

January 2025 (Issue 54)

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West Sussex Summary

New Businesses December 2024

- 371 new businesses incorporated.
- 647 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net loss of 276 businesses.

Claimants December 2024

- Claimant count decreased by 0.3% in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate remained at 3% in West Sussex, staying below the regional average of 3.2% and national 4.3%.

Universal Credit Claimants December 2024

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.7% in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (173% increase).
- Higher increase than national (148%) or regional (159%) average.

Economic Activity September 2024

- West Sussex: 83.3%
- South East: 81.9%
- England: 78.8%

Employment Rate September 2024

- West Sussex: 80.4%
- South East: 79.0%
- England: 75.7%

Self Employed September 2024

- West Sussex: 13.5%
- South East: 9.7%
- England: 9.4%

Economic Inactivity September 2024

- West Sussex: 16.7%
- South East: 21.2%
- England: 18.1%

Real Time Information (No of Employees) December 2024

- West Sussex: 399,018
- West Sussex (South East): 196,246
- West Sussex (North West): 202,772
- South East: 4,286,524
- UK: 30,339,666

Real Time Information (Median Pay) December 2024

- West Sussex (South West): £2,333
- West Sussex (North East): £2,645
- South East: £2,594
- UK: £2,457

Job Postings (Lightcast)

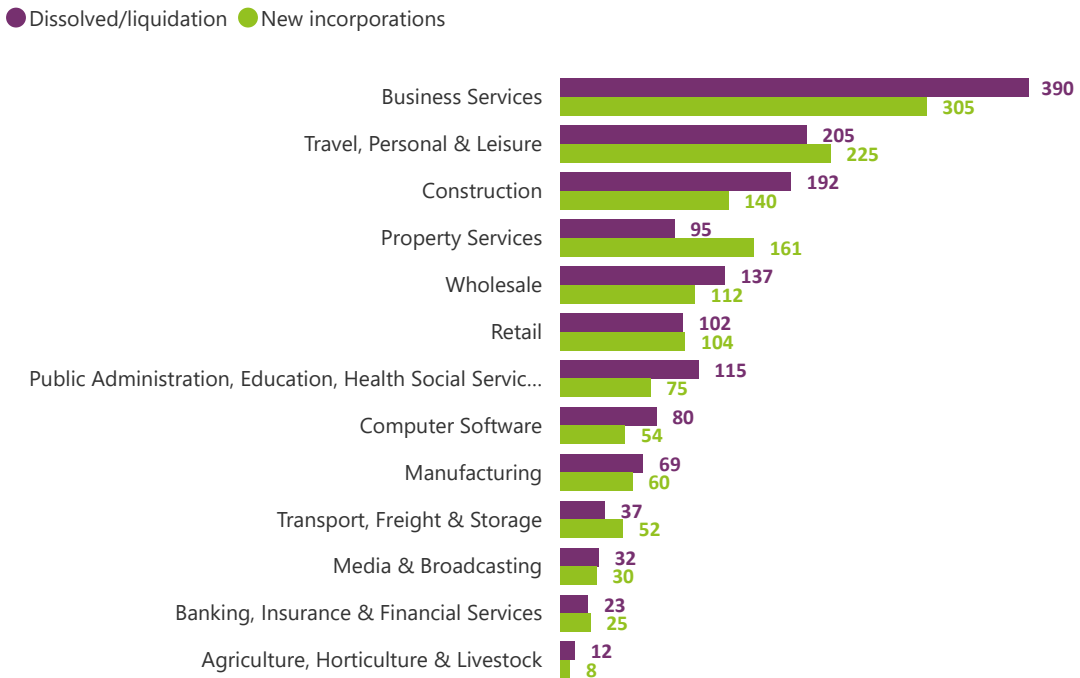
- In December 2024 there were 18,341 unique job postings in West Sussex
- In terms of the 'top' posted occupations over the last six months Jul'24-Dec'24 teaching assistants made up the highest number of occupations.

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 (Oct'24 - Dec'24)



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Oct'24-Dec'24)



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend: In the last 3 months, all regions have seen slightly more business closures than new openings, except Chichester, which had an equal number. The sectors of business services, construction, wholesale, public admin, computer software and manufacturing all saw more business closures than new business.

Last 12 months:

- 6,211 new businesses incorporated.
- 5,636 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 574 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,403 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,587 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net loss of 184 businesses.

December 2024:

