

August 2025 (Issue 05)

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West Sussex Summary

New Businesses July 2025

- 607 new businesses incorporated. (12.8% increase from June 2025)
- 708 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (64.3% increase from June 2025)
- Net decrease of 101 businesses. (was an increase of 173 in June)

Claimants July 2025

- Claimant count increased by 1% in West Sussex over the last month.
- The claimant count rate stayed the same at 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining the same as regional average of 3.1% and below then national average of 4.1%.

Universal Credit Claimants July 2025

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.7% in West Sussex over the last month.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (196% increase). Higher increase than national (167%) or regional (179%) average.
- 15.2% of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.1%.

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

- West Sussex: 397,494 (decreased 0.05%)
- West Sussex (South West): 195,395 (decreased 0.01%)
- West Sussex (North East): 202,099 (decreased 0.09%)
- South East: 4,274,369 (decreased 0.05%)
- UK: 30,285,820 (decreased 0.03%)

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

- West Sussex (South West): £2,424 (increased 0.50%)
- West Sussex (North East): £2,715 (decreased 0.18%)
- South East: £2,666 (increased 0.34%)
- UK: £2,536 (increased 0.40%)

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 July 2025, there were 10,383 unique job postings in West Sussex, which is almost 23% lower than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (February 2025 to July 2025), home health aide is the top posted followed closely by janitors/cleaners.

Mid-Year Population Estimates

The latest (2024) mid-year population estimates are as follows:

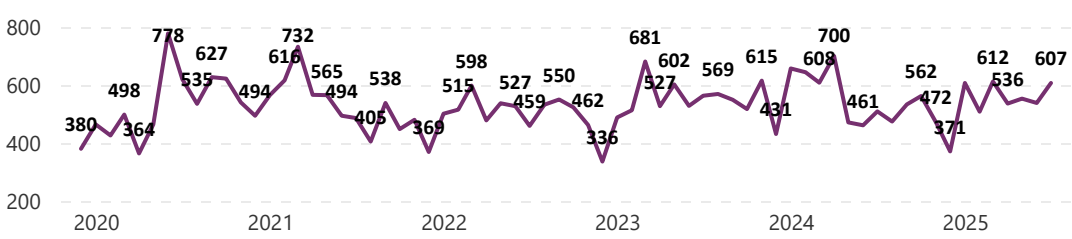
- Adur: 64,889
- Arun: 170,064
- Chichester: 128,934
- Crawley: 124,008
- Horsham: 151,521
- Mid Sussex: 161,755
- Worthing: 161,755
- West Sussex: 915,037

The population for West Sussex has increased by 11,004 (1.2%) since the 2023 estimate.

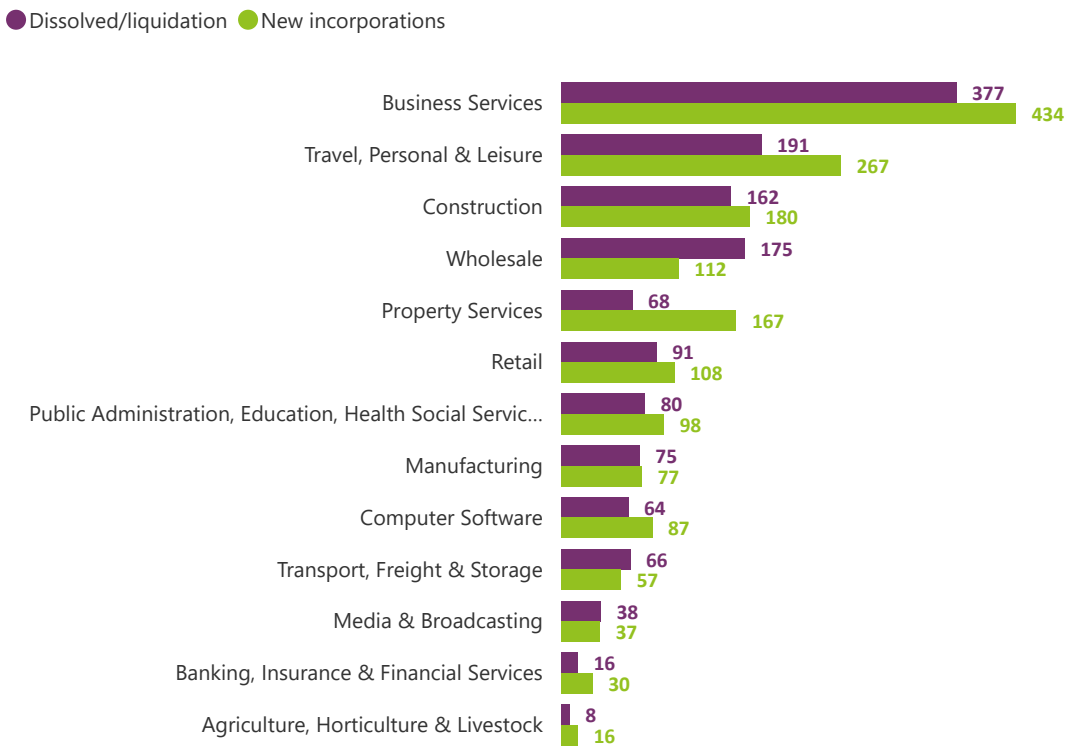
West Sussex: New Businesses



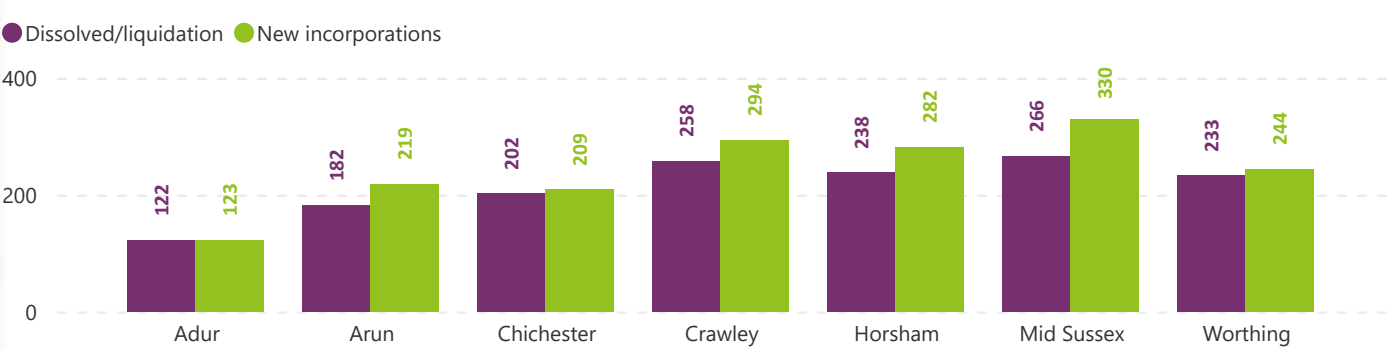
New business incorporations in West Sussex



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



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



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend: Over the past three months, a positive trend has been observed across all districts and boroughs. With the exception of the Wholesale, Transport, Freight and Storage, Media & Broadcasting 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:

- 6,797 new businesses incorporated.
- 6,188 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 609 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,701 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,501 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net increase of 200 businesses.

