

August 2026 (Issue 5)

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West Sussex Summary

New Businesses August 2026

- 438 new businesses incorporated. (**16%** less than July 2026)
- 464 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (**39%** decrease from July 2026)

Net decrease of 26 businesses.

Claimants August 2026

- Claimant count increased by **2.3%** in West Sussex over the last month.
- The claimant count rate slightly increased from **3%** to **3.1%** in West Sussex, matching the regional rate, which also remained unchanged at **3.1%**. Meanwhile, the national rate decreased to **4.0%**.

Universal Credit Claimants May 2026 (latest revised data May 2026 updates quarterly)

- Universal Credit claimants increased by **0.4%** in West Sussex over the last month.
- In May 2026, **15.7%** of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of **19.6%**.

West Sussex IT businesses and IT job postings summary (August 2026):

- **Business creation is booming:** IT company incorporations reached a record **365 in 2025**, with **319 already recorded in 2026**, making it the second-highest year on record.
- **Strong sector growth:** Incorporations more than doubled from **176 in 2024** to **365 in 2025**, highlighting rising entrepreneurial activity.
- **Jobs market recovering:** IT vacancies increased from a low of **177 in early 2025** to **419 in 2026**, indicating improving employer demand.
- **Key takeaway:** The IT sector continues to expand, with **record business formation** and **strengthening demand for IT talent** across West Sussex.

No of Employees (Real Time Information) August 2026 (% Change from July 2026 - August 2026)

- West Sussex: 396,238 (decreased by **0.08%**)
- West Sussex (South West): 194,782 (decreased by **0.10%**)

- West Sussex (North East): 201,456 (decreased by **0.05%**)
- Adur: 26,581 (decreased by **0.23%**)
- Arun: 68,555 (decreased by **0.10%**)
- Chichester: 49,616 (increased by **0.07%**)
- Crawley: 62,059 (increased by **0.05%**)
- Horsham: 66,398 (decreased by **0.09%**)
- Mid Sussex: 72,998 (decreased by **0.09%**)
- Worthing: 50,029 (decreased by **0.21%**)
- South East: 4,268,333 (decreased by **0.06%**)
- UK: 30,227,243 (decreased by **0.09%**)

Median Pay (Real Time Information) August 2026 (% Change from July 2026 - August 2026)

- West Sussex (South West): 2,849 (increased by **0.11%**)
- West Sussex (North East): 2,546 (decreased by **0.35%**)
- Adur: 2,554 (increased by **0.39%**)
- Arun: 2,476 (decreased by **0.80%**)
- Chichester: 2,536 (decreased by **1.05%**)
- Crawley: 2,763 (decreased by **0.04%**)
- Horsham: 2,846 (decreased by **0.18%**)
- Mid Sussex: 2,951 (increased by **0.20%**)
- Worthing: 2,631 (increased by **0.23%**)
- South East: 2,795 (increased by **0.11%**)
- UK: 2,657 (increased by **0.42%**)

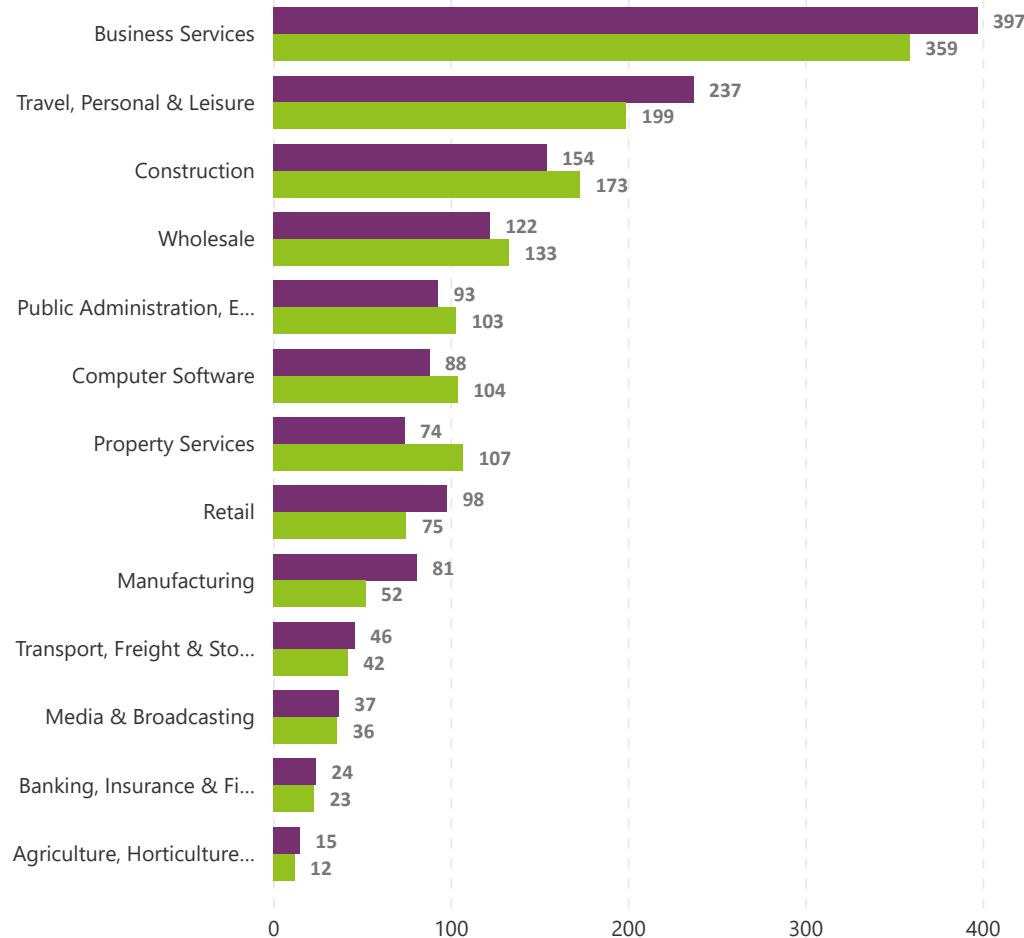
Job Postings (Lightcast)

- In August 2026, there were **11,890** unique job postings in West Sussex, which is about **17%** higher than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (**March 2026 to August 2026**), home health aide is the top posted followed closely by retail sales associate.

West Sussex: New Businesses

Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry in West Sussex (Jun'26 - Aug'26)

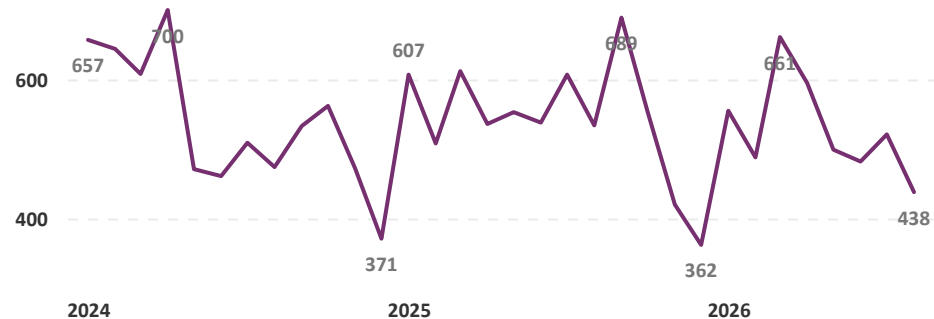
● Dissolved/liquidation ● New incorporations



New Business Count

-16% ▼

New business incorporations in West Sussex



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend:

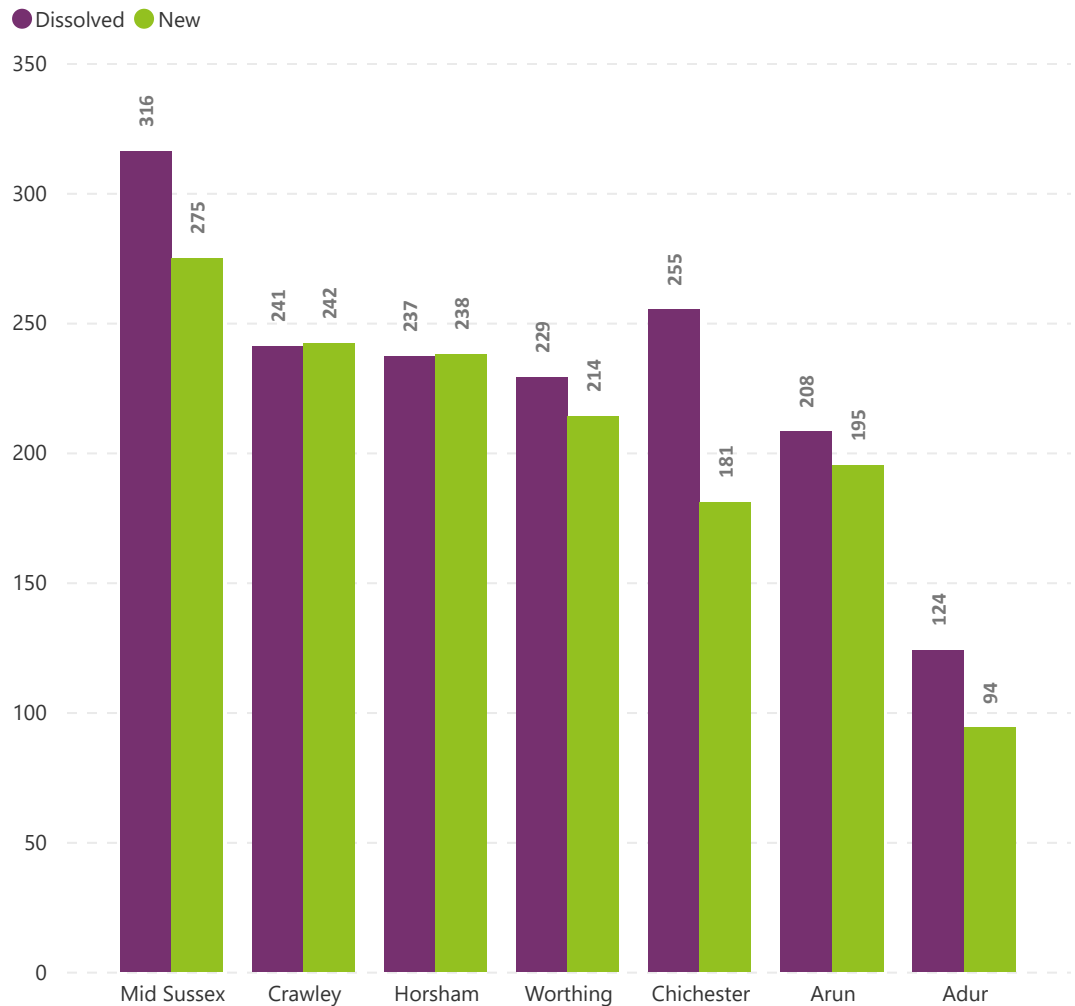
- A mix of new business incorporations and dissolutions was recorded across all sectors, with **business closures exceeding new incorporations** in **Business Services, Travel, Personal & Leisure, Retail, Manufacturing, Transport, Freight & Storage, Media & Broadcasting, Banking, Insurance & Finance, and Agriculture**.
- Construction, Wholesale, Public Administration, Computer Software, and Property Services** recorded net business growth, with more new businesses being incorporated than dissolved.
- Business Services** recorded the highest levels of both incorporations and dissolutions and the largest net loss. **Travel, Personal & Leisure** also recorded a notable decline.
- Property Services** recorded the strongest net growth, followed by **Construction** and **Computer Software**.
- Overall, West Sussex recorded slightly more business dissolutions than new incorporations**, indicating continued pressure on the local business environment during the latest reporting period.