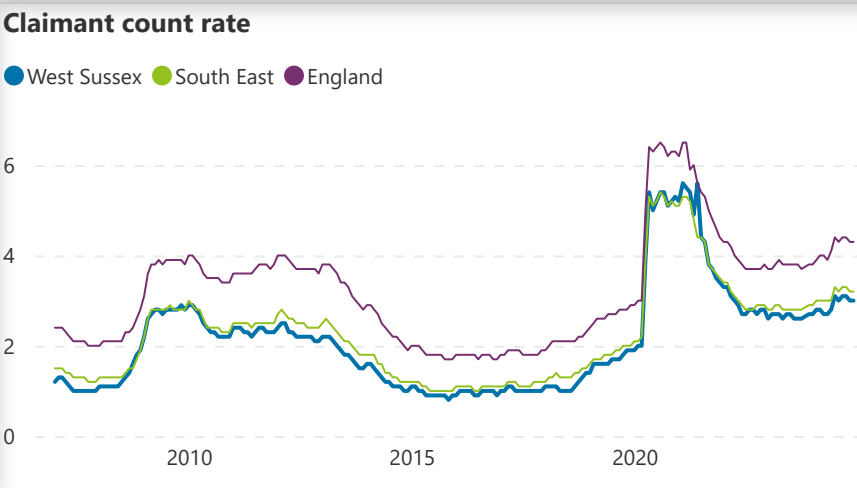
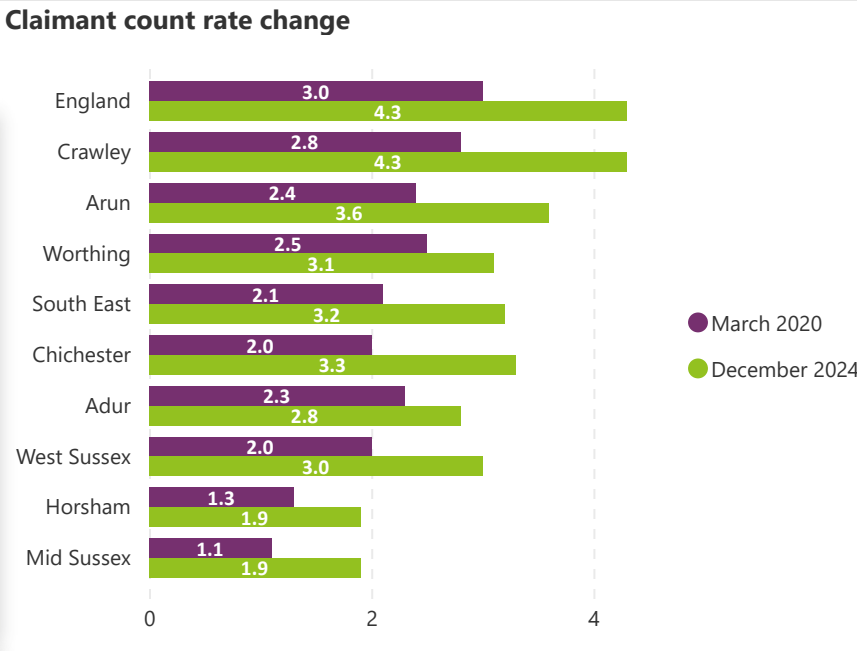
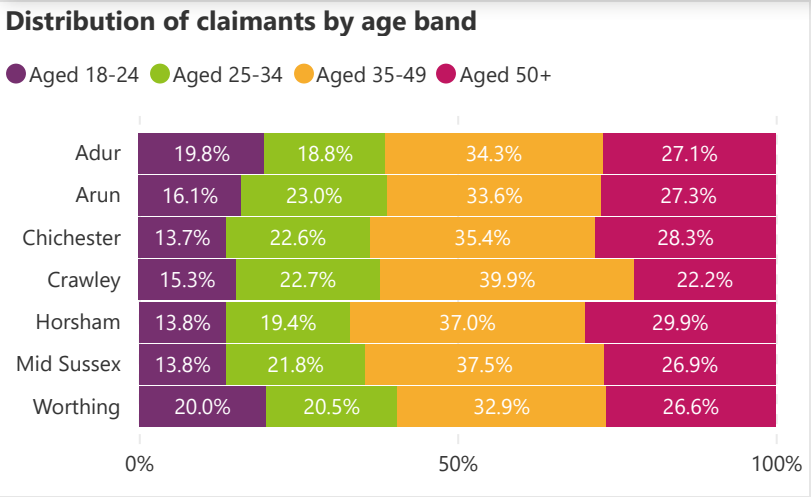
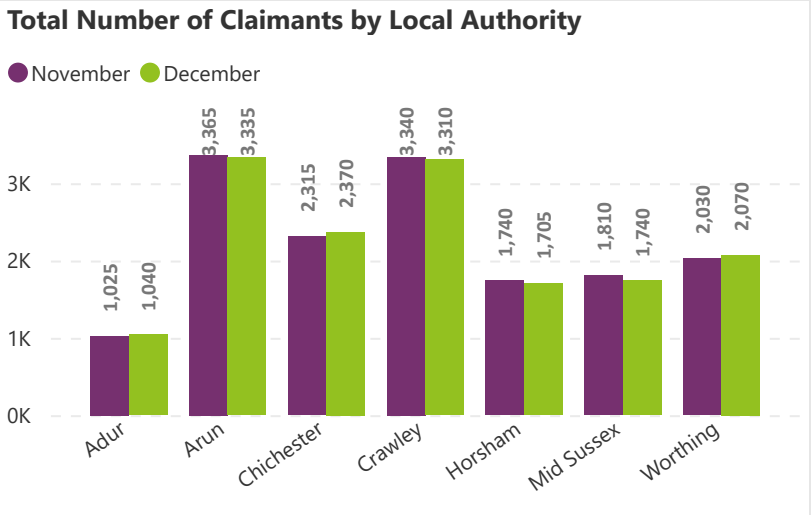
- 371 new businesses incorporated.
- 647 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net loss of 276 businesses.

West Sussex: Claimant Count



15,625
Nov'24

15,580
Dec'24



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, December 2024

Overall:

- Claimant count has decreased over the last month by 0.3% (15,580) in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate is 3% in West Sussex, staying below the regional average of 3.2% and national 4.3%.

Breakdown by district:

• Increases (Nov - Dec'24):

- a. Adur (1.5%)
- b. Chichester (2.4%)
- c. Worthing (2%)

• Decreases (Nov - Dec'24):

- a. Arun (0.9%)
- b. Crawley (0.9%)
- c. Horsham (2%)
- d. Mid Sussex (3.9%)

Specifics (Dec'24):

- Arun recorded the highest claimant count (3,335).
- Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.3%), same as the national average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham had the lowest claimant count rate.

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

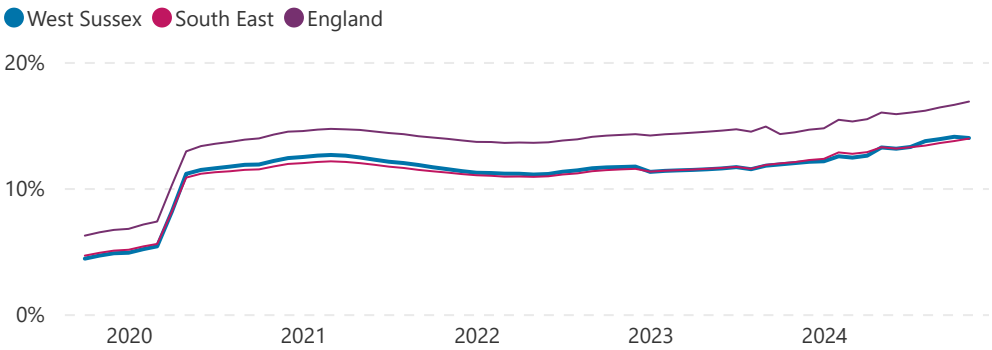
Released: 16 Jan 2025 (Dec 2024 Figures are provisional)

*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.

