

Economic Resilience Dashboard



Tracking the Greater Manchester Economy

The Economic Resilience Dashboard aims to provide up to date intelligence on the conditions in the Greater Manchester (GM) economy following the outbreak of Covid-19.

The data is divided into three sections:

- **Current Economic Conditions** provides leading indicators on the economy and labour market
- **Business and Consumer Confidence** provides measures of confidence in the economy as illustrated in retail spending and responses to national surveys
- **Greater Manchester Business Indicators** provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.

The economic data in response to Covid-19 is changing rapidly with new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn on a regular basis. The dashboard will be updated with the best available data each month with the resultant analysis described in the Analysis tab.

We would welcome feedback on alternative measures to be included in the dashboard or insights on the data provided. If you have any feedback please email jack.james@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

Analysis



4 million

Fewer people were furloughed nationally by the end of July than at the scheme's peak in May, a reduction of 46% in the use of the scheme.



144,480

GM residents were in receipt of unemployment benefits in August, a rise of 93% since March.



4,416

online job postings were recorded in the GM economy in w/e 12th September, around 40% fewer than w/e 7 March.

The claimant count for August 2020 shows that after rapid increases in the number of residents seeking unemployment related benefits between April and May 2020, the total number of claimants in Greater Manchester (GM) stabilised in June and has remained steady through July and August. **144,480 GM residents claimed unemployment related benefits in August**, an increase of 1.3% on the previous month and a **93% growth in the claimant count since March**. However, this figure is lower than for the UK as a whole, which has seen a 114% rise in the number of claimants across the same period.

According to the Growth Company's fortnightly business survey, the number of GM firms planning to make redundancies **increased to 9%** between the 29th August and 14th September. This figure has risen steadily from 2% on 20th April. Further redundancies are anticipated over the next few months as the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (known as furlough) winds down.

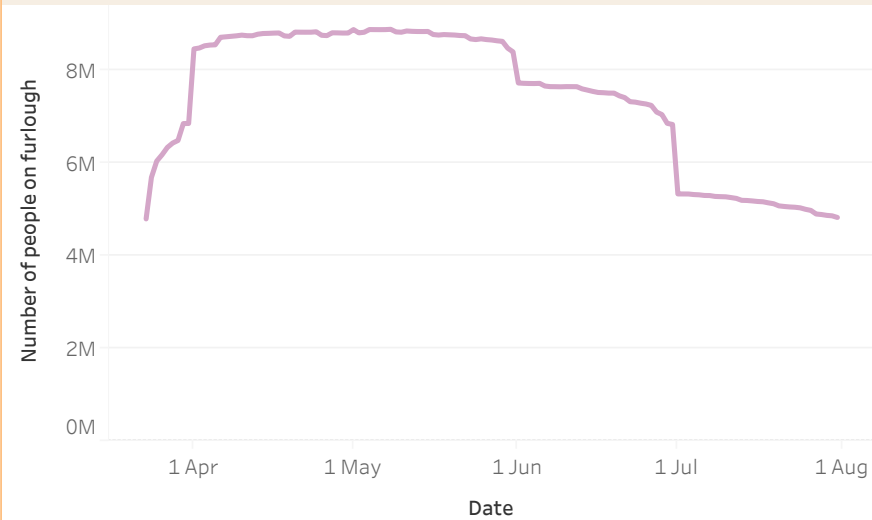
Total online job postings in GM also remained steady at **4,416** in the week ending the 12th September 2020. In the first week of March, there were about 7,500 postings a week: in other words, **vacancies have fallen by around 40%**. However, vacancies appear to have hit a low in early May 2020 and since then there has been modest, somewhat faltering growth.

HMRC has stopped providing local authority level data on numbers of residents furloughed, making it more challenging to provide an accurate estimate of usage of the scheme at a Greater Manchester level. Nationally, usage of the scheme continued to fall in July from its peak in mid-May. **Around 4 million fewer workers are now furloughed nationally than at the scheme's peak**. The Accommodation & Food Services and Wholesale & Retail sectors continue to have the largest volumes of staff furloughed through the scheme (940,000 and 790,000 respectively). 61% of GM businesses responding to the most recent Growth Company survey reported that they had furloughed some of their staff.

