

November 2025 (Issue 08)

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West Sussex Summary



New Businesses October 2025

- 549 new businesses incorporated. (20% decrease from September 2025)
- 408 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (32% decrease from September 2025)
- Net increase of 141 new businesses. (57% increase from September 2025)

Claimants October 2025

- Claimant count increased by 2.2% in West Sussex over the last month.
- The claimant count rate remained at 3.1% in West Sussex, matching the regional average of 3.1% and staying below the national average of 4.1%.

Universal Credit Claimants October 2025

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 2.1% in West Sussex over the last month.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (207% increase). Higher increase than national (176%) or regional (188%) average.
- In September 2025, 15.6% of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.7%.

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

- West Sussex: 398,145 (increased by 0.04%)
- West Sussex (South West): 195,687 (increased by 0.04%)
- West Sussex (North East): 202,458 (increased by 0.03%)
- South East: 4,276,557 (increased by less than 0.01%)
- UK: 30,273,000 (decreased by 0.11%)

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

- West Sussex (South West): 2,437 (decreased by 0.08%)
- West Sussex (North East): 2,732 (decreased by 0.40%)
- South East: 2,686 (decreased by 0.11%)
- UK: 2,538 (decreased by 0.39%)

Deprivation

- The overall Indices of Deprivation rank for West Sussex has effectively stayed the same over the past 6 years ranking 125 out of 153 in 2019 to 123 out of 151 in 2025.
- The areas of Chichester, Crawley, Mid Sussex rank lower compared to other local authorities in deprivation since 2019.
- The areas of Adur, Arun, Horsham and Worthing rank higher in deprivation compared to other local authorities since 2019.

Job Postings (Lightcast)

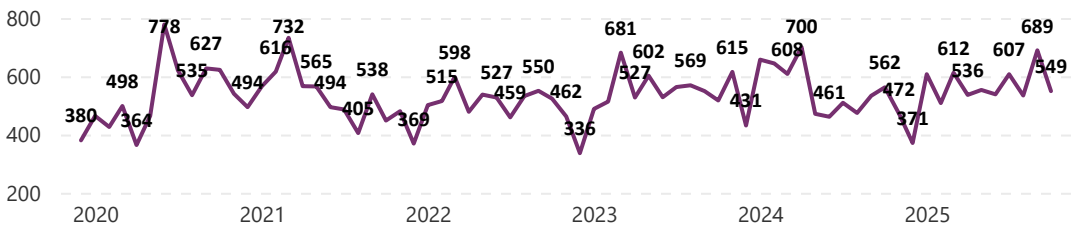
Update: As of June 2025, we have revised the way we report job postings. Notably, there is a change in the reported figures due to the removal of the 'Staffing Companies' (including recruitment companies) parameter. Going forward, we will report data exclusively under 'Non-Staffing Companies'.

- In October 2025, there were 11,352 unique job postings in West Sussex, which is almost 1% higher than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (May 2025 to October 2025), home health aide is the top posted followed closely by janitors/cleaners.

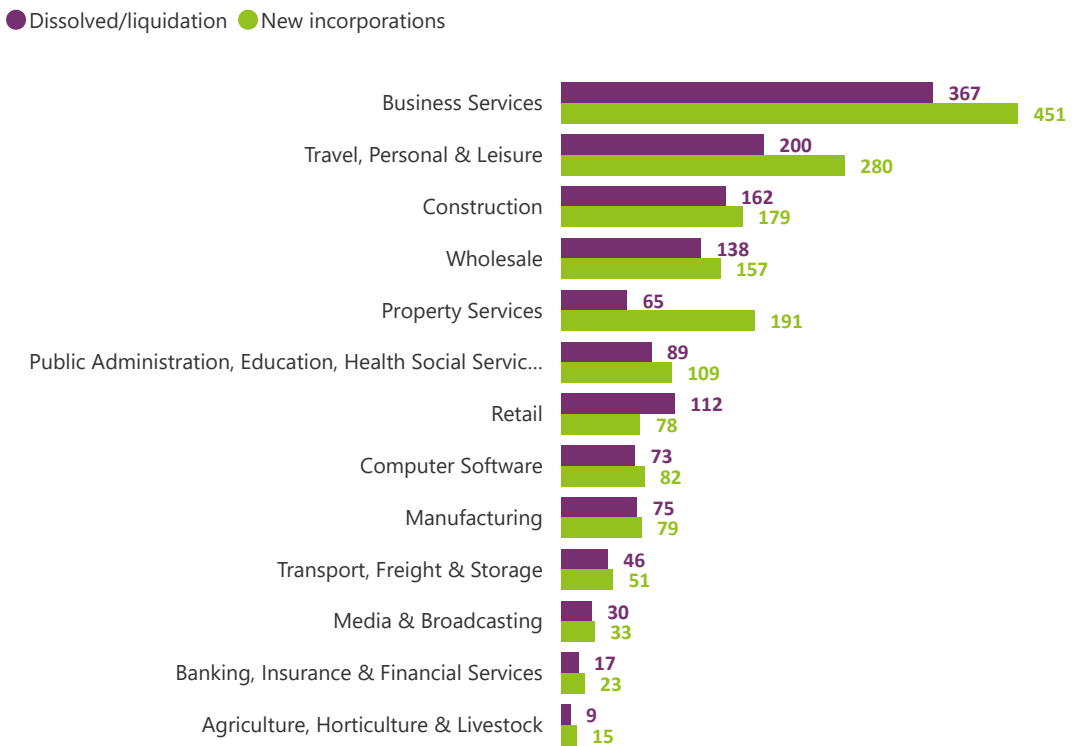
West Sussex: New Businesses



New business incorporations in West Sussex



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



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



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend: Over the past three months, a mostly positive trend has been observed across all districts and boroughs with exception of Worthing. Only Retail sector seen a slight decline all other industries have experienced a substantial increase in new businesses. This indicates a positive and encouraging trend across the broader economy.

Last 12 months:

- 7,040 new businesses incorporated.
- 6,382 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 658 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,763 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,476 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net increase of 287 businesses.

October 2025:

- 549 new businesses incorporated. (20% decrease from September 2025)
- 408 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (32% decrease from September 2025)
- Net increase of 141 businesses. (57% increase from August 2025)