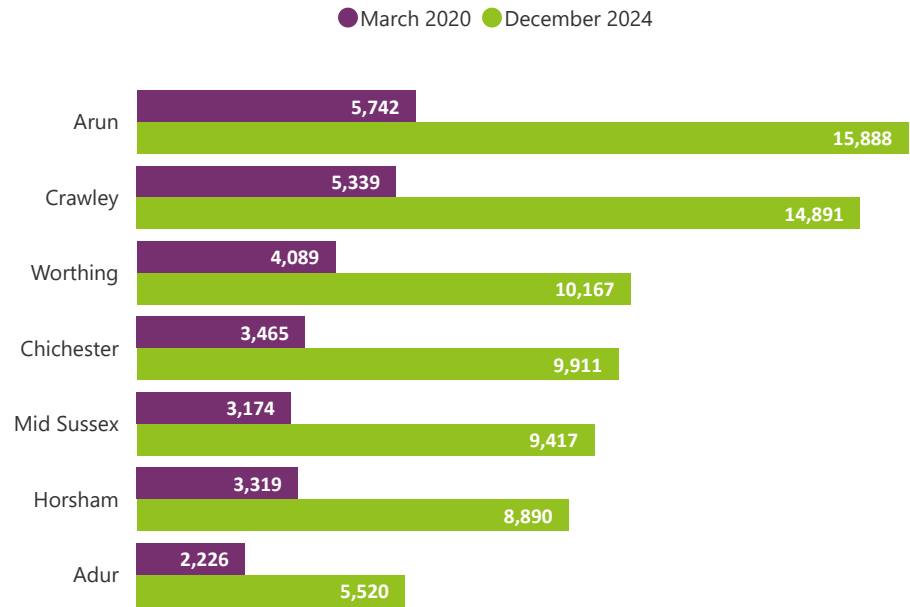
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



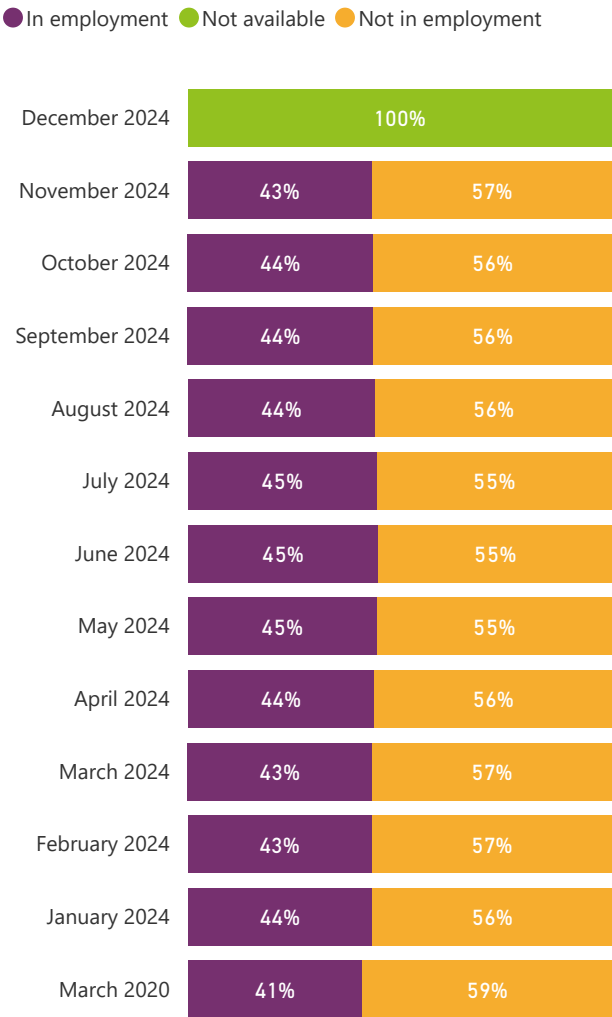
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, December 2024

Overall:

- In December 2024, Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.7% (74,679 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (173% increase).
- Higher increase than national (148%) or regional (159%) average.

Employment status:

- 43% of claimants were in employment in November 2024. Higher than national (37%) or regional (40%) average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham has the highest percentage of employed claimants (46%).

District-specific:

- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (197%) since March 2020.
- At December 2024, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 15,888.

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for December 2024 is not available.

Economic Activity



Economic Activity by local authorities						
Metric	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64		Employment rate - aged 16-64		% aged 16-64 who are self employed	
Location	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Adur	78.1%	77.3%	78.1%	69.7%	N/A	6.0%
Arun	87.5%	83.1%	85.5%	76.4%	8.5%	9.4%
Chichester	71.9%	75.9%	66.2%	75.9%	13.2%	15.6%
Crawley	72.4%	85.9%	71.9%	83.8%	N/A	6.7%
Horsham	80.4%	86.1%	78.0%	84.7%	12.3%	16.2%
Mid Sussex	78.8%	83.9%	77.0%	82.3%	12.8%	16.2%
Worthing	79.3%	87.7%	76.0%	85.1%	8.5%	21.1%
West Sussex	78.7%	83.3%	76.4%	80.4%	9.1%	13.5%
South East	81.3%	81.9%	78.5%	79.0%	10.0%	9.7%
England	78.9%	78.8%	75.9%	75.7%	9.4%	9.4%

Summary of Economic Activity for October 2023 - September 2024

Economic Activity

- West Sussex: 83.3%
- South East: 81.9%
- England: 78.8%

Employment Rate

- West Sussex: 80.4%
- South East: 79.0%
- England: 75.7%

Self Employed

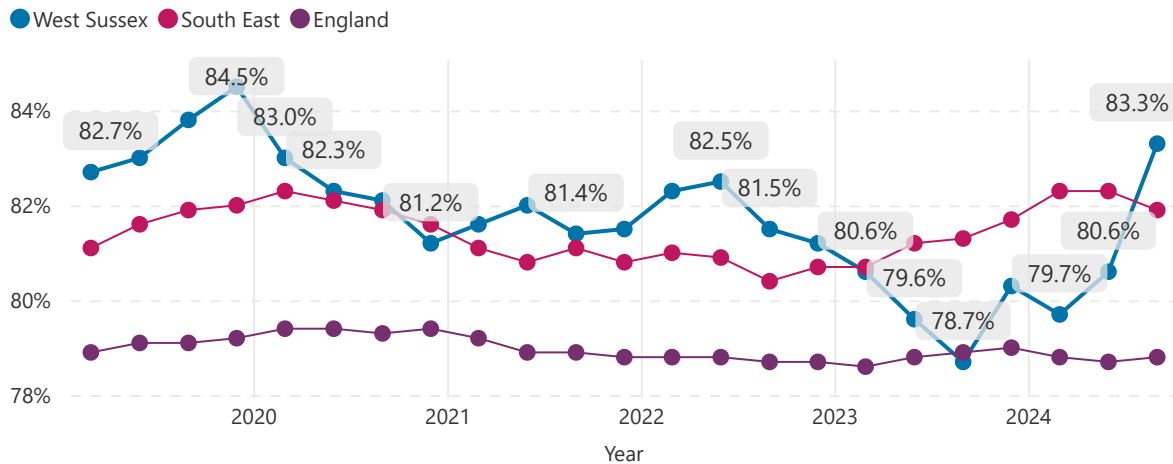
- West Sussex: 13.5%
- South East: 9.7%
- England: 9.4%

NB - The confidence levels of the Annual Population Survey (APS) at district/borough level and are unreliable because of the sample size being small.