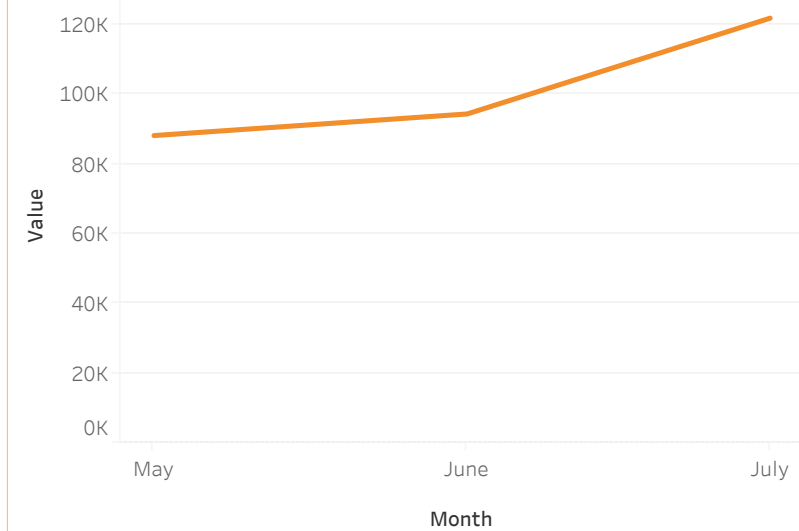
Analysis by Centre for Cities shows a mixed picture in the recovery of footfall across GM's primary town centres. Whilst Wigan has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, other town centres have between 61% and 77% of the levels of footfall seen in March. The analysis shows the regional centre had around 49% of pre-pandemic levels of footfall in the final week of August. This contrasts with the data from footfall counters across ten Manchester neighbourhoods which shows footfall at around -12% of pre-crisis levels over the last four weeks. This suggests more localised footfall may have been more resilient and recovered more quickly during the pandemic. Broader measures of business and consumer sentiment show some positive signs for the GM economy. All three sectoral Purchasing Manager's Indices are now above the 50.0 threshold score that indicates growth. Retail sales have also recovered to above their pre-crisis level. However, underlying **consumer confidence has consistently remained 20 points below its pre-crisis level at -27 for each of the last three months**, suggesting that there is still considerable uncertainty about the future.

Current Economic Conditions

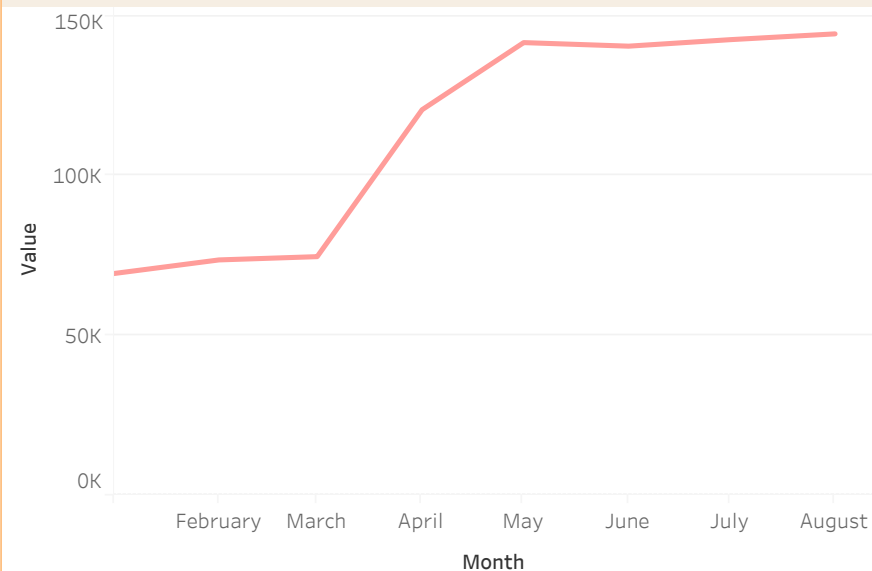
Number of UK residents furloughed (Monthly)