July 2025:

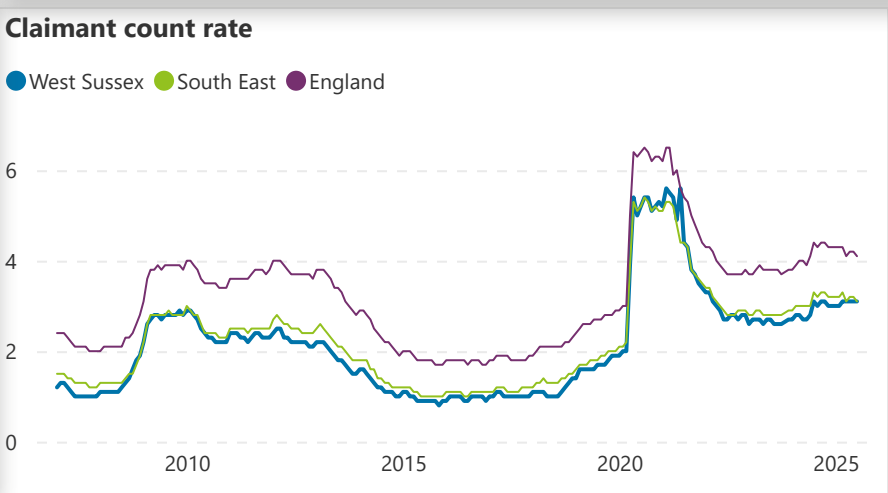
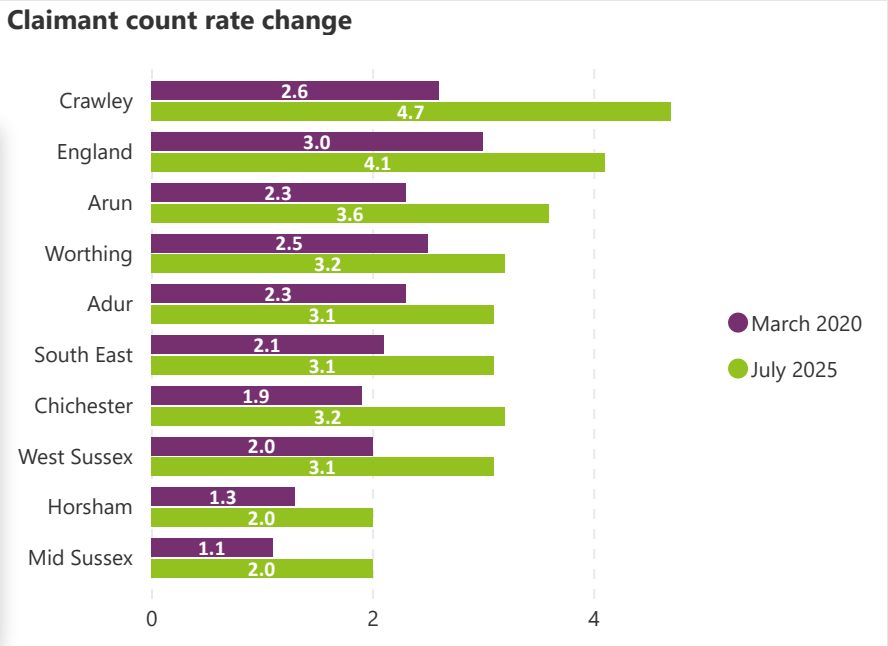
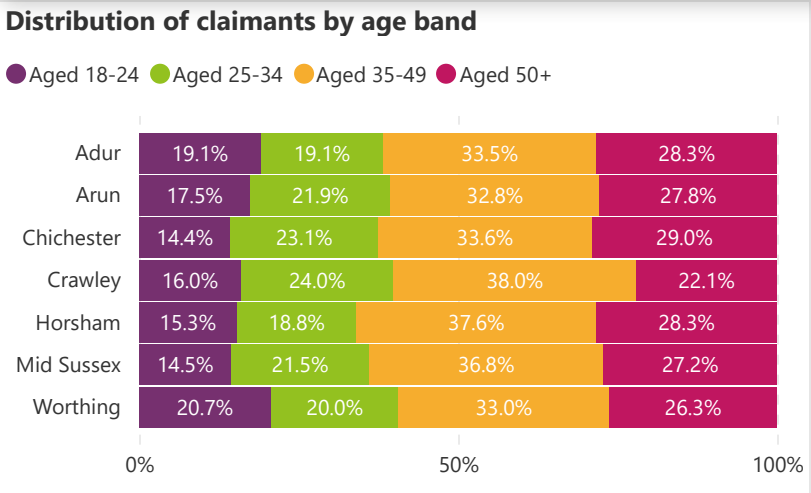
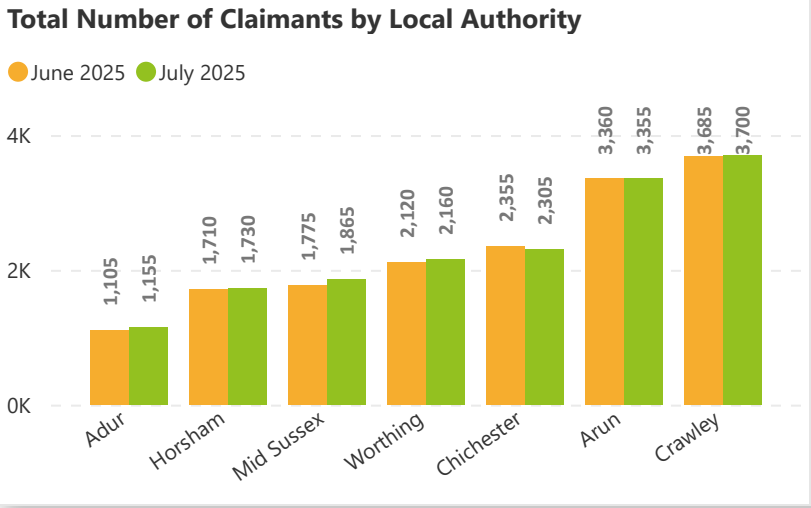
- 607 new businesses incorporated. (12.8 % increase from June 2025)
- 708 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (64.3% increase from June 2025)
- Net decrease of 101 businesses.

West Sussex: Claimant Count



16,110
Jun'25

16,270
Jul'25



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, July 2025

Overall:

- Claimant count has increased over the last month by 1% (16,270) in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate is 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining the same as regional average of 3.1% and below national 4.1%.

Breakdown by district (Jun'25 - Jul'25):

Increases:

- Adur (4.5%)
- Crawley (0.4%)
- Horsham (1.2%)
- Worthing (1.9%)
- Mid Sussex (5.1%)

Decreases:

- Chichester (2.1%)
- Arun (0.1%)

Specifics (Jul'25):

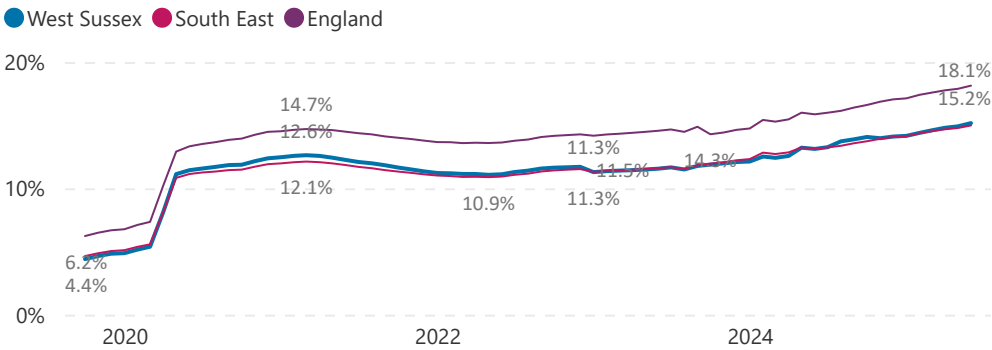
- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (3,700).
- Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.7%), higher than regional and national average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham had the lowest claimant count rate (2%).

*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.

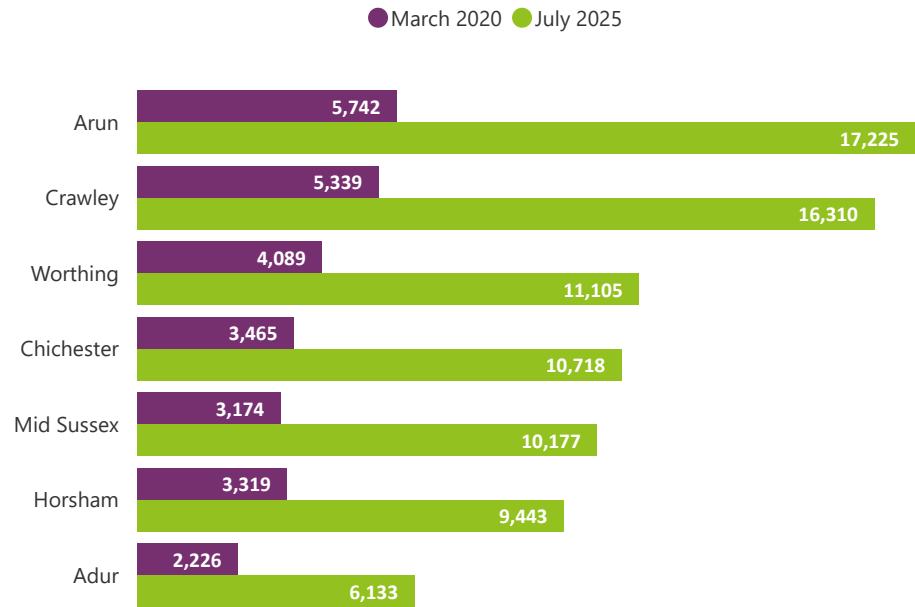
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



