

Dudley Economic Overview – Mid Year 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
19th October 2023



Introduction

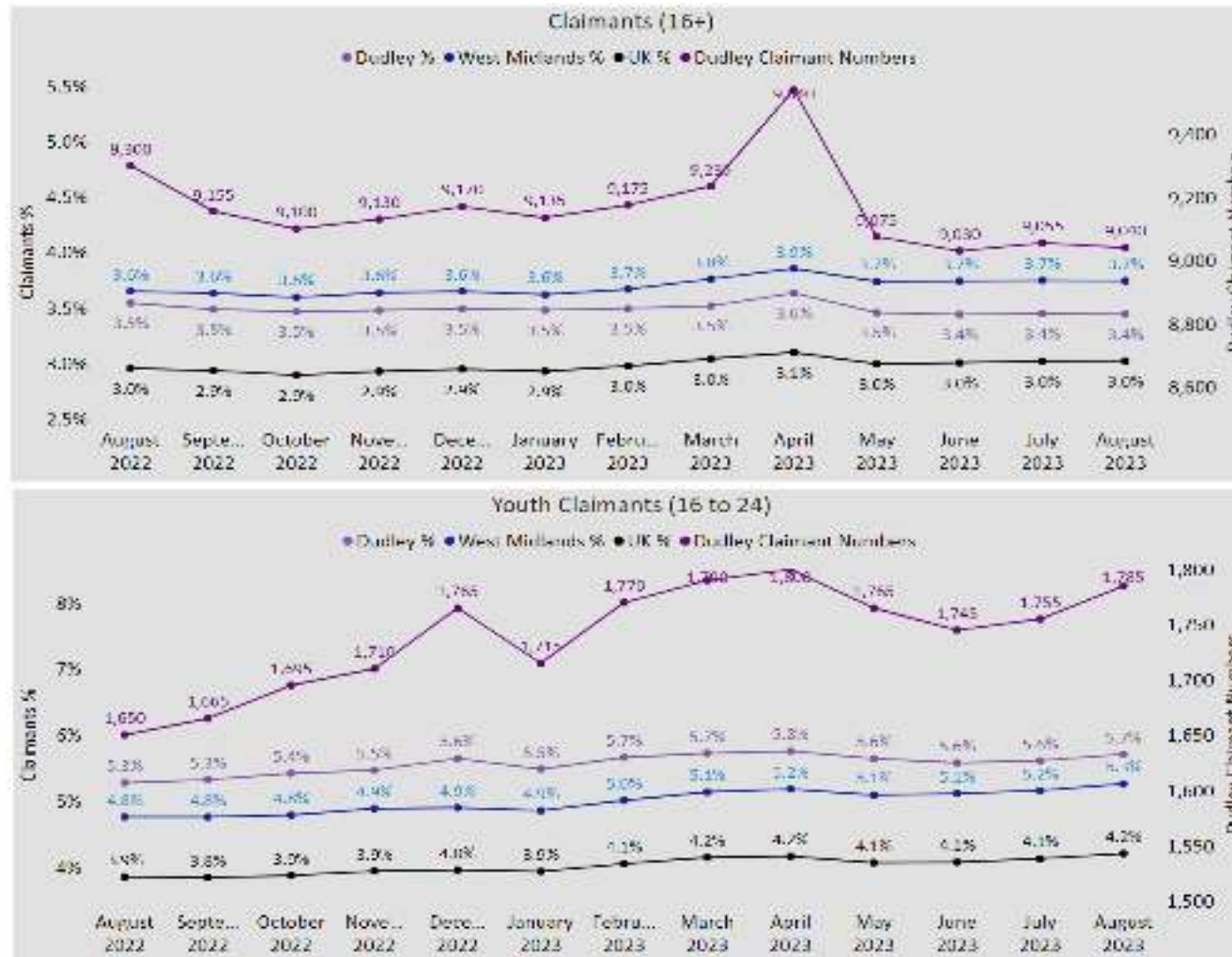
- ❑ Set out Dudley's current economic position at the mid-Year point 2023
- ❑ Evidence our localised strengths and areas of focus moving forwards
- ❑ Present any local intelligence on our area and region



