

January 2026 (Issue 10)

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New Businesses December 2025

- 362 new businesses were incorporated (a 16% decrease from November 2025).
- 611 businesses were dissolved or liquidated (an 35% increase from November 2025).
- There were 157 more businesses dissolved than newly incorporated.

Claimants December 2025

- Claimant count increased by 2% in West Sussex over the last month.
- Although the count has increased, the count rate has stayed the same at 3.1% in West Sussex, matching the regional average of 3.1% and staying below the national average of 4%.

Universal Credit Claimants December 2025

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.2 % in West Sussex over the last month.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (211% increase). Higher increase than national (180%) or regional (192%) average.
- In November 2025, 16% of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 19.1%.

Real Time Information (No of Employees) December 2025 (% Change from previous month in brackets)

- West Sussex: 396,170 (decreased by 0.16%)
- West Sussex (South West): 194,652 (decreased by 0.07%)
- West Sussex (North East): 201,518 (decreased by 0.06%)
- South East: 4,266,197 (decreased by 0.15%)
- UK: 30,227,083 (decreased by 0.14%)

Real Time Information (Median Pay) December 2025 (% Change from previous month in brackets)

- West Sussex (South West): 2,447 (increased by 0.58%)
- West Sussex (North East): 2,751 (increased by 0.47%)
- South East: 2,694 (increased by 0.30%)
- UK: 2,555 (increased by 0.35%)

Job Postings (Lightcast)

- In December 2025, there were 8,526 unique job postings in West Sussex, which is 19% lower than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (July 2025 to December 2025), home health aide is the top posted followed closely by janitors/cleaners .

West Sussex D&B's Estimates of Dwellings by Tenure Summary (2012–2023)

Outright owned:

Strong growth from **2012–2021** across all districts (~**20–35%**), led by **Horsham** and **Crawley**. A broad decline followed in **2021–2022** (**–7% to –19%**), with only partial stabilisation by **2023**, leaving most areas still below their 2021 peak. Even so, all districts show **positive net growth** over the full period (**+8% to +20%**).

Total dwellings:

Steady growth was seen in all districts between **2012–2021** (**+3% to +15%**). After 2021, most areas continued to edge upward—especially **Chichester** and **Arun**—while **Crawley** remained largely flat. By **2023**, the strongest increases since 2012 were in **Horsham (+16.1%)** and **Mid Sussex (+14.7%)**.

Owned with mortgage/loan:

From **2012–2021**, mortgaged owner numbers **fell consistently** across all districts (**–8% to –18%**), reflecting long-run repayment and demographic trends. **2022–2023** then showed a **strong rebound** (**+11% to +24%**), bringing most areas close to or above 2012 levels—especially **Horsham** and **Mid Sussex**.

Private rent:

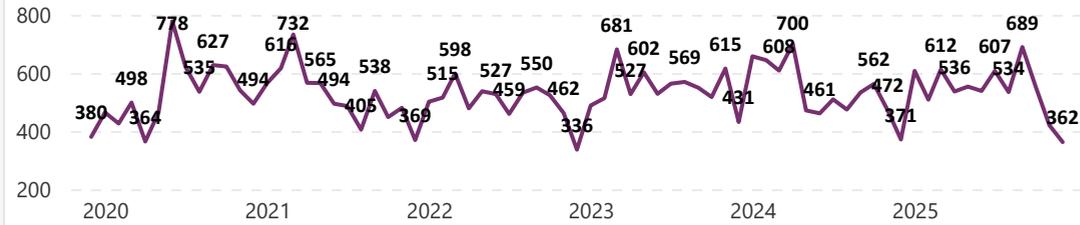
Private renting expanded across every district between **2012–2021** (**+10% to +22%**), with **Horsham** and **Mid Sussex** among the fastest growers. Growth continued through **2022–2023**, particularly in **Crawley** and **Chichester**, while **Mid Sussex** remained largely stable.

Social rent:

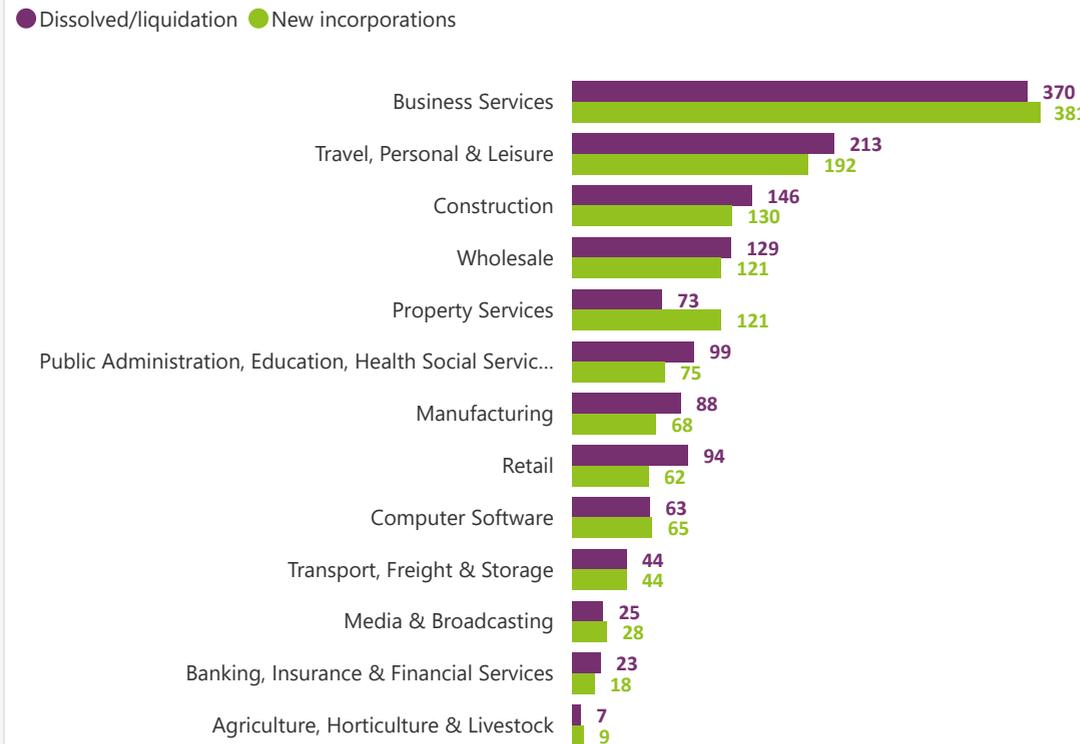
Social rent stock grew modestly overall from **2012–2021** (**+9.4% total**), with stronger gains in **Mid Sussex** and **Horsham**, while **Adur** stayed nearly flat. After 2021, growth remained **subdued**, with small increases and occasional dips (e.g., **Crawley** down in 2022 before recovering). Over the full period, **Mid Sussex** shows the largest rise (**+22.3%**), while **Adur** and **Worthing** saw minimal change.

West Sussex: New Businesses

New business incorporations in West Sussex



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry in West Sussex (Oct'25 - Dec'25)



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Oct'25-Dec'25)



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend: Over the past three months, a predominantly negative trend has been observed across all districts and boroughs, with the exception of Arun, Crawley, and Horsham. Most sectors have seen a decline during this period, except for business services, property services, computer software, agriculture, horticulture, and livestock. This same trend can also be observed in previous years for the equivalent time period.

Last 12 months:

- 6,378 new businesses incorporated.
- 5,863 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 515 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,332 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,472 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net decrease of 140 businesses.

December 2025:

- 362 new businesses incorporated. (16% decrease from November 2025)
- 611 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (35% increase from November 2025)
- Net decrease of 157 businesses.

West Sussex: Claimant Count

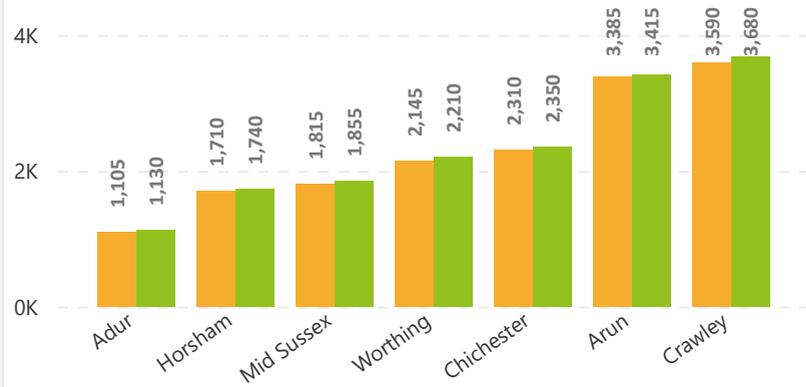


16,380
Dec'25

16,060
Nov'25

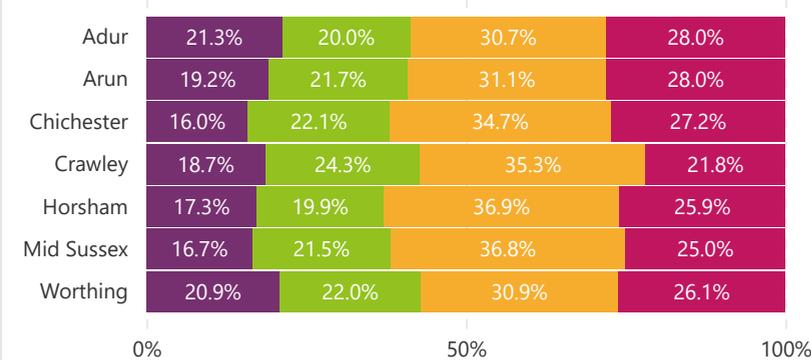
Total Number of Claimants by Local Authority