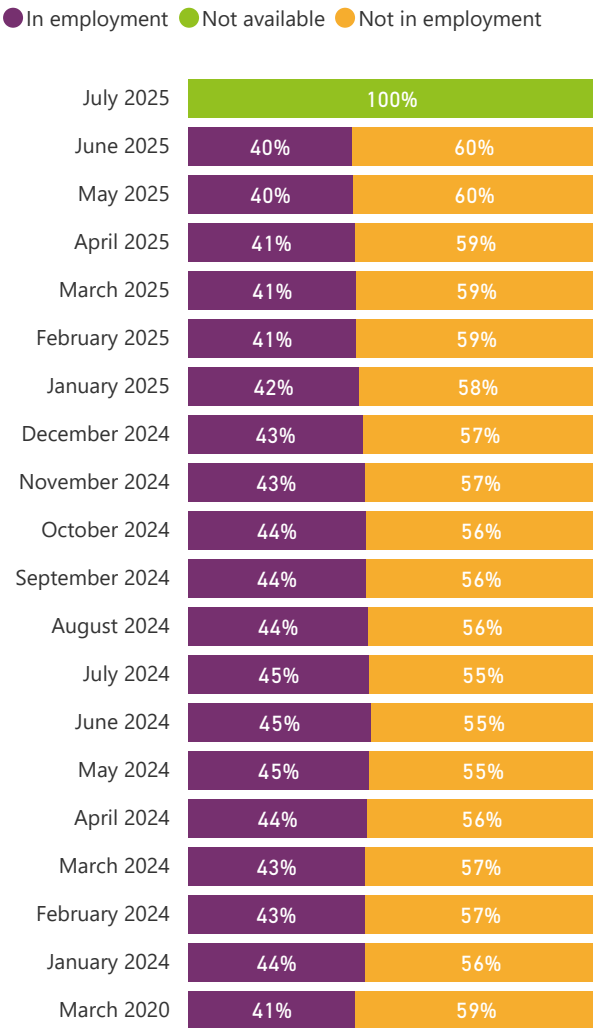
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, July 2025

Overall:

- In July 2025, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.7% (81,111 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (196% increase).
- Higher increase than national (167%) or regional (179%) average.
- The percentage of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 15.2%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.1% for the last month.

Employment status:

- 40% of claimants were in employment in June 2025. Higher than national (34%) or regional (37%) average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham has the highest percentage of employed claimants (almost 43%).

District-specific:

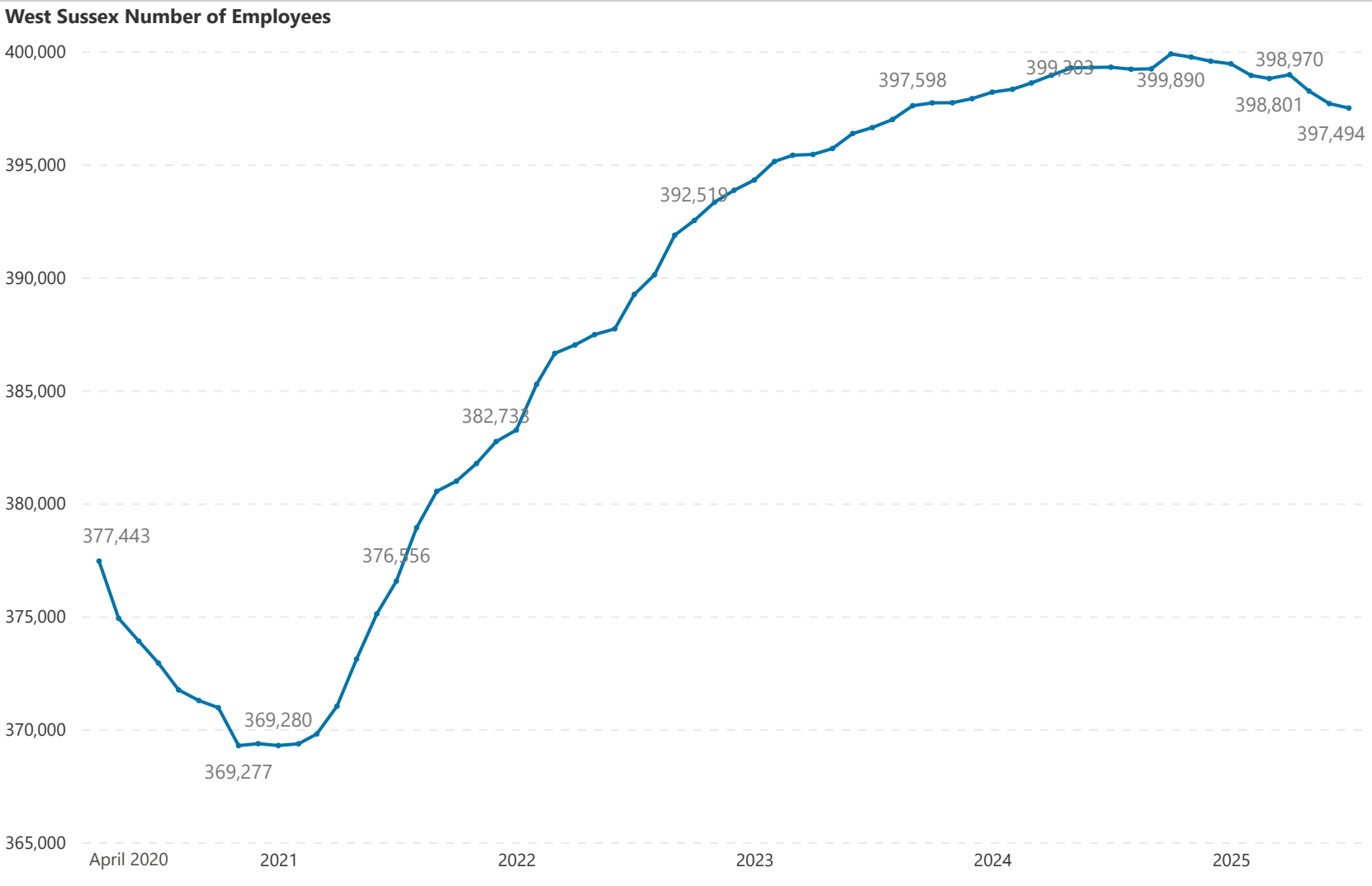
- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (215%) since March 2020.
- At June 2025, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 17,225.

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for July 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 July 2025.

Overall:

- West Sussex: 397,494
- West Sussex (South West): 195,395
- West Sussex (North East): 202,099
- South East: 4,274,369
- UK: 30,285,820

One Month Change (June 2025 - July 2025):

- West Sussex decreased by 0.05%
- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 0.01%
- West Sussex (North East) decreased by 0.09%
- South East decreased by 0.05%
- England decreased by 0.03%

Three Month Change (Apr 2025 - July 2025):

