Activity, Size and Location - October 2021¹

The UK Business: activity, size and location dataset released today provides a snapshot of the Business Demography dataset from 12th March 2021 and provides a breakdown by 2-digit SIC codes, employment by size band and turnover band.

The fuller Business Demography is released in November each year which provides the total number of active enterprises in each location.

The following briefing is based on enterprises as opposed to local units².

In Summary:

- The March 2021 snapshot shows there were 35,720 enterprises in the Black Country. This was an increase of 4% (+1,360 enterprises) compared to the March 2020 snapshot, the UK increased by 0.6%.
- 9.7% of enterprises employed between 10-49 people, above the UK 8.4%. This has decreased by 0.5pp compared to 0.1pp decrease for the UK since the 2020 snapshot. 1.8% of enterprises employed between 50-249 people, above the UK at 1.5%. This has decreased by 0.1pp compared to no change for the UK since the 2020 snapshot.
- There were 1,020 “High Achiever” enterprises with a turnover of more than £5 million a year, this was an increase of 10 enterprises compared to the 2020 snapshot. These enterprises accounted for 2.9% of the business base and above the UK rate of 2.4%.
- For the Black Country, the 2021 snapshot data shows that business services accounted for 27.2% (9,705) of the business base, this is below the UK-wide proportion of 37.1%. Retail accounted for 20.0% of the business base in the Black Country in the 2021 snapshot, for the UK the proportion was 14.7%. This was followed by 13.8% for building technologies compared to 13.0% for the UK.

In Detail:

- The March 2021 snapshot shows there were 35,720 enterprises in the Black Country. This was an increase of 4% (+1,360 enterprises) compared to the March 2020 snapshot, the UK increased by 0.6%.
- Within the Black Country, all the local authorities saw an increase in the number of enterprises. Sandwell had the highest increase at 480 enterprises (+5.3%) to reach a total of 9,585, while Wolverhampton had the lowest increase at an additional 275 enterprises (+3.7%) to reach 7,725.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS)/Nomis: UK Business; activity, size and location: 2021/ UK Business Counts - released October 2021.

² ONS state that an enterprise can be thought as the overall business, made up of all the individual sites or workplaces. It is defined as the smallest combination of legal units that has a certain degree of autonomy within an enterprise group. A local unit is an individual site (for example a factory or shop) associated with an enterprise. It can also be referred to as workplace.

Enterprise Count and Change between the 2020 snapshot and 2021 snapshot:

	2020 Snapshot	2021 Snapshot	Number Change	Percentage Change
Dudley	9,940	10,220	280	2.8%
Sandwell	9,105	9,585	480	5.3%
Walsall	7,865	8,190	325	4.1%
Wolverhampton	7,450	7,725	275	3.7%
Black Country LEP	34,360	35,720	1,360	4.0%
UK	2,749,700	2,765,150	15,450	0.6%

Employment by Size Band

- In the Black Country, 88.1% (31,465) of enterprises employed between 0-9 people, below the UK of 89.7%. This has increased by 0.7 percentage points (pp) compared to an increase of 0.1pp nationally since the 2020 snapshot.
- 9.7% of enterprises employed between 10-49 people, above the UK 8.4%. This has decreased by 0.5pp compared to 0.1pp decrease for the UK since the 2020 snapshot.
- 1.8% of enterprises employed between 50-249 people, above the UK at 1.5%. This has decreased by 0.1pp compared to no change for the UK since the 2020 snapshot.
- 0.4% of enterprises employed over 250 people; matching the UK proportion. This has decreased by 0.1pp compared to no change for the UK since the 2020 snapshot.

Employment by Size Band, 2021 snapshot:

	Black Country	Black Country % of total	UK	UK % of total
Total	35,720	100%	2,765,150	100%
Micro (0 to 9)	31,465	88.1%	2,480,140	89.7%
Small (10 to 49)	3,450	9.7%	232,815	8.4%
Medium-sized (50 to 249)	640	1.8%	41,655	1.5%
Large (250+)	160	0.4%	10,540	0.4%