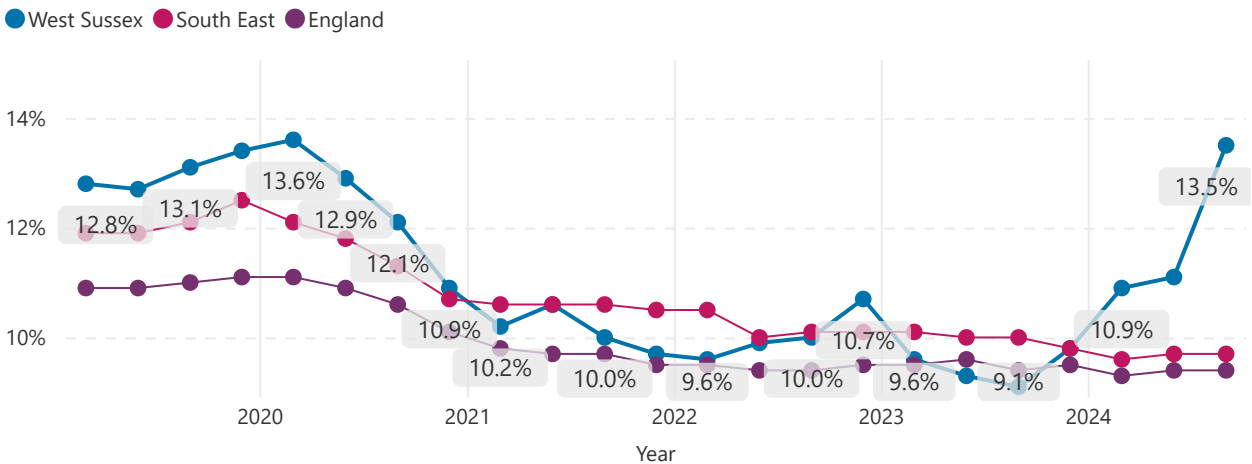


Economic Activity

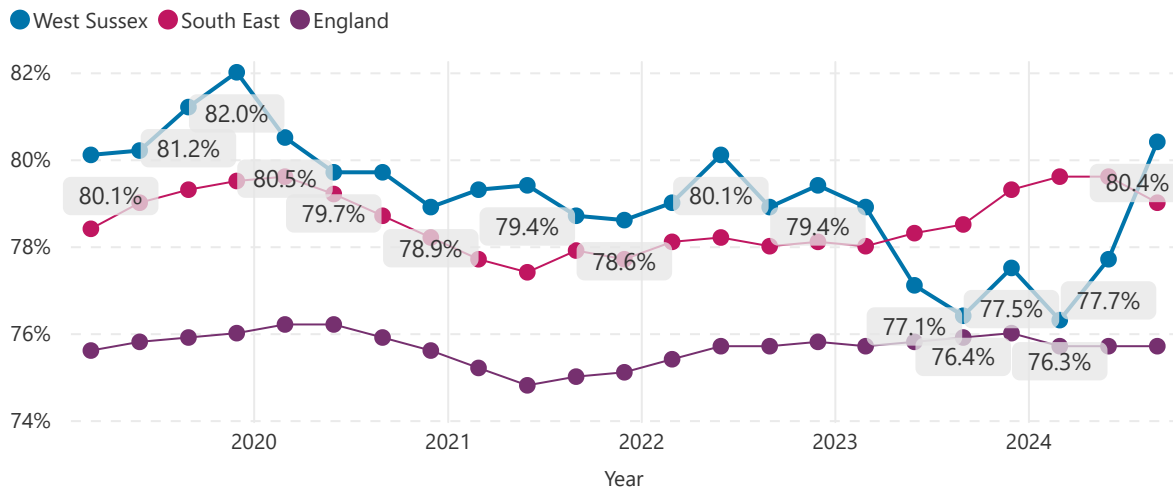
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64



% aged 16-64 who are self employed



Employment rate - aged 16-64



Summary of Economic Activity for July 2023 - June 2024

Three Month Change % (Jun - Sep 2024)

Economic Activity

West Sussex: 2.7%
South East: -0.4%
England: 0.1%

Employment Rate

West Sussex: 2.7%
South East: -0.6%
England: 0%

Self Employed

West Sussex: 2.4%
South East: 0%
England: 0%

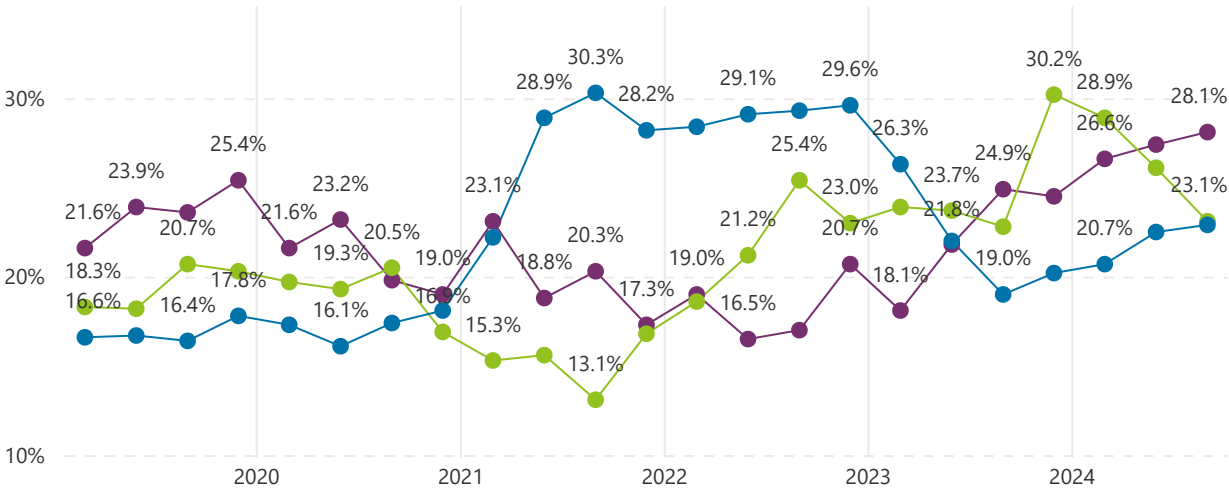
Economic Inactivity

Economically inactive by age (%)