August 2026:

- 438 new businesses incorporated. (**16%** less than July 2026)
- 464 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (**39%** decrease from July 2026)
- Net decrease of 26 businesses.

West Sussex: New Businesses

Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Jun'26-Aug'26)



Adur ratio

-24.2%

Arun ratio

-6.3%

Chichester ratio

-29.0%

Crawley ratio

0.4%

Horsham ratio

0.4%

Mid Sussex ratio

-13.0%

Worthing ratio

-6.6%

West Sussex ratio

-10.6%

Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Over the last 3 months:

- **Mid Sussex** recorded the highest level of business activity, with 275 new incorporations, but also the highest number of dissolutions at 316, resulting in a net loss of 41 businesses.
- **Crawley** and **Horsham** were the only authorities where new incorporations slightly exceeded dissolutions, with net gains of 1 business in each area.
- **Chichester** saw the largest imbalance, with 255 dissolutions compared with 181 incorporations, a net decline of 74 businesses.
- **Worthing** experienced a moderate net loss of 15 businesses, with 214 new firms against 229 dissolutions.
- **Arun** recorded 195 incorporations and 208 dissolutions, resulting in a net decline of 13 businesses.
- **Adur** had the lowest number of incorporations at 94 and 124 dissolutions, producing a net loss of 30 businesses.
- Overall, most local authorities recorded more business closures than start-ups during Jun-Aug 2026, suggesting a broadly negative business churn trend across the area.

Last 12 months:

- 6,666 new businesses incorporated.
- 6,769 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net decrease of 103 businesses.

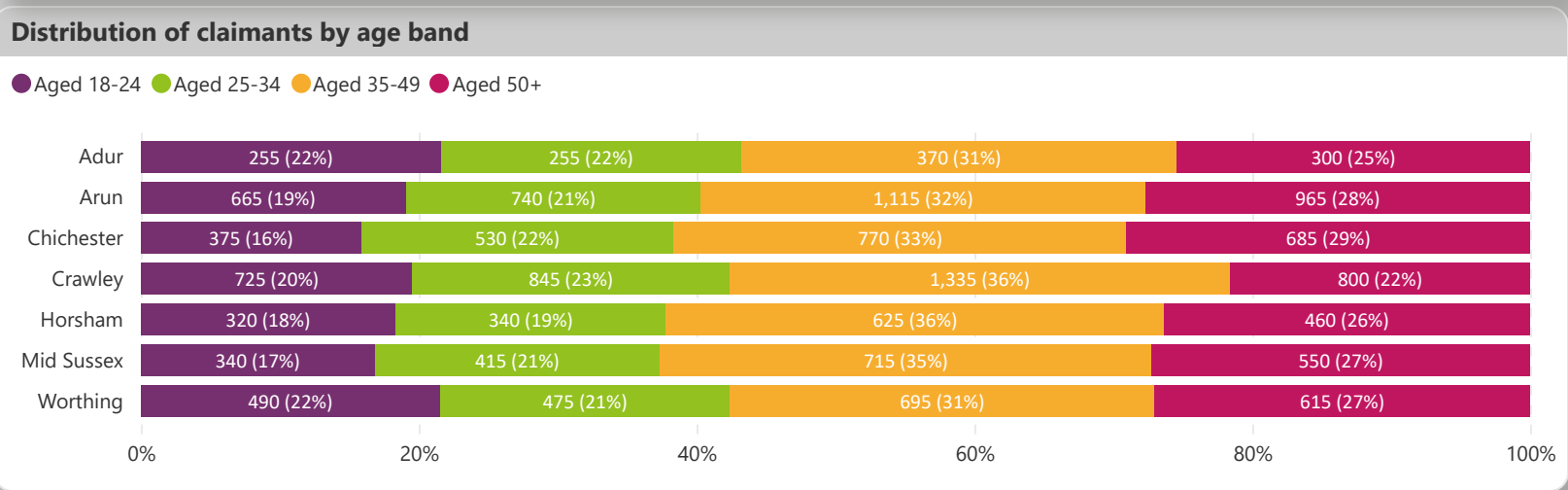
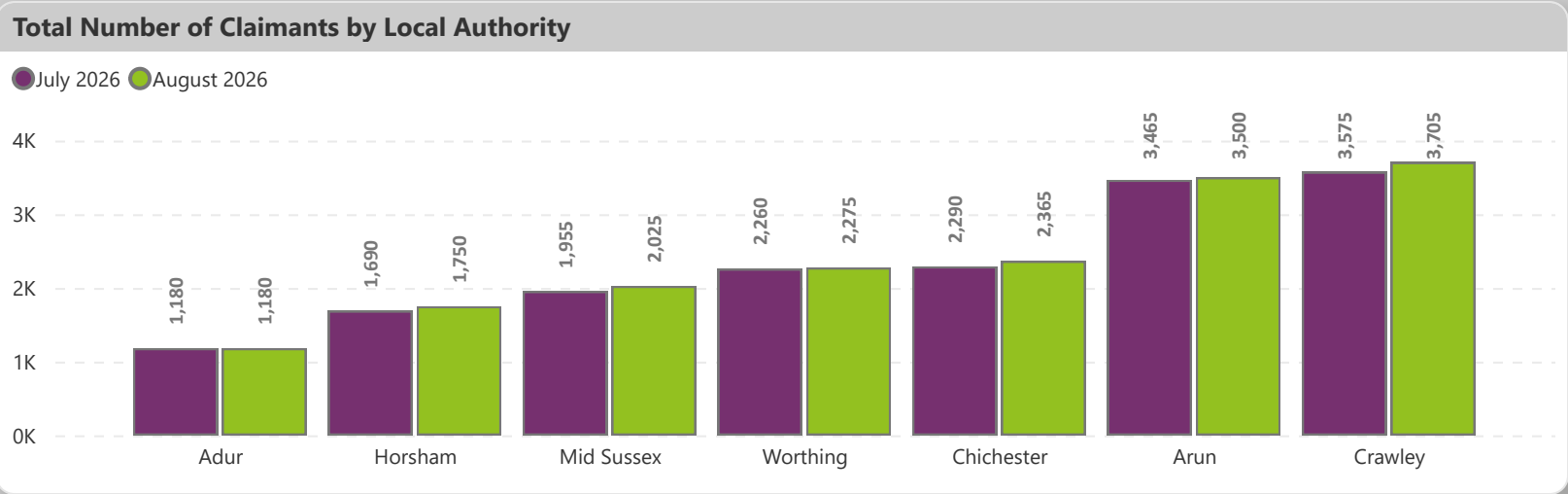
Last 3 months:

- 1,439 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,610 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net decrease of 171 businesses.

West Sussex: Claimant Count (numbers)



16,795 Aug'26	16,415 Jul'26	West Sussex Change 2.3% ▲
------------------	------------------	------------------------------



Adur 0.0% —	Arun 1.0% ▲	Horsham 3.6% ▲
Chichester 3.3% ▲	Crawley 3.6% ▲	Mid Sussex 3.6% ▲
Worthing 0.7% ▲		

Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, August 2026

Breakdown by district (Jul'26 - Aug'26):

Age groups:

- Adur and Worthing highest % of young claimants.
- Arun (665) and Crawley (725) has the most number of young claimants.
- Crawley has the highest number of claimants who are age 35-49

Specifics (Aug'26):

- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (**3,705**).
- Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (**4.5%**), higher then regional and national average.

