

Census Bulletin

Economic activity in West Sussex

This bulletin explores various elements of economic activity gathered by the 2001 Census, including employment status, unemployment, hours worked, industry of employment and socio-economic status. All information in this bulletin is based upon people aged 16-74 years (unless otherwise stated) who are resident in the area.

Economic activity

The 2001 Census gives details of the economic activity of residents aged 16-74 years. The economically active include those in work, the unemployed and working students. The economically inactive include those who are not in work, perhaps because they are not able to work through sickness or disability, have carer commitments or are retired. The economic activity rate (the proportion of 16-74 year olds who are economically active) and the employment rate (the proportion of residents aged 16-74 years who are in employment) are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Economic activity rate and Employment rate by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W

	Economic activity rate	Employment rate
England & Wales	66.5	60.6
South East	70.0	65.0
West Sussex	69.4	64.7
Adur	67.4	63.0
Arun	64.8	60.1
Chichester	65.9	61.2
Crawley	74.1	69.2
Horsham	72.2	68.3
Mid Sussex	72.6	68.4
Worthing	68.6	63.8

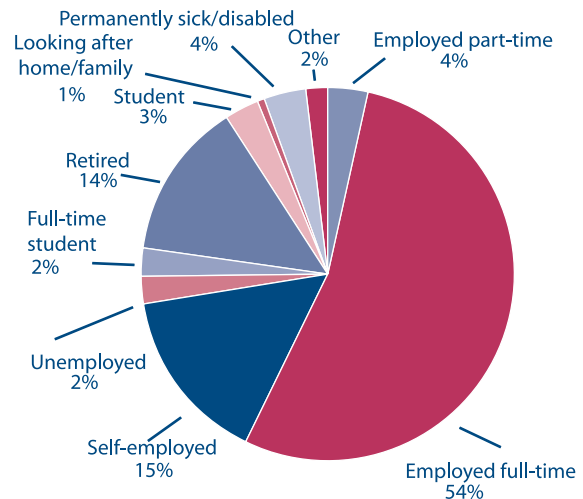
The economic activity rate for the county is slightly below that for the region, but higher than the England and Wales (E&W) average. All the coastal districts have an economically active rate below the county average, and Arun's rate is lower than the E&W average. This can be attributed to the older age of the population in Arun, which has higher levels of retired people. Economic activity rates and employment rates for Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex are above the county and regional averages.

Employment status and gender

Figures 1 and 2 show a breakdown of economic activity, which is considerably different for males and females. The majority of men in West Sussex (54%) are employed full-time (31 hours or more per week) compared with only 30% of females. In Local Authorities (LAs), male full time employment ranges from 47% in Chichester to 63% in Crawley. This compares with 25% of female full time employment in Crawley to 32% in Mid Sussex.

Self-employment is the second largest group in the male breakdown of employment status, accounting for 15% of males in West Sussex. One in ten men in Crawley is self-employed, compared to one in five in Chichester. Self-employment is much

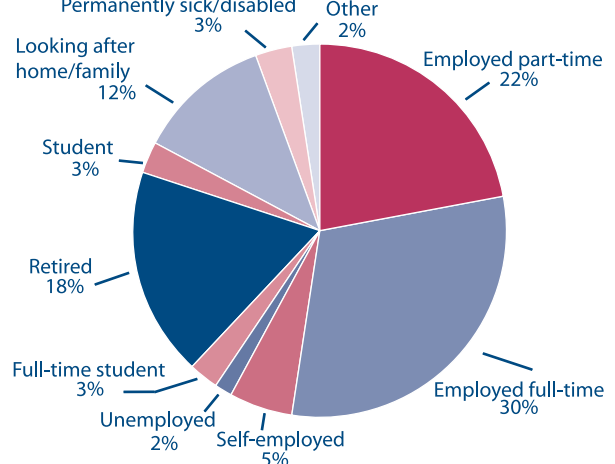
Figure 1: Male breakdown of economic activity for West Sussex



less common in women, with just 5% of West Sussex women being in this category. Adur has the lowest proportion of self-employed females (4%) and Chichester the greatest proportion (8%).

Only a small proportion of men (4%) are employed on a part-time basis (30 hours or fewer per week) compared to 22% of females. 14% of males in West Sussex aged 16-74 years are retired compared to 18% of females. This difference would be expected due to the lower retirement age for females. The proportion of retired in West Sussex is greater than for E&W reflecting the older age structure. A further significant group for females are those who are economically inactive because they look after home/family; this accounts for 12% of females aged 16-74 years in West Sussex compared to less than 1% of males.

Figure 2: Female breakdown of economic activity for West Sussex



Unemployment

For the purposes of the Census, a person is defined as unemployed if they are not in employment, are 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 here is the percentage of the total economically active who are unemployed. In Table 2 the long-term unemployed are defined in the Census as those who stated they had not worked since 1999 or earlier.