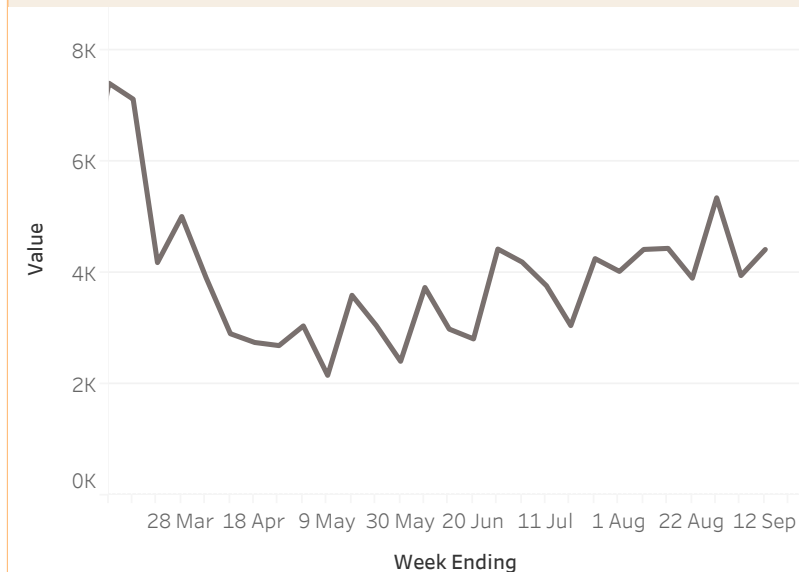
Number of GM self-employed people accessing support (Monthly)



GM claimant count (Monthly)



GM job postings by industry (Weekly)



Key Facts

There were 4.8 million employees on furlough on 31st July, around 4 million less than at the scheme's peak in May. This data is currently only provided by ONS at a national level and isn't able to be replicated for GM.

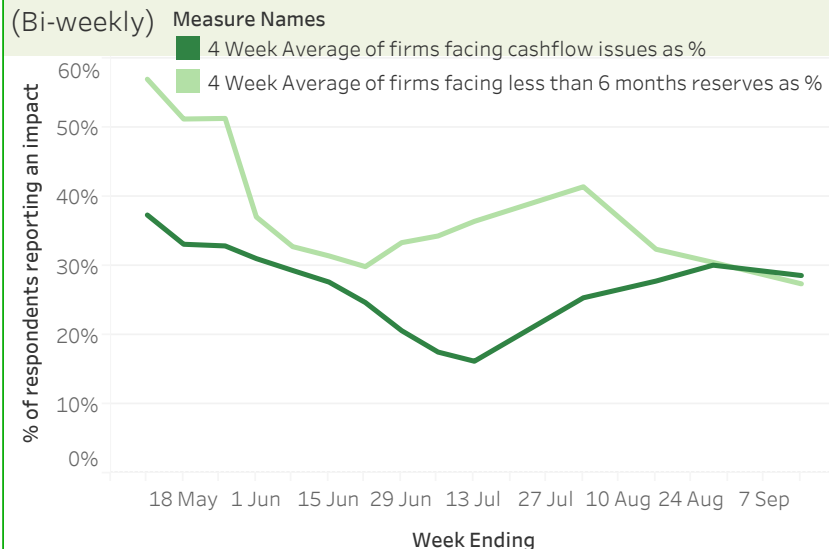
The number of people in GM accessing the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme rose 23% to 121,900 between June and July.

The number of claimants increased by 1.3% to 144,480 between July and August. GM has seen an 93% rise in the volume of claimants between March and August.

Total weekly job postings increased by 468 (12%) between 6th and 12th September. Weekly job postings have fallen 40% since week 1st - 7th March.

Greater Manchester Business Indicators

GC Survey: Firms reporting cashflow and reserves issues (Bi-weekly)



GC Survey: Firms planning to make redundancies (Bi-Weekly)

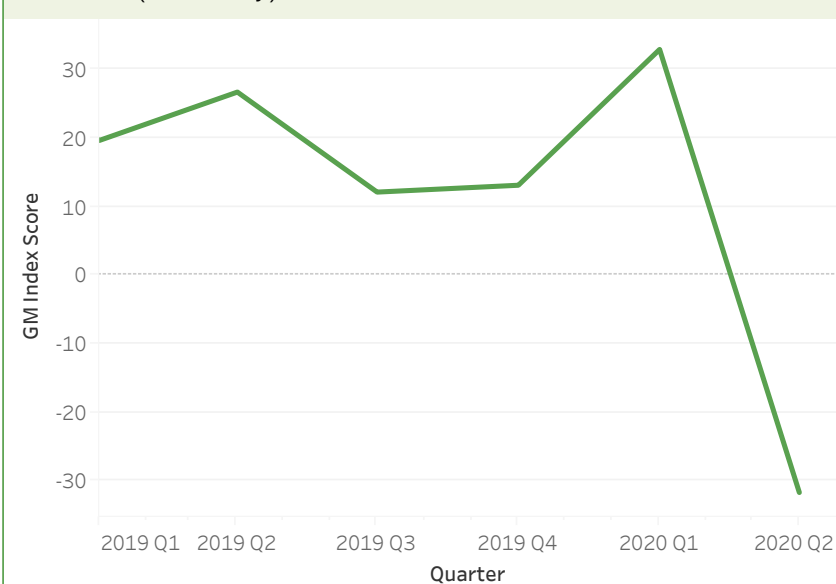


The number of GM businesses reporting cashflow issues decreased by 1% to 29% in the four weeks 17th August - 14th September. This is down 8% since week 5th - 11th May.