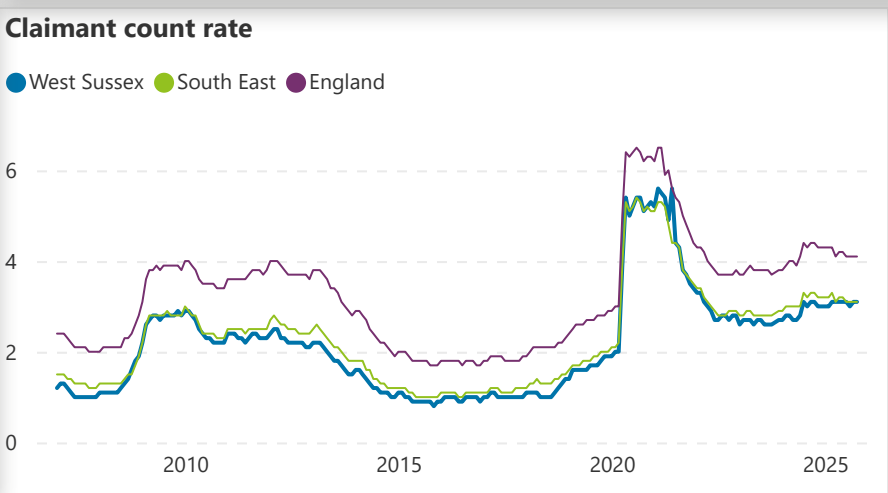
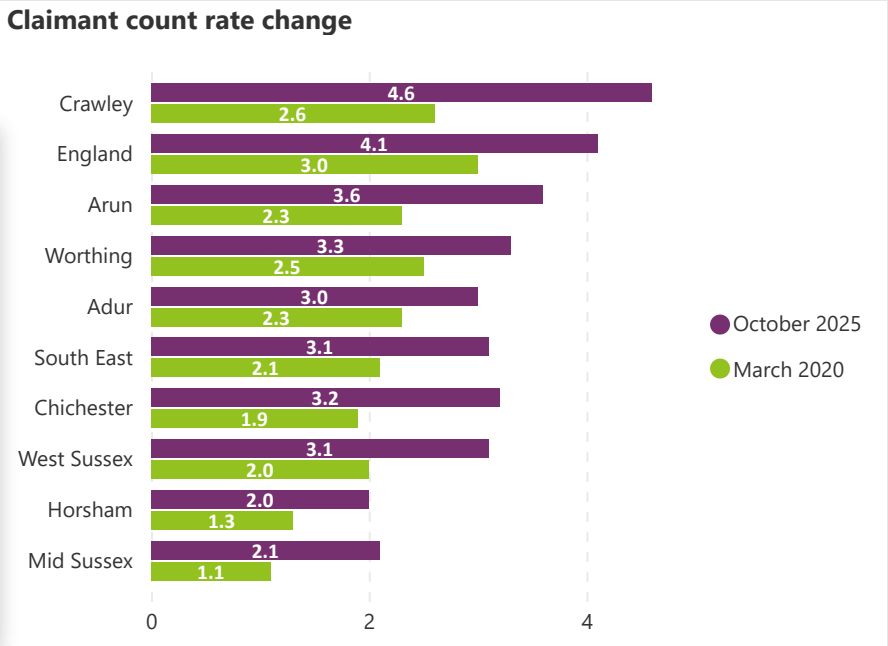
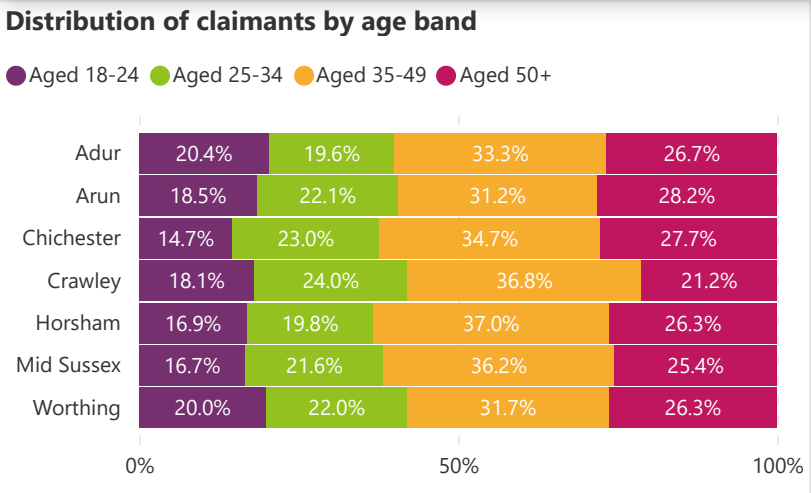
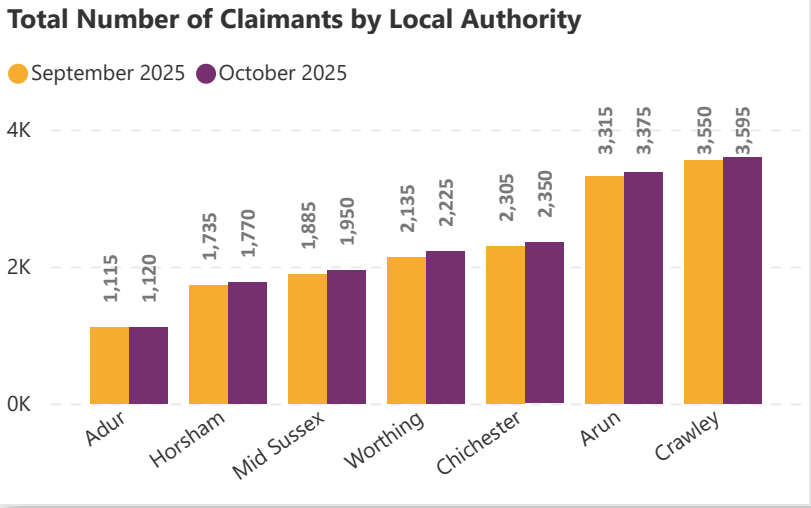


West Sussex: Claimant Count



16,390
Oct'25

16,035
Sep'25



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, October 2025

- Overall:**
- Claimant count has increased over the last month by 2.2% (16,390) in West Sussex.
 - Claimant count rate is 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining below national average of 4.1% and same as regional at 3.1%.

- Breakdown by district (Sep'25 - Oct'25):**
- Increases:**
- Adur (0.4%)
 - Arun (1.8%)
 - Chichester (2%)
 - Crawley (1.3%)
 - Horsham (2%)
 - Worthing (4.2%)
 - Mid Sussex (3.4%)

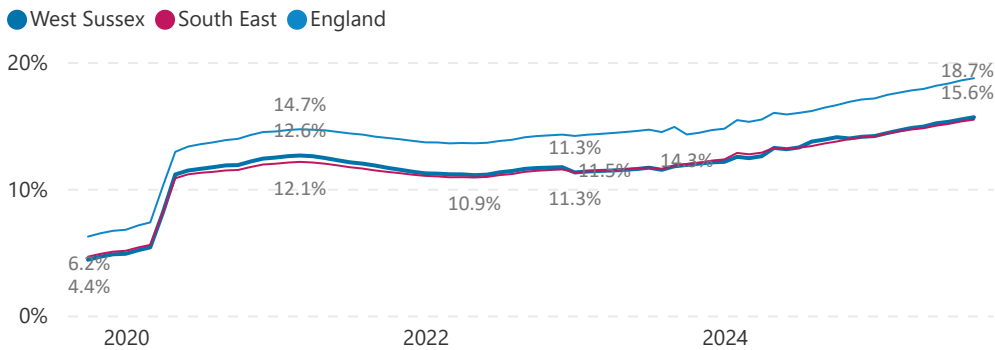
- Specifics (Oct'25):**
- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (3,595).
 - Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.6%), higher than regional and national average.
 - Horsham had the lowest claimant count rate (2%).

*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.

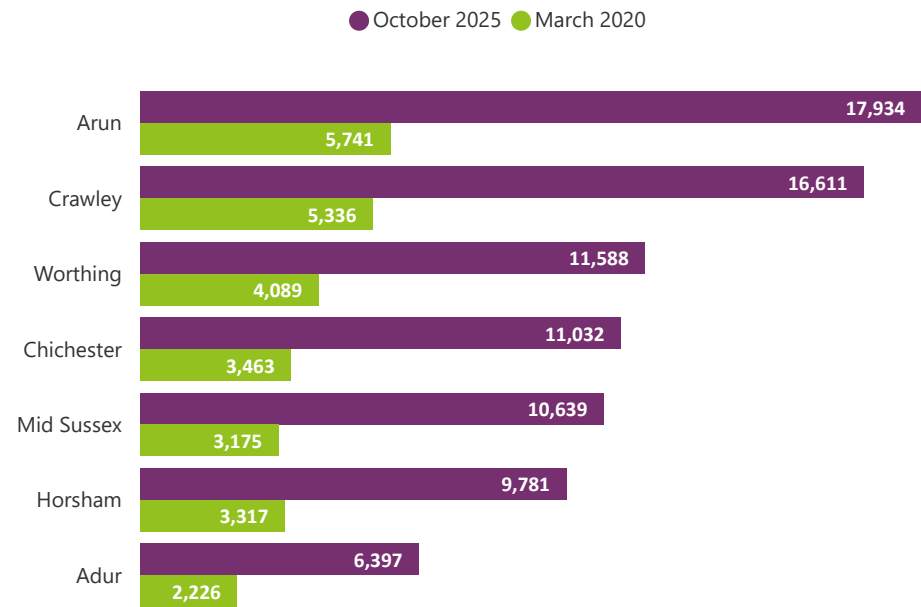
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



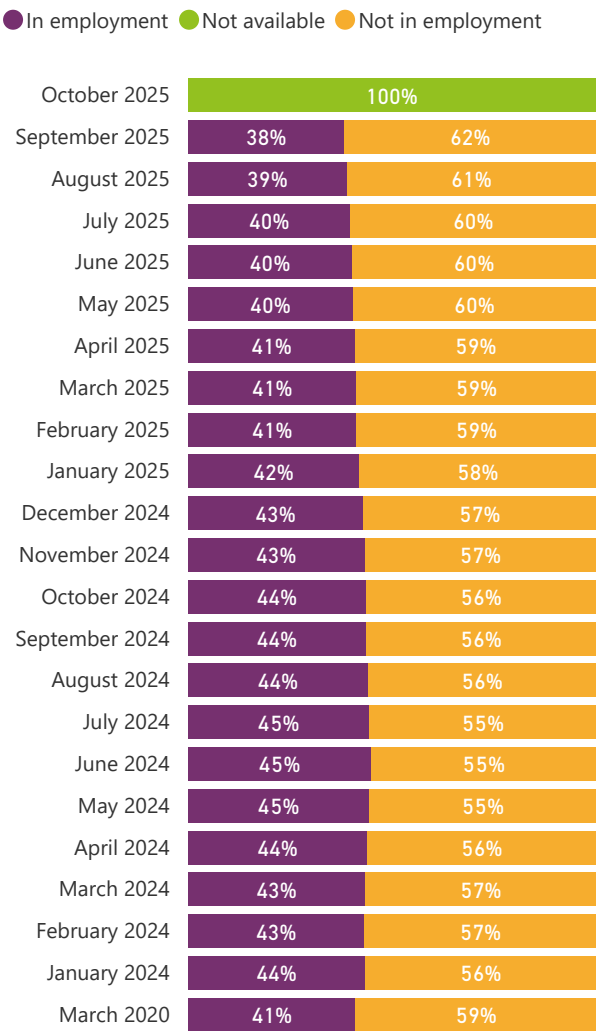
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, October 2025

Overall:

- In October 2025, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by 2.1% (83,982 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (207% increase).
- Higher increase than national (176%) or regional (188%) average.
- The percentage (September 2025) of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 15.6%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.7% for the last month.

