

Census Bulletin

Economic activity in West Sussex

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This Bulletin includes the broad elements of economic activity from the 2011 Census including employment status, unemployment, hours worked, industry of employment and socio-economic status. There will be further Census data releases during 2013/14 that will give more detail in terms of male, female and age breakdowns. All information reported here is based on residents aged 16-74 years (unless otherwise stated).

Economic Activity

The economically active include those in employment, the unemployed, and working students. Economically inactive includes those who are not in work because of, for example, sickness, disability, having carer commitments, in full time education, or are retired. The economic activity rate, i.e. the proportion of 16-74 year olds who are economically active, and the employment rate, which includes the proportion of residents aged 16-74 years who are in employment, are shown below together with comparisons from 2001:

Table 1 Comparison of Economic Activity and Employment Rates

	Economic activity rate	Employment rate
England	69.9 (66.9)	62.1 (60.9)
South East	72.1 (70.0)	65.3 (65.0)
West Sussex	72.1 (69.4)	66.0 (64.7)
Adur	70.8 (67.4)	64.9 (63.0)
Arun	67.5 (64.8)	61.5 (60.1)
Chichester	69.2 (65.9)	62.9 (61.2)
Crawley	76.9 (74.1)	69.3 (69.2)
Horsham	73.4 (72.2)	68.0 (68.3)
Mid Sussex	74.8 (72.6)	69.8 (68.4)
Worthing	72.1 (68.6)	65.5 (63.8)

(numbers in brackets = 2001)

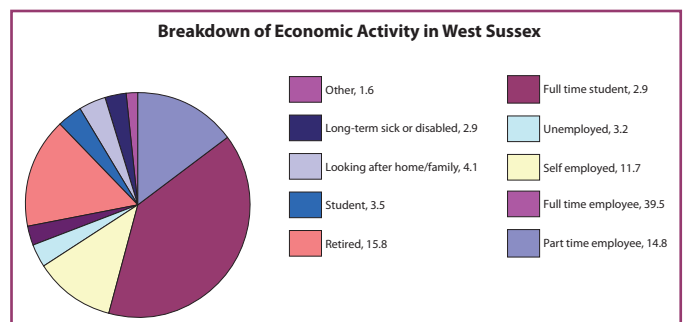
Source: 2011 Table KS601ew/ nomis ; 2001 Table SO 28/ nomis

The economic activity rate for the county is the same as that for the South East region and higher than the England average. All the coastal districts have an economically active rate either below or equal to the county average, with Arun having the lowest rate, due to the older aged population and higher levels of retired people. Employment rates are higher in the county than the regional and national average.

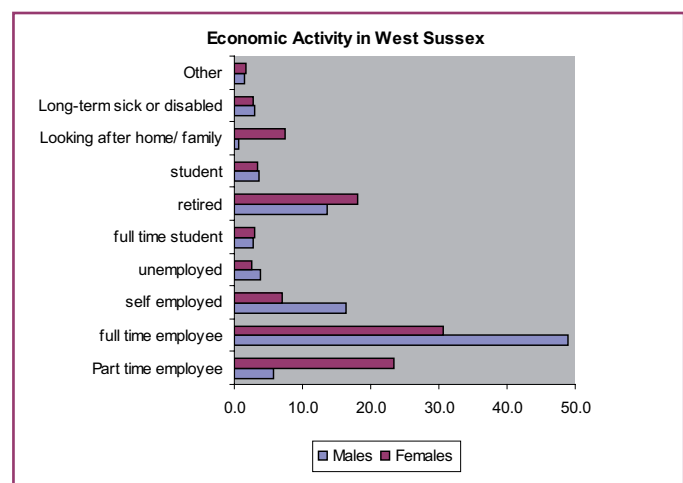
Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex have higher economic activity and higher employment rates than the county and regional average. These trends suggest that West Sussex is performing better in terms of economic activity in 2011 than it was in 2001 when compared with the regional and national picture.

Employment status

The Figure below shows the breakdown of economic activity in West Sussex. Of the 72% who are economically active the largest group are those who are working full time. Self employment makes up nearly 12% of people aged 16-74 in West Sussex, a higher proportion than nationally and regionally, it is highest in the rural areas of Chichester (14.5%), Horsham (12.9%) and Mid Sussex (12.4%). Self employment is lowest in Crawley at 7.8%.



There are significant differences between economic activity amongst men and women as shown below, with a greater proportion of part time employees amongst women and more women economically inactive because of caring responsibilities. Full time employment is much more prevalent amongst males than females.