The number of GM business reporting less than 6 months reserves decreased 5% to 27% in the four weeks 17th August - 14th September. This is down 30% since week 5th - 11th May.

The number of GM businesses planning to make redundancies increased to 9% in the two weeks 29th August - 14th September.

GM Index (Quarterly)



Export Documents (Monthly)

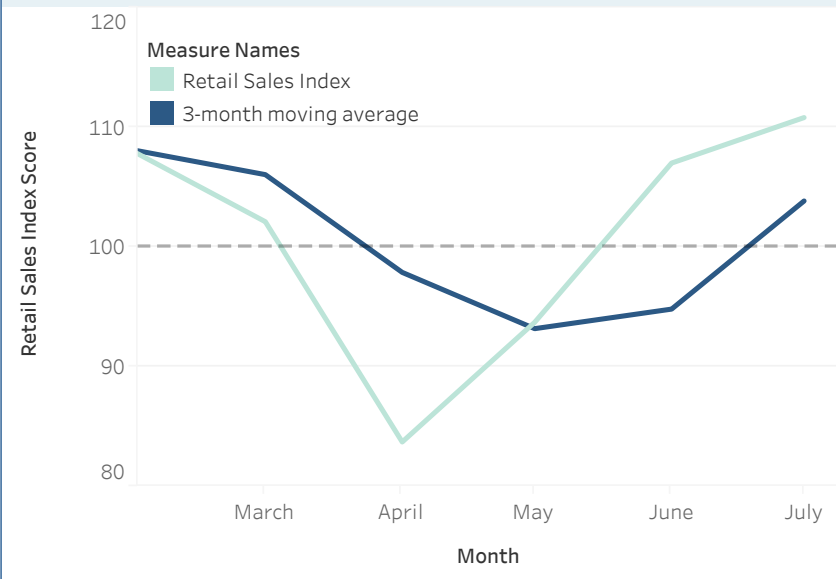


GM Chamber's GM Index decreased from 32.9 in Q1 2020 to -31.7 in Q2 2020. It should be noted that the Q1 2020 figure only includes a short period at the end of March during lockdown.

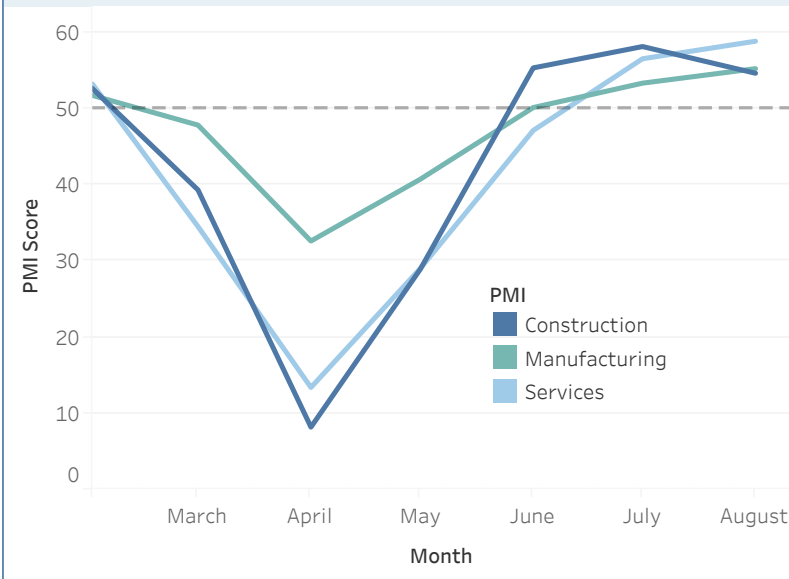
Export documents decreased by 11% in August, from 2,546 to 2,278. The total number of export documents is down 20% since February.