● November 2025 ● December 2025

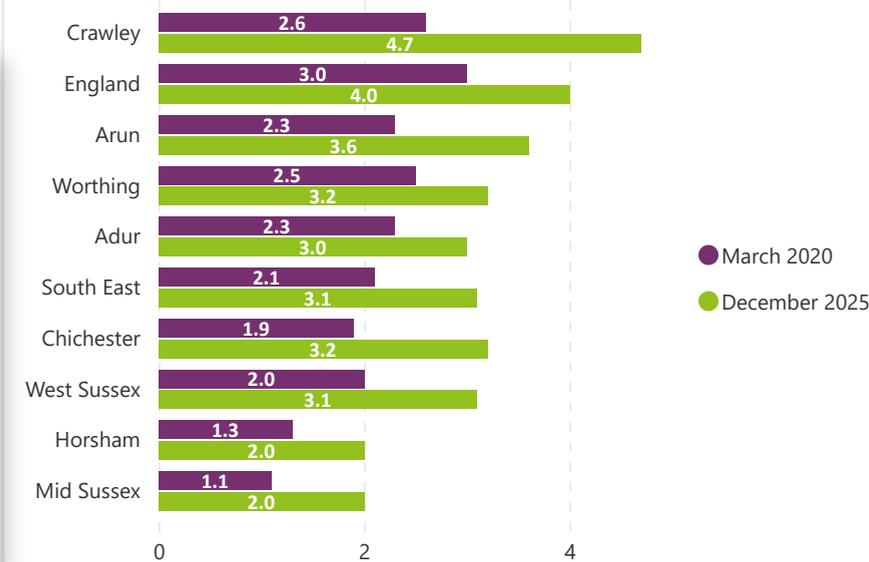


Distribution of claimants by age band

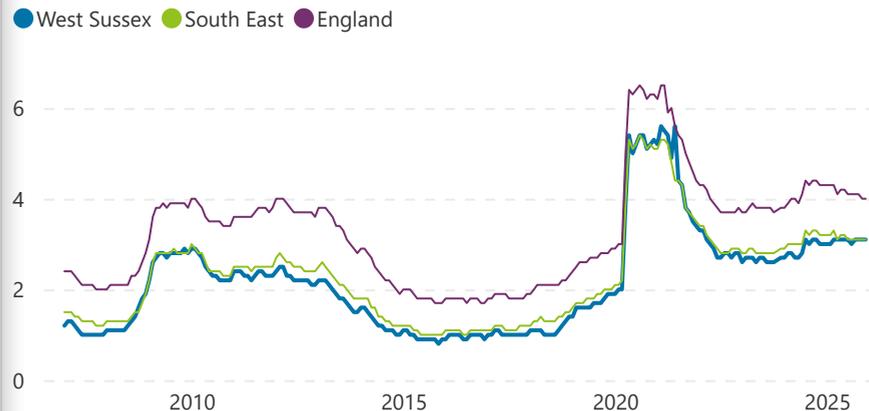
● Aged 18-24 ● Aged 25-34 ● Aged 35-49 ● Aged 50+



Claimant count rate change



Claimant count rate



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, December 2025

Overall:

- Claimant count has increased over the last month by 2% (16,380) in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate is 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining below national average of 4% and same as regional at 3.1%.

Breakdown by district (Nov'25 - Dec'25):

Increases:

- Adur (2.3%)
- Arun (0.9%)
- Chichester (1.7%)
- Crawley (2.5%)
- Horsham (1.8%)
- Mid Sussex (2.2%)
- Worthing (3%)

Specifics (Dec'25):

- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (3,680).
- Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.7%), higher than regional and national average.
- Horsham and Mid Sussex had the lowest claimant count rate (2%).

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

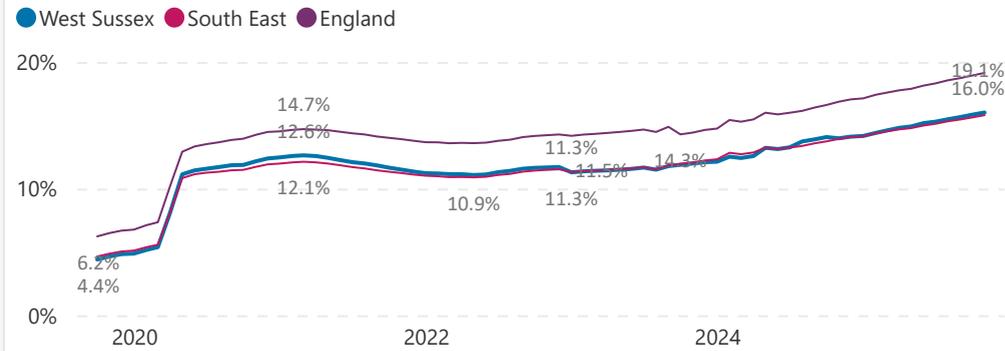
Released: 20 Jan 2026 (Dec 2025 Figures are provisional)

*The claimant count includes those people who are claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit principally because they are out of work or working very few hours and/or have a very low wage.

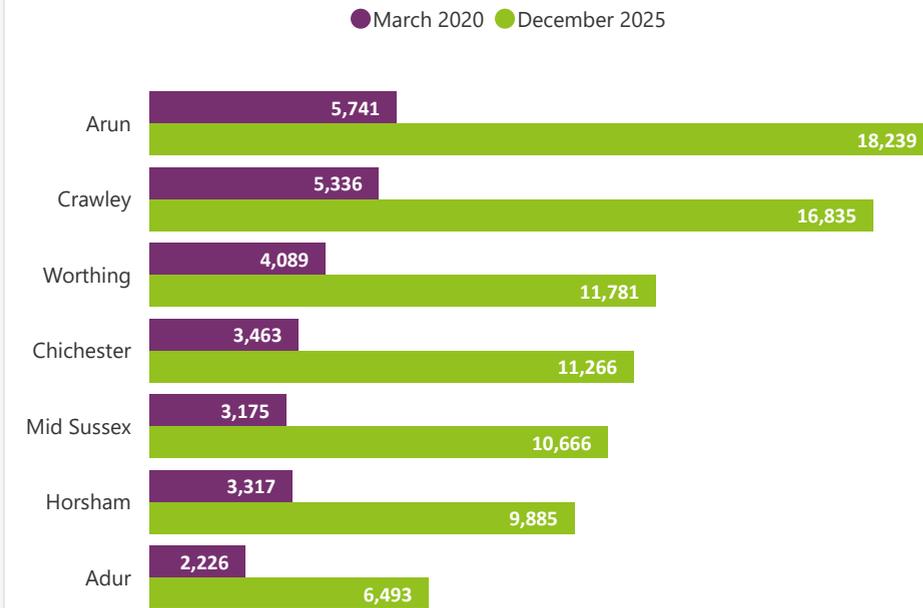
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



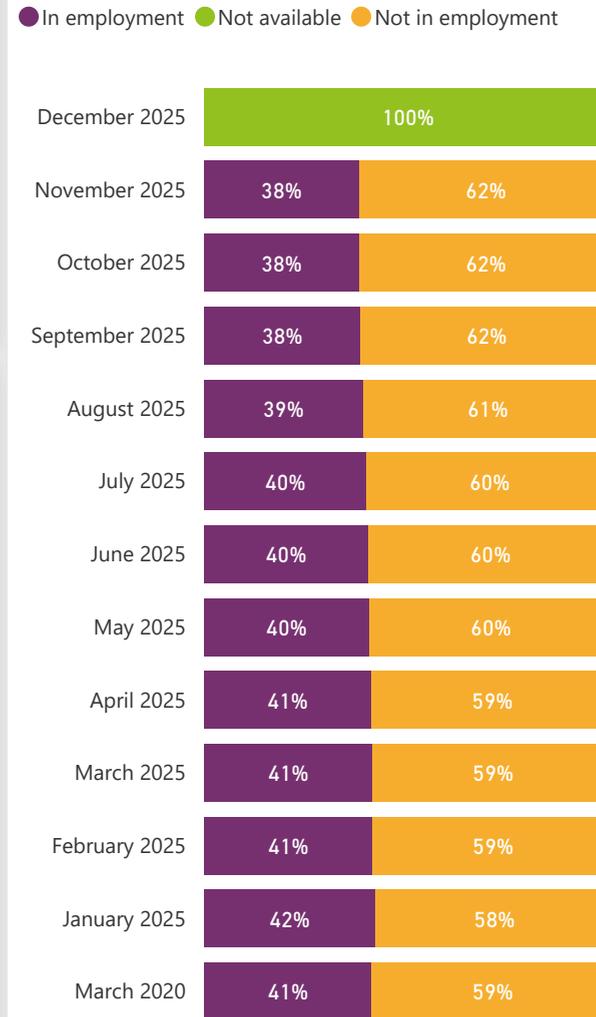
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, December 2025

Overall:

- In December 2025, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by almost 1.2% (85,165 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (211% increase).
- Higher increase than national (180%) or regional (192%) average.
- The percentage (November 2025) of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 16%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 19.1% for the last month.

Employment status:

- 38% of claimants were in employment in November 2025. Higher than national (33%) or regional (35%) average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham had the highest percentage of employed claimants (40%).

District-specific:

- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (235%) since March 2020.
- At December 2025, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 18,239.

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for December 2025 is not available.

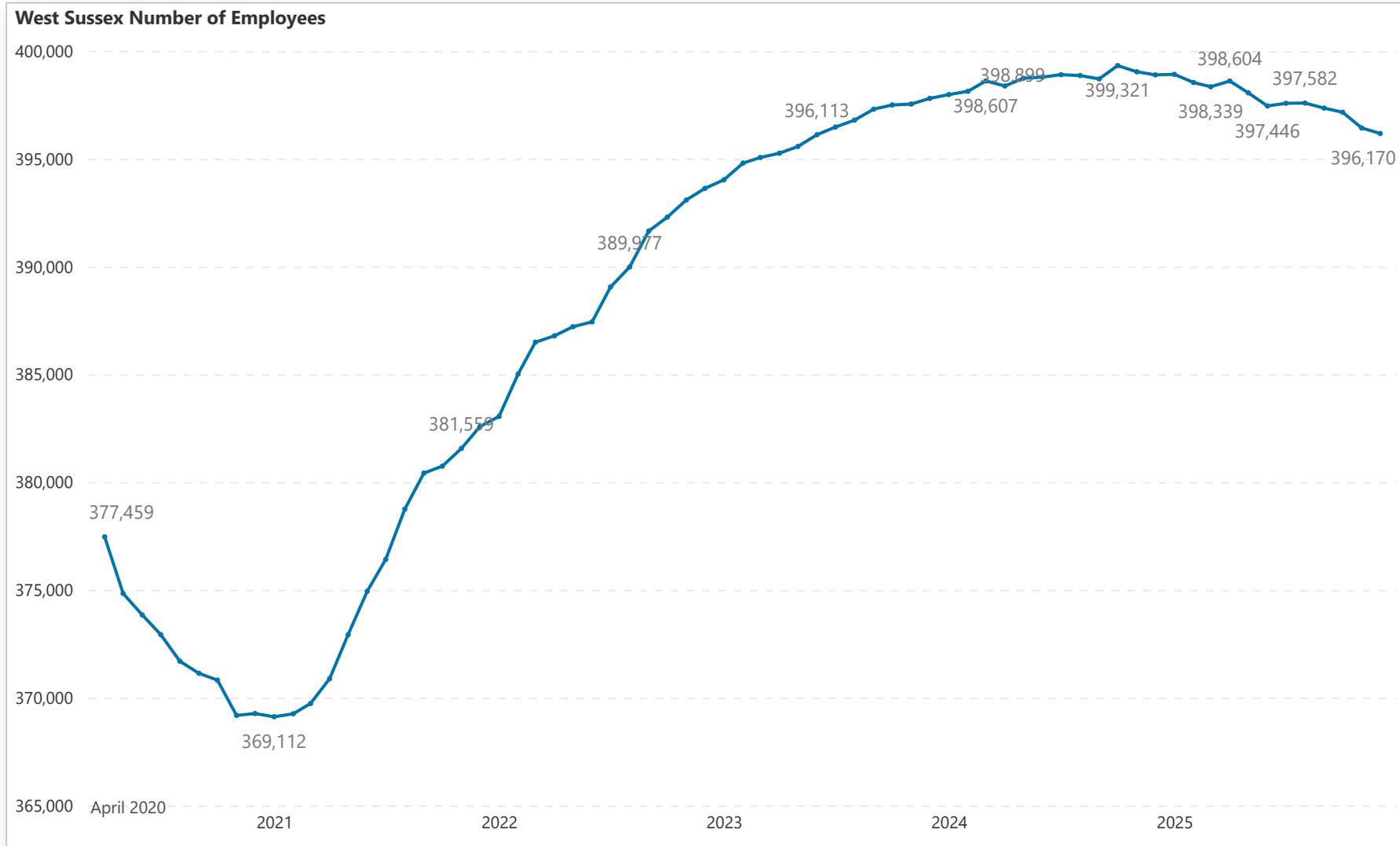
Update: Since 17th of June 2025 Changes were made to the format of the underlying Universal Credit Full Service data feed to provide improvements to the accuracy of Service Centre and Jobcentre site information.