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

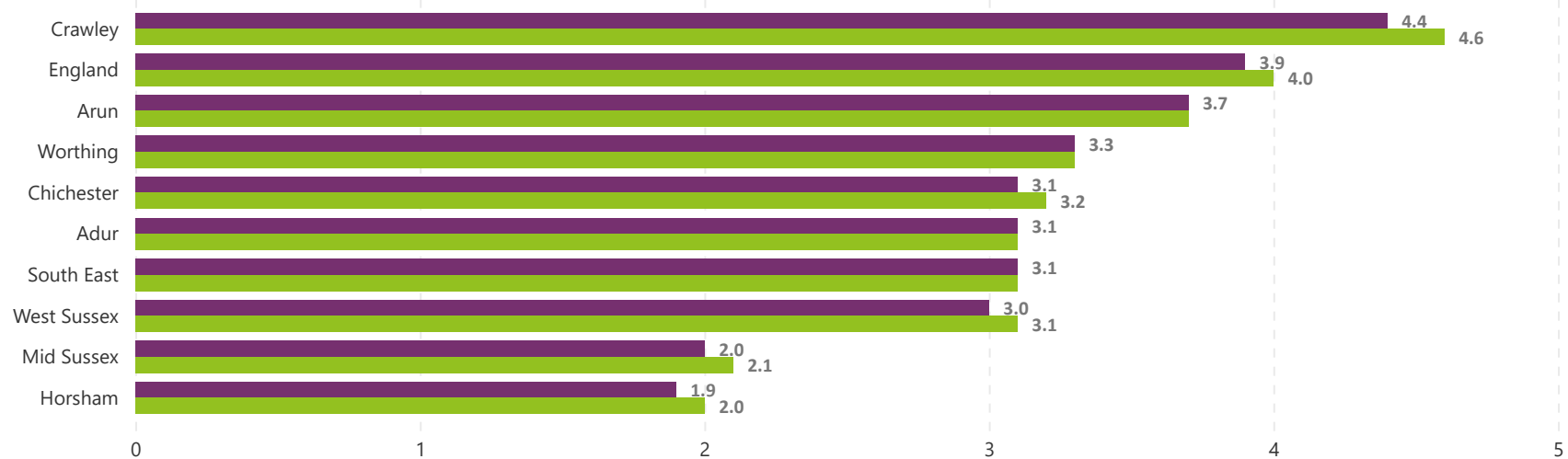
Released: 18 Sep 2026 (Aug 2026 Figures are provisional)

*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: Claimant Count (rate)

Claimant count rate change

July 2026 August 2026



West Sussex Change

0.1 ▲

England Change

0.1 ▲

South East Change

0.0 —

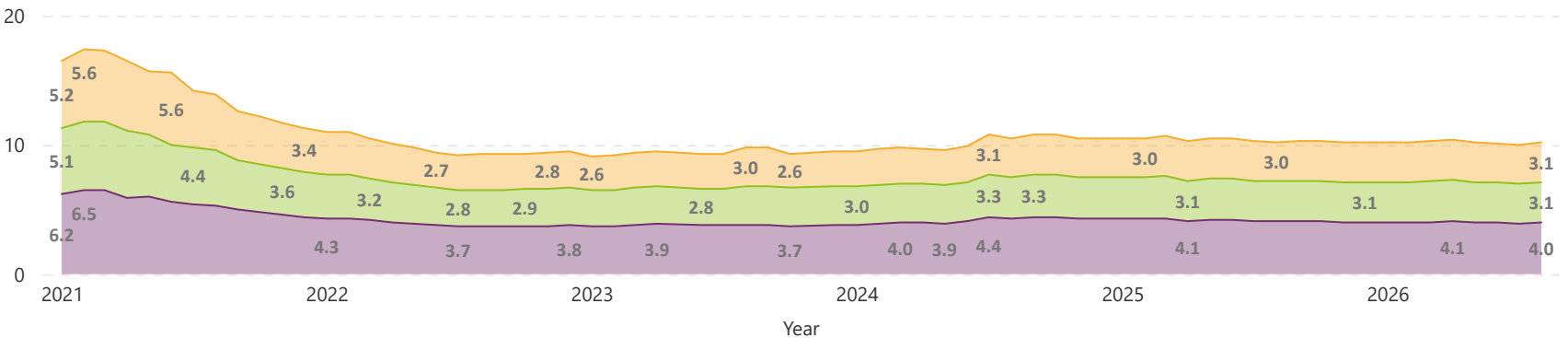
Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, August 2026

Overall:

- Claimant count has increased over the last month by **2.3%** (16,795) in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate slightly increased from 3% to **3.1% in West Sussex**, remaining below the **national average of 4%** and same as the **regional rate of 3.1%**.
- Horsham had the lowest claimant count rate (**2%**).

Claimant count rate

England South East West Sussex



Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

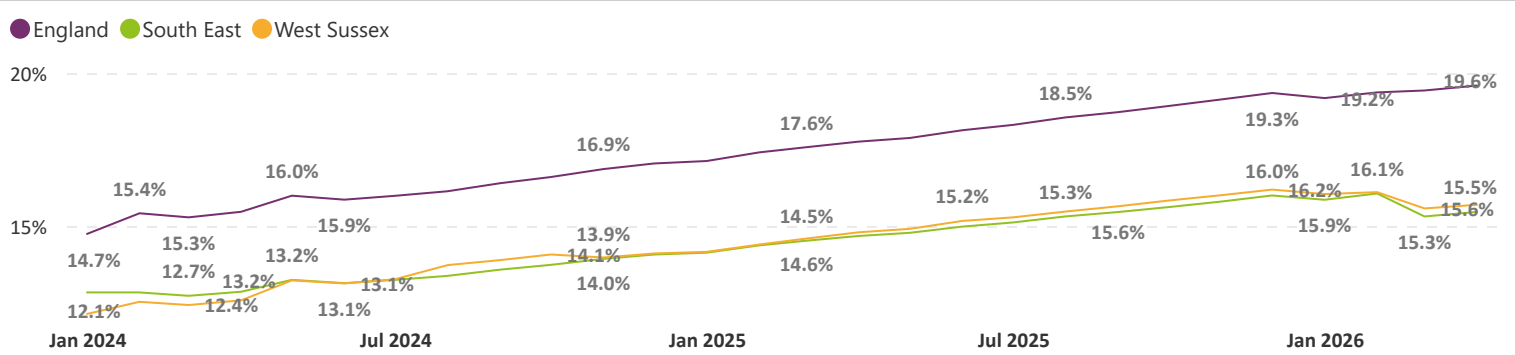
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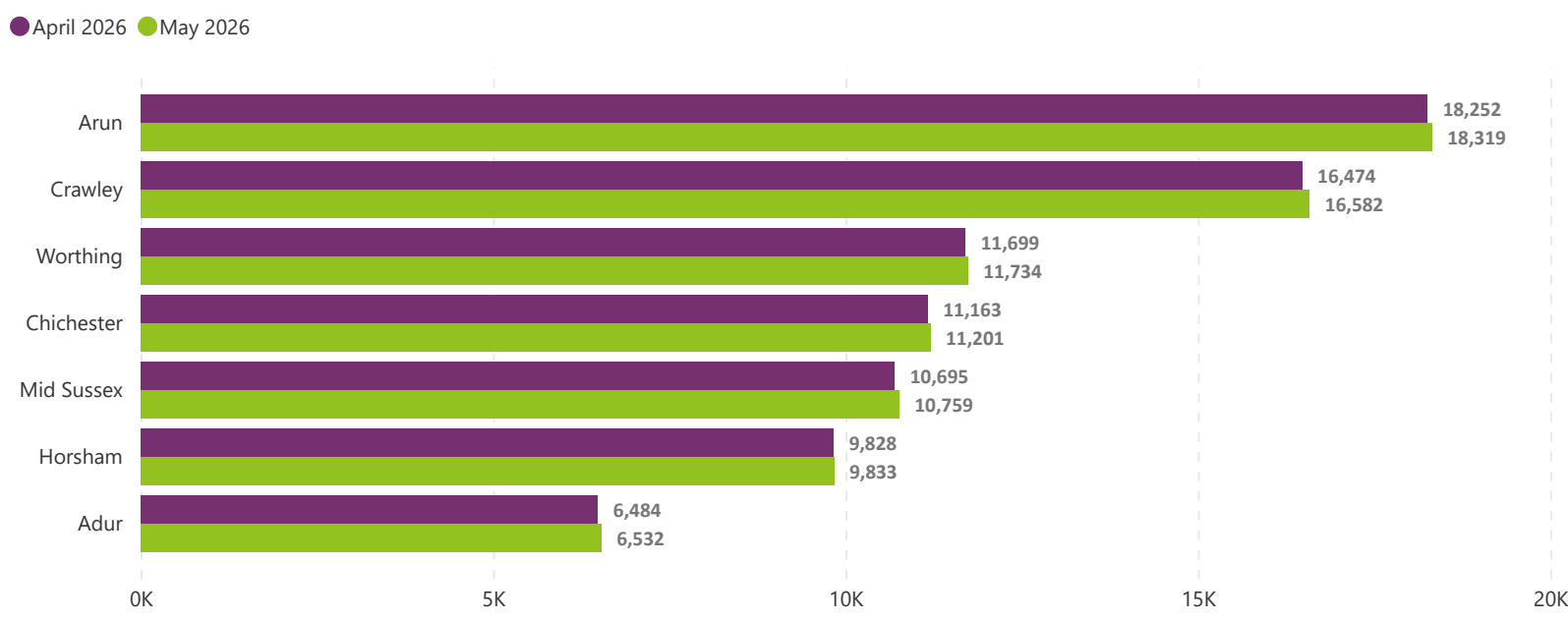
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Adur	Arun	Chichester	Crawley
0.7% ▲	0.4% ▲	0.3% ▲	0.7% ▲
Horsham	Mid Sussex	Worthing	West Sussex
0.1% ▲	0.6% ▲	0.3% ▲	0.4% ▲

Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, May 2026

- Overall:**
- In May 2026, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by almost 0.4% (84,960 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
 - The percentage (May 2026) of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 15.7%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 19.6% for the last month.
- District-specific:**
- Adur had the highest percentage increase in claimants (0.7%) since April 2026.
 - At May 2026, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 18,319.