Age	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-49		Aged 50+	
Location	Oct 2022-Sep 2023	Oct 2023-Sep 2024	Oct 2022-Sep 2023	Oct 2023-Sep 2024	Oct 2022-Sep 2023	Oct 2023-Sep 2024
West Sussex	43.60%	33.30%	10.20%	7.00%	58.40%	55.30%
South East	37.40%	38.50%	10.00%	8.60%	54.70%	53.70%
England	40.10%	41.60%	12.10%	11.90%	56.40%	56.10%

Reasons for Economic Inactivity in West Sussex

● % of economically inactive long-term sick ● % of economically inactive retired ● % of economically inactive student



Summary of Economic Activity for October 2023 - September 2024

Overall Economic Inactivity

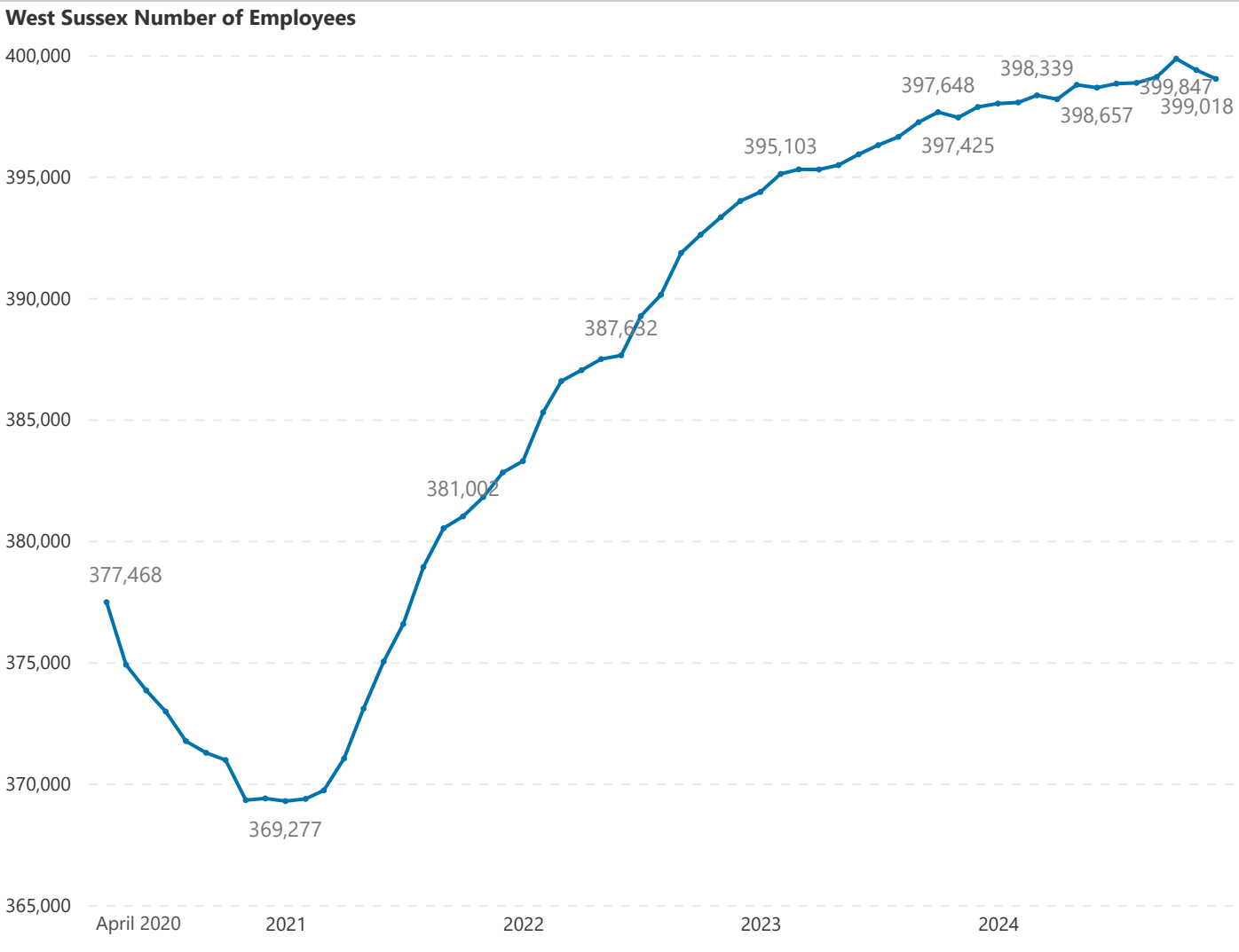
- West Sussex: 16.7%
- South East: 21.2%
- England: 18.1%

Economic Inactivity by Reason Three Month Change (Mar-June)

- Long Term Sick: 0.7%
- Retired: -3.0%
- Student: 0.4%

Economic inactivity has reduced in West Sussex across all age groups over the past year with the age group of 16-24 seeing a reduction of 10.3% and 25+ age groups seeing a reduction of almost 3%. The South East and England have also seen a reduction in economic inactivity over the past year for the 25+ age groups but an increase in the 16-24 age group.

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for December 2024.

Overall:

- West Sussex: 399,018
- West Sussex (South East): 196,246
- West Sussex (North West): 202,772
- South East: 4,286,524
- UK: 30,339,666

One Month Change (Oct - Nov 2024):

- West Sussex decreased by 0.09%
- West Sussex (South East) decreased by 0.08%
- West Sussex (North West) decreased by 0.10%
- South East decreased by 0.08%
- UK decreased by 0.15%

Three Month Change (Aug - Nov 2024):