Source: [Department for Work and Pension](#) Released: 20 Jan 2026

(Dec 2025 figures are provisional)

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for December 2025.

Overall:

- West Sussex: 396,170
- West Sussex (South West): 194,652
- West Sussex (North East): 201,518
- South East: 4,266,197
- UK: 30,277,083

One Month Change (November 2025 - December 2025):

- West Sussex decreasing 0.16%
- West Sussex (South West) decreasing 0.07%
- West Sussex (North East) decreasing 0.06%
- South East decreasing 0.15%
- UK decreasing 0.14%

Three Month Change (September 2025 - December 2025):

- West Sussex decreasing 0.30%
- West Sussex (South West) decreasing 0.33%
- West Sussex (North East) decreasing 0.26%
- South East decreasing 0.25%
- UK decreasing 0.30%



Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

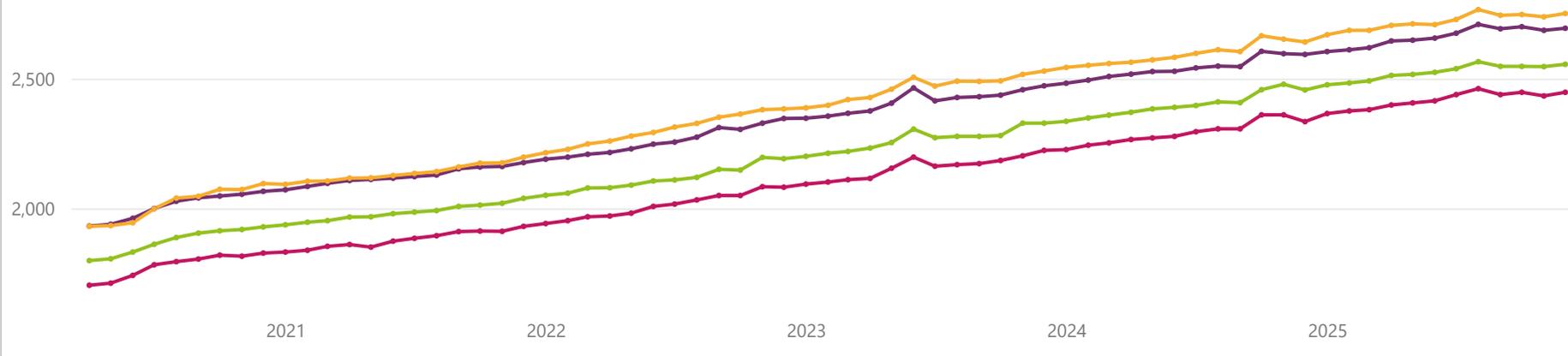
Released: 20 January 2026

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



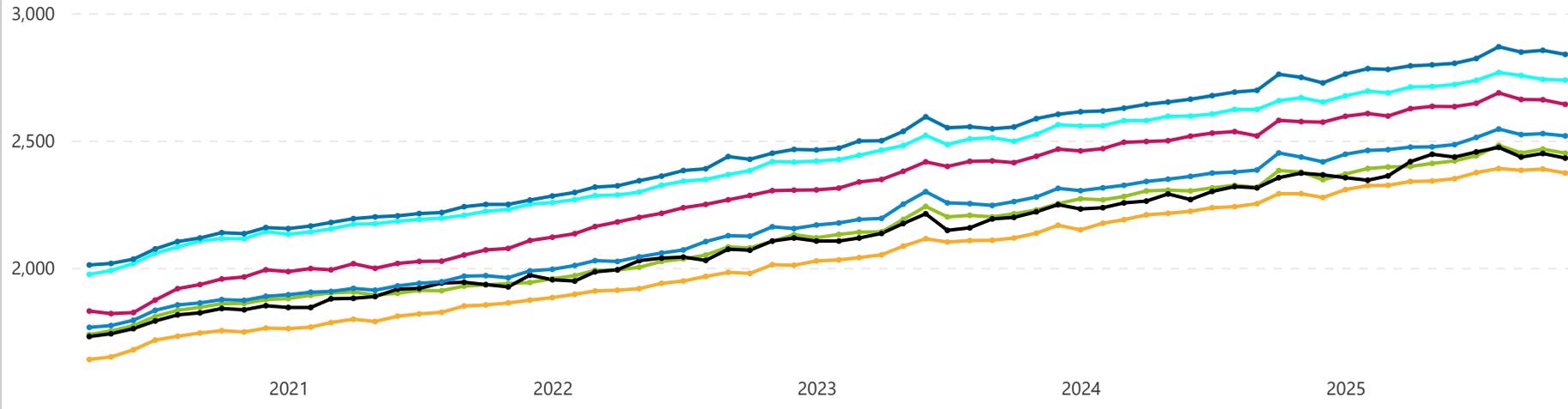
Median Pay National and Regional Figures

Location ● South East ● UK ● West Sussex (North East) ● West Sussex (South West)



Median Pay in West Sussex

Location ● Adur ● Arun ● Chichester ● Crawley ● Horsham ● Mid Sussex ● Worthing



Summary of RTI median pay in West Sussex for December 2025.

Overall:

- West Sussex (South West): 2,447
- West Sussex (North East): 2,751
- South East: 2,694
- UK: 2,555

One Month Change (November 2025 - December 2025):

- West Sussex (South West) increasing 0.58%
- West Sussex (North East) increasing 0.47%
- South East increasing 0.30%
- UK increasing 0.35%

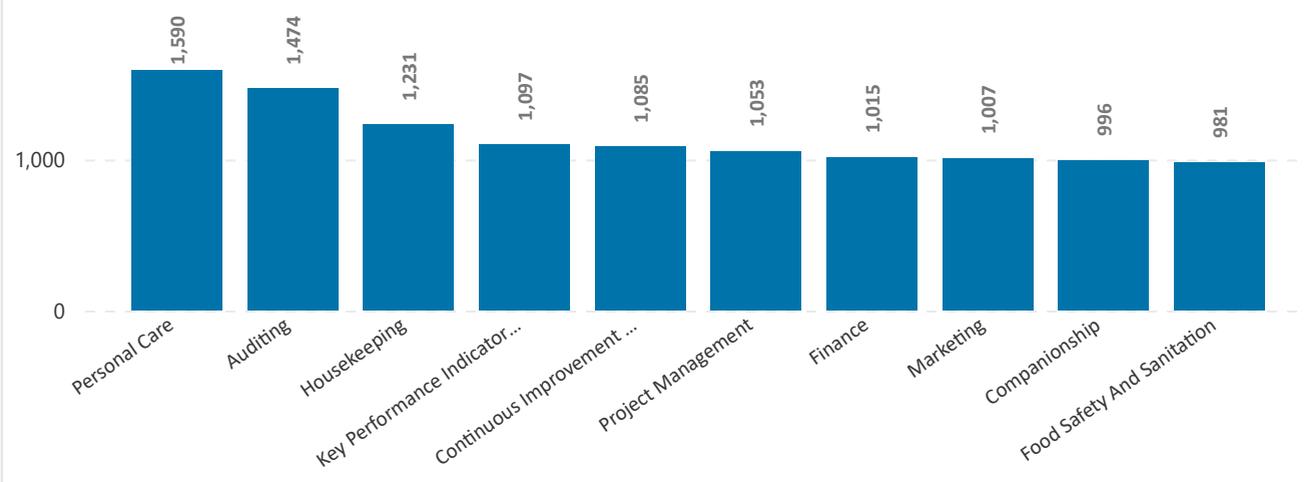
Three Month Change (September 2025 - December 2025):

- West Sussex (South West) increasing 0.37%
- West Sussex (North East) increasing 0.26%
- South East increasing 0.07%
- UK increasing 0.31%