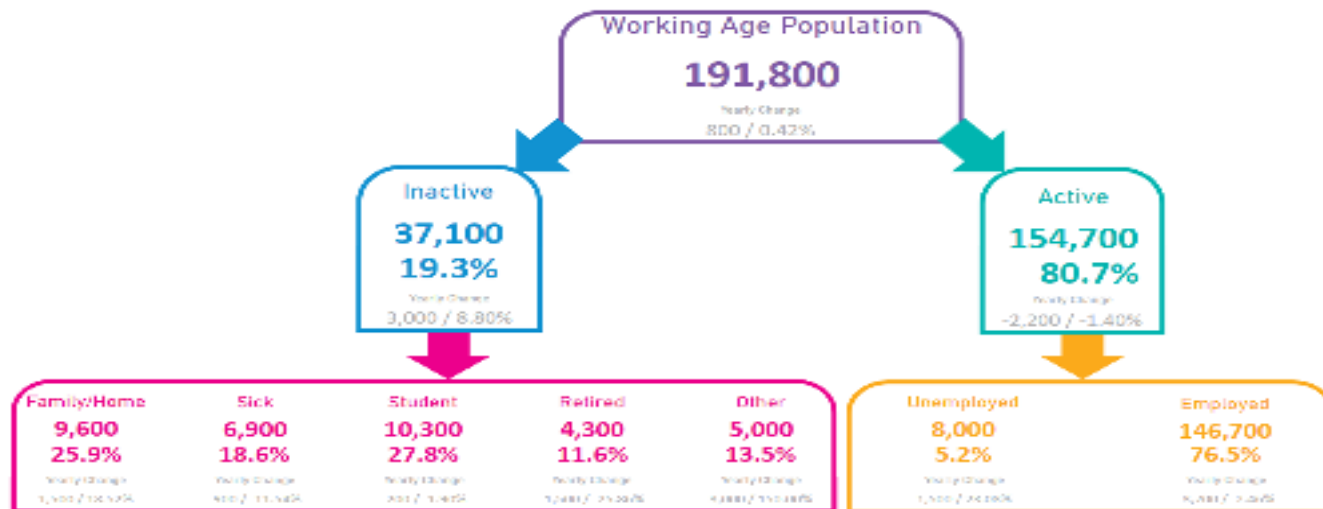
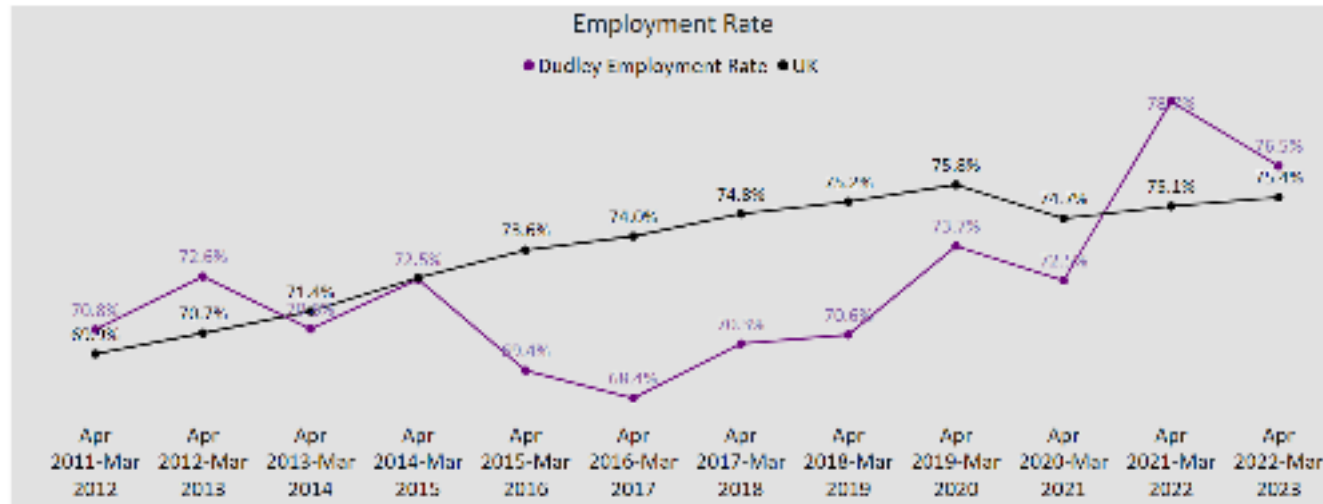
Historical Background