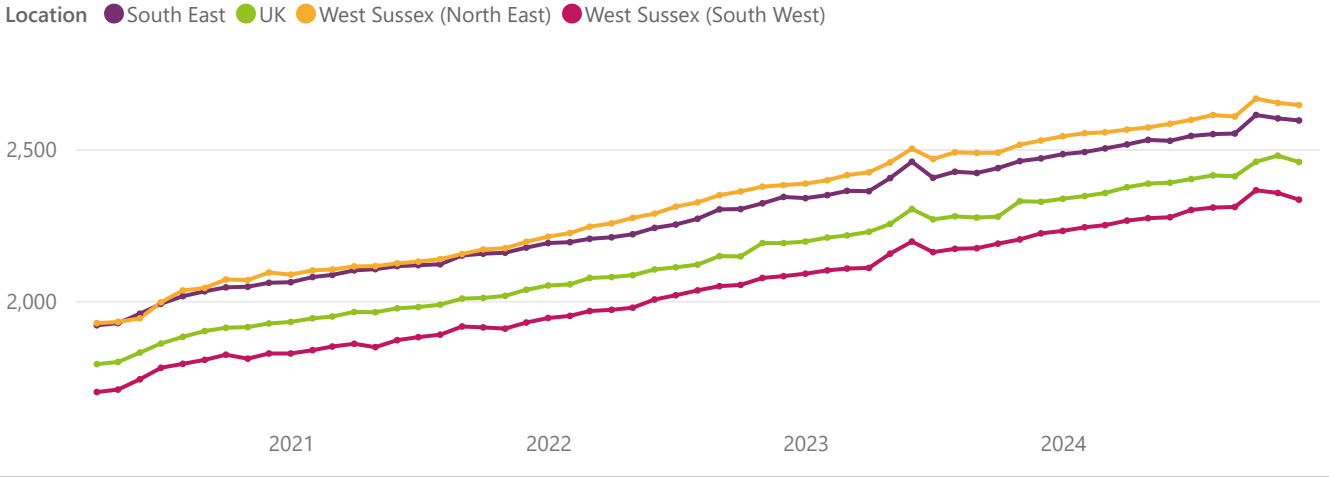
- West Sussex decreased by 0.02%
- West Sussex (South East) decreased by 0.04%
- West Sussex (North West) saw no change
- South East decreased by 0.02%
- UK decreased by 0.16%



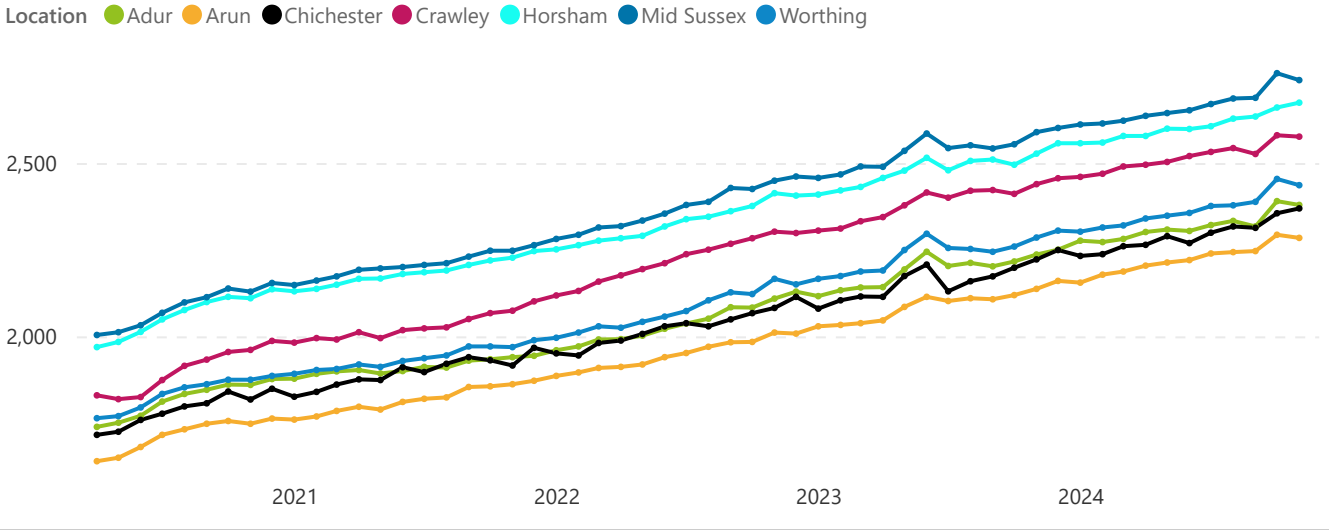
Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



Median Pay National and Regional Figures



Median Pay in West Sussex



Summary of RTI median pay in West Sussex for December 2024.

Overall:

- West Sussex (South West): £2,333
- West Sussex (North East): £2,645
- South East: £2,594
- UK: £2,457

One Month Change (Oct - Nov 2024):

- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 0.93%
- West Sussex (North East) decreased by 0.26%
- South East decreased by 0.27%
- UK decreased by 0.85%

Three Month Change (Aug - Nov 2024):