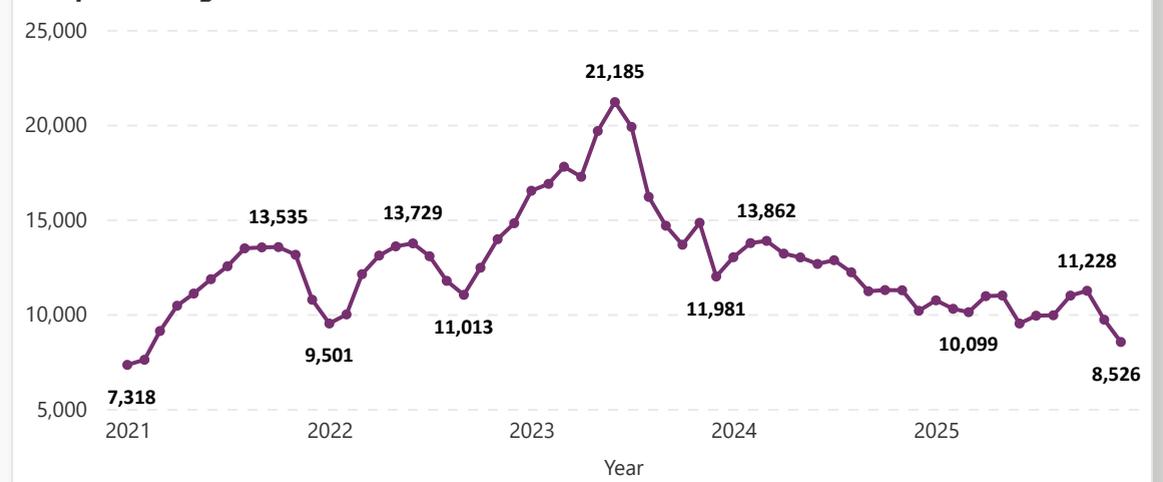


Job Postings

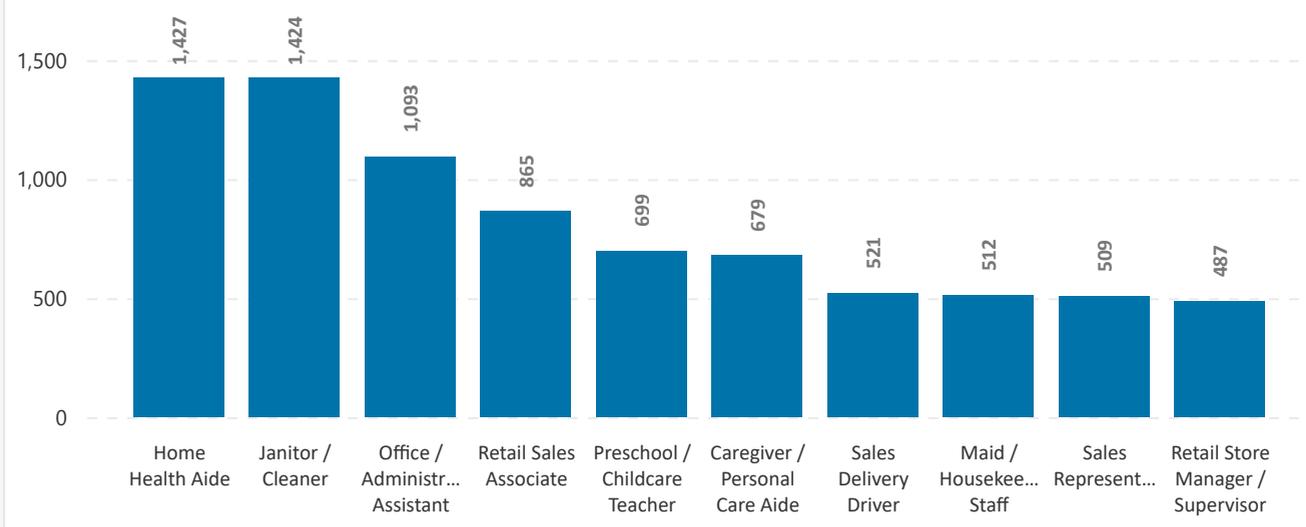
Specialised Job Postings July 2025 - December 2025



Unique Postings Over Time



Job Postings by Occupation July 2025 - December 2025



Summary of the job postings in West Sussex by Lightcast.

WSCC has access to Lightcast from which the numbers of job postings by occupation type, along with other information including skills requirements and job titles is available. In December 2025 there were 8,526 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 21,185 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (July 2025 to December 2025), Home Health Aide is the most frequently posted role, making up the highest number of occupations followed by Janitor/Cleaner. The remaining occupations appear to be evenly distributed.

Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in October to December 2025 was 734,000.
- Increasing 10,000 or 1.3% from July to September 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 69,000 (8.6%) in October 2025 to December 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in September 2025 to November 2025, up from 2.4 in the previous quarter and 1.9 in the previous year.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in November 2025.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for December 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.2 million which is a fall of 0.6% or 184,000 from the previous year.
- The largest increase was in the health and social work sector, with a rise of 37,000. The largest decrease was in the wholesale and retail sector, with a fall of 72,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for October 2025 compared with September 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 38,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 33,000.
- Early estimates for December 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 4.0% compared with December 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in December 2025 was highest in the wholesale and retail sector, with an increase of 5.9%. Annual growth was lowest in the education sector, with an increase of 1.4%.

Business Trading

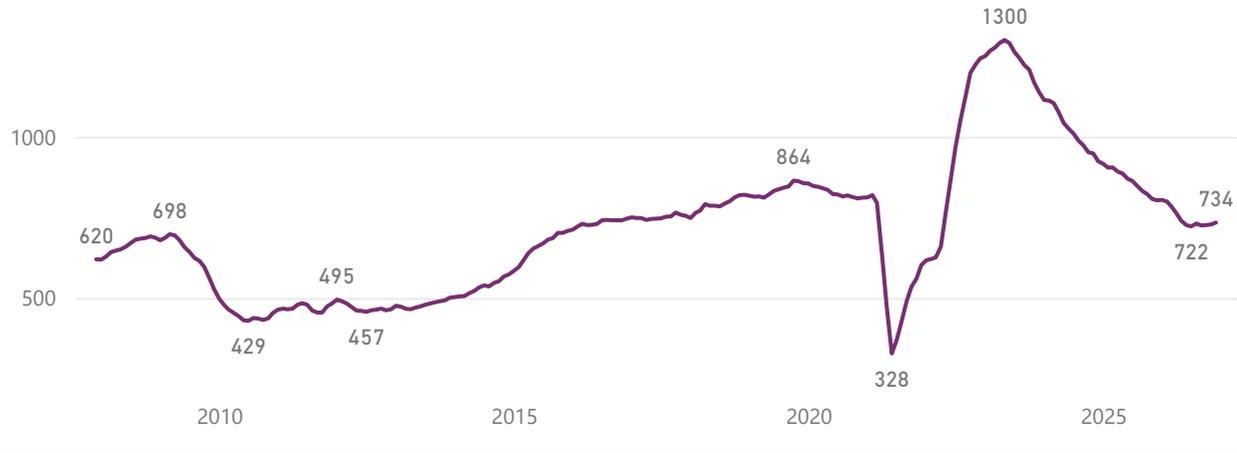
- 13% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in December 2025 compared with November 2025.
- 20% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in February 2026.
- 16% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in February 2026.
- In early December 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 31%.
- 26% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in December 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 9% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services they sell in December 2025.
- 21% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods or services they sell to increase in February 2026.
- 16% of trading businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they were experiencing worker shortages in December 2025.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 1,671 in December 2025, which was 10% lower than in November 2025 and 13% lower than in the same month of the previous year.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 245 compulsory liquidations, 1,305 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 106 administrations and 15 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 9,348 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 489 bankruptcies (lower than usual due to a temporary backlog of debtor bankruptcies), 3,838 debt relief orders (DROs) and 4,585 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in November 2025 were lower than October 2025. Monthly numbers of DROs have been at historically high levels since the abolition of the upfront £90 fee in April 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remain low relative to historic levels. Average monthly numbers so far in 2025 are similar to those in 2024.

Job Vacancies (UK)

Number of vacancies (Thousands) in the UK, seasonally adjusted, Jul to Sep 2005 to Jul to Sep 2024

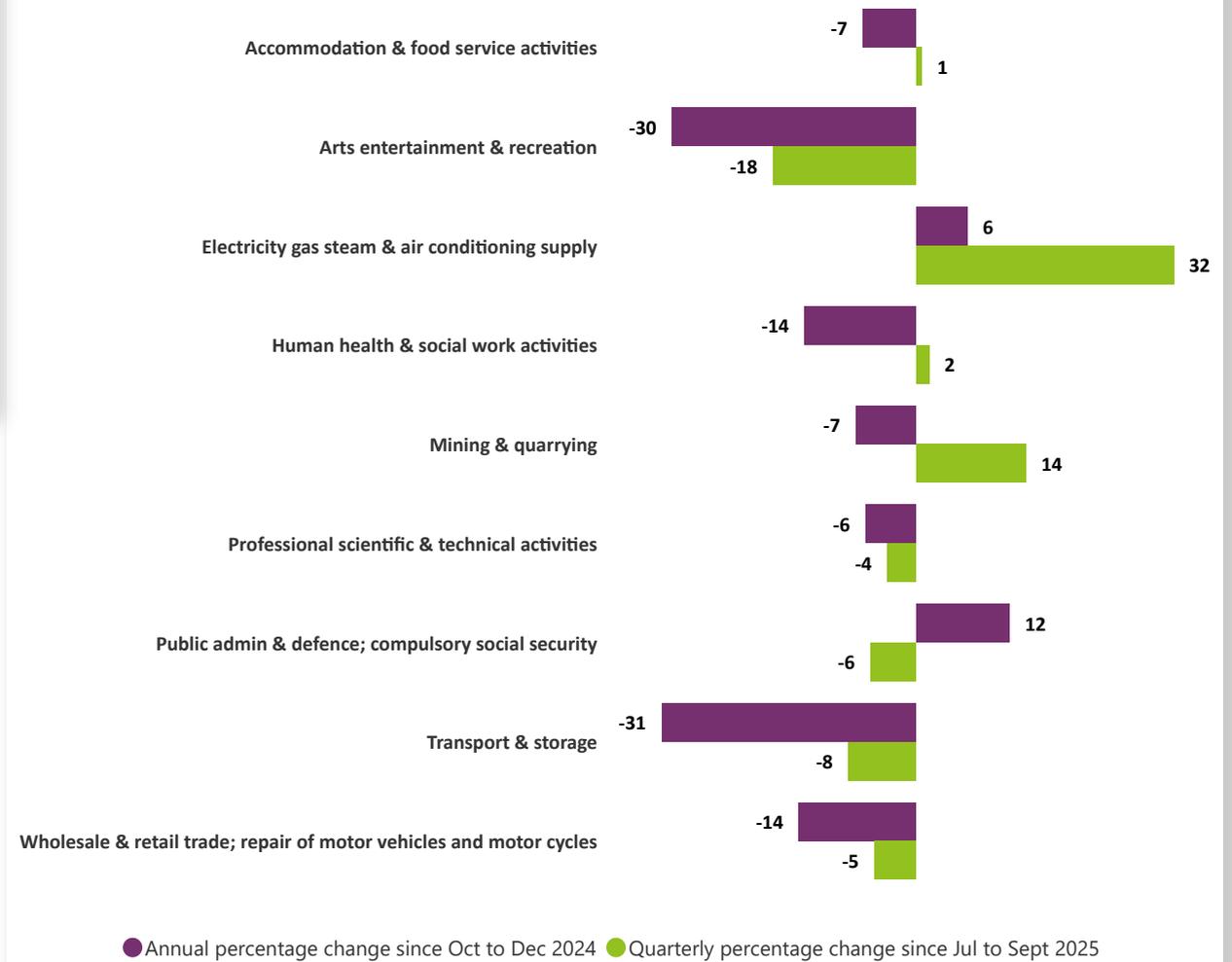


Summary of job vacancies (UK).