Business and Consumer Confidence

UK retail sales (Monthly)



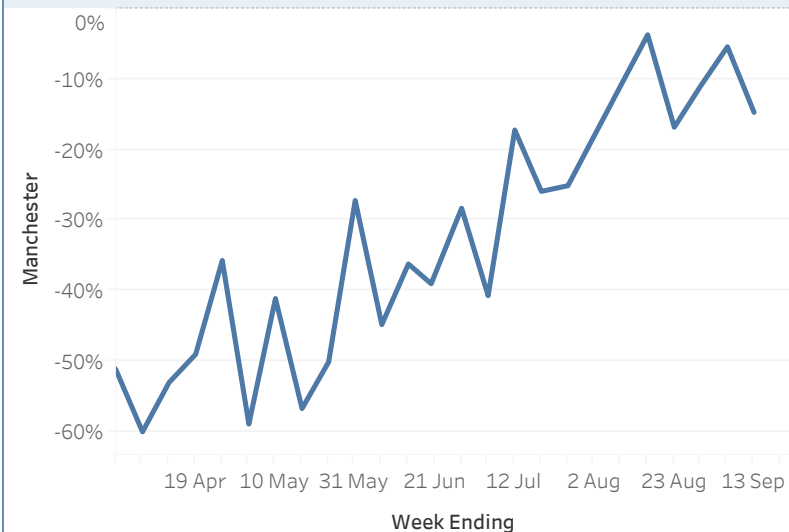
UK purchasing managers index (Monthly)



UK consumer confidence (Monthly)



Footfall in Manchester area (Weekly)



Key Facts

The retail sales index increased in July from 107.0 to 110.8. The index is now 3 points higher than it was in February 2020.

Two out of three PMI measures increased in August. Manufacturing PMI increased from 53.3 to 55.2, Services PMI increased from 56.5 to 58.8 and Construction PMI decreased from 58.1 to 54.6.

The UK Consumer Confidence Index remained at -27 in August 2020. Consumer confidence has fallen 20 points since February 2020.

Footfall throughout the Manchester City Council area was down -14.7% year-on-year between 7th - 13th September. However, this is significantly improved since the -60% year on year low between 30th March and 5th April.

Definitions

Current Economic Conditions

Employees on Furlough in GM - This data is taken from the **monthly statistical release from HMRC** and provides figures for the number of employees who are currently on the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme throughout the UK. Currently the HMRC release only provides cumulative figures for the GM area. The release is classed as experimental statistics because the methodologies used to produce the statistics are still in their development phase. As a result, the figures are subject to revision.

People on Self-Employment Income Support Scheme - This indicator measures the number of claims made to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) administered by HM Revenue and Customs'. **The data is released on a monthly basis by HMRC.** As this is an experimental dataset, methodologies are still being refined and improved. Therefore, there may be revisions to these statistics.

Claimant Count - This data is taken from a **monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics.** Alternative Claimant Count experimental statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began) with the broader span of people this covers.

Job Postings - Job postings data is **taken from Burning Glass and updated on a weekly basis.** This measure indicates job vacancies for GM as a whole.

Greater Manchester Business Indicators

GM Index - The Greater Manchester Index is a **quarterly composite indicator taken from seven measures in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey.** Those seven indicators are Domestic Sales, Advance UK Orders, Export Sales, Advance Overseas Orders, Capacity Utilisation, Turnover Confidence, Profitability Confidence.

Export Documents - This is a **monthly count of the number of export documents processed for GM businesses,** as reported to GMCA by the **GM Chamber of Commerce.** It gives an indication of the level of international trade happening in GM in the month.

Growth Company Business Survey - Figures relating to the impact of COVID-19 on business are **taken from the Growth Company's weekly business survey.** The survey covers all businesses that are Growth Company Clients, this means that some businesses outside of GM that access Growth Company services may be included in the dataset.

Business and Consumer Confidence

Retail Sales - The Retail Sales Index provides retail sales data for Great Britain in value and volume terms, seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted. **Taken from a monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics.** The specific measure we use from the index is shows the volume of retail sales, seasonally adjusted, as a percentage change on the same month a year earlier.

Purchasing Manager's Index - The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing, service and construction sectors. It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting. **The Index is published on a monthly basis by IHS Markit Economics.** The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

Consumer Confidence - In the United Kingdom, the consumer confidence survey measures the level of optimism that consumers have about the performance of the economy in the next 12 months. **Published on a monthly basis by GfK.** The GfK Consumer Confidence is derived from the survey of about 2,000 consumers which are ask to rate the relative level of past and future economic conditions including personal financial situation, climate for major purchases, overall economic situation and savings level.

Footfall in Manchester - This data is provided to **Manchester City Council by Springboard on a weekly basis.** The data is for the Manchester City Council area only and refers to the year-on-year change in footfall. Year on Year % Change is the % change in footfall for this week compared to the same week in the previous year.