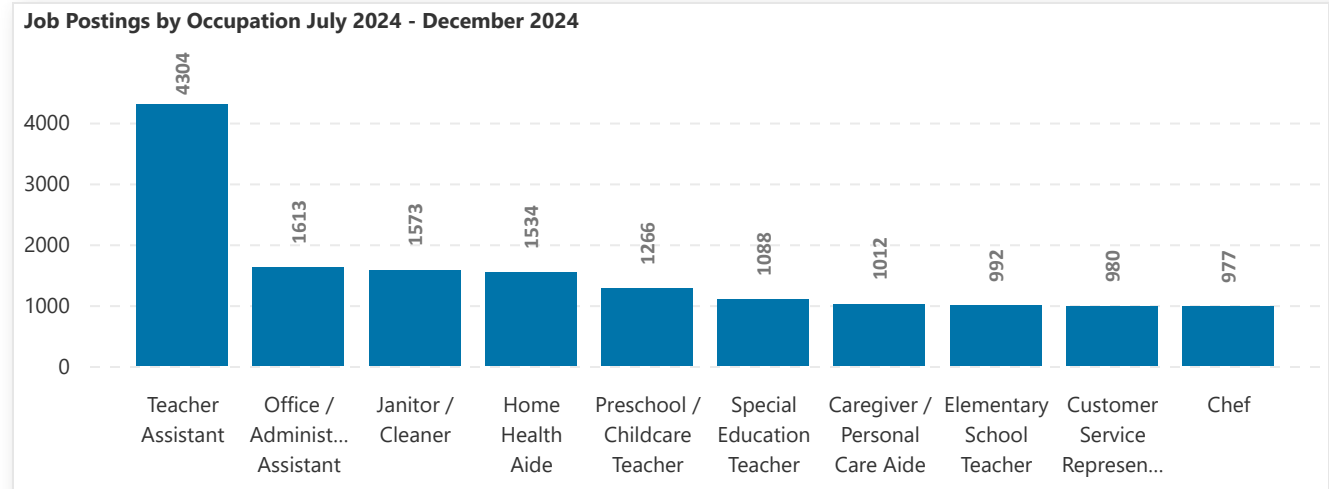
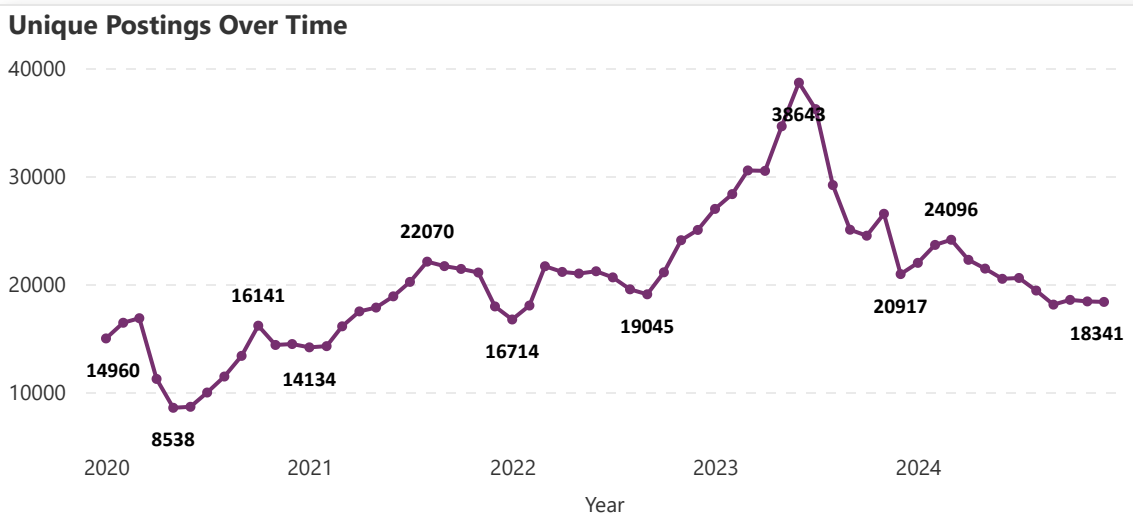
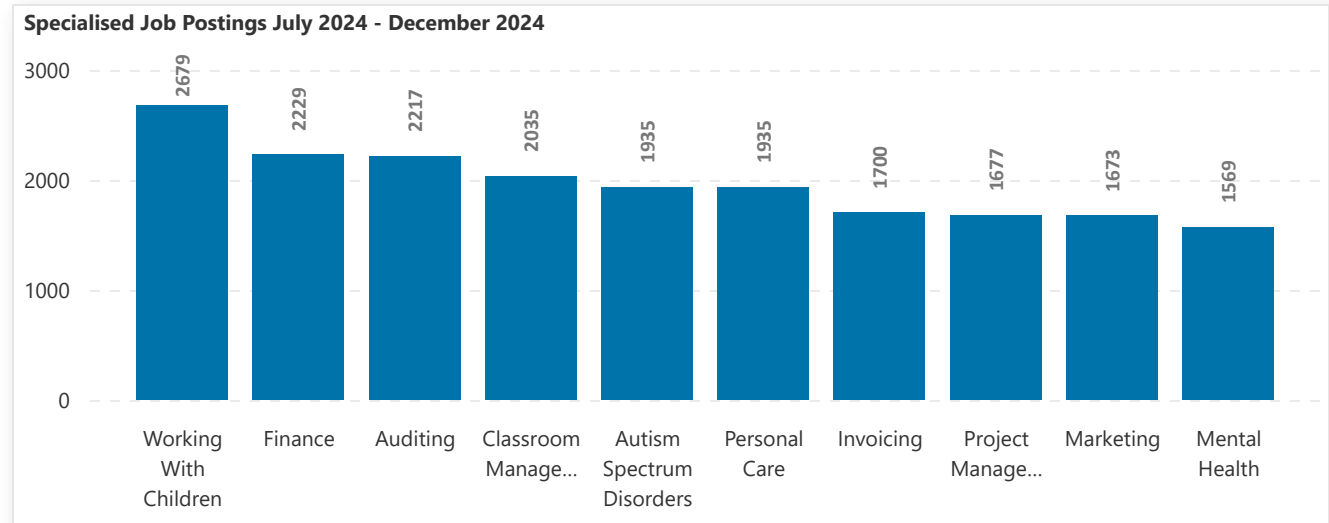
- West Sussex (South West) increased by 1.04%
- West Sussex (North East) increased by 1.46%
- South East increased by 1.69%
- UK increased by 1.95%

District & Borough Latest Values:

- Adur: £2,379
- Arun: £2,284
- Chichester: £2,369
- Crawley: £2,576
- Horsham: £2,674
- Mid Sussex: £2,739
- Worthing: £2,436



Job Postings



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 December 2024 there were 18,341 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 38,643 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the 'top' posted occupations over the last six months Jul'24-Dec'24 teaching assistants made up the highest number of occupations. Office/admin assistances, cleaners also continue to be in demand.



National Summary



Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in October to December was 812,000.
- Decreasing 24,000 or 2.9% from July to September 2024.
- Vacancies have been decreasing for two and a half years, with quarterly decreases in 10 of the 18 industry sectors in October to December 2024.
- Total estimated vacancies are 2.0% above their pre-coronavirus pandemic level

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in November 2024 after a 0.1% fall in October 2024.
- Real GDP is estimated to have shown no growth in the three months to November 2024 compared with the three months to August 2024.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for December 2024 indicate a fall of 8,000 payrolled employees compared with the previous year.
- The estimated number of payrolled employees in December decreased by 47,000 (0.2%) when compared to November 2024.
- Health and social work sector saw the largest increase with 109,000 employees.
- The growth in payrolled employees in November 2024 compared to October has been revised from a decrease of 35,000 to a decrease of 32,000.
- December Median Monthly Pay has increased by 5.6% compared with the previous year.
- The highest growth in median pay is in the sector accommodation and food service activities (10.0%) and the lowest increase is in the education sector (0.9%).