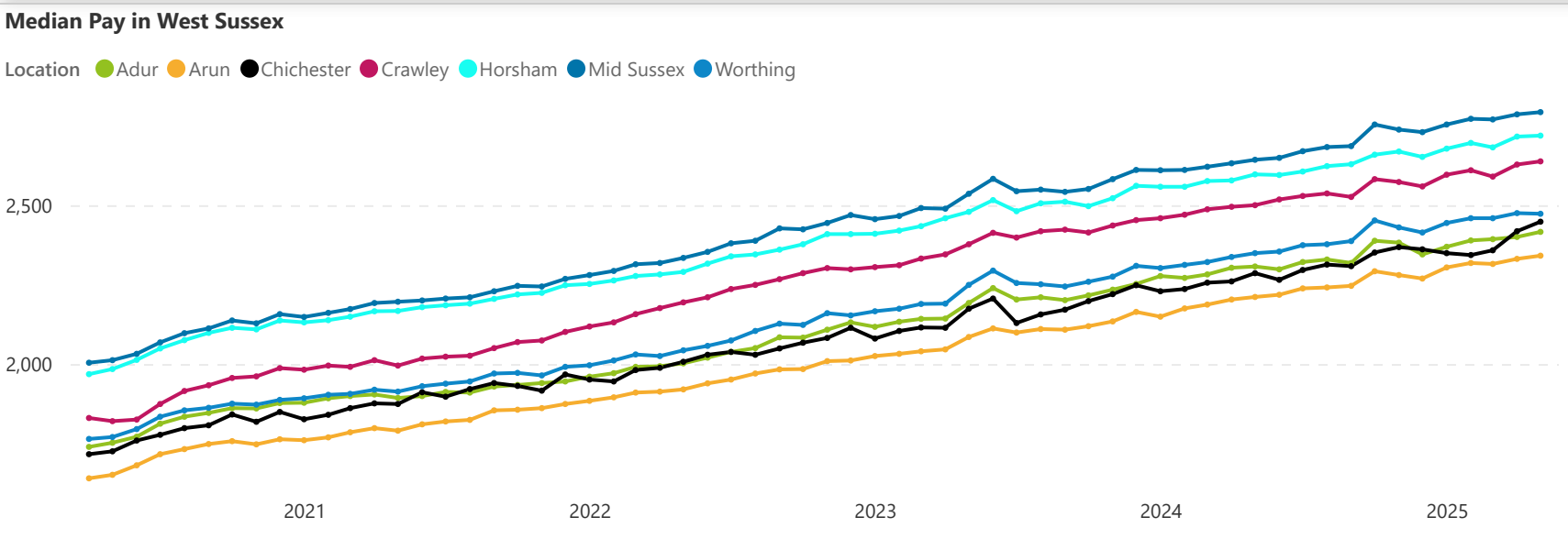
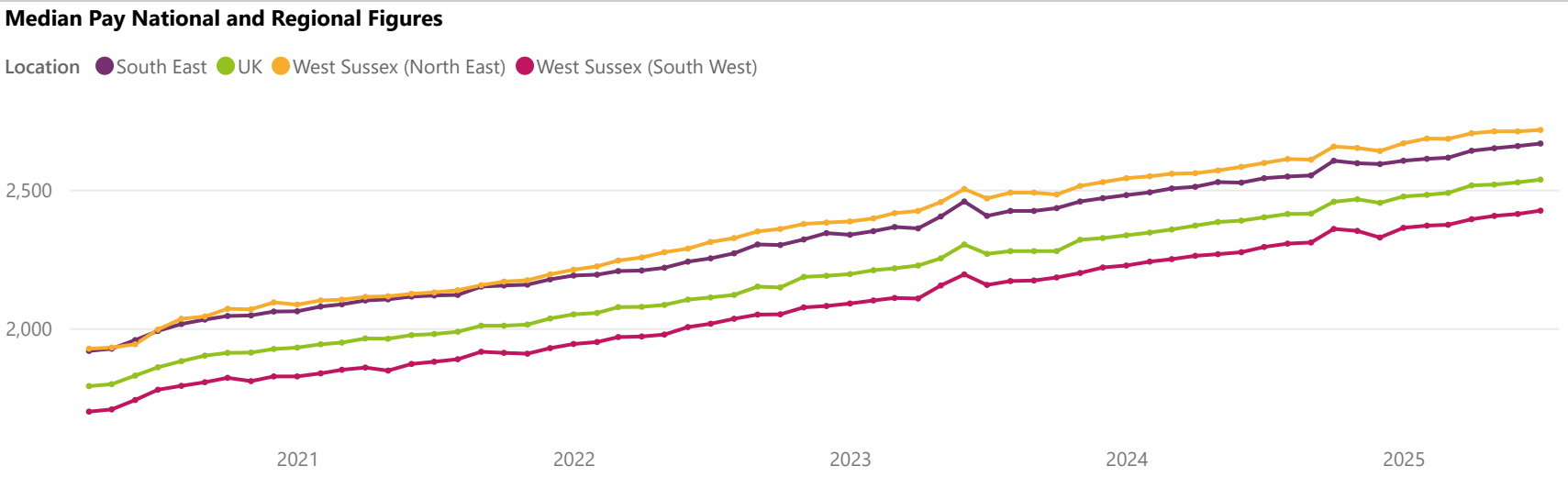
- West Sussex decreased by 0.37%
- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 0.34%
- West Sussex (North East) decreased by 0.40%
- South East decreased by 0.22%
- England decreased by 0.19%

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

Released: 12 August 2025



Real Time Information Earnings and Employment

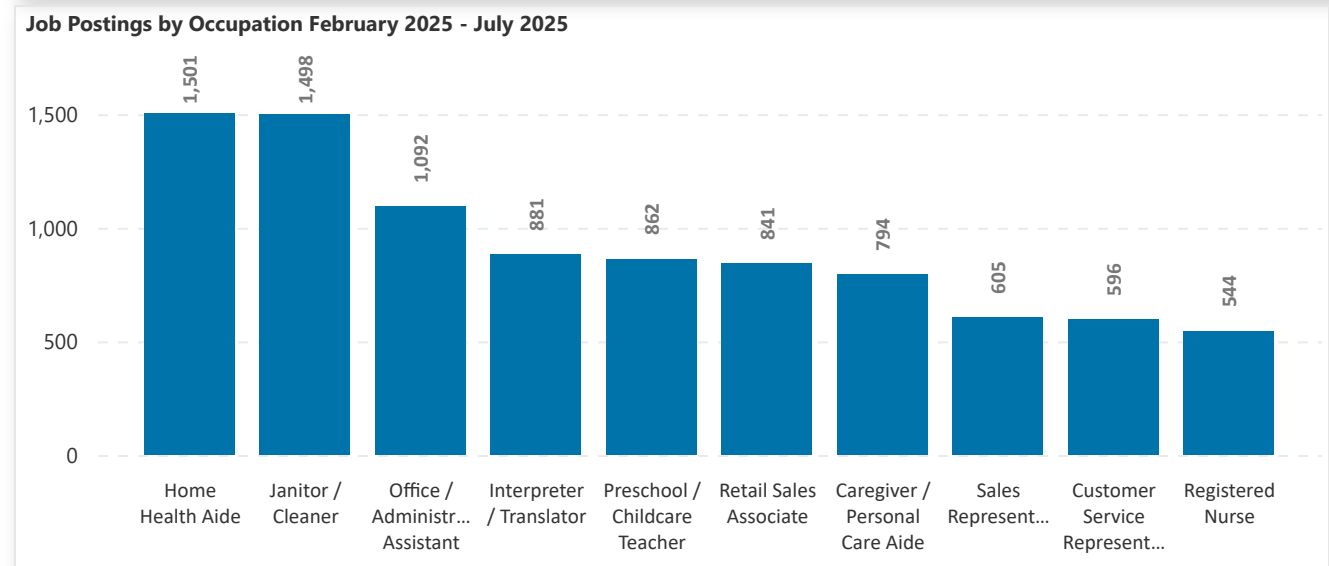
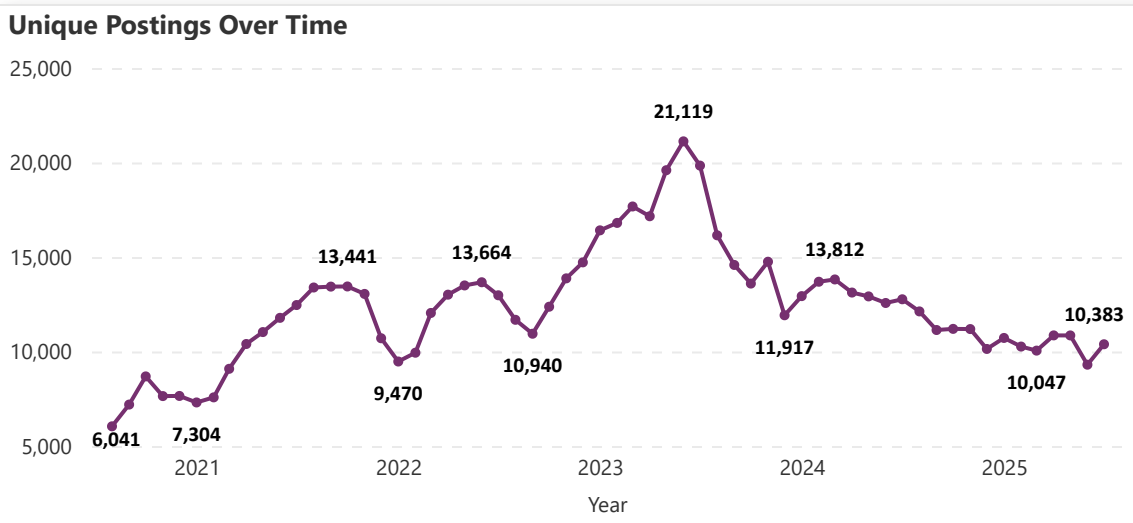
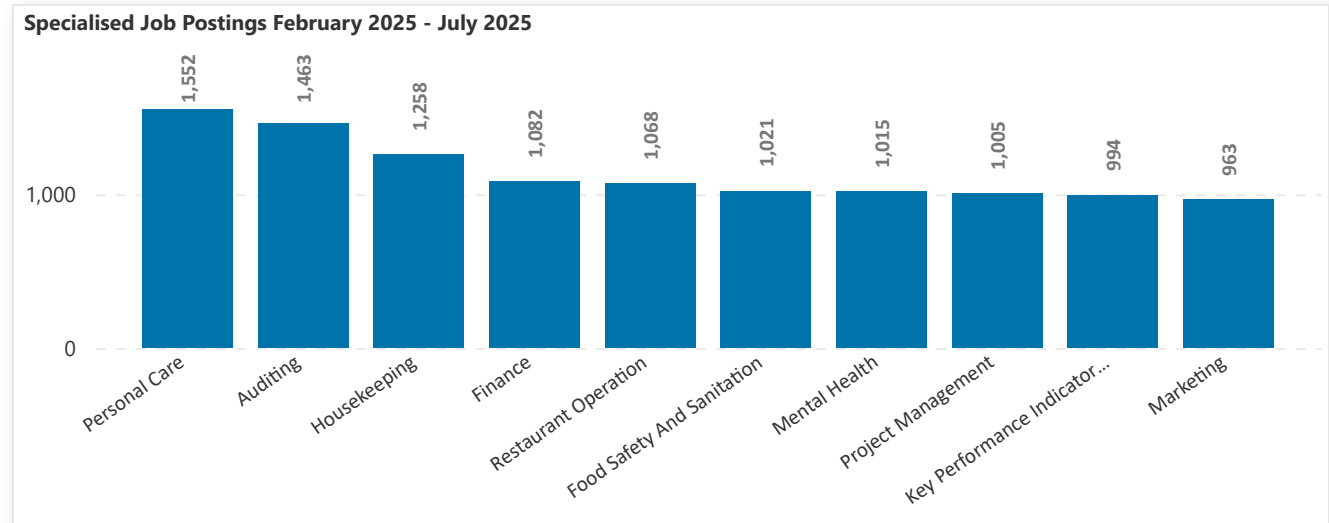