Overall:

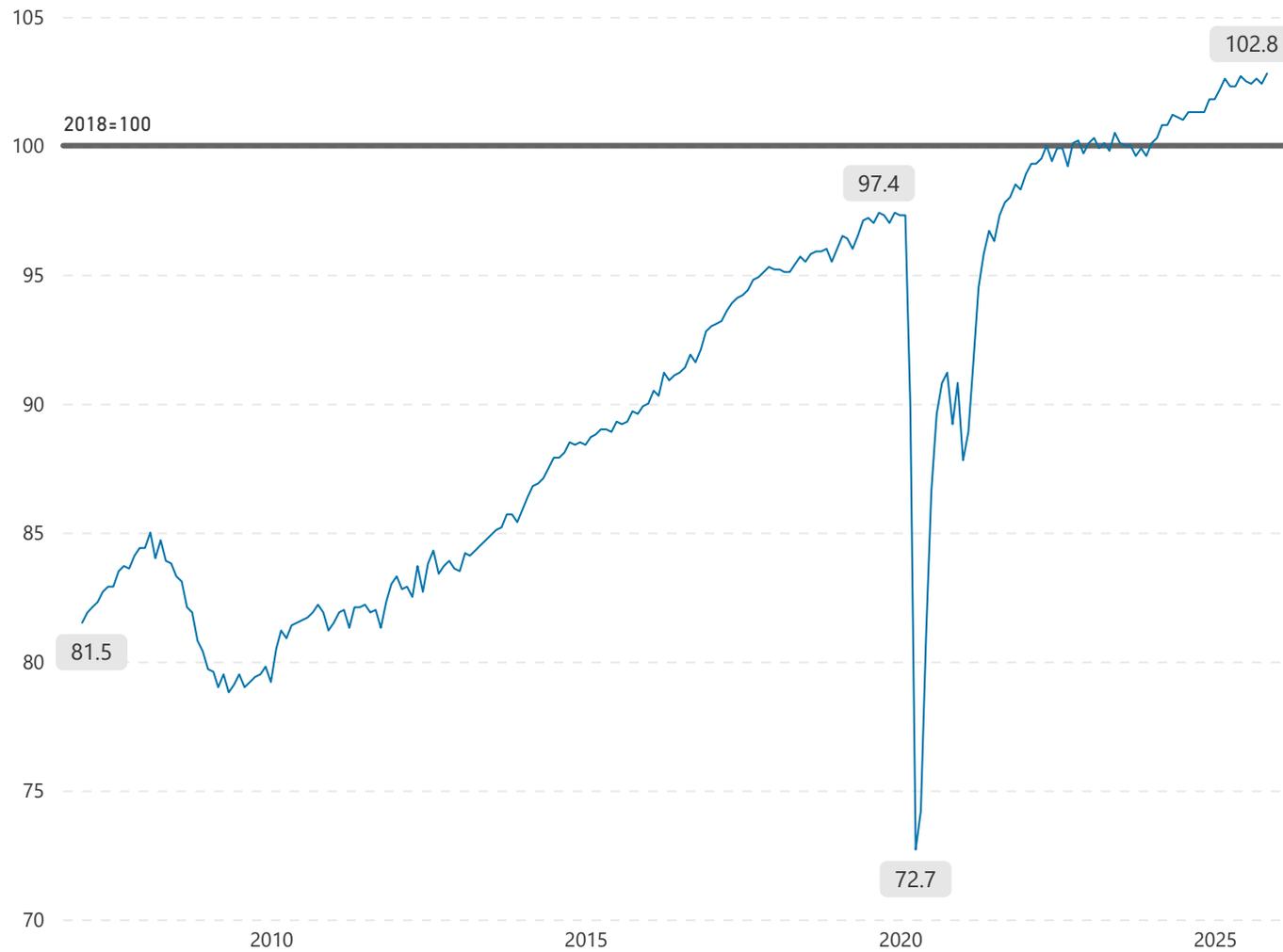
- Estimated vacancies in October to December 2025 was 734,000.
- Increasing 10,000 or 1.3% from July to September 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 69,000 (8.6%) in October 2025 to December 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in September 2025 to November 2025, up from 2.4 in the previous quarter and 1.9 in the previous year.

% Change in Number of Vacancies in UK by Sectors



Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Monthly index, UK



Summary of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (UK).

Overall:

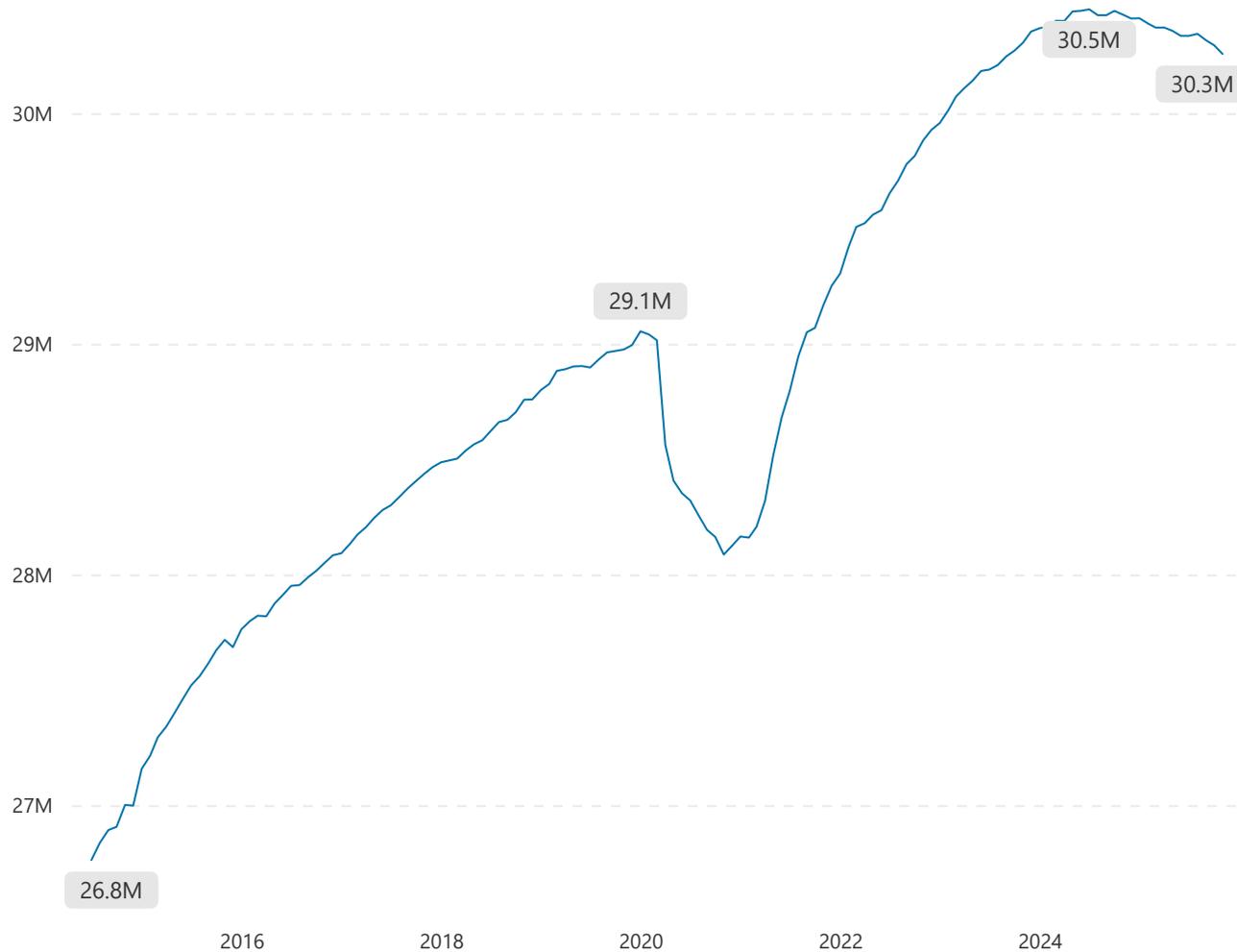
- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in November 2025.

Output growth:

- Services grew 0.1% in the three months to November 2025
- Production fell by 0.1% in the three months to November 2025
- Construction fell by 1.1% in the three months to November 2025

Labour Market

Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for December 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.2 million which is a fall of 0.6% or 184,000 from the previous year.
- The largest increase was in the health and social work sector, with a rise of 37,000. The largest decrease was in the wholesale and retail sector, with a fall of 72,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for October 2025 compared with September 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 38,000 reported in the last bulletin to an decrease of 33,000.
- Early estimates for December 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 4.0% compared with December 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in December 2025 was highest in the wholesale and retail sector, with an increase of 5.9%. Annual growth was lowest in the education sector, with an increase of 1.4%.

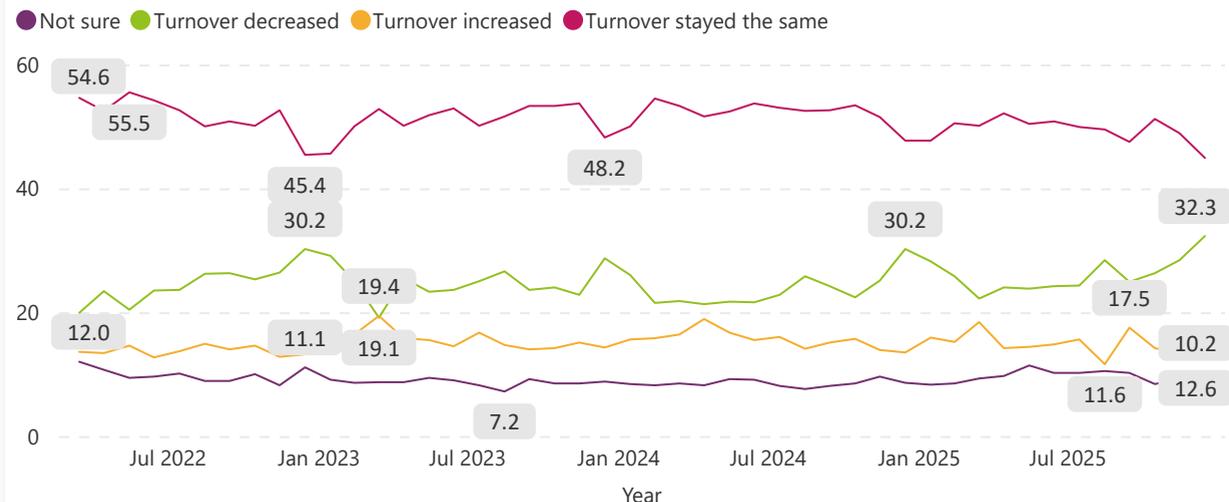
Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

This data is the final results from Wave 148 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 5 to 2 November 2025.