Employment status:

- 38% of claimants were in employment in September 2025. Higher than national (33%) or regional (36%) average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham has the highest percentage of employed claimants (40%).

District-specific:

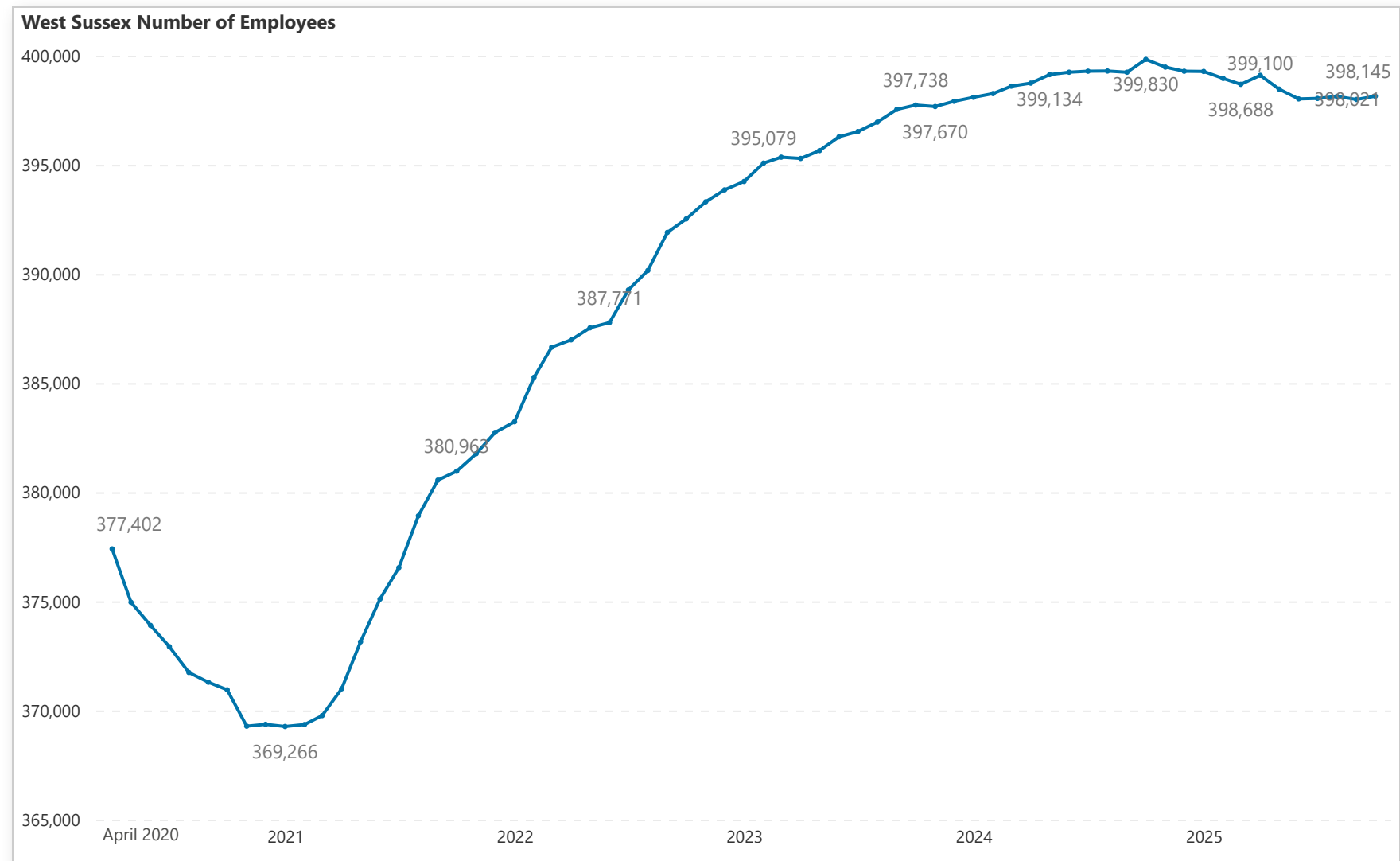
- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (235%) since March 2020.
- At October 2025, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 17,934.

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for October 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.



Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for October 2025.

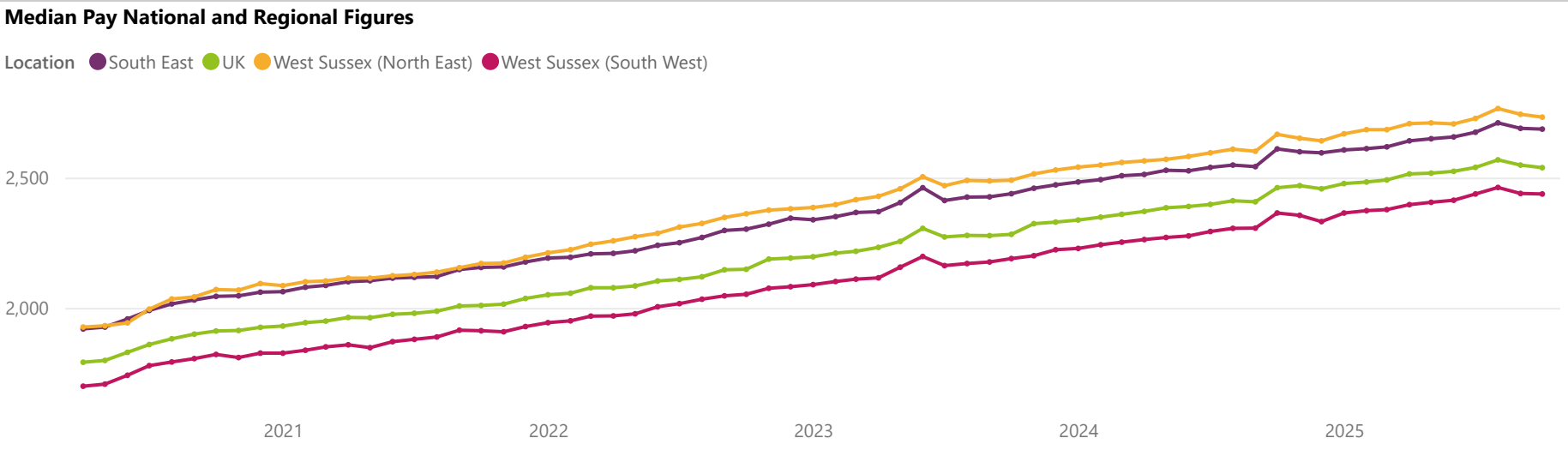
- Overall:**
- West Sussex: 398,145
 - West Sussex (South West): 195,687
 - West Sussex (North East): 202,458
 - South East: 4,276,557
 - UK: 30,273,000

- One Month Change (September 2025 - October 2025):**
- West Sussex increased by 0.04%
 - West Sussex (South West) increased by 0.04%
 - West Sussex (North East) increased by 0.03%
 - South East increased by less than 0.01%
 - England decreased by 0.11%

- Three Month Change (July 2025 - October 2025):**
- West Sussex increased by 0.03%
 - West Sussex (South West) increased by less than 0.01%
 - West Sussex (North East) increased by 0.05%
 - South East decreased by 0.09%
 - England decreased by 0.18%



Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



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

Overall:

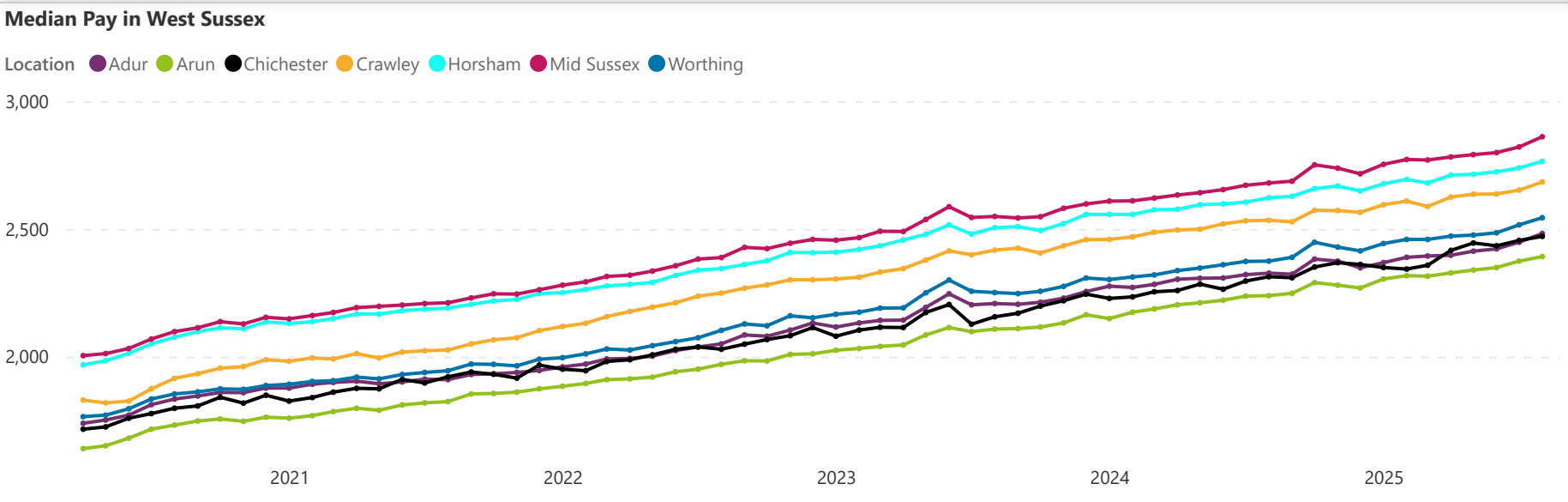
- West Sussex (South West): 2,437
- West Sussex (North East): 2,732
- South East: 2,686
- UK: 2,538

One Month Change (September 2025 - October 2025):

- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 0.08%
- West Sussex (North East) decreased by 0.40%
- South East decreased by 0.11%
- England decreased by 0.39%

Three Month Change (July 2025 - October 2025):

- West Sussex (South West) increased by 0.18%
- West Sussex (North East) increased by less than 0.00%
- South East increased by 0.45%
- England decreased by 0.04%



Deprivation

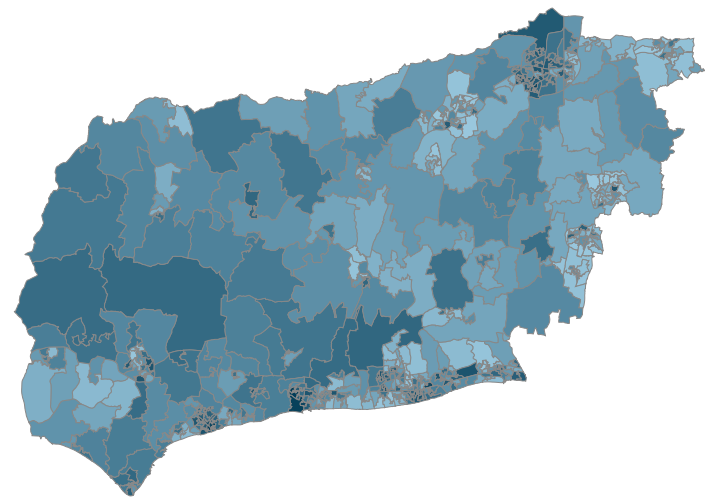
Note: In deprivation rankings, 1 is the most deprived and 296 is the least deprived. An increase in deprivation rank number means relative deprivation has gone down and vice versa.

For example, in the chart below, Adur's rank number has increased by 49 meaning relative deprivation has gone down. Chichester's rank number has decreased meaning relative deprivation has increased. However, this could be driven by factors such as barriers to housing & services.

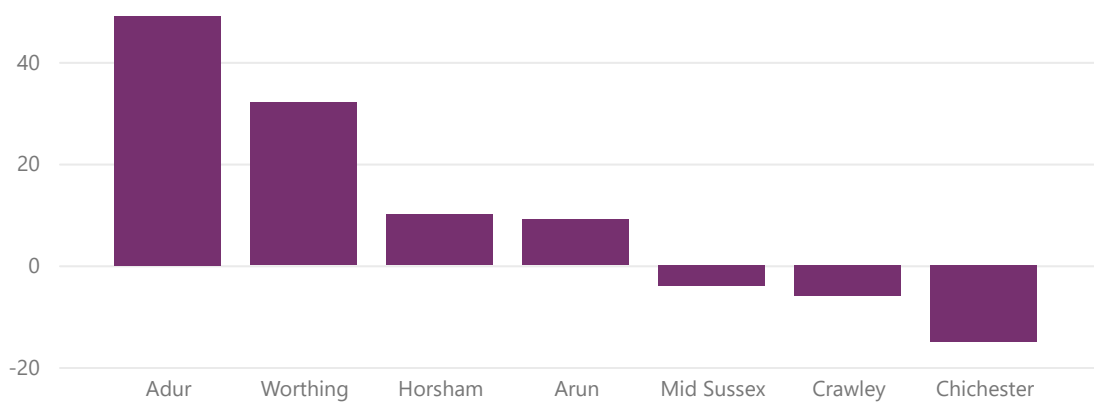
The overall Index of Multiple Deprivation is an aggregated score based on these seven domains:

- Barriers to Housing & Services
- Income
- Employment
- Crime
- Living Environment
- Education & skills
- Health & disability