Summary of RTI median pay in West Sussex for July 2025.

- Overall:**
- West Sussex (South West): £2,424
 - West Sussex (North East): £2,715
 - South East: £2,666
 - UK: £2,536
- One Month Change (June 2025 - July 2025):**
- West Sussex (South West) increased by 0.50%
 - West Sussex (North East) increased by 0.18%
 - South East increased by 0.34%
 - UK increased by 0.40%
- Three Month Change (Apr 2025 - July 2025):**
- West Sussex (South West) increased by 1.30%
 - West Sussex (North East) increased by 0.44%
 - South East increased by 0.98%
 - UK increased by 0.83%



Job Postings



Summary of the job postings in West Sussex by Lightcast.

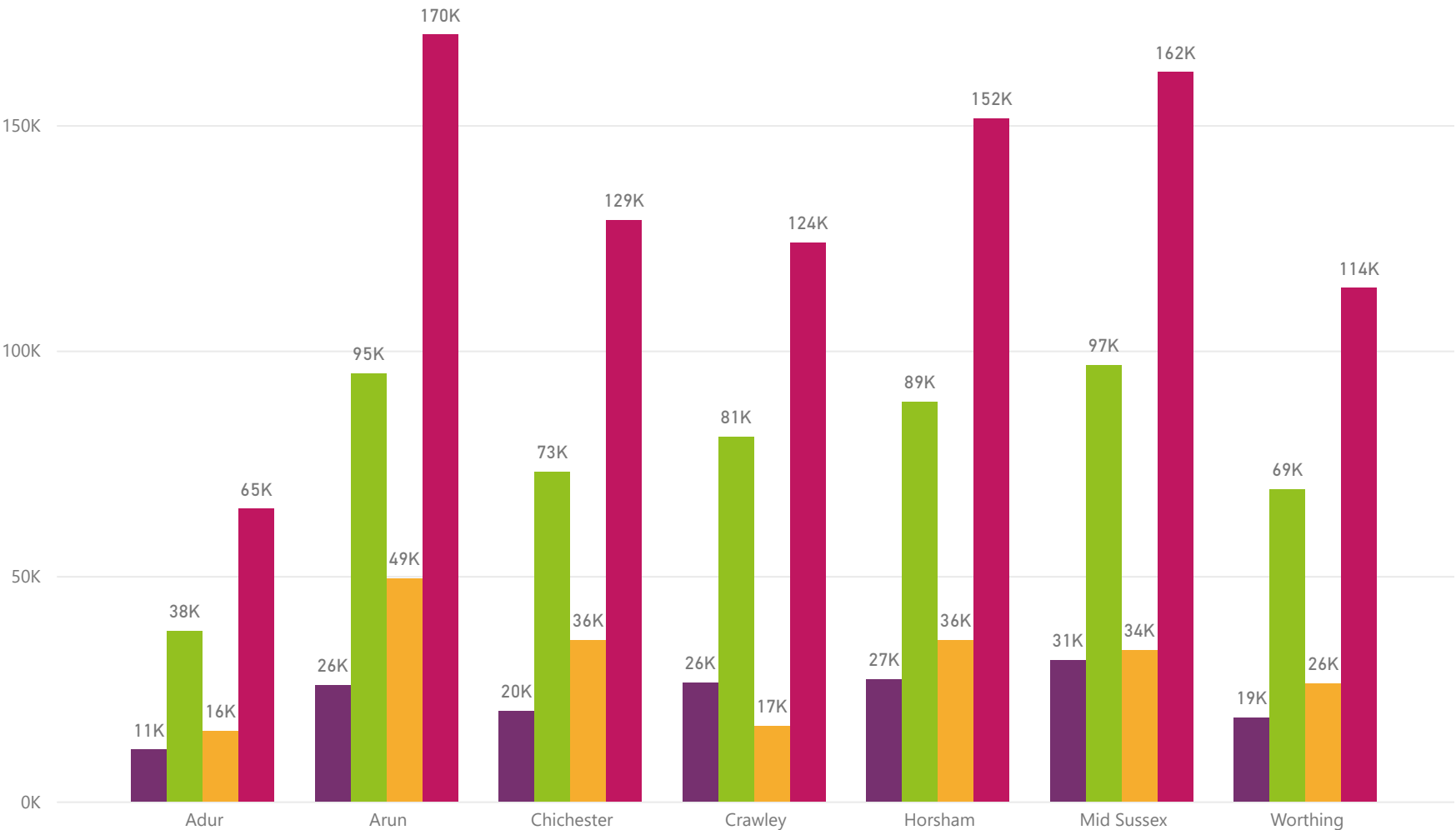
WSSCC has access to Lightcast from which the numbers of job postings by occupation type, along with other information including skills requirements and job titles is available. In July 2025 there were 10,383 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 21,119 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (February 2025 to July 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.



Mid-Year Population Estimates



Attribute ● Aged 0 to 15 ● Aged 16 to 64 ● Aged 65+ ● All Ages



Summary of 2025 mid-year population estimates (2024 based)

Arun remains as the largest local authority population in West Sussex. The largest age groups in all local authorities continue to be the economic age group of 16-64. All areas except Crawley in West Sussex have a larger older population (65+) than younger population (0-15).

The population values of all areas are as follows:

- Adur: 64,889
- Arun: 170,064
- Chichester: 128,934
- Crawley: 124,008
- Horsham: 151,521
- Mid Sussex: 161,755
- Worthing: 161,755
- West Sussex: 915,037

West Sussex has experienced a population growth of 3.4% from 2021 to 2024. A noticeable change in population is occurring in the older age groups where a growing proportion of residents are in the senior demographic category.