Unemployment

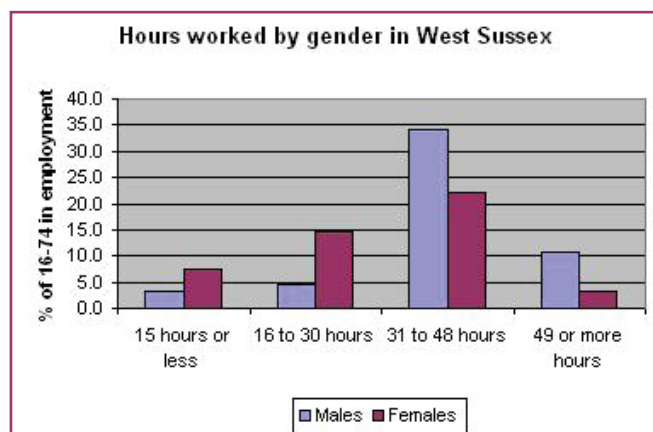
For the purposes of the Census a person is defined as being unemployed if they are not in employment, or available to start work in the next 2 weeks, and have either looked for work in the last 4 weeks or are waiting to start a new job. The unemployment rate then is the percentage of the total economically active that fit this definition. Long term unemployed are those who stated at the time of the 2011 census that they had not worked since 2009 or earlier. Unemployment is lower in West Sussex compared with the England and the South East region, though is notably highest in Crawley. Long term unemployment is greatest in Arun and lowest in Mid Sussex.

Breakdown of unemployment

	Unemployment rate	% of the unemployed		
		Aged 16-24	Aged 50-74	Long term unemployed
England	4.4	27.7	18.5	39.3
South East	3.4	27.2	21.6	38.3
West Sussex	3.2	26.8	23.6	38.4
Adur	3.3	28.6	23.1	38.9
Arun	3.3	26.5	25.0	41.4
Chichester	2.8	27.9	25.5	38.5
Crawley	4.5	26.3	18.8	38.2
Horsham	2.7	26.5	25.4	37.7
Mid Sussex	2.4	25.3	26.2	34.7
Worthing	3.5	27.3	22.8	38.4

Hours Worked

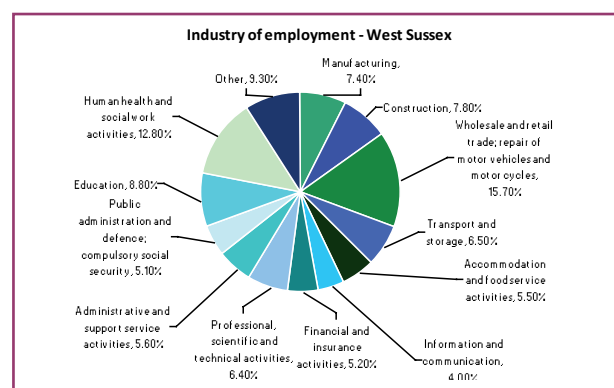
The chart below provides information that classifies usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment by the number of hours worked in the week before the census. It shows that men dominate full time working with 45% of males in employment working over 31 hours compared to 24% of females. The proportion of men working part time has increased since the 2001 census.



Industry of Employment

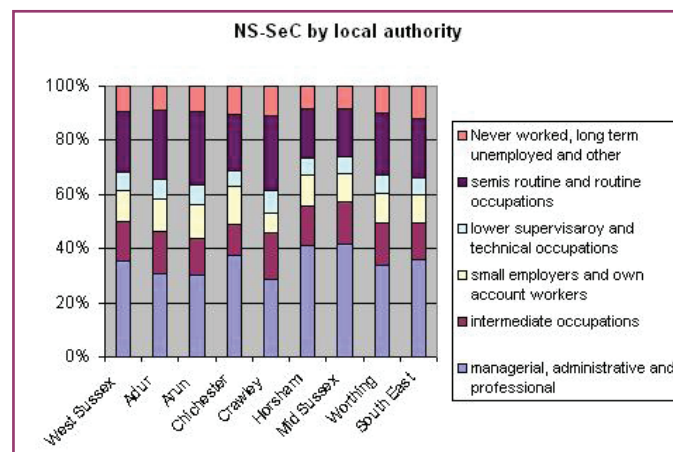
The breakdown of employment by industry is similar in the county to the regional and national picture and shows the predominance of the service sector. The largest sector is the wholesale and retail trade sector which accounts for around 15% of all residents in work – is greatest in Crawley and Arun at over 17%. There is a greater proportion of residents employed in the transport sector in West Sussex at 6.5% than nationally or the South East region. This is greatest in Crawley at 15.5% because of the presence of Gatwick Airport.

Gatwick also influences the accommodation and restaurant sector in Crawley as it is strongest here than other parts of West Sussex.



National Socio-economic Classification

The Census provides information about the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) of usual residents aged 16 to 74, this is an occupationally based classification.



Some of the NS-SeC categories have been combined for this bulletin. Horsham and Mid Sussex have the greatest proportions of residents working in managerial, administrative and professional type occupations. Adur, Arun and Crawley each have over a quarter of working residents employed in routine or semi routine occupations, higher than for West Sussex and the South East region.

ONS Census tables used: KS601EW, KS603EW, KS604EW, KS605EW, KS611EW.