LSOA Deprivation Levels across West Sussex



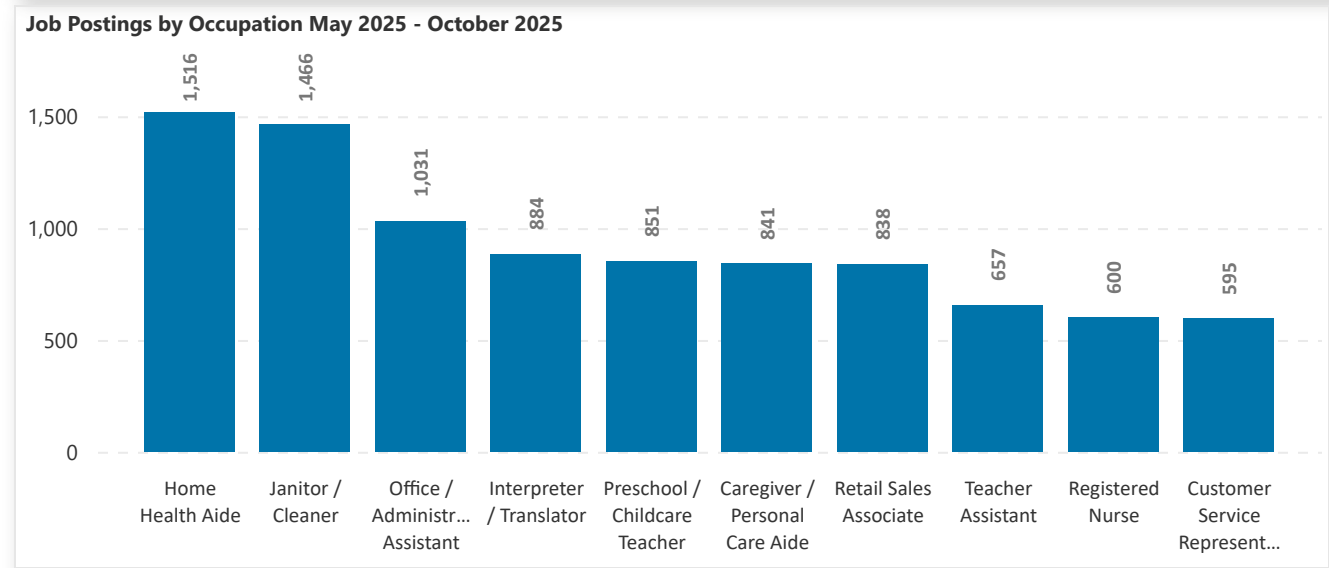
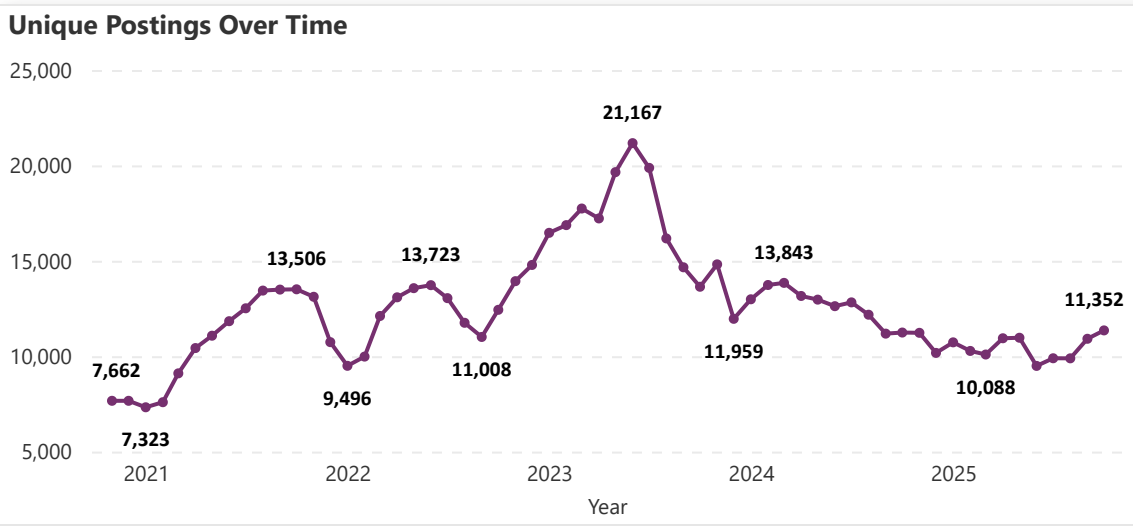
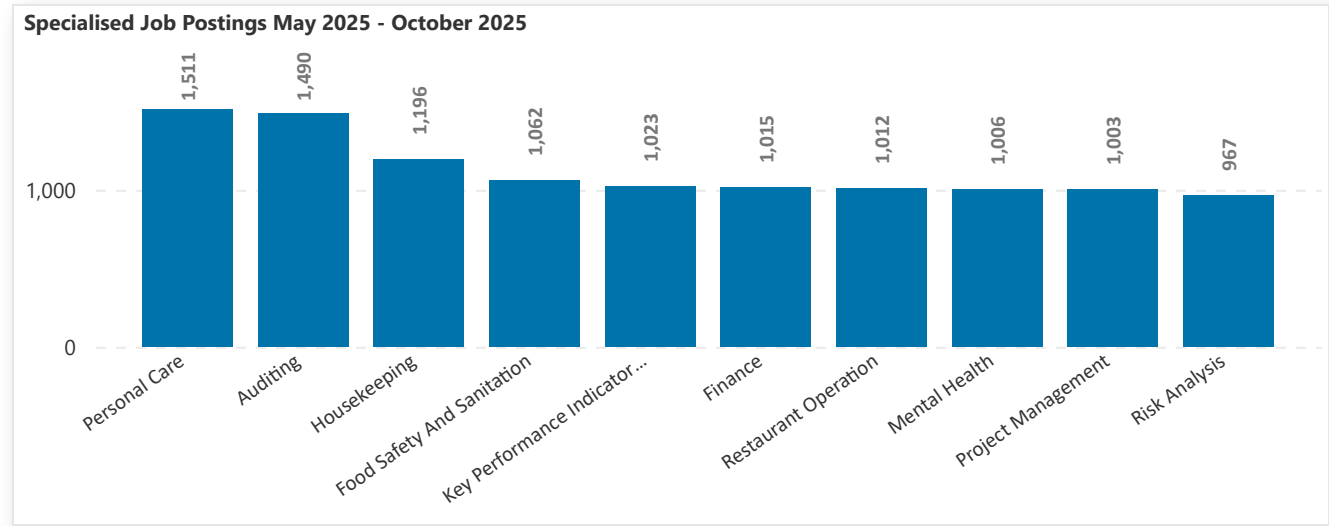
Local Authority Change in Rankings 2019 to 2025 (Adjusted for the Change in the Number of Local Authorities)



The results for the indices of Deprivation (IoD)** were released on the 30th of October 2025 by the oxford consultants for social inclusion (OCSI). This release contains deprivation rank data on local authorities in West Sussex. There are 21 less local authorities in 2025 than 2019. A calculation has been applied to take the change over time into account.

- The overall Indices of Deprivation rank for West Sussex has effectively stayed the same over the past 6 years ranking 125 out of 153 in 2019 to 123 out of 151 in 2025.
- The areas of Chichester, Crawley, Mid Sussex rank lower compared to other local authorities in deprivation since 2019.
- The areas of Adur, Arun, Horsham and Worthing rank higher in deprivation compared to other local authorities since 2019.
- Adur saw the biggest decrease in deprivation rank (up 49) while Chichester saw the highest increase in deprivation rank (down 15). These changes in rank are adjusted to consider the change in the number of local authorities between 2019 and 2025.
- The Southern Bognor Regis area is the highest ranked deprived LSOA in West Sussex.
- The Southern Burgess Hill area is the lowest ranked deprived LSOA in West Sussex.

Job Postings



Summary of the job postings in West Sussex by Lightcast.

WSSC 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 October 2025 there were 11,352 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 21,167 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (May 2025 to October 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.



National Summary



Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in August 2025 to October 2025 was 723,000.
- Increasing 2,000 or 0.2% from August to October 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 99,000 (12.0%) in August 2025 to October 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in July 2025 to September 2025, up from 2.3 in the previous quarter.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% in September 2025.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for October 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.6% or 180,000 from the previous year.
- The change in employees was highest in the public administration and defence sector with a rise 16,000 employees.
- The wholesale and retail sector saw the highest fall with 71,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for September 2025 compared with August 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 10,000 reported in the last bulletin to a decrease of 32,000.
- Early estimates for October 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 3.1% compared with October 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in October 2025 was highest in the public administration and defence sector, with an increase of 6.5%; it was lowest in the health and social sector, with a decrease of 1.9%

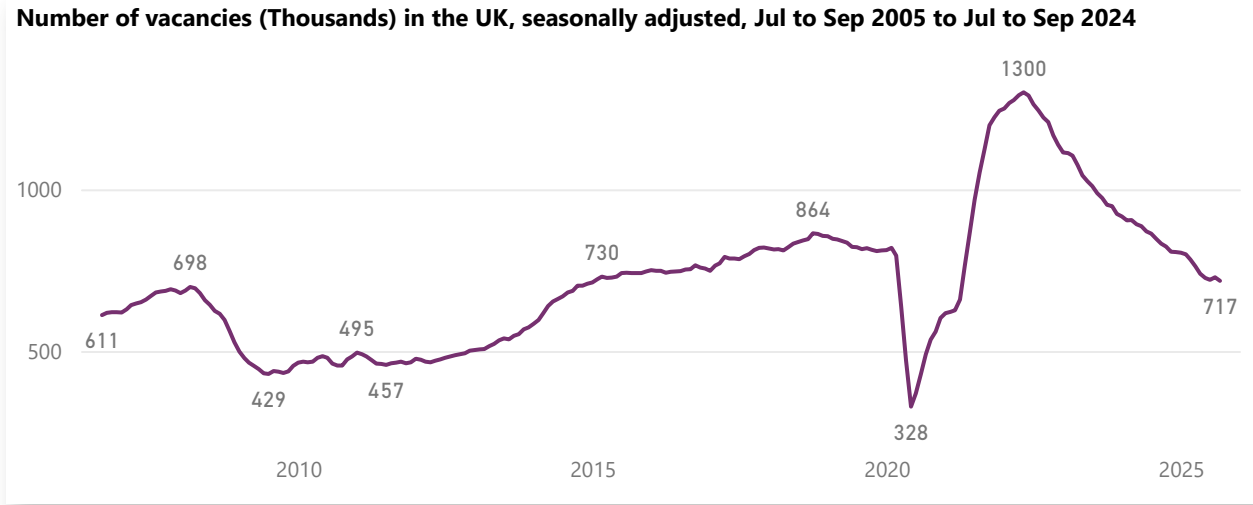
Business Trading

- 14% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in October 2025 compared with September 2025.
- 26% of trading businesses reported their turnover had decreased in October 2025 compared with September 2025.
- 26% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in December 2025.
- 14% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in December 2025.
- In early November 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 29%. For businesses with 10 or more employees, the most commonly reported challenge was cost of labour at 34%.
- 24% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in October 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 8% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services they sell in October 2025.
- 16% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were experiencing worker shortages in early November 2025.
- 16% of trading businesses reported that falling demand of goods and services was the main concern for businesses when looking ahead to December 2025.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 2,029 in October 2025, which was 2% higher than in September 2025 and 17% higher than in the same month of the previous year.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 301 compulsory liquidations, 1,592 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 119 administrations and 17 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 10,552 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 599 bankruptcies, 3,846 debt relief orders (DROs) and 6,107 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in October 2025 were lower than the record high seen in August 2025, but remained at the historically high levels seen in the past 18 months.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels but were similar to October 2024.