National Summary



Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in May 2025 to July 2025 was 718,000.
- Decreasing 44,000 or 5.8% from May 2025 to July 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 145,000 (16.8%) in May 2025 to July 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.3 in April 2025 to June 2025, up from 2.1 in the previous quarter.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.4% in June 2025.
- Real GDP is estimated to have grown 0.3% in the three months to June 2025, compared with the three months to March 2025.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for July 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees decreased with a fall of 0.5% or 164,000.
- The change in employees was highest in the health and social work sector with a rise 67,000 employees.
- The accommodation and food service activities sector saw the highest fall with 108,000 employees.
- Payrolled employment decreased by 8,000 (0.0%) employees in July 2025.
- UK payrolled employee growth for June 2025 compared with May 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 41,000 reported in the last bulletin to a decrease of 26,000.
- Early estimates for July 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 5.7% compared with July 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in July 2025 was highest in the public administration and defence sector, with an increase of 8.6%; it was lowest in the professional, scientific and technical sector, with an increase of 4.0%

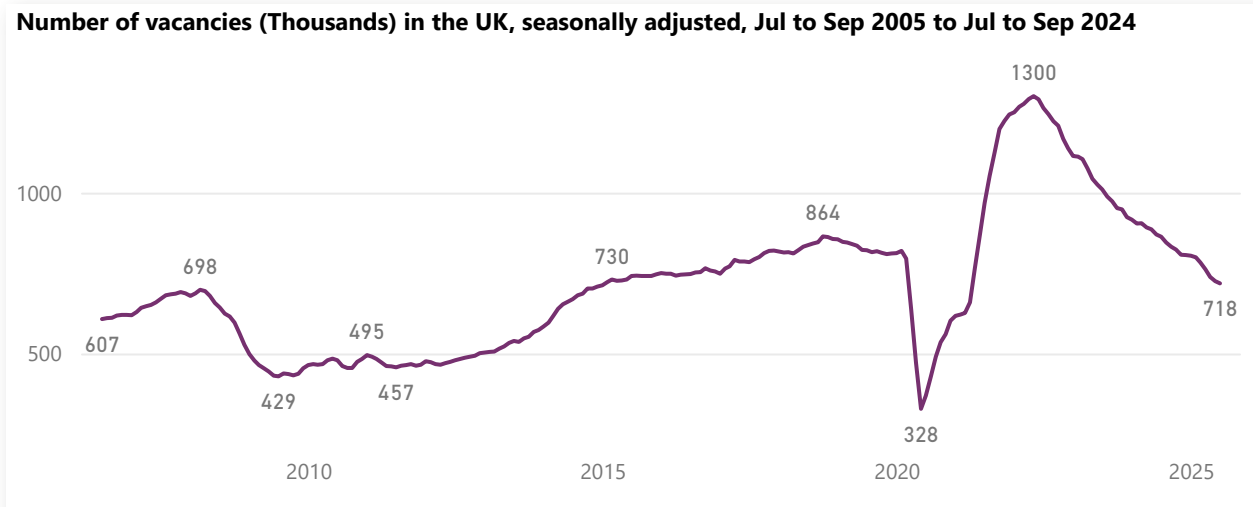
Business Trading

- 16% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in July 2025 compared with June 2025.
- 24% of trading businesses reported their turnover had decreased in July 2025 compared with June 2025.
- 15% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in September 2025.
- 15% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in September 2025.
- In early August 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 25%. For businesses with 10 or more employees, the most commonly reported challenge was cost of labour at 36%.
- 25% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in July 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 12% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods and services they sell to increase in September 2025.
- 17% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were experiencing worker shortages in early August 2025.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 2,081 in July 2025, similar to both June 2025 (2,053) and July 2024 (2,078)
- Company insolvencies consisted of 339 compulsory liquidations, 1,583 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 147 administrations and 12 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 10,515 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 599 bankruptcies, 4,001 debt relief orders (DROs) and 5,915 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in July 2025 remained similar to the record high levels seen since April 2024.
- IVA numbers registered in July 2025 was higher than in both June 2025 and July 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels and were also 9% lower than in July 2024.

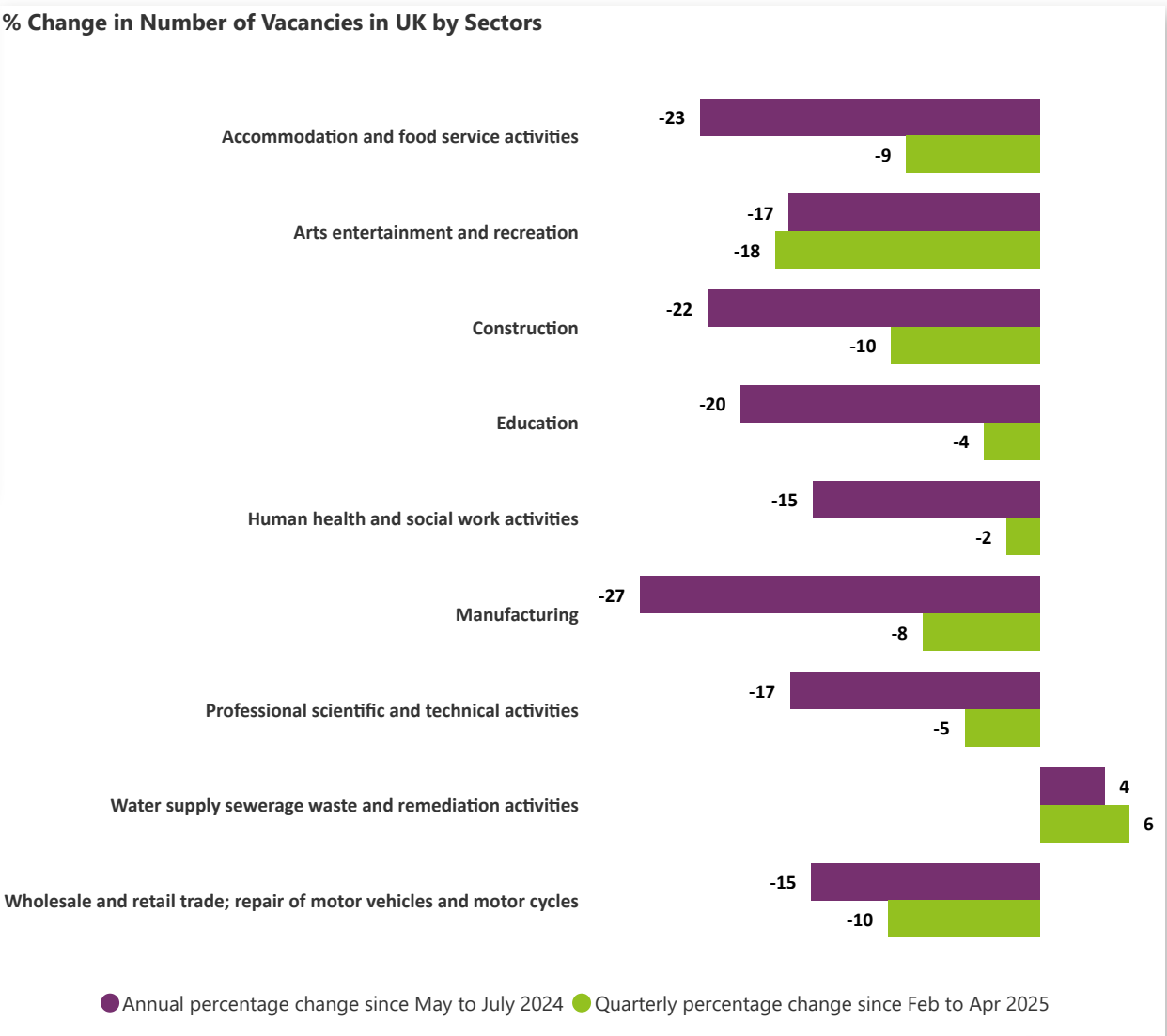
Job Vacancies (UK)



Summary of job vacancies (UK).