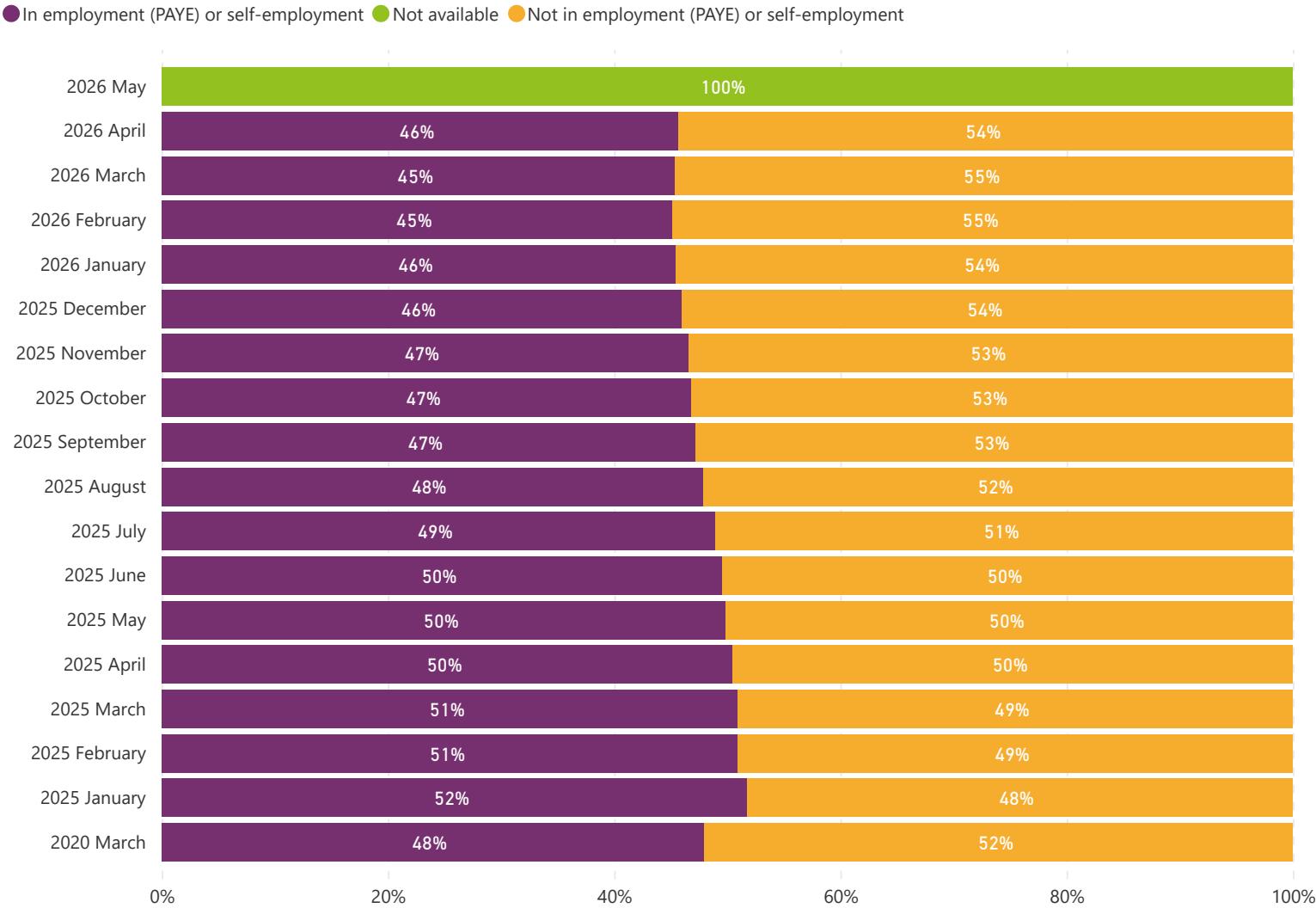
Update: From May 2026 this data is released on a **quarterly** basis. The definition of the “Percentage of people aged 16–64 years claiming Universal Credit” is being updated. Previously, the population denominator for ages 16–64 was derived from Census 2021 data. From March 2026 onwards, this will instead be calculated using the latest mid-year population estimates, ensuring the indicator reflects more up-to-date demographic changes.

Source: [Department for Work and Pensions](#) Released: 18 Aug 2026
(May 2026 figures are provisional)

West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, May 2026

Employment status:

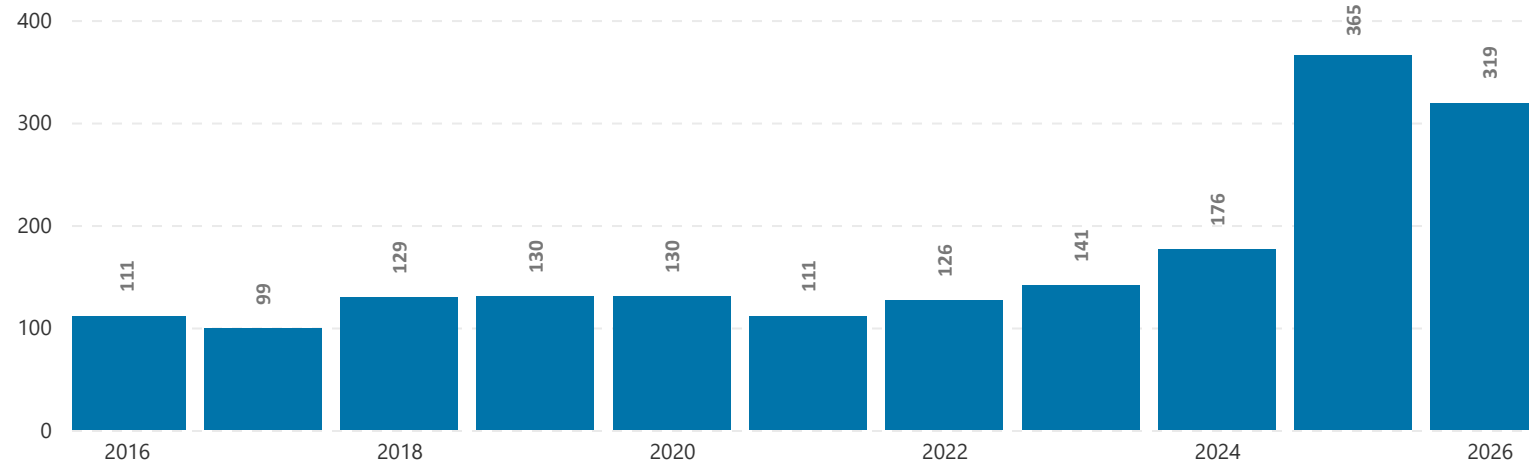
- 46% of claimants were in employment in May 2026. Higher than national (38%) or regional (43%) average.
- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage of employed claimants (50%).

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for May 2026 is not available.

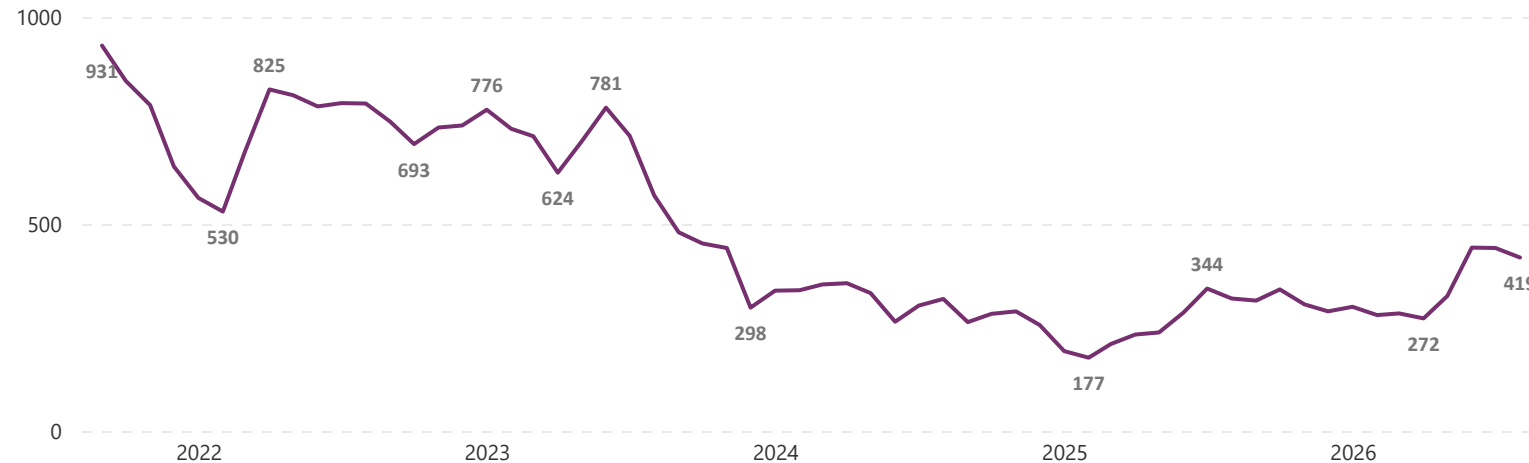
Update: Since May 2026, the DWP has changed the way it reports its figures. Data will now be published quarterly instead of more frequent releases. In addition, employment indicators have been updated to provide a broader view of the labour market by incorporating both PAYE employees and self-employed individuals.