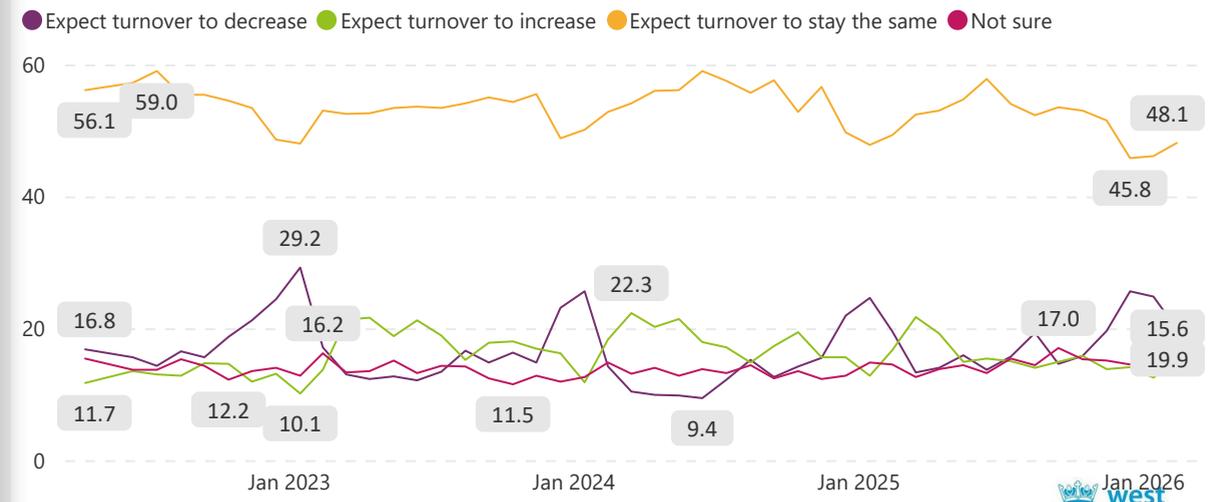
Overall:

- 13% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in December 2025 compared with November 2025.
- 20% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in February 2026.
- 16% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in February 2026.
- In early December 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 31%.
- 26% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in December 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 9% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services they sell in December 2025.
- 21% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods or services they sell to increase in February 2026.
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Turnover Comparison of Previous Month

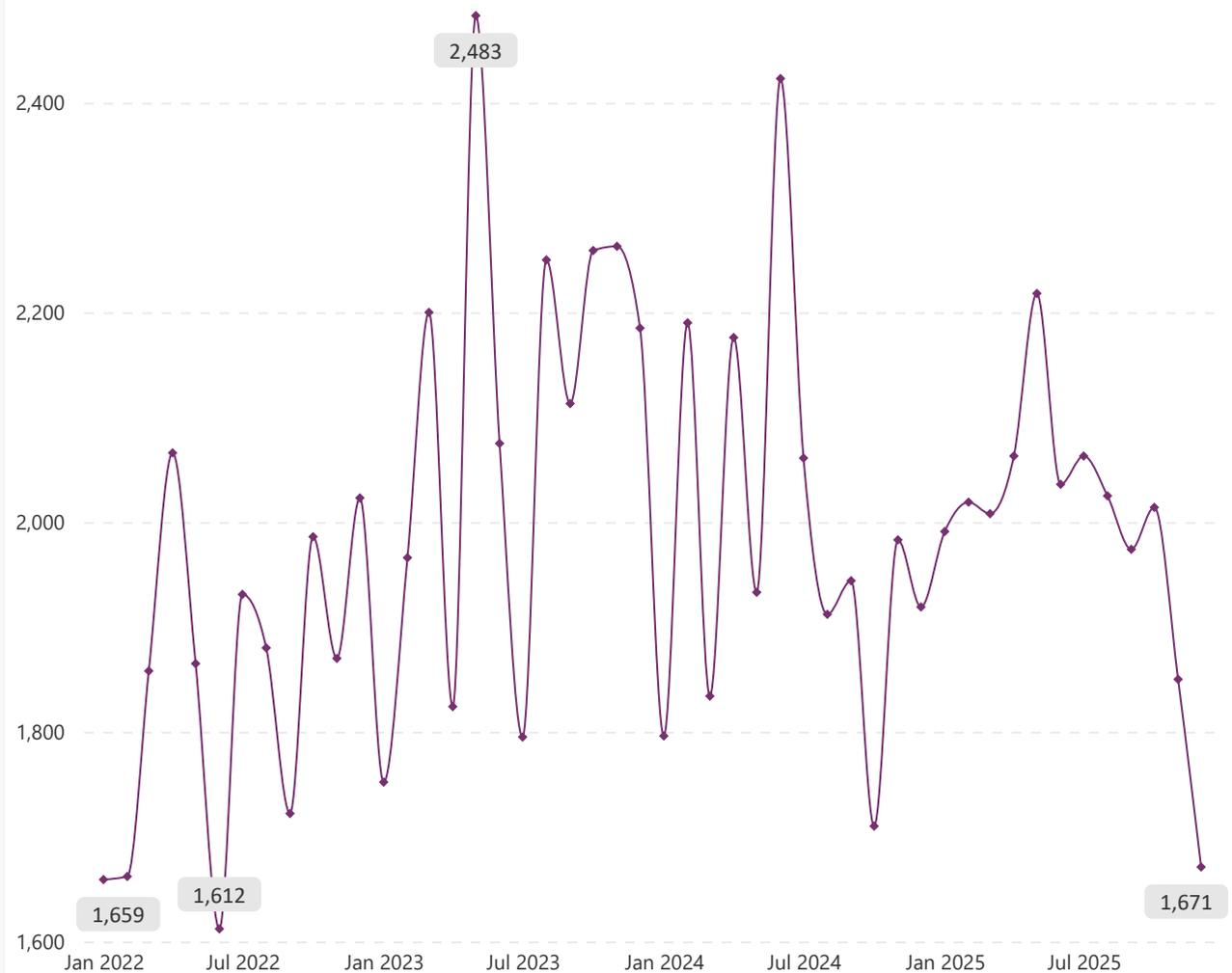


Expected Turnover Figures



Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales



Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

Overall:

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 1,671 in December 2025, which was 10% lower than in November 2025 and 13% lower than in the same month of the previous year.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 245 compulsory liquidations, 1,305 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 106 administrations and 15 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).

Yearly Report:

- In 2025, there were 23,938 registered company insolvencies, comprising 18,525 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 3,730 compulsory liquidations, 1,495 administrations, 186 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs) and two receivership appointments.
- The total number of company insolvencies was similar to 2024, as a slight decrease in numbers of creditors' voluntary liquidations was balanced by an increase in compulsory liquidations to the highest annual number since 2012. The past four years have seen the highest four numbers of CVLs since the time series began in 1960. In 2025 administrations saw a decrease of 6% from 2024 volumes and CVA numbers decreased by 8% from those in 2024.

Business Closures (Individual)

Individual insolvencies in England & Wales



Summary of business closures (individual) on the UK economy.

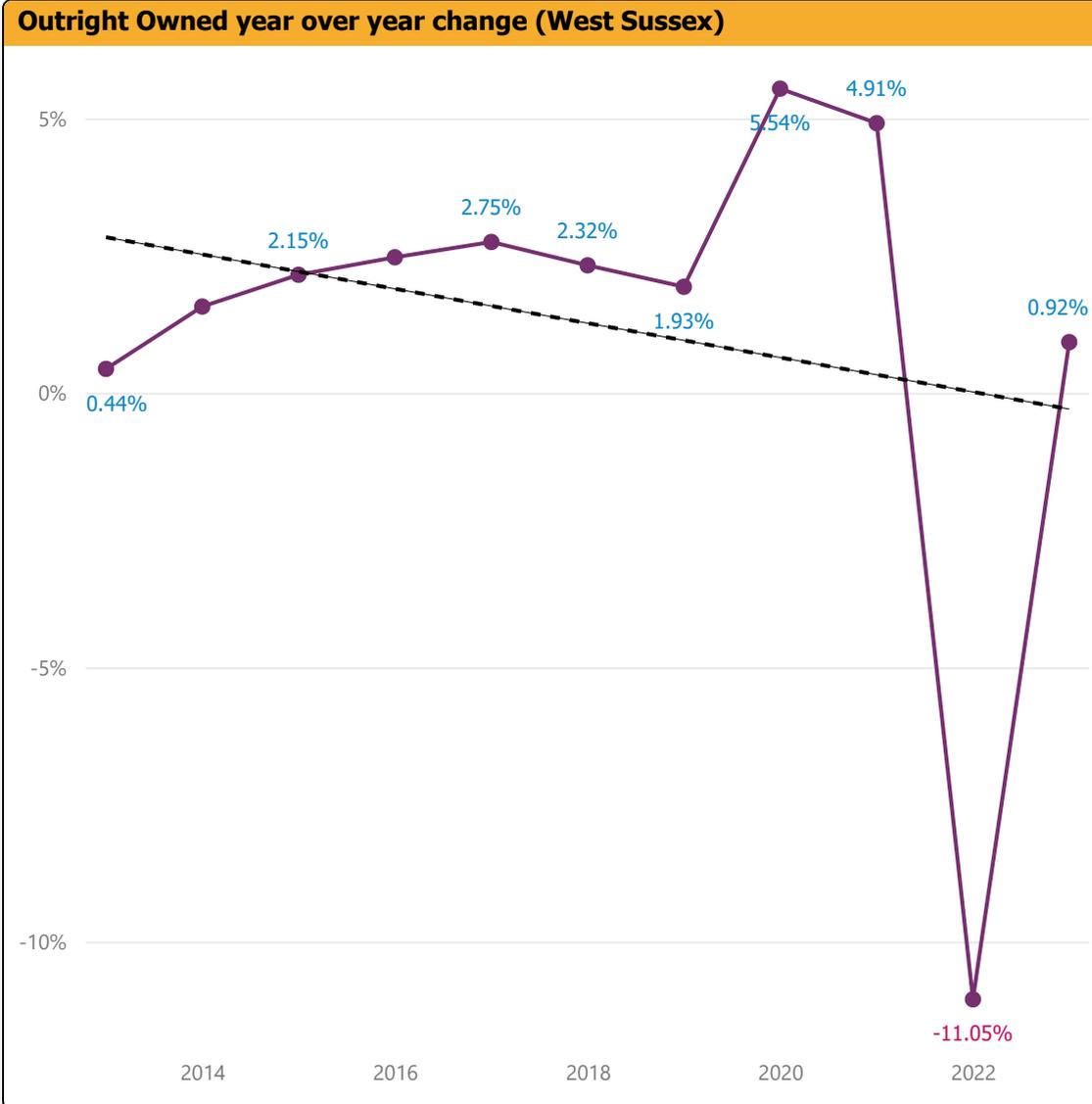
Overall:

- There were 9,348 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 489 bankruptcies (lower than usual due to a temporary backlog of debtor bankruptcies), 3,838 debt relief orders (DROs) and 4,585 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in November 2025 were lower than October 2025. Monthly numbers of DROs have been at historically high levels since the abolition of the upfront £90 fee in April 2024
- Bankruptcy numbers remain low relative to historic levels. Average monthly numbers so far in 2025 are similar to those in 2024.