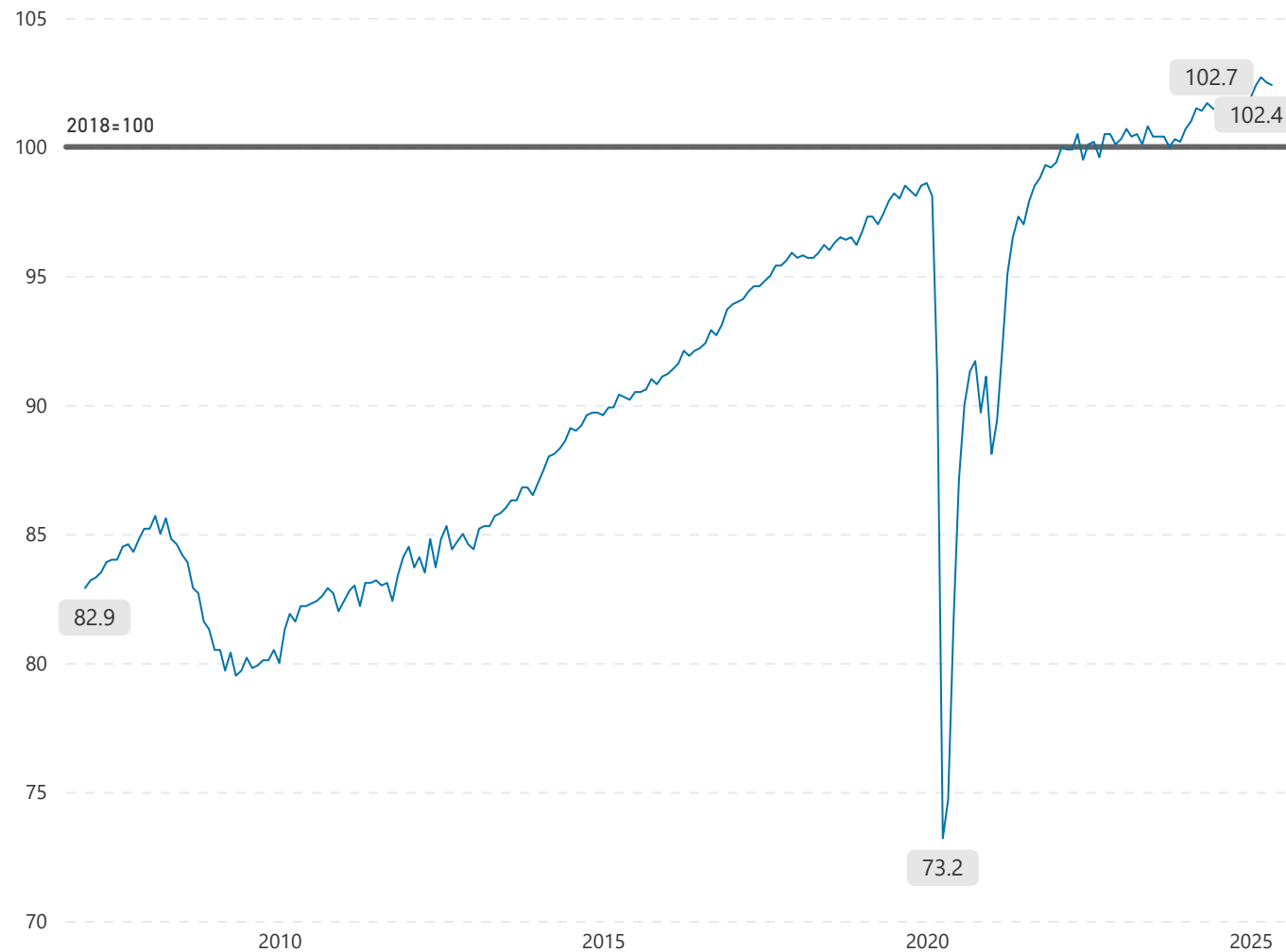
Overall:

- Estimated vacancies in May 2025 to July 2025 was 718,000.
- Decreasing 44,000 or 5.8% from May 2025 to July 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 145,000 (16.8%) in May 2025 to July 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.3 in April 2025 to June 2025, up from 2.1 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 grown by 0.4% in June 2025.
- Real GDP is estimated to have grown 0.3% in the three months to June 2025, compared with the three months to March 2025.

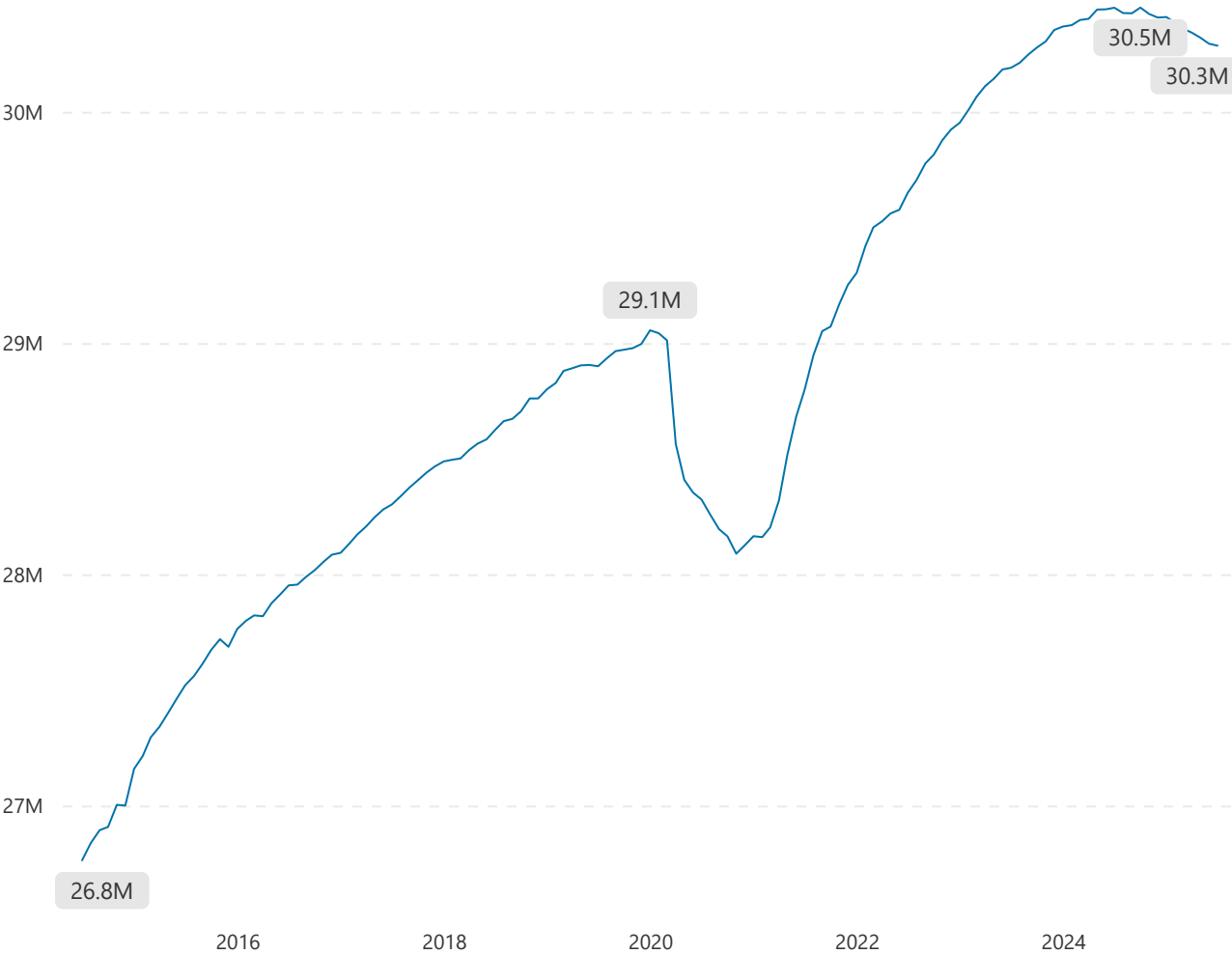
Output growth:

- Services grew by 0.3% in June 2025
- Production grew by 0.7% in June 2025
- Construction grew by 0.3% in June 2025