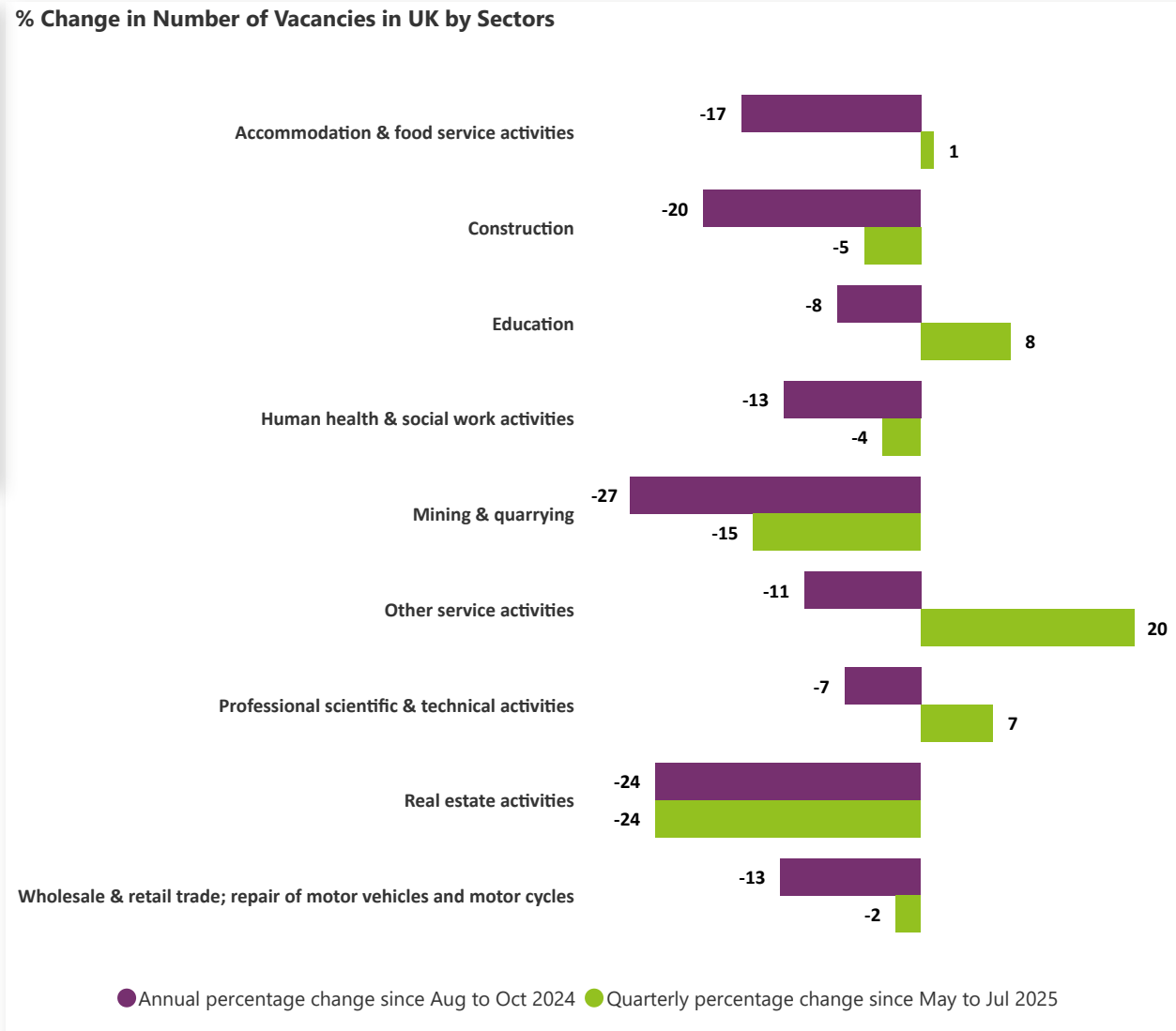
Job Vacancies (UK)



Summary of job vacancies (UK).

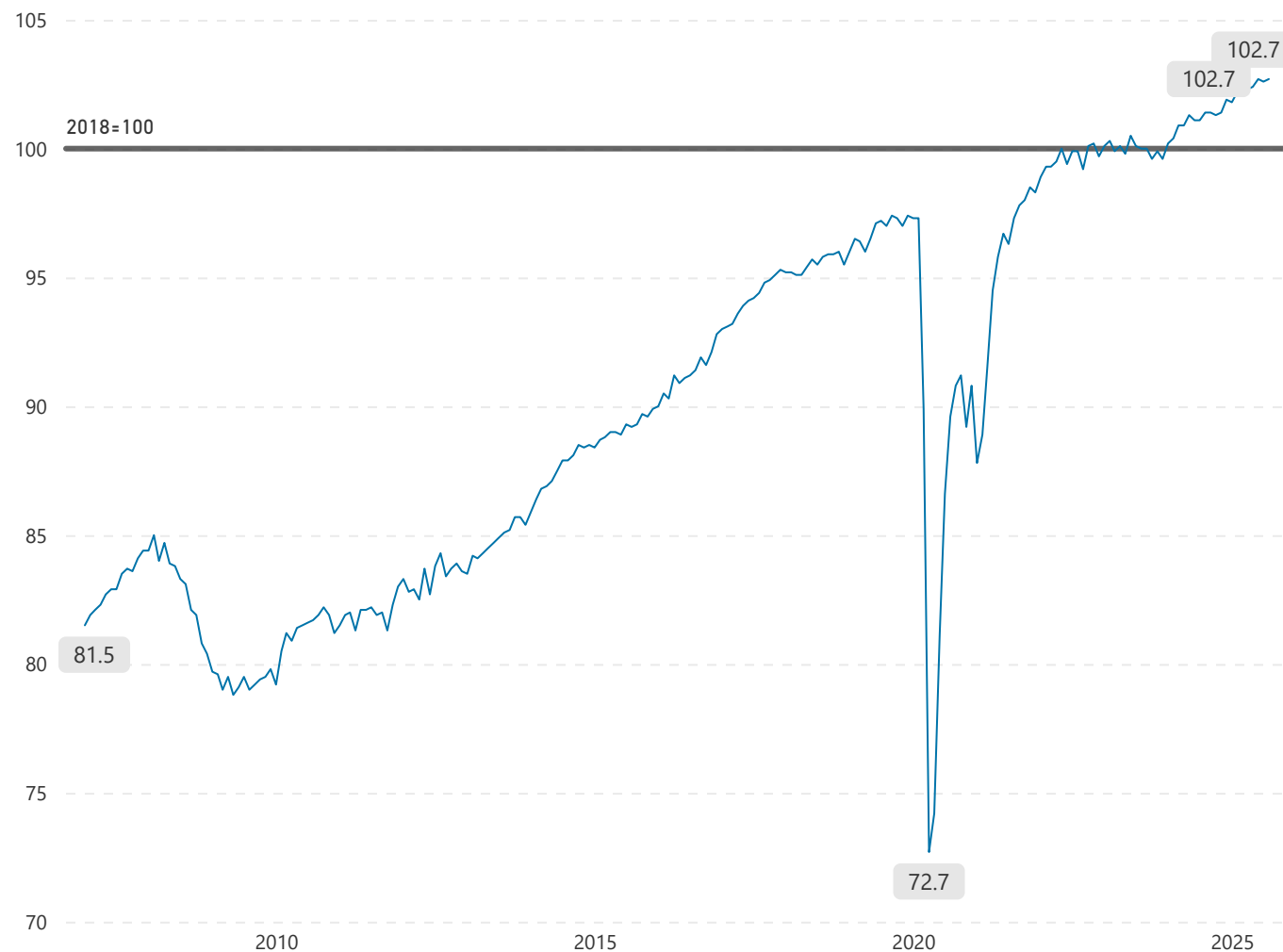
Overall:

- Estimated vacancies in August 2025 to October 2025 was 723,000.
- Increasing 2,000 or 0.2% from August to October 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 99,000 (12.0%) in August 2025 to October 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in July 2025 to September 2025, up from 2.3 in the previous quarter.



Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Monthly index, UK



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

Overall:

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% in September 2025.

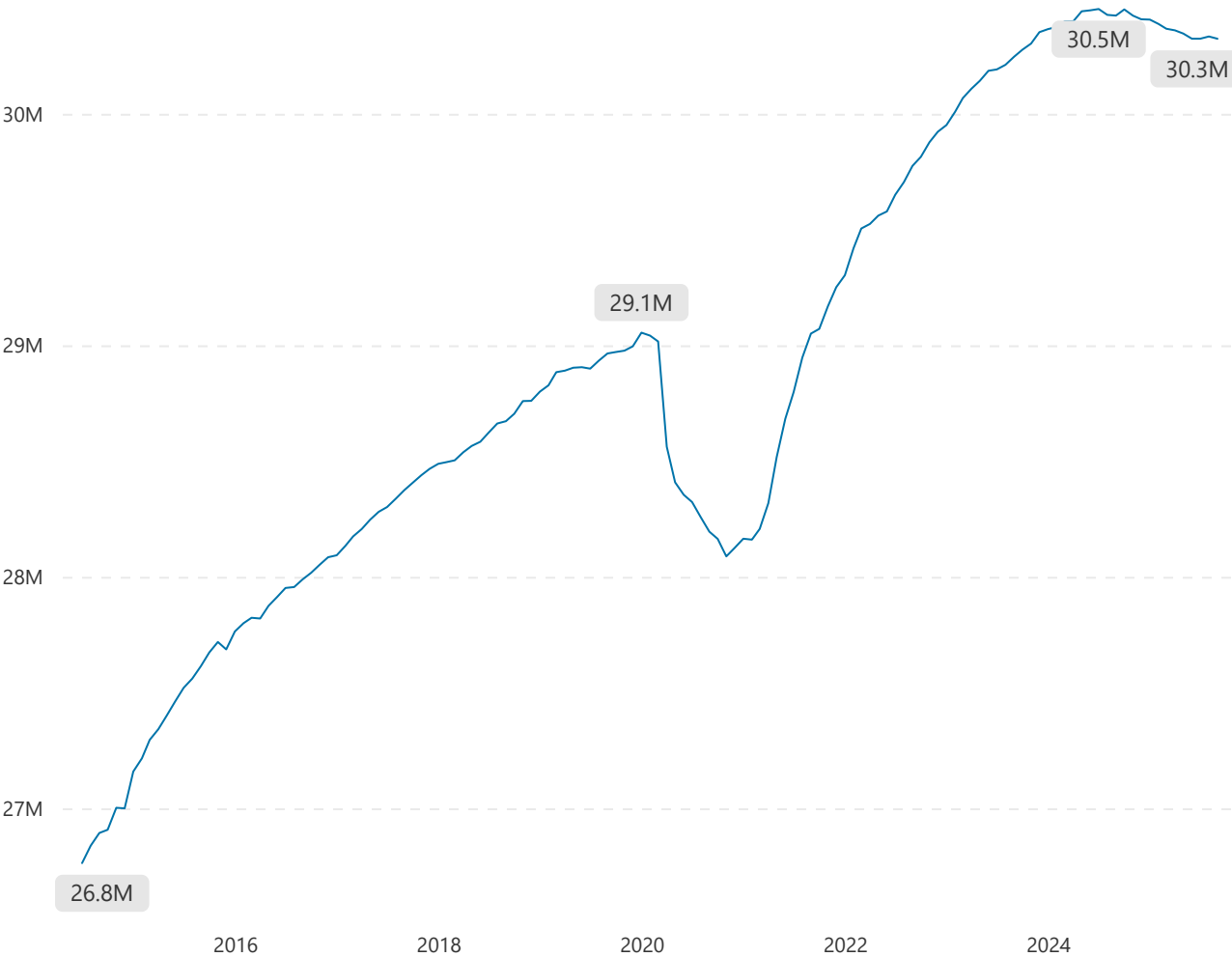
Output growth:

- Services grew by 0.2% in the three months to September 2025
- Production fell by 0.5% in the three months to September 2025
- Construction grew by 0.1% in the three months to September 2025

Labour Market



Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for October 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.6% or 180,000 from the previous year.
- The change in employees was highest in the public administration and defence sector with a rise 16,000 employees.
- The wholesale and retail sector saw the highest fall with 71,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for September 2025 compared with August 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 10,000 reported in the last bulletin to an decrease of 32,000.
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- Annual growth in median pay in October 2025 was highest in the public administration and defence sector, with an increase of 6.5%; it was lowest in the health and social care sector, with decrease of 1.9%

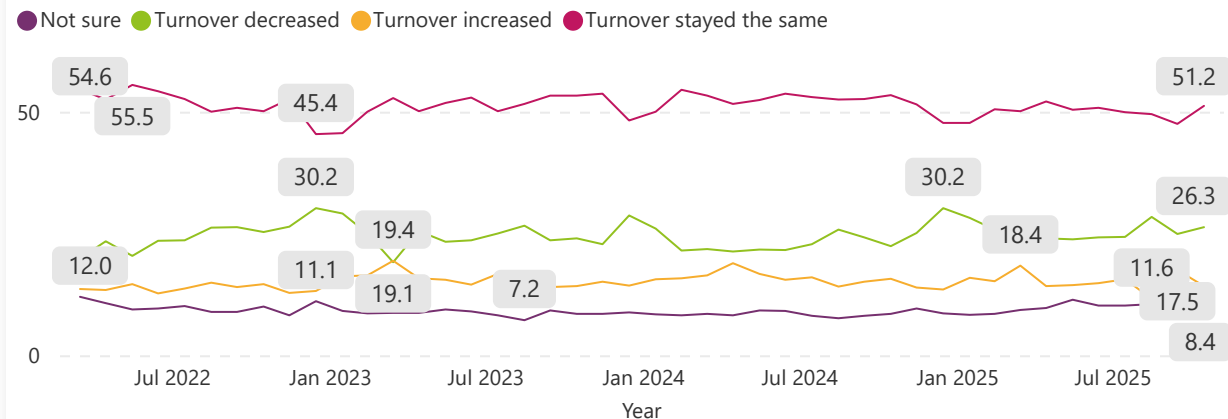
Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

This data is the final results from Wave 143 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 20 October to 2 November 2025.

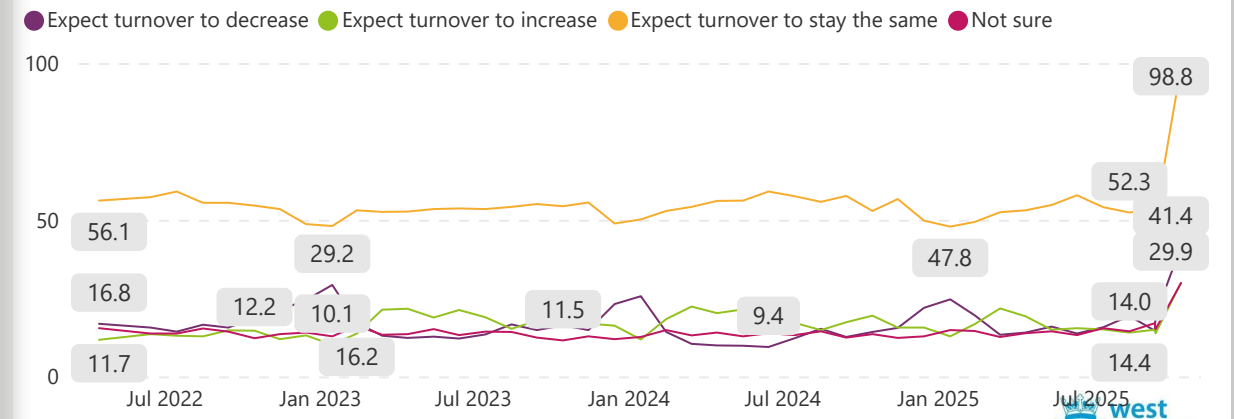
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- 16% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were experiencing worker shortages in early November 2025.
- 16% of trading businesses reported that falling demand of goods and services was the main concern for businesses when looking ahead to December 2025.