Yearly Report:

- The number of individual insolvencies registered in 2025 was 126,240, 7% higher than the 117,958 in 2024 and the highest since 2010. Debt relief orders (DROs) were at the highest annual level since their introduction in 2009.
- The number of individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) in 2025 was higher than 2024, but remained lower than the record-high annual numbers seen between 2019 and 2022. Bankruptcy numbers were slightly lower than in 2024 and remained less than half of pre-2020 levels.
- In 2025, one in 395 adults in England and Wales entered insolvency (at a rate of 25.3 per 10,000 adults). This is higher than the rate of one in 415 adults (24.1 per 10,000 adults) in 2024.

Estimates of dwellings by tenure, West Sussex (2012-2023)



Outright owned district analysis.

2012→2021: Strong growth everywhere (~20–35%), with **Horsham (+34.5%)** and **Crawley (+33.7%)** leading.

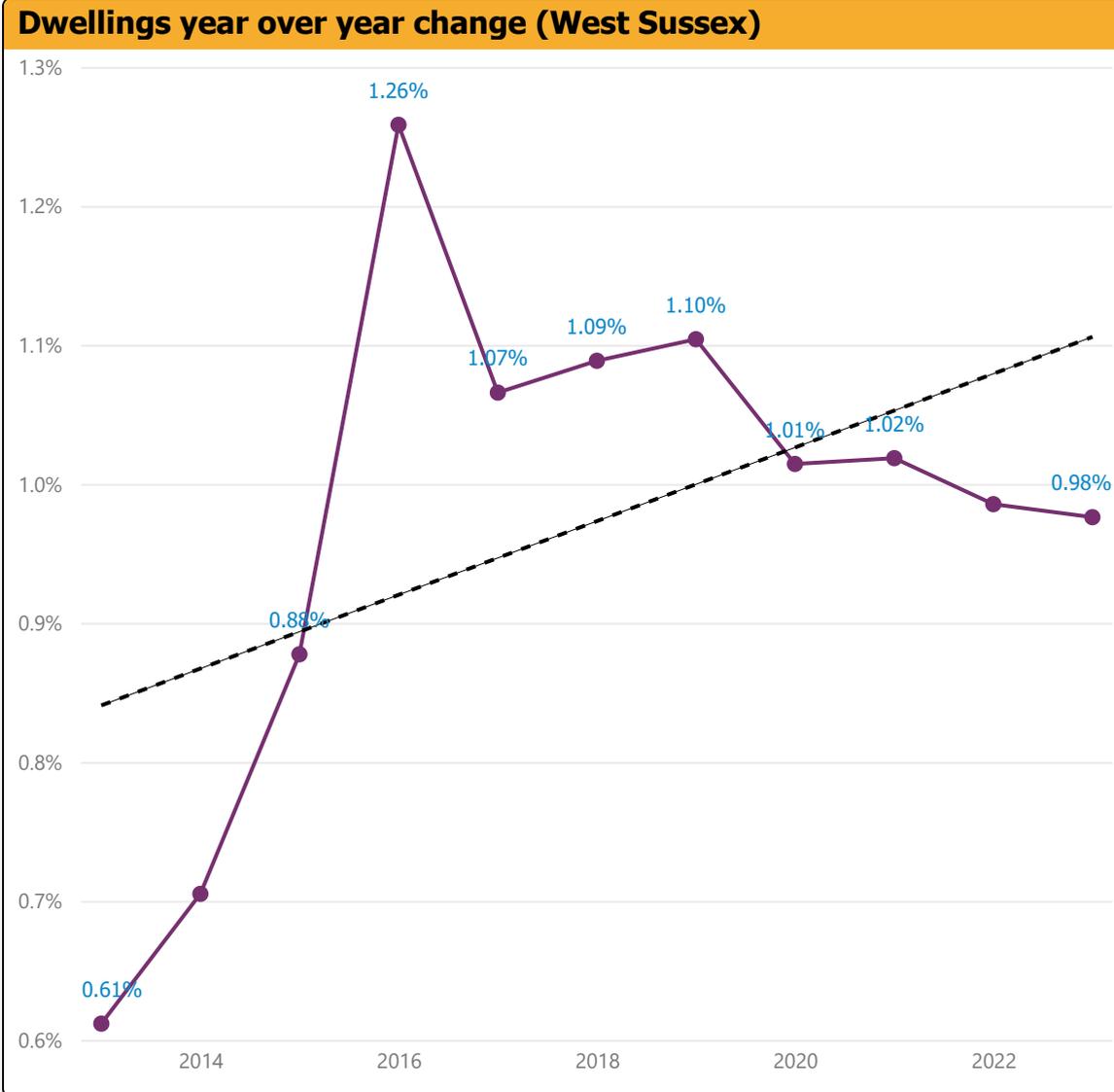
2021→2022: Clear, broad-based **pullback (~7–19% down)** across all districts.

2021→2023: Small stabilisation in 2023, but most areas still sit ~5–19% **below** their 2021 peak.

2012→2023: Net gains remain positive for every authority (+8% to +20%), despite the dip after 2021.

Local authority	2012→2021 %	2021→2022 %	2021→2023 %	2012→2023 %
Adur	20.4	-10.8	-10.3	8.1
Arun	22.2	-7.9	-6.8	13.9
Chichester	22.2	-6.8	-5.4	15.6
Crawley	33.7	-18.6	-19	8.3
Horsham	34.5	-11.8	-11.2	19.5
Mid Sussex	31.5	-14.6	-13.4	13.9
Worthing	24.3	-11.5	-11.1	10.6

Estimates of dwellings by tenure, West Sussex (2012-2023)



Source: ONS, [Subnational estimates of dwellings by tenure](#)

Released: 25 July 2025

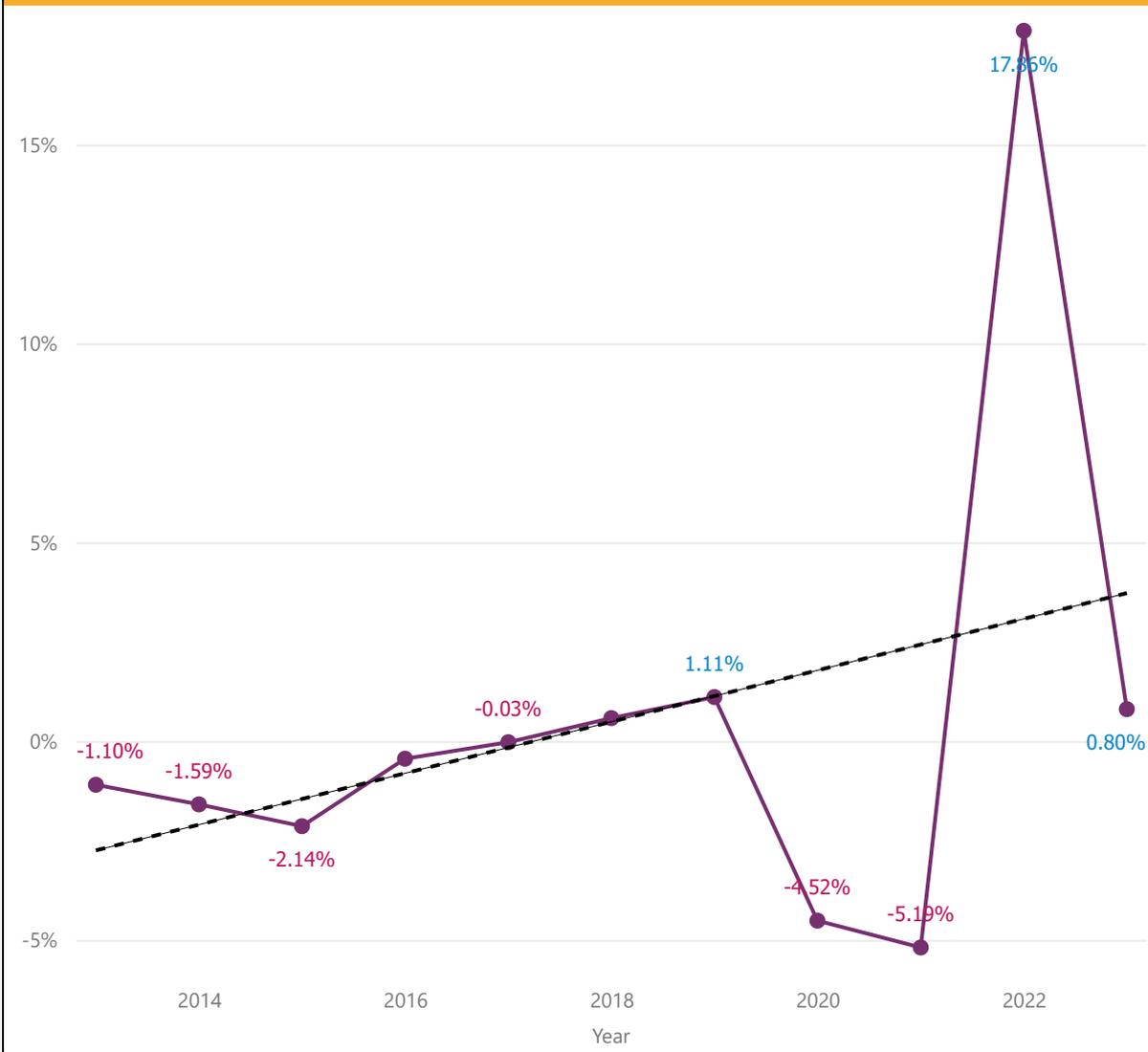
Total Dwellings district analysis.

- **Steady growth** in the total dwelling stock across all districts from **2012 to 2021** (roughly **+3% to +15%** by LA).
- **Post-2021**: stocks **continued to edge up** in most places (particularly **Chichester** and **Arun**), with **Crawley** essentially flat.
- Over the full period **2012–2023**, the strongest growth was **Horsham (+16.1%)** and **Mid Sussex (+14.7%)**.