Labour Market



Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for July 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees decreased with a fall of 0.5% or 164,000.
- The change in employees was highest in the health and social work sector with a rise 67,000 employees.
- The accommodation and food service activities sector saw the highest fall with 108,000 employees.
- Payrolled employment decreased by 8,000 (0.0%) employees in July 2025.
- UK payrolled employee growth for June 2025 compared with May 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 41,000 reported in the last bulletin to a decrease of 26,000.
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- Annual growth in median pay in July 2025 was highest in the public administration and defence sector, with an increase of 8.6%; it was lowest in the professional, scientific and technical sector, with an increase of 4.0%

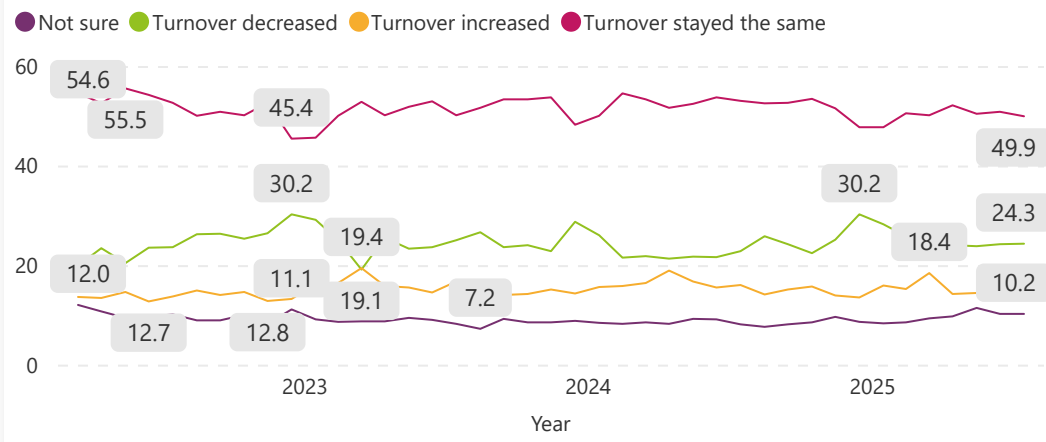
Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

This data is the final results from Wave 138 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 4 to 17 August 2025.

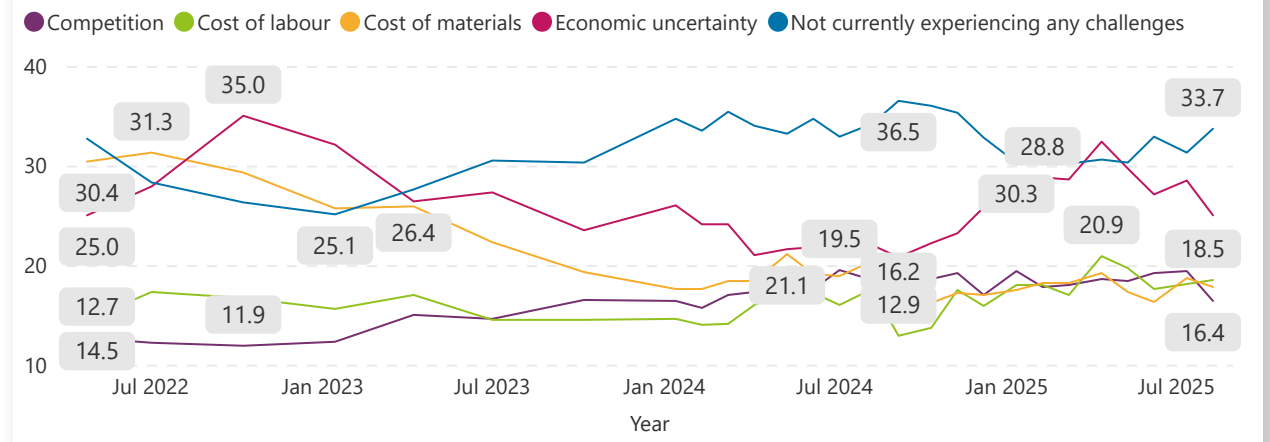
Overall:

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- 25% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in July 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 12% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods and services they sell to increase in September 2025.
- 17% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were experiencing worker shortages in early August 2025.

Financial Performance



Turnover Challenges



Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales

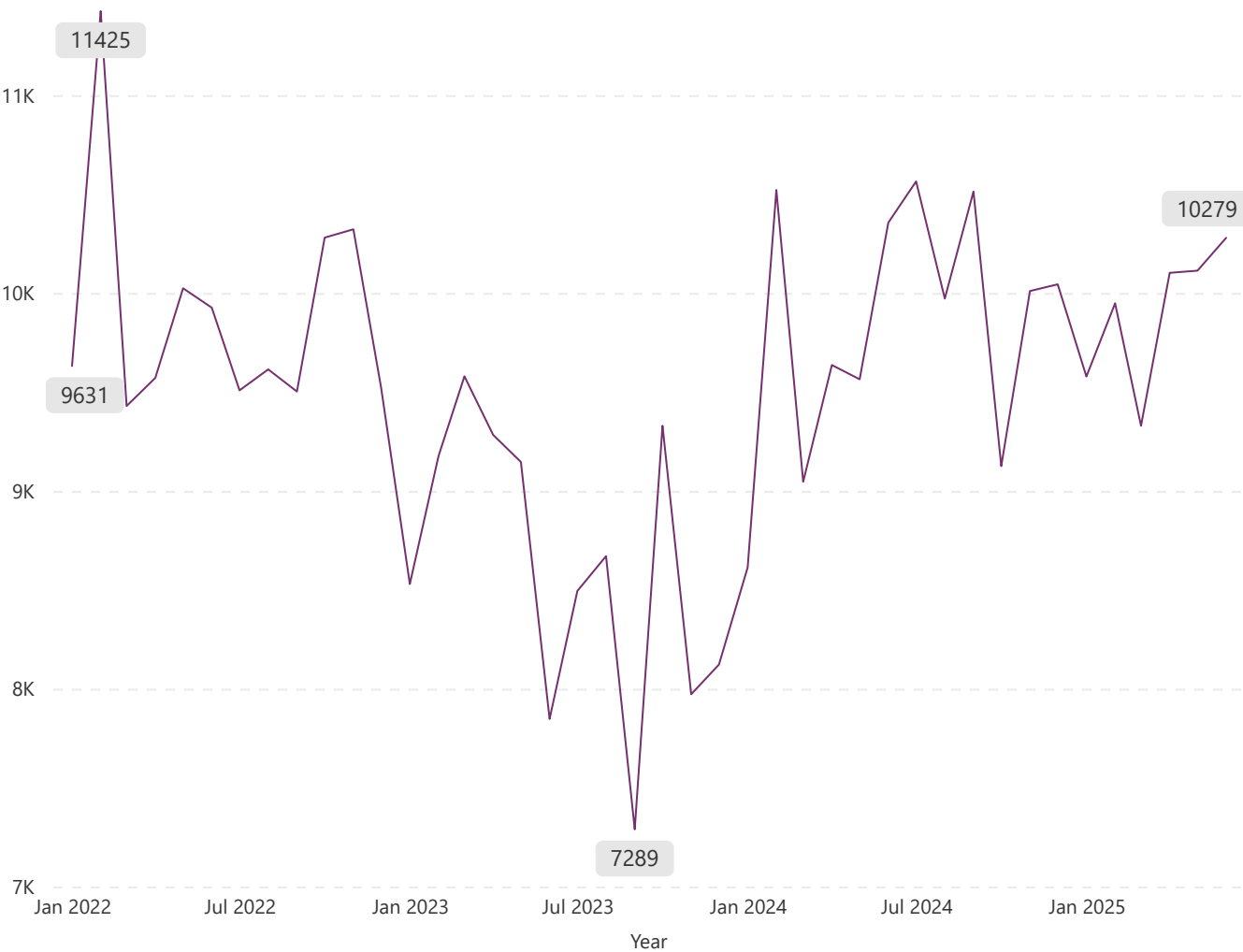


Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

- Overall:**
- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 2,081 in July 2025, similar to both June 2025 (2,053) and July 2024 (2,078)
 - Company insolvencies consisted of 339 compulsory liquidations, 1,583 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 147 administrations and 12 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).

Business Closures (Individual)

Individual insolvencies in England & Wales



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

Overall:

- There were 10,515 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 599 bankruptcies, 4,001 debt relief orders (DROs) and 5,915 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in July 2025 remained similar to the record high levels seen since April 2024.
- IVA numbers registered in July 2025 was higher than in both June 2025 and July 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels and were also 9% lower than in July 2024.