- ❑ Industrial Centre of Manufacturing, Quarrying and Mining
- ❑ Legacy of large industrial sites
- ❑ Large scale housing estates
- ❑ Increase of 0.8pp in the volume of people per football pitch sized piece of land

Current Position - Employment

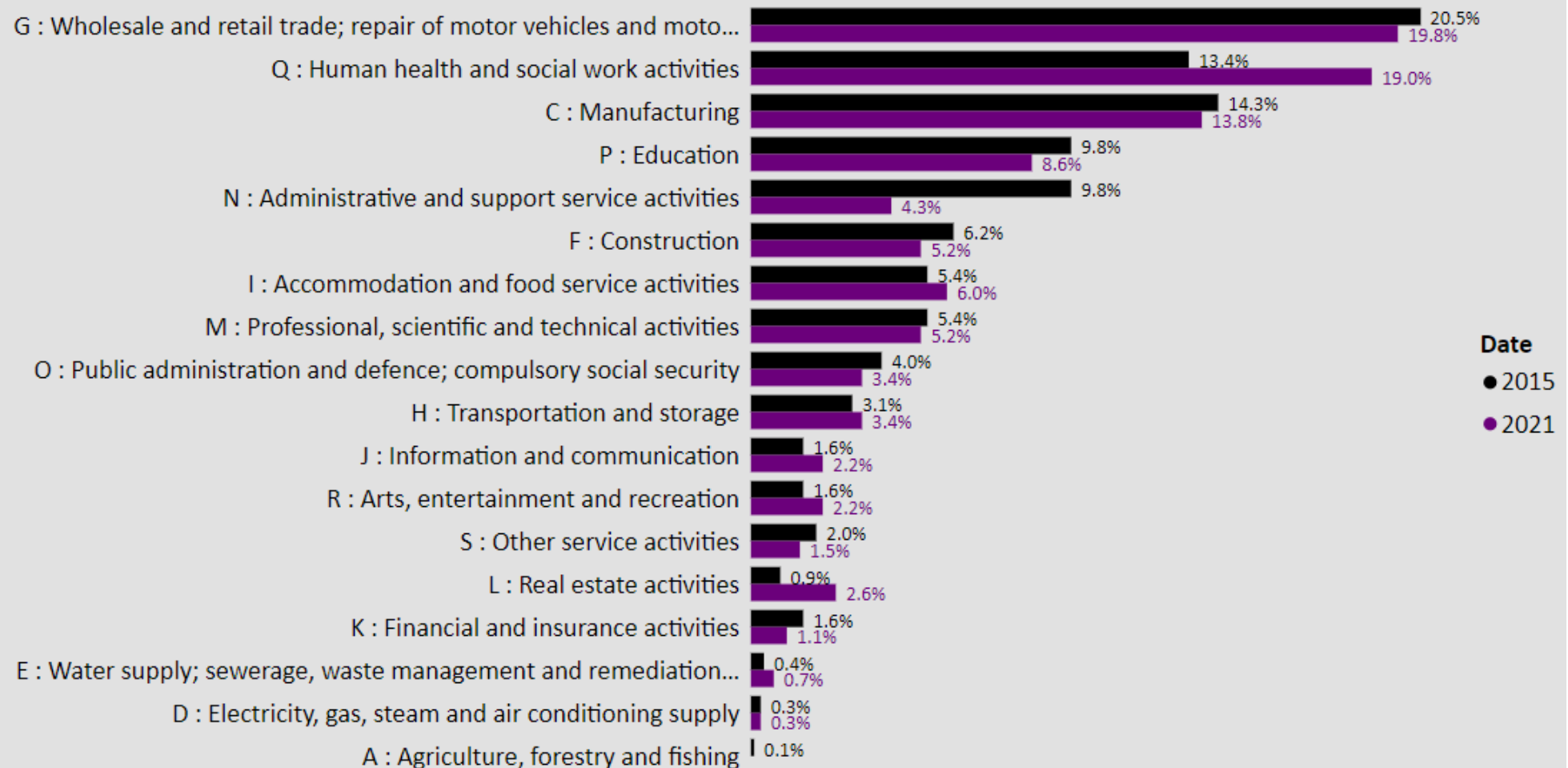


Current Position - Employment



Current Position – Industries

Employment Status by Industry based on Standard Industrial Sections 2015 vs 2021



Current Position – Qualifications

- ❑ A change from NVQ's to RQF's
- ❑ In Dudley 35.1% of the working age population RQF4+ compared to 45.5% UK
- ❑ In Dudley 6.2% of the working age population has no qualifications compared to 7.0% UK

Economic Outlook – The Good

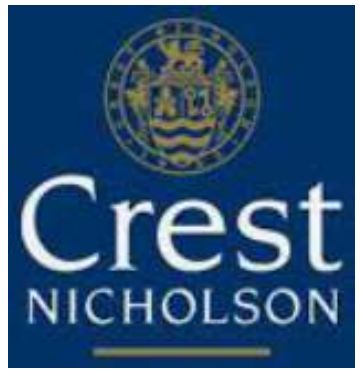
- ❑ Dudley in the “High Investment” cluster
- ❑ Rise in business confidence
- ❑ Startups increased by 4.3%
- ❑ 28% of Companies looking to recruit
- ❑ Firms still aiming for growth in next 6 months
- ❑ Boost for hospitality and professional services



Economic Outlook – The Bad

- ❑ 5 years of lost economic growth expected
- ❑ GDP is 0.5% below pre pandemic levels
- ❑ GDP projected growth barely 0.4% this year
- ❑ Around a 60% risk of recession by 2024
- ❑ Worker spending power compromised
- ❑ UK sustaining high inflation still
- ❑ 5th highest region for administrations