Local authority	2012→2021 %	2021→2022 %	2021→2023 %	2012→2023 %
Adur	3.2	0.2	0.6	3.8
Arun	7.8	1.3	2.5	10.4
Chichester	8.4	2.9	4.5	13.2
Crawley	8	-0.2	0.2	8.2
Horsham	14.8	0.5	1.1	16.1
Mid Sussex	12	0.8	2.4	14.7
Worthing	5.9	0.8	1.3	7.3

Estimates of dwellings by tenure, West Sussex (2012-2023)

Mortgage/loan year over year change (West Sussex)



Source: ONS, [Subnational estimates of dwellings by tenure](#)

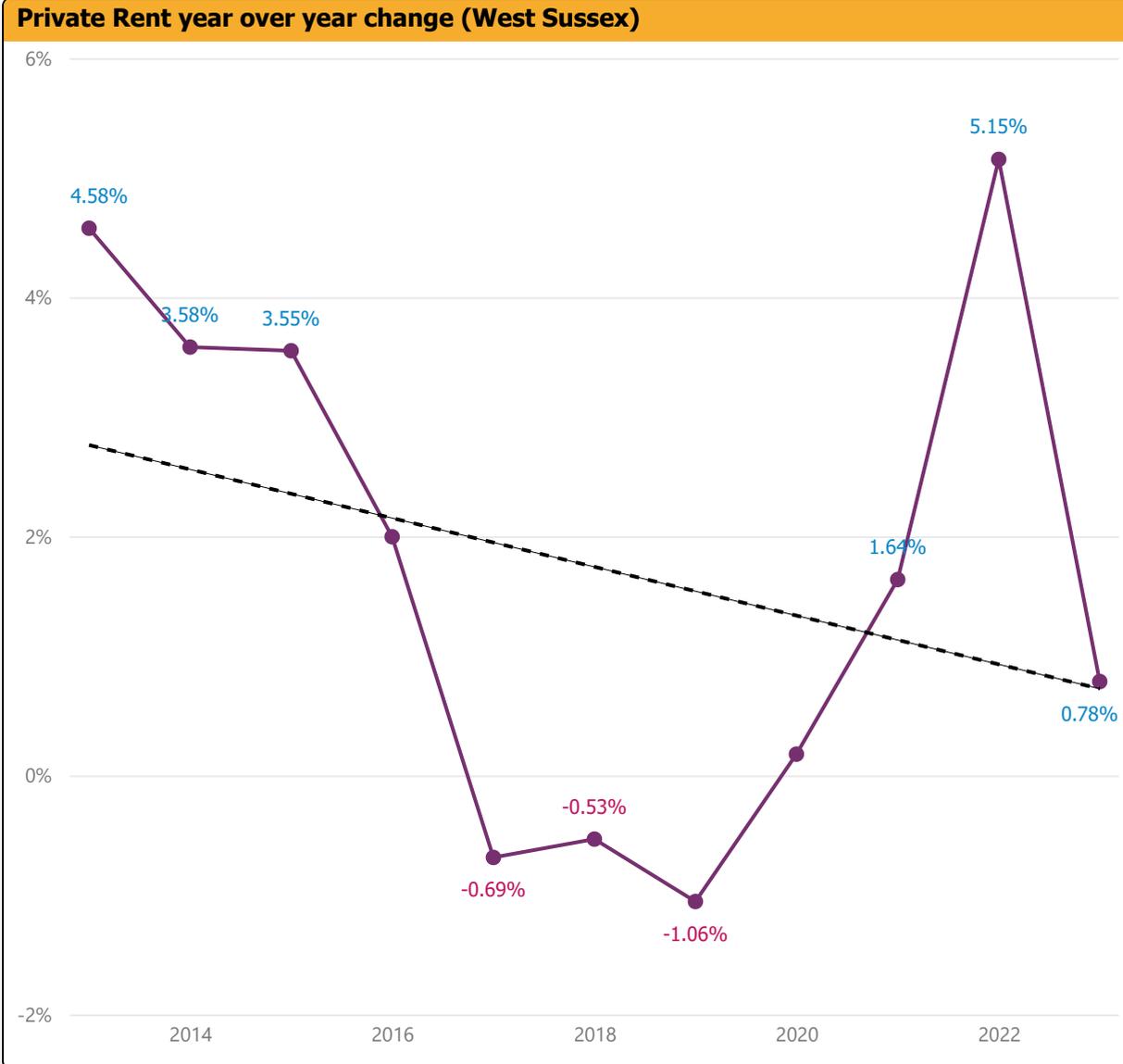
Released: 25 July 2025

Mortgage/Loan district analysis.

- From 2012 to 2021, mortgaged owner counts **declined** across all districts (−8% to −18%), consistent with longer-run ageing/repayment dynamics.
- 2022–2023 shows a **strong rebound** across the board (roughly +11% to +24% vs. 2021), leaving most areas **near or above** 2012 levels by 2023 (especially **Horsham** and **Mid Sussex**).

Local authority	2012→2021 %	2021→2022 %	2021→2023 %	2012→2023 %
Adur	-17.6	15.2	15.8	-4.5
Arun	-15.2	16.6	17.9	0
Chichester	-14.8	19	20.7	2.9
Crawley	-11	11.4	10.7	-1.4
Horsham	-8.1	19.1	19.9	10.2
Mid Sussex	-10.6	22.6	24.4	11.2
Worthing	-15.1	18.1	18.6	0.8

Estimates of dwellings by tenure, West Sussex (2012-2023)



Private rent district analysis.

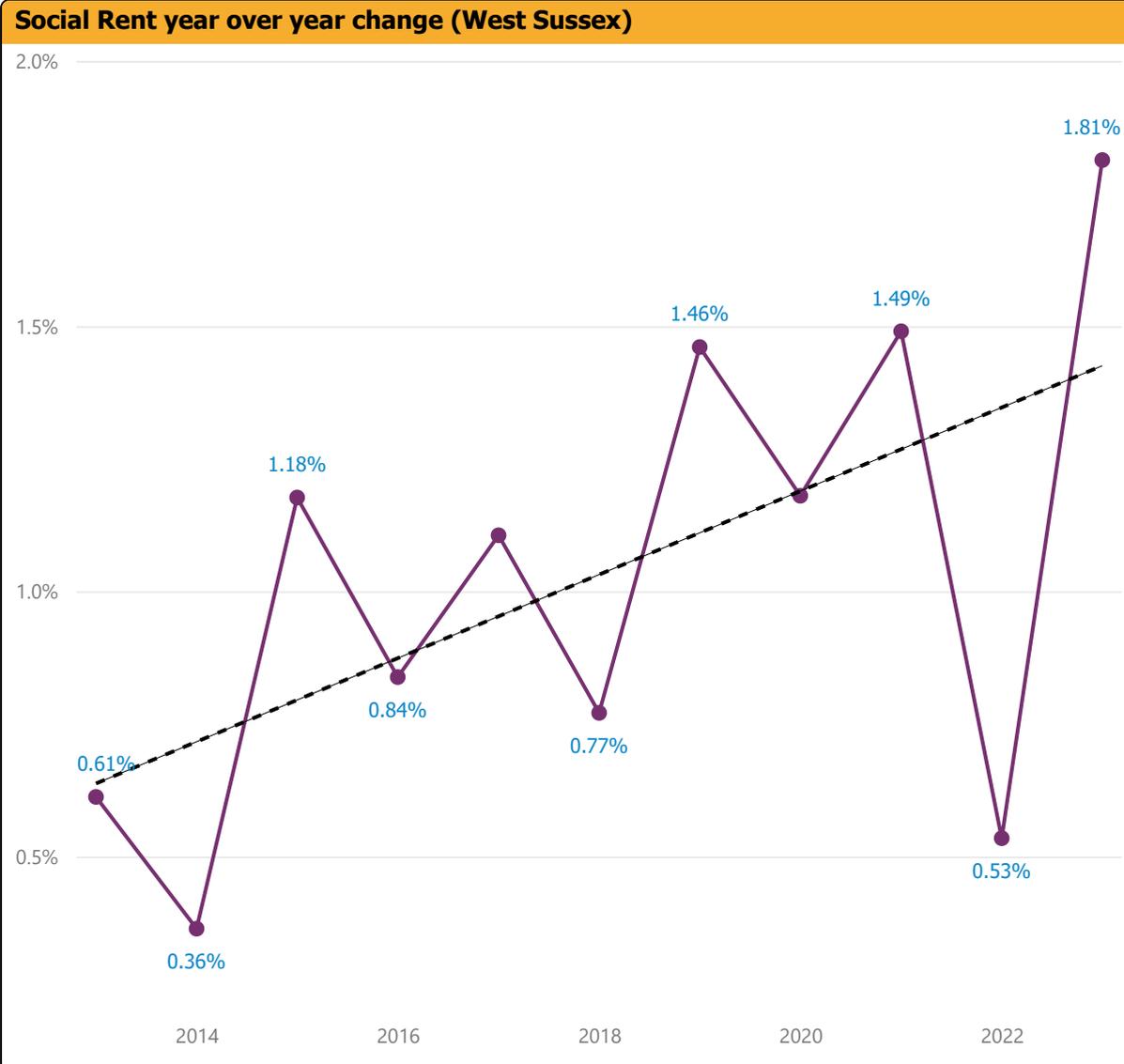
- From 2012 to 2021, private renting expanded across all districts (about +10% to +22%, with **Horsham** and **Mid Sussex** among the faster growers).
- 2022–2023 saw **continued growth** in most areas, strongest in **Crawley** and **Chichester**; **Mid Sussex** was broadly flat.

Local authority	2012→2021 %	2021→2022 %	2021→2023 %	2012→2023 %
Adur	9.7	5.9	6.5	16.8
Arun	10.4	5.7	6.9	18
Chichester	10.2	9.6	11.2	22.6
Crawley	17.2	14.2	13.6	33.1
Horsham	22.3	0.7	1.3	23.9
Mid Sussex	18.8	-1.2	0.2	19
Worthing	9.9	3.1	3.6	13.8

Source: ONS, [Subnational estimates of dwellings by tenure](#)

Released: 25 July 2025

Estimates of dwellings by tenure, West Sussex (2012-2023)



Social rent district analysis.

- Over 2012–2021, social rent stock grew modestly overall (+9.4%) with **stronger expansion in Mid Sussex (+15.1%) and Horsham (+13.7%)**, while Adur was broadly **flat (+1.8%)**.
- **Post-2021**, growth was **subdued** compared with other tenures: a **small uptick in 2022** overall (+0.5%), followed by **continued but gentle gains into 2023 (+2.4%** vs. 2021). Some areas saw **minor retracement**—e.g., **Crawley** dipped in 2022 before recovering slightly in 2023; **Adur** is **just below** its 2021 level by 2023 (–1.7%).
- Across the full period, **Mid Sussex** stands out with the **largest cumulative increase (+22.3%)**, suggesting steady additions to the local social housing stock, whereas **Adur** and **Worthing** changed very little (~0–4%).

Local authority	2012→2021 %	2021→2022 %	2021→2023 %	2012→2023 %
Adur	1.8	-0.5	-1.7	0.1
Arun	12.9	0.7	2.5	15.8
Chichester	10.6	2.2	4	15
Crawley	4.8	-2.6	0.9	5.8
Horsham	13.7	0.6	1	14.8
Mid Sussex	15.1	3.8	6.2	22.3
Worthing	3.4	-0.5	0.7	4.1