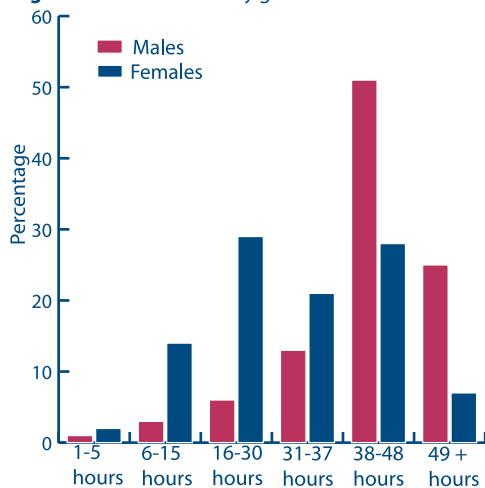
Table 2: Breakdown of unemployment by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W

	Unemployment rate	% of the unemployed		
		Aged 16-74	Aged 50+	Long term
England & Wales	5.4	25.9	18.6	30.3
South East	3.3	25.2	21.6	26.0
West Sussex	3.0	24.3	24.0	24.4
Adur	3.0	24.9	24.4	26.2
Arun	3.4	22.73	26.3	26.3
Chichester	2.8	21.9	28.4	25.52
Crawley	3.1	30.2	16.7	22.37
Horsham	2.2	21.9	25.4	22.45
Mid Sussex	2.2	25.0	23.8	21.5
Worthing	3.1	23.8	22.7	26.3

Hours worked

The Census included information on hours that people usually work in their main job and so for people with more than one job, the hours in other jobs are excluded. The Census therefore gives an underestimation of total hours worked. Figure 3 shows that most residents in part time work in West Sussex work between 16 and 30 hours. However, men dominate in full-time employment with 51% of men in West Sussex working 38-48 hours compared to 28% of women; and 24% of men working 49 hours or more a week compared to 7% of women.

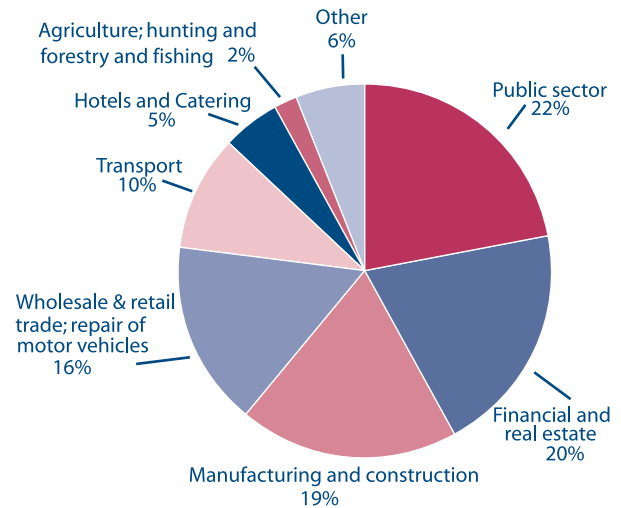
Figure 3: Hours worked by gender for West Sussex



Industry of employment

The breakdown of employment by industry is similar in West Sussex and E&W. The West Sussex breakdown is shown in Figure 4. The public sector includes administration and defence, education and health and social work. Some of those included in this category will be private sector workers e.g. those employed in private education and healthcare, but the majority are publicly employed and so these are grouped together. This sector makes up the largest group in West Sussex, comprising 22% of all employed individuals. Finance and real estate make up 20% of employment, manufacturing and construction 19%,

Figure 4: Industry of employment, percentage of all people aged 16-74 employed by industry for West Sussex



wholesale and retail trade is also a significant industry at 16%. Within Crawley, transport comprises 21% of employment, compared to 10% across West Sussex. This is mainly due to employment at, and around, Gatwick Airport which also impacts upon transport employment in neighbouring Mid Sussex and Horsham and the slightly higher proportion of people employed in hotels and catering in Crawley.

National Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

Since 2001, the NS-SeC has been used for all official statistics and surveys. The NS-SeC is an occupationally based classification but has rules to provide coverage of the whole adult population. It is based upon the occupation coded to the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 and details of employment status. More information about the NS-SeC can be found at the national statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk

For simplicity, the NS-SeC categories have been combined for this bulletin into four groups and these can be seen in Figure 5. West Sussex has a higher proportion of people aged 16-74 years in professional and managerial occupations than in E&W (31% and 27% respectively); in Horsham and Mid Sussex this is considerably higher, both at 37%. Adur, Arun and Crawley have the lowest proportion of people in professional and managerial occupations and conversely these three LAs have the highest proportions of people in semi-routine and routine occupations.

Figure 5: National Socio-economic Classification by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W (excluding not classified)

