

## Midlands Engine Observatory

Established in 2018, the Midlands Engine Observatory is a partnership of Midlands academics and researchers and expert economists, complemented by private sector specialists. Working together, our Observatory develops and delivers the research programme for the Midlands Engine. Midlands Engine is the largest regional economy outside London, contributing almost £250 billion GVA to the UK economy, and our region is a place almost 11 million people call home.

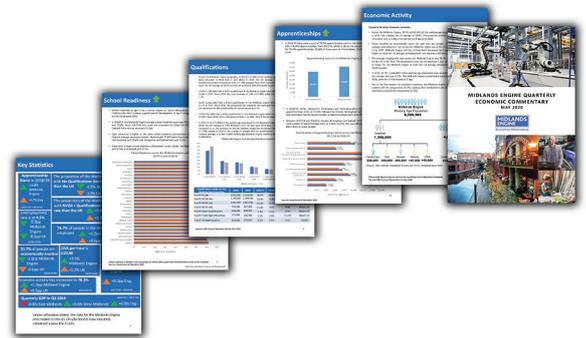
Dedicated research, analytical, data gathering and evidence development capabilities within the Midlands Engine Observatory mean partners from every part of our region have access to up to date information and detailed insights on our regional economy.

### Work completed to date includes:

- First Midlands Engine Independent Economic Review - published April 2020
- Deep dive research on regional Brexit impacts and public sector funding shares
- In depth qualitative business insights from business interviews
- Creation of contemporary LEP economic analyses for the 9 Midlands Engine LEPs
- Quarterly economic commentaries and analysis
- Fortnightly publication of a Covid-19 economic impact monitor

### How it works

Dedicated research partners from Midlands universities deliver the research programme of the Observatory, led by the Observatory Programme Board. This Board in turn reports into the Executive Board of the Midlands Engine, ensuring decision making is underpinned by evidence and data. Dedicated research partners are complemented by framework partners from Midlands universities - on call to bring expertise when needed and when funding allows. A group of private sector expert suppliers also delivers identified elements on an as needed basis.



## Observatory Research Programme

The Independent Economic Review for Midlands Engine highlights structural challenges within our regional economy which demand further research to fully understand and plan mitigations. The economic impact of the pandemic also creates an immediate need for evidence so that interventions can be targeted carefully and effectively. The Observatory research programme includes:

- The Midlands macro-economy
- Drivers of productivity
- Energy production and policy
- Supply chain knowledge and promotion
- Business access to finance
- Business leadership and mentoring
- Environmental strategy
- Innovation capacity and assets
- Digital, transport and energy infrastructure
- Industrial digitisation
- Labour market and skills
- International trade and investment

## Midlands Engine Intelligence Community (MEIC)

If you are a data owner, work with - or commission research and intelligence linked to any aspect of the Midlands economy, we'd welcome your input into the MEIC. MEIC is growing to be an extended group of organisations with interest in our economy, data to share and knowledge to bring - to help shape the work of the Observatory. MEIC brings together partners from across the Midlands Engine, in a forum to discuss the work programme of the Observatory, hear updates on key research programmes, to volunteer support and share data and best practice.

For more information please visit: [www.midlandsengine.org/observatory](http://www.midlandsengine.org/observatory)  
or email [info@midlandsengine.org](mailto:info@midlandsengine.org)