- ❑ Sharp fall in manufacturing output volumes
- ❑ UK retail sales fall for 4 consecutive months

New Economic Shock



New Investments, Deals and Opportunities

- ❑ Hamiltons / Jerroms GCN
- ❑ Hawkins Hatton / Bamboo GRoup
- ❑ Midland Deburr & Finish
- ❑ The Phase Eight / Hobbs
- ❑ Hortons' Estate
- ❑ Pegasus Group
- ❑ Biogas Products
- ❑ 92 Recording Studio
- ❑ Kingswood Mobility Group

Summary

- ❑ National Economy in precarious position
- ❑ Weak Customer demand
- ❑ West Midlands - confidence and growth remain on the agenda
- ❑ Poor long term forecast for national indicators
- ❑ Dudley demonstrates both resilience and adaptability in its economic transformation
- ❑ Local labour market challenging
- ❑ Skills gap remains
- ❑ Decline in traditional retail – rise of e-commerce

Appendix 1

Land Usage

Summary Usage	England	West Midlands	Dudley
Agriculture	63.2%	69.1%	10.1%
Community service	0.7%	0.8%	4.2%
Defence	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Forest, open land and water	20.1%	13.0%	9.9%
Industry and commerce	0.4%	0.4%	3.1%
Minerals and landfill	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Outdoor recreation	2.1%	2.2%	5.5%
Residential	1.3%	1.3%	8.9%
Residential gardens	4.9%	5.5%	30.3%
Transport and utilities	4.4%	4.4%	14.1%
Undeveloped land	0.9%	1.0%	6.5%
Unknown developed use	1.9%	2.2%	7.2%