Turnover Comparison between October and November 2025

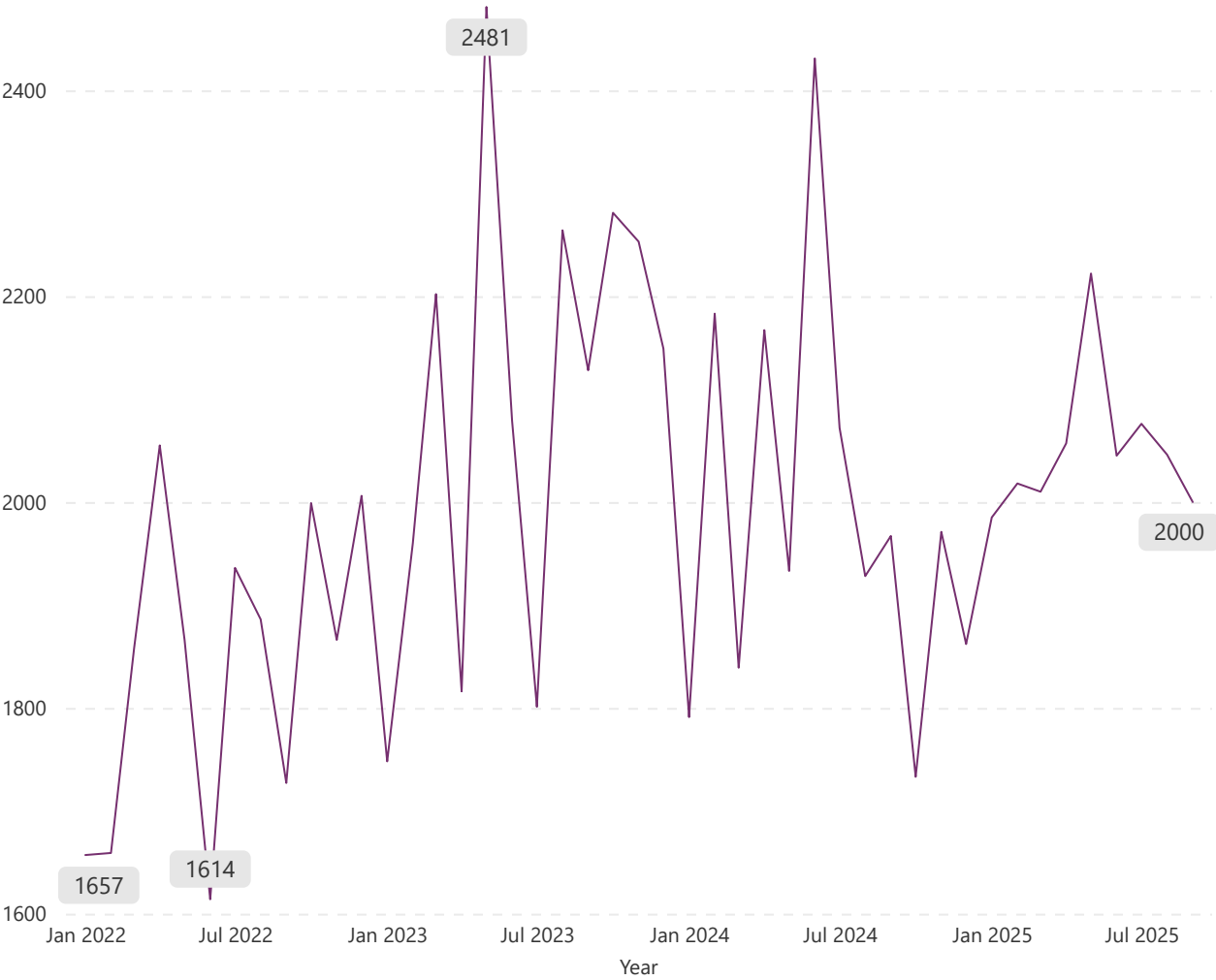


Expected Turnover for December 2025



Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales



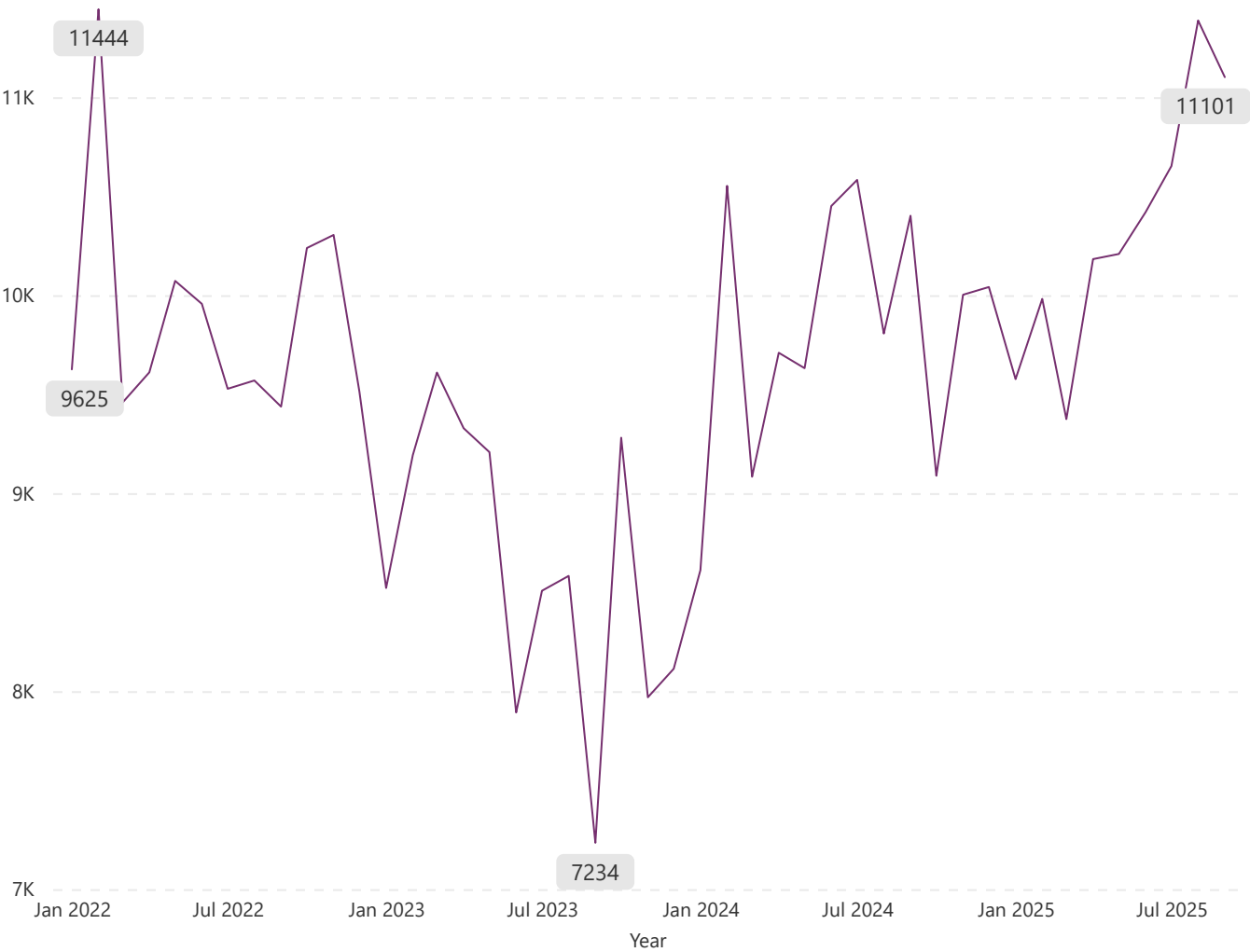
Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

Overall:

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 2,029 in October 2025, which was 2% higher than in September 2025 and 17% higher than in the same month of the previous year.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 301 compulsory liquidations, 1,592 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 119 administrations and 17 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).

Business Closures (Individual)

Individual insolvencies in England & Wales



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

Overall:

- There were 10,552 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 599 bankruptcies, 3,846 debt relief orders (DROs) and 6,107 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in October 2025 were lower than the record high seen in August 2025, but remained at the historically high levels seen in the past 18 months.
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