West Sussex: IT business sector

New Company Incorporation Trends in the IT Sector (West Sussex)



IT Job Posting Trends (West Sussex)



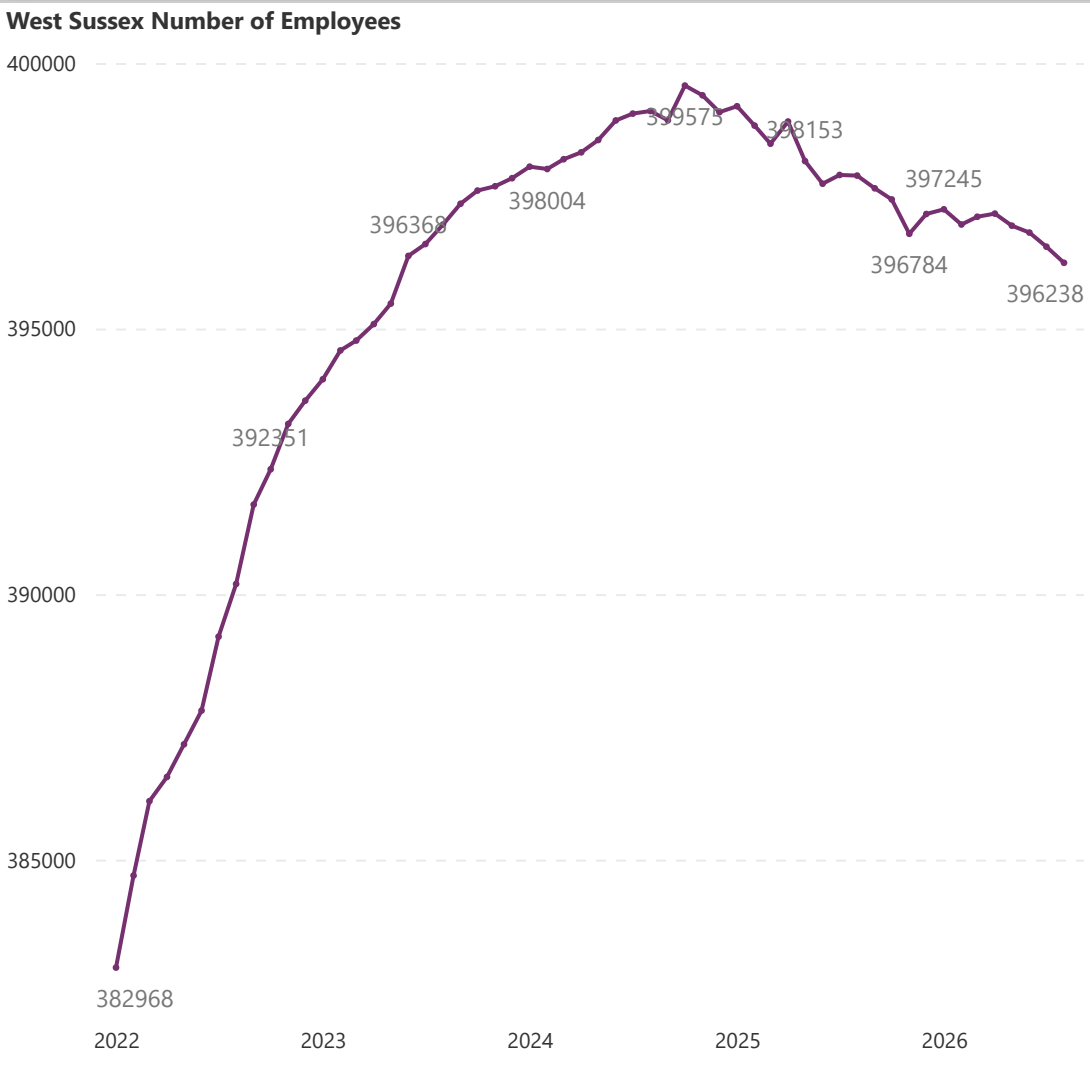
This is for the following SIC codes:

- **62012** – Business and Domestic Software Development
- **62020** – Information Technology Consultancy Activities
- **62030** – Computer Facilities Management Activities
- **62090** – Other Information Technology Service Activities
- **63110** – Data Processing, Hosting and Related Activities
- **63120** – Web Portals

New IT sector company incorporations in West Sussex remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2023, ranging from 99 to 141 businesses per year. Growth accelerated in **2024**, rising to **176 incorporations**, before surging to a record **365 incorporations in 2025**, more than double the 2024 total. Although **2026 is not yet complete**, it has already recorded **319 incorporations**, making it the **second-highest year on record** and indicating another exceptionally strong year for the sector. This sustained growth highlights the increasing importance of the IT sector to the West Sussex economy, reflecting strong entrepreneurial activity and growing demand for digital and technology services.

IT job postings in West Sussex have shown a general downward trend since reaching a peak of **931 vacancies in 2021**. Demand remained relatively strong throughout **2022 and 2023**, with postings typically ranging between **530 and 825 vacancies**, before declining sharply during **2024**. Vacancy levels fell to a low of **177 vacancies in early 2025**, marking the weakest point in the market. However, there are clear signs of recovery, with postings increasing to **344 vacancies during 2025** and reaching **419 vacancies in the latest 2026 data**. While demand remains below the highs recorded in 2021 to 2023, the recent increase suggests that employer demand for IT talent is strengthening following a period of market contraction.

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



West Sussex Change %
-0.08% ▼

South East Change %
-0.06% ▼

Uk Change %
-0.09% ▼

Three Month Change (May 2026 - August 2026):

- West Sussex fell by 0.18%
- West Sussex (South West) fell by 0.24%
- West Sussex (North East) fell by 0.11%
- Adur fell by 0.31%
- Arun fell by 0.17%
- Chichester fell by 0.27%
- Crawley fell by 0.18%
- Horsham fell by 0.16%
- Mid Sussex fell by 0.01%
- Worthing fell by 0.29%
- South East fell by 0.14%
- UK fell by 0.22%

Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for August 2026.

Overall:

- West Sussex: 396,238
- West Sussex (South West): 194,782
- West Sussex (North East): 201,456
- Adur: 26,581
- Arun: 68,555
- Chichester: 49,616
- Crawley: 62,059
- Horsham: 66,398
- Mid Sussex: 72,998
- Worthing: 50,029
- South East: 4,268,333
- UK: 30,227,243

One Month Change (July 2026 - August 2026):

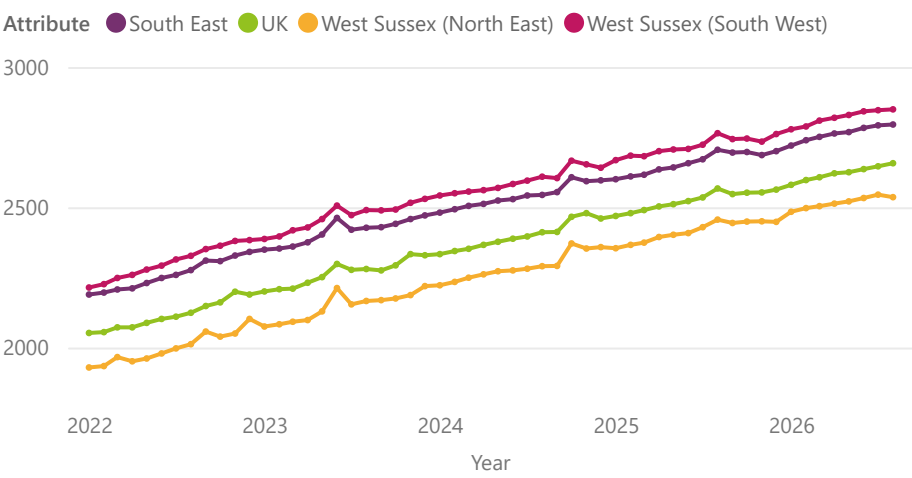
- West Sussex fell by 0.08%
- West Sussex (South West) fell by 0.10%
- West Sussex (North East) fell by 0.05%
- Adur fell by 0.23%
- Arun fell by 0.10%
- Chichester rose by 0.07%
- Crawley rose by 0.05%
- Horsham fell by 0.09%
- Mid Sussex fell by 0.09%
- Worthing fell by 0.21%
- South East fell by 0.06%
- UK fell by 0.09%

Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)
Released: 15 September 2026

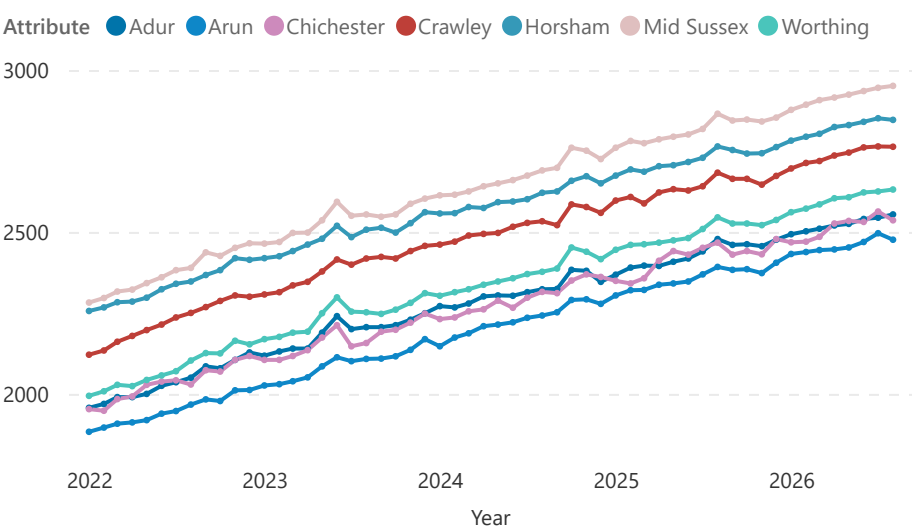
Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



Median Pay National and Regional Figures



Median Pay in West Sussex



West Sussex South West Change % Pay
0.63% ▲

West Sussex North East Change % Pay
0.14% ▲

South East Change % Pay
0.29% ▲

UK Change % Pay
0.23% ▲

Three Month Change (May 2026 - August 2026):

- West Sussex (South West) rose by 0.71%
- West Sussex (North East) rose by 0.60%
- Adur rose by 1.15%
- Arun rose by 0.98%
- Chichester rose by 0.08%
- Crawley rose by 0.66%
- Horsham rose by 0.57%
- Mid Sussex rose by 0.92%
- Worthing rose by 0.92%
- South East rose by 0.98%
- UK rose by 1.22%

Summary of RTI median pay in West Sussex for August 2026.