Turnover Band

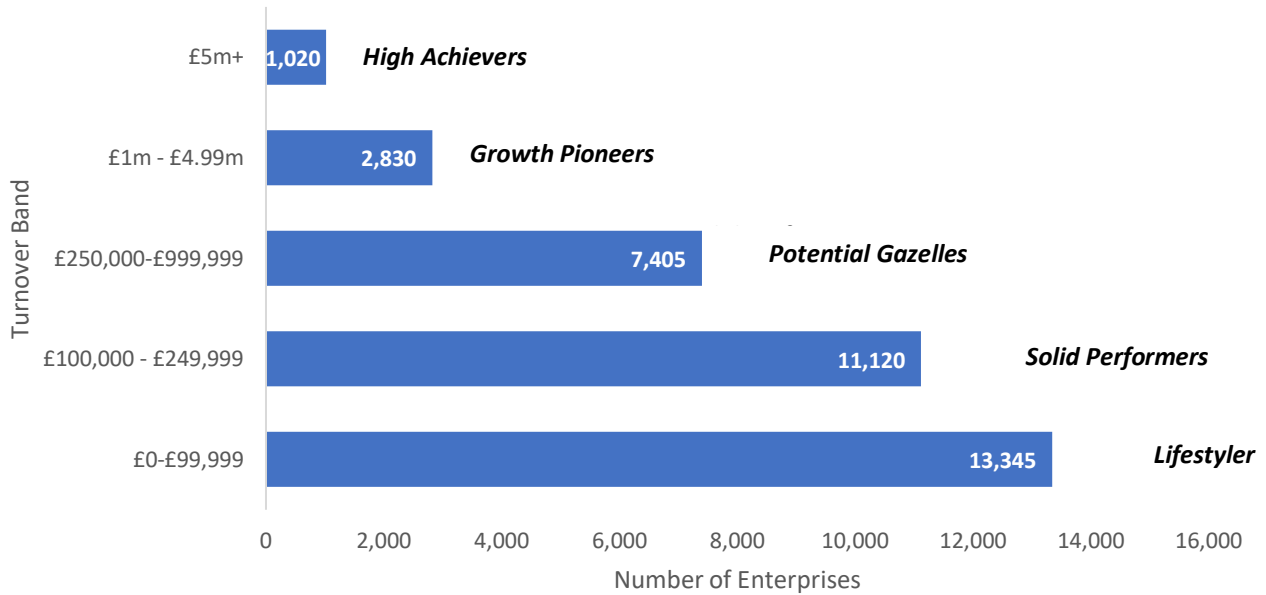
The 35,720 Black Country enterprises have been categorised into five groups based on their turnover band:

1. There were 1,020 “High Achiever” enterprises with a turnover of more than £5 million a year, this was an increase of 10 enterprises compared to the 2020 snapshot. These enterprises accounted for 2.9% of the business base and above the UK rate of 2.4%.
2. “Growth Pioneers” with a turnover band between £1m-£4.99m, contains 2,830 enterprises. These accounted for 7.9% of the business base compared to 7.0% for the UK. There was an increase of 60 enterprises in this cohort for the Black Country since the 2020 snapshot.
3. The 7,405 “Potential Gazelles” enterprises that turnover between £250k to £999k accounted for 20.7% of the business base compared to 20.2% for the UK. There was an increase of 215 enterprises in this cohort since the 2020 snapshot.

4. The 11,120 enterprises that had a turnover between £100k to £249k are classified as “Solid Performers” and accounted for 31.1% of the business base, this was an increase of 490 enterprises when compared to the 2020 snapshot. The national average for this cohort was 32.4%.

5. Enterprises with a turnover less than £100k are classed as “Lifestylers”, there were 13,345 enterprises which accounted for 37.4% This was an increase of 570 enterprises when compared to the 2020 snapshot. The UK-wide proportion for this cohort was 38.0%.

Enterprises by Turnover Band for the Black Country, snapshot 2021:



Enterprises by Sector

- For the Black Country, the 2021 snapshot data shows that business services accounted for 27.2% (9,705) of the business base, this is below the UK-wide proportion of 37.1%. Compared to 2020 snapshot, business services increased by 0.9% (+90 enterprises), the UK decreased by 2.6%.
- Retail accounted for 20.0% of the business base in the Black Country in the 2021 snapshot, for the UK the proportion was 14.7%. This was followed by 13.8% for building technologies compared to 13.0% for the UK.
- Retail had largest increase since the 2020 snapshot by 430 enterprises. Three sectors in the Black Country remained the same; environmental technologies (240), health (1,640) and sports (320). Advanced manufacturing was the only sector for the Black Country to decrease (-20 or -0.5%) to a total of 4,295 in March 2021.



Black Country and UK Enterprises by Sector:

	BCLEP 2020	BCLEP 2021	BCLEP % Change 2020-21	BCLEP Num. Change 2020- 21	BCLEP 2021 % of Total	UK 2021	UK % Change 2020-21	UK 2021 % of Total
Advanced Manufacturing	4,315	4,295	-0.5%	-20	12.0%	375,845	-2.5%	13.6%
Building Technologies	4,710	4,935	4.8%	225	13.8%	359,710	2.4%	13.0%
Business Services	9,615	9,705	0.9%	90	27.2%	1,027,240	-2.6%	37.1%
Environmental Technologies	240	240	0%	0	0.7%	14,110	3.0%	0.5%
Health	1,640	1,640	0%	0	4.6%	108,440	1.1%	3.9%
Public Sector	840	890	6.0%	50	2.5%	99,720	2.5%	3.6%
Retail	6,730	7,160	6.4%	430	20.0%	406,415	5.0%	14.7%
Sports	320	320	0%	0	0.9%	36,470	-0.3%	1.3%
Transport Technologies	3,565	3,990	11.9%	425	11.2%	138,410	12.5%	5.0%
Visitor Economy	2,385	2,545	6.7%	160	7.1%	198,795	2.6%	7.2%
Total	34,360	35,720	4.0%	1,360	100%	2,765,155	0.6%	100%