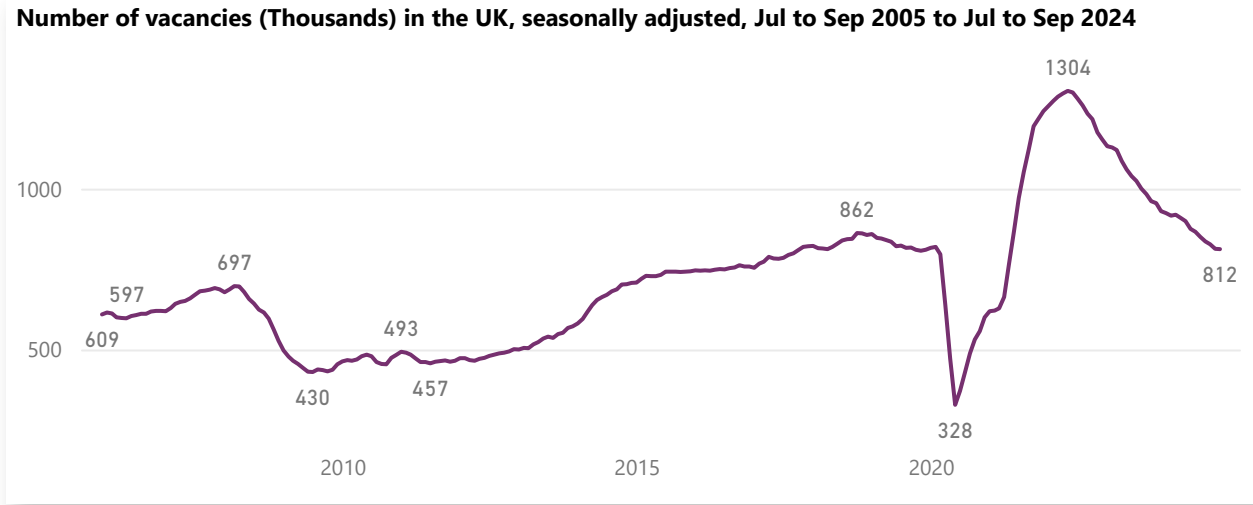
Business Trading

- 30% of trading business reported their turnover had decreased in December 2024 compared with November 2024.
- 62% of trading businesses reported that they were experiencing at least one challenge that was having an impact on their turnover.
- 20% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in February 2025.
- 20% of trading businesses expect to raise the prices of goods or services they sell in February 2025.
- 16% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were experiencing worker shortages.
- 18% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they had experienced recruitment difficulties in December 2024.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 1,838 in December 2024, 6% lower than November 2024.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 273 compulsory liquidations, 1,421 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 127 administrations and 17 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 10,050 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 549 bankruptcies, 3,473 debt relief orders (DROs) and 6,028 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in December 2024 was 5% lower than in November.
- The number of IVAs registered in December was 10% higher than the average monthly number seen in 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels and were also lower than in December 2023.
- There were 5,650 breathing space registrations in December 2024.

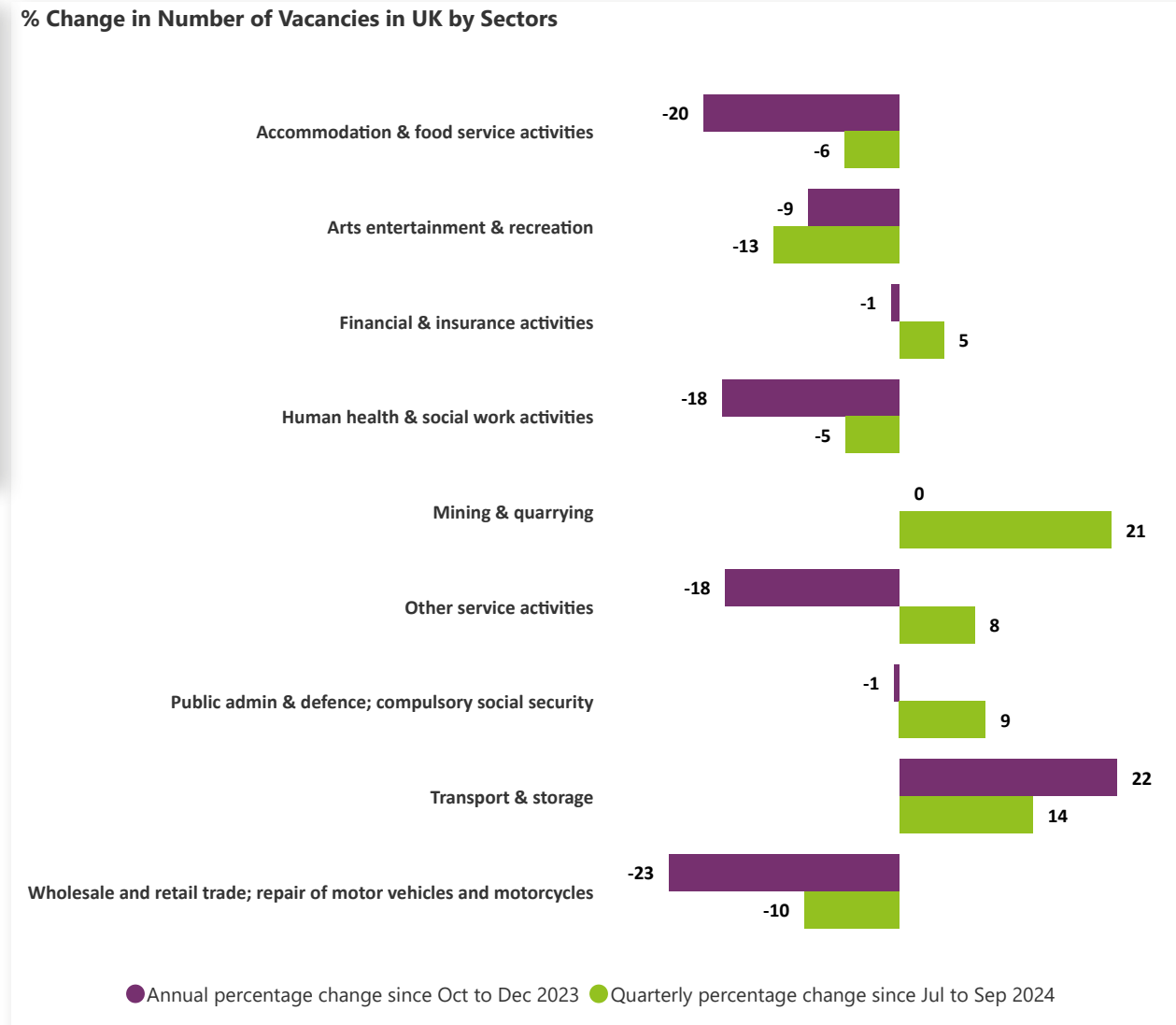
Job Vacancies (UK)