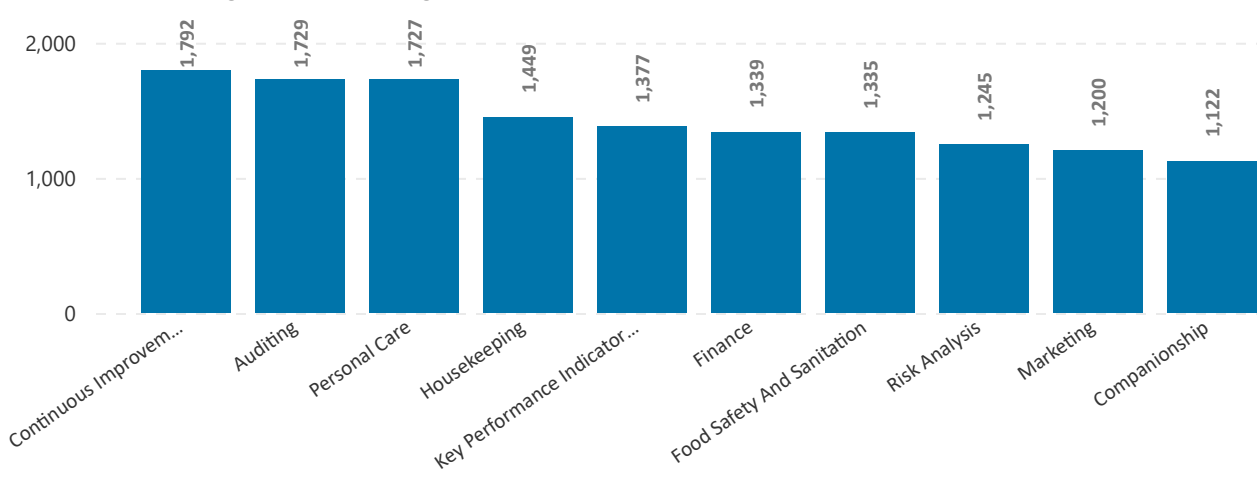
- Overall:**
- West Sussex (South West): 2,849
 - West Sussex (North East): 2,536
 - Adur: 2,554
 - Arun: 2,476
 - Chichester: 2,536
 - Crawley: 2,763
 - Horsham: 2,846
 - Mid Sussex: 2,951
 - Worthing: 2,631
 - South East: 2,795
 - UK: 2,657

- One Month Change (July 2026 - August 2026):**
- West Sussex (South West) rose by 0.11%
 - West Sussex (North East) fell by 0.35%
 - Adur rose by 0.39%
 - Arun fell by 0.80%
 - Chichester fell by 1.05%
 - Crawley fell by 0.04%
 - Horsham fell by 0.18%
 - Mid Sussex rose by 0.20%
 - Worthing rose by 0.23%
 - South East rose by 0.11%
 - UK rose by 0.42%

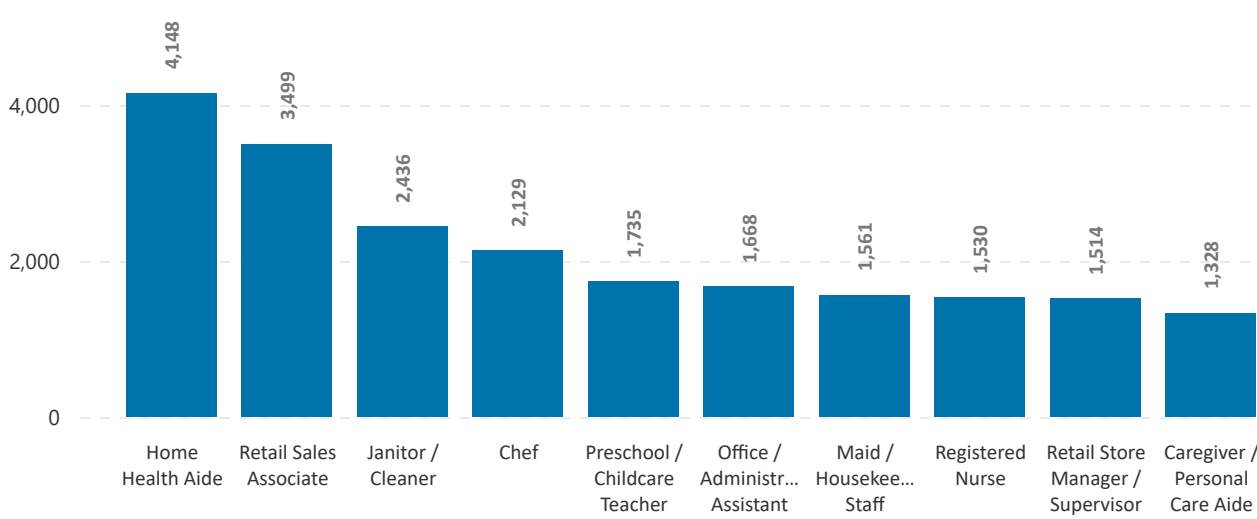
Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)
Released: 15 September 2026

Job Postings

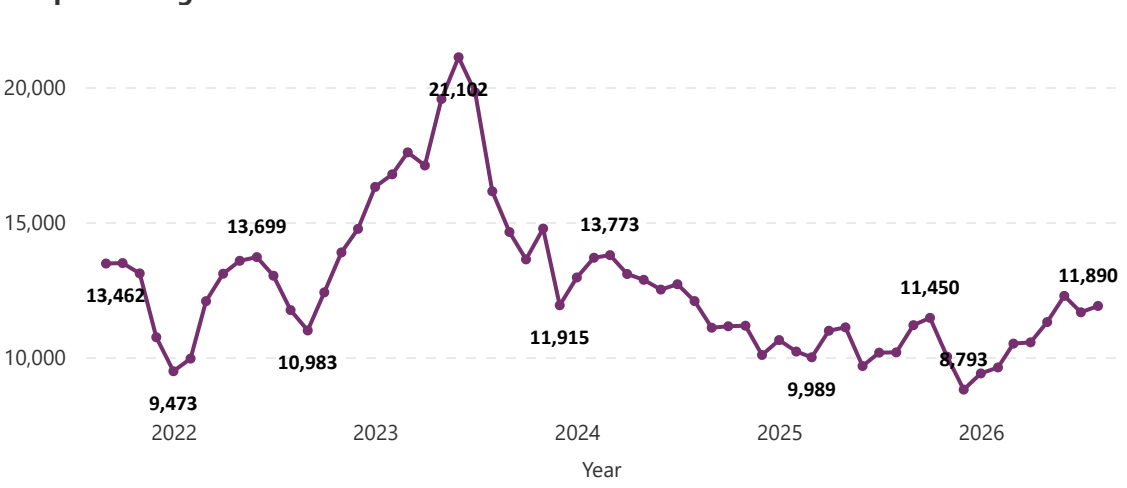
Specialised Job Postings March 2026 - August 2026



Job Postings by Occupation March 2026 - August 2026



Unique Postings Over Time



Summary of the job postings in West Sussex by Lightcast.

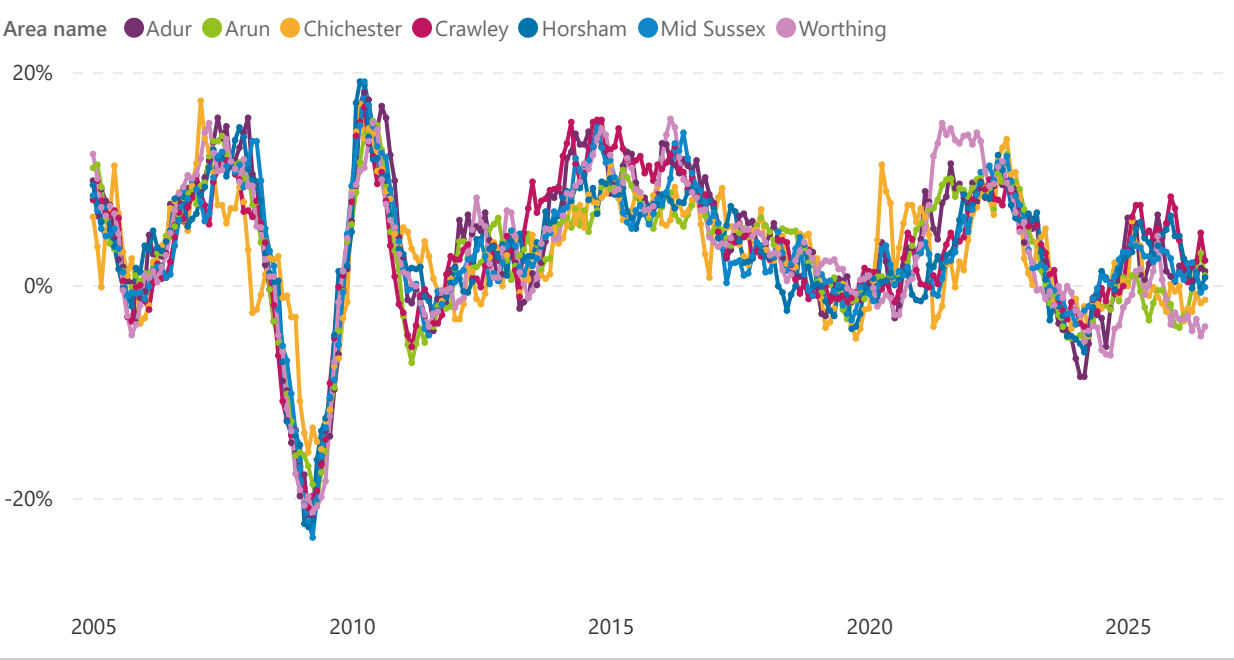
WSCC has access to Lightcast from which the numbers of job postings by occupation type, along with other information including skills requirements and job titles is available. In August 2026 there were 11,890 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 21,113 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (March 2026 to August 2026), Home Health Aide is the most frequently posted role, making up the highest number of occupations followed by Retail Sales Associate. The remaining occupations appear to be evenly distributed.

House Prices

House Price Data (July Provisional ONS)

Area	Average First-time buyers	Average House Price	Average Monthly Rent	Average Mortgage Buyers
Adur	£323,000.0	£380,000.00	£1,410.00	£375,000.00
Arun	£254,000.0	£321,000.00	£1,231.00	£319,000.00
Chichester	£339,000.0	£432,000.00	£1,333.00	£431,000.00
Crawley	£298,000.0	£332,000.00	£1,488.00	£333,000.00
Horsham	£324,000.0	£442,000.00	£1,474.00	£430,000.00
Mid Sussex	£326,000.0	£431,000.00	£1,423.00	£436,000.00
Worthing	£244,000.0	£297,000.00	£1,297.00	£304,000.00

Annual House Price Change %



Highest Average House Price
Horsham

Highest Average Mortgages
Mid Sussex

Highest Average Monthly Rent
Crawley

Highest First Time Buyer Average
Chichester

National Summary

Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in May to August 2026 was 702,000.
- Decreasing 8,000 or 1.1% from March 2026 to May 2026.
- Workforce job for June 2026 was at 60000 with an increase of 0.2% from June 2025.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in July 2026 to August 2026, this has remained unchanged since July to September 2025.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.4% in July 2026.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for August 2026 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.2 million which is a fall of 0.5% from the previous year.
- The largest increase was in the administrative and support services sector, with a rise of 72,000. The largest decrease was in the wholesale and retail sector, with a fall of 76,000 employees.
- Early estimates for August 2026 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 3.5% compared with August 2025.
- Annual growth in median pay in August 2026 was highest in the construction sector, with an increase of 5.5%. it was lowest in the education sector, with a increase of 0.4%.

Business Trading

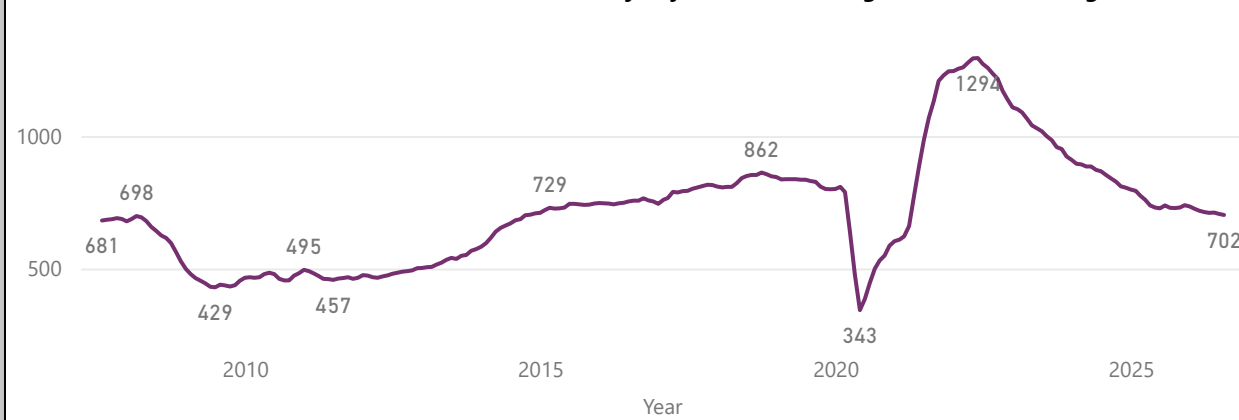
- 28% of trading businesses reported that their turnover had decreased in September 2026 compared with the previous month
- In early September 2026, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 29%.
- 29% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in August 2026 when compared to the previous month.
- 11% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services sold in August 2026.
- 64% of businesses reported at least some level of concern about energy prices in September 2026.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 1,946 in August 2026, which was 3% lower than in July 2026.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 314 compulsory liquidations, 1,431 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 182 administrations and 19 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 11,644 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 725 bankruptcies, 3,880 debt relief orders (DROs) and 7,039 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).

Job Vacancies (UK)

Number of vacancies (Thousands) in the UK, seasonally adjusted, Jun to Aug 2007 to Jun to Aug 2026

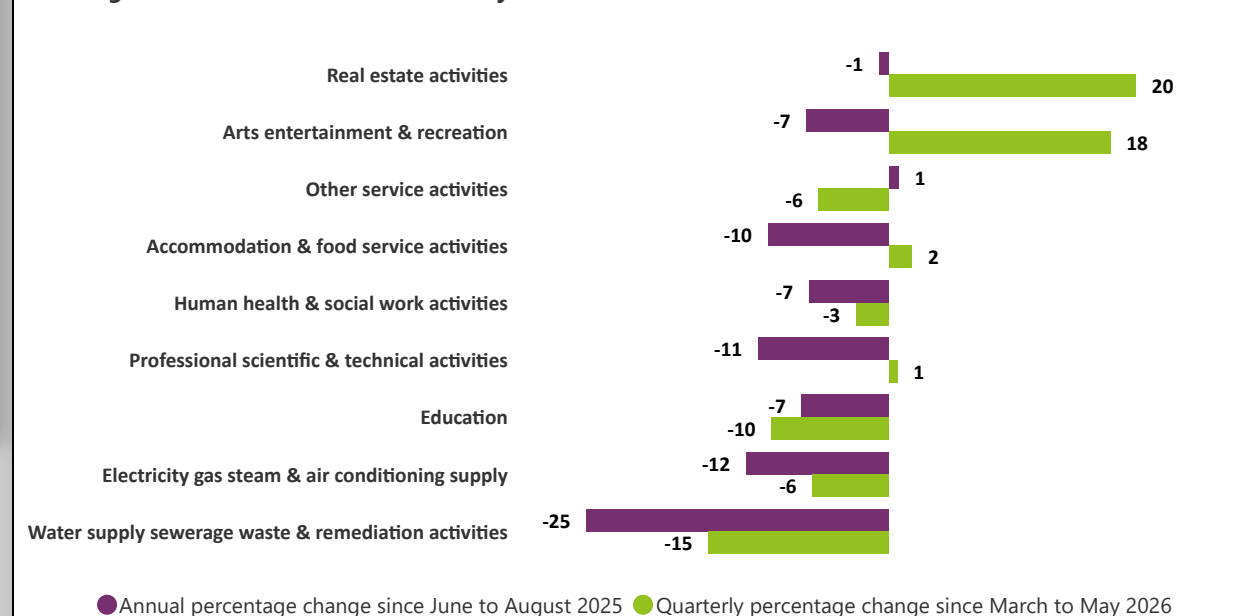


Summary of job vacancies (UK).

Overall:

- Estimated vacancies are for the period of June to August 2026.
- Vacancies change measures from the dates March 2026 to May 2026.
- Workforce jobs are measured from June 2026 and the change from the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in May 2026 to July 2026, this has remained unchanged since July to September 2025.

% Change in Number of Vacancies in UK by Sectors



Workforce Jobs

60000 ▲

Job Vacancies

702000 ▼

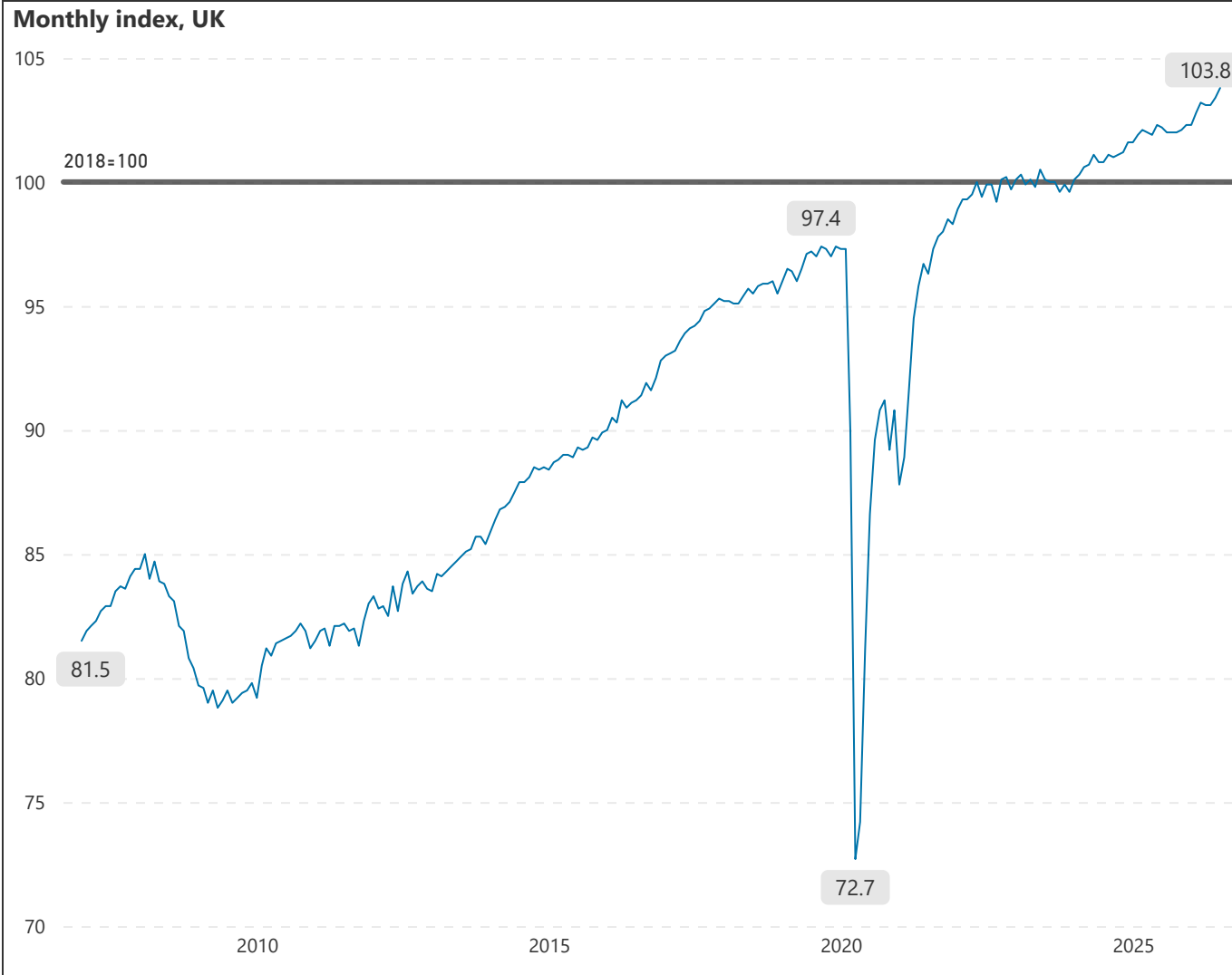
Vacancies Change %

1.10% ▼

Workforce Jobs % Change

0.20% ▲

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



GDP % Change

0.40% ▲

Services % Chan...

0.60% ▲

Production % C...

0.50% ▼

Construction % ...

0.50% ▼

Summary of Gross Domestic Product for the three months up to July 2026 (GDP) (UK).

Overall:

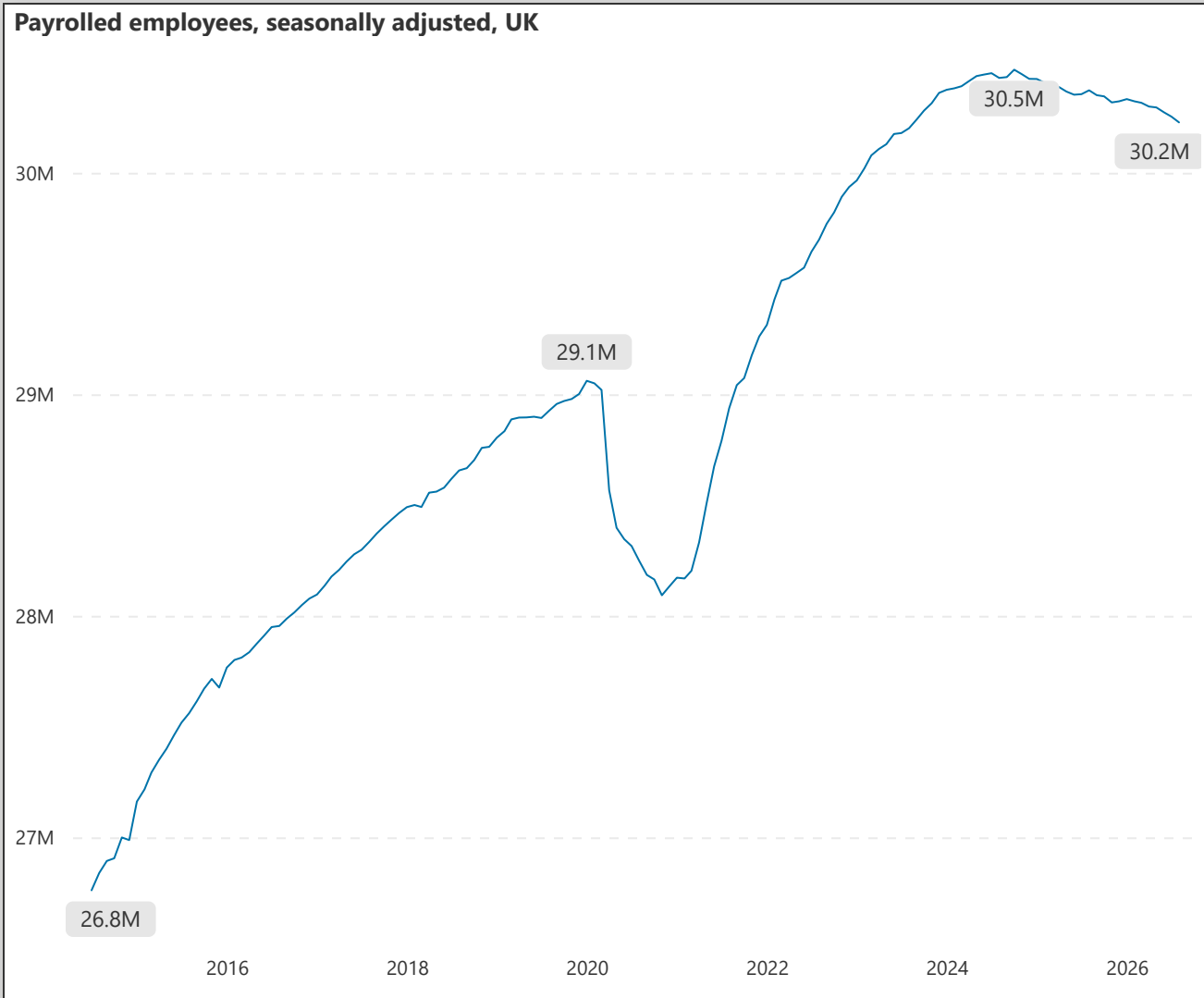
- Monthly GDP is an estimate of all final goods and services produced within a country's borders during a specific period typically a year or quarter.

Output growth:

GDP growth is measured in three sectors:

- Services deals with a large and diverse grouping of industries that produce intangible economic output. This includes: wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, information and communication, transportation and storage and many more.
- Production deals with industries at each stage of production (manufacturing, services and agriculture).
- Construction deals with the amount of output chargeable to customers for building and civil engineering.

Labour Market



No. of Payrolled Employees
30.2 million

Payrolled Employees % Change
0.50% ▼

Largest Sector Increase Change
72000 ▲

Largest Sector No Decrease
-76000 ▼

Monthly Median Pay % Change
3.50% ▲

Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Estimates are for August 2026 with the change being measured from the previous year.
- The largest increase sector was in administrative and support services sector.
- The largest decrease sector was in wholesale and retail sector.
- Median monthly median change is for August 2025 to August 2026.
- Annual growth in median pay in August 2026 was highest in the construction sector, with an increase of 5.5%. it was lowest in the education sector, with a increase of 0.4%.

Business Trading

Turnover % Change in Previous Month

28% ▼

Challenge affecting turnover

Economic Uncertainty

Goods and services bought

29% ▲

Goods and services sell expectations %

17% ▲

Goods and services sell

11% —

Concern regarding energy prices

64% ▲

Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

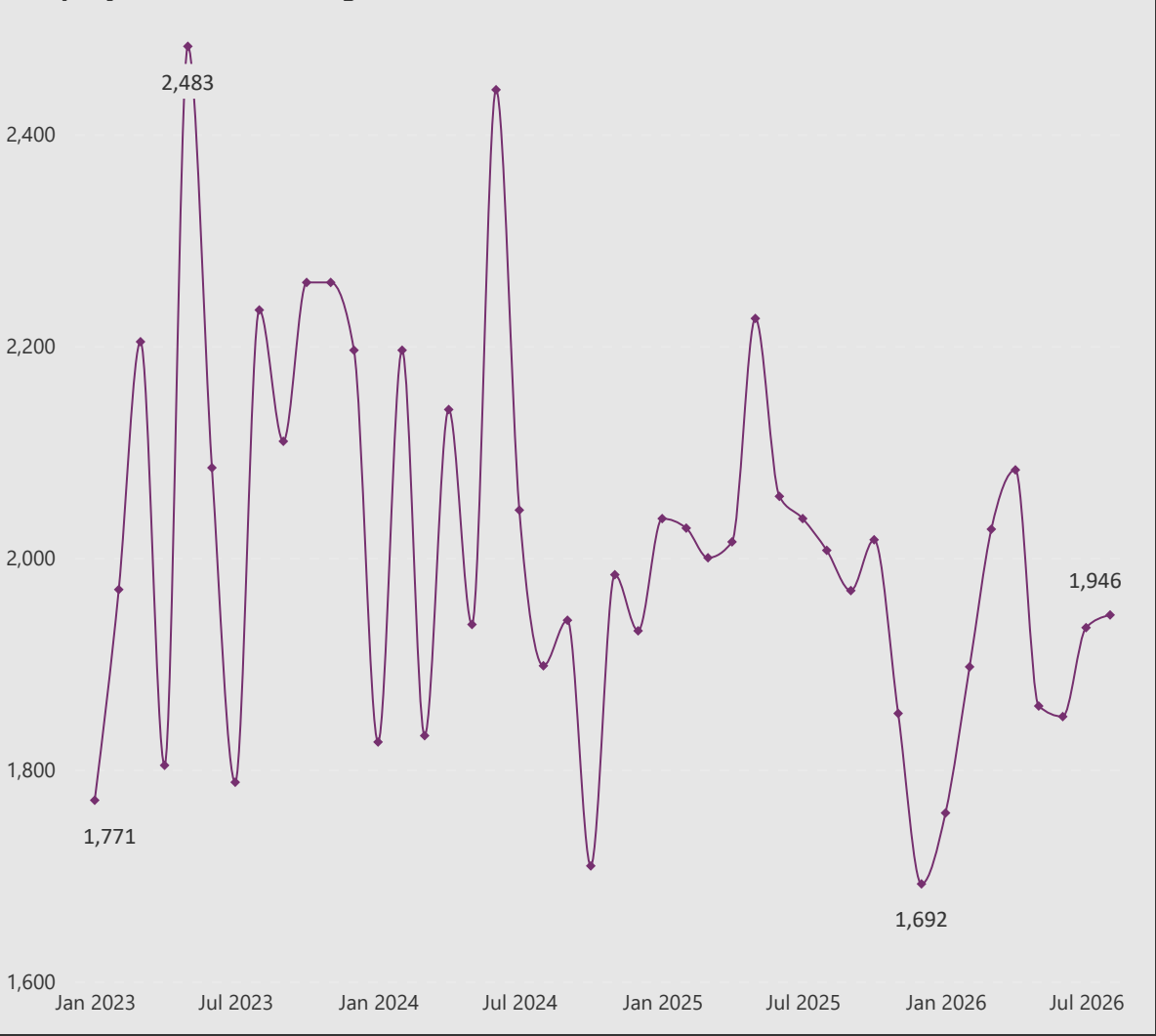
This data is the final results from Wave 164 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 7 to 20 September 2026.

Overall:

- All figures shown above are for trading businesses.
- Goods and services bought and sold refer to the previous month of September 2026 while goods and services expectation refer to what businesses expect prices to be in the next month of October 2026.

Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales



Company insolvencies No

1946 ▲

Insolvency % Change

3.00% ▼

Administrations

182

Compulsory liquidations

314

Creditors' voluntary liquidations

1431

Company voluntary arrangements

19

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

Overall:

- Company insolvencies figures are for England and Wales for the month of August 2026.

Business Closures (Individual)

Individual insolvencies in England & Wales



Individual insolvencies No

11644 ▲

Bankruptcies

725

Debt relief orders

3,880

Individual voluntary arrangements

7,039

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

Overall:

- Individual insolvencies figures are for England and Wales for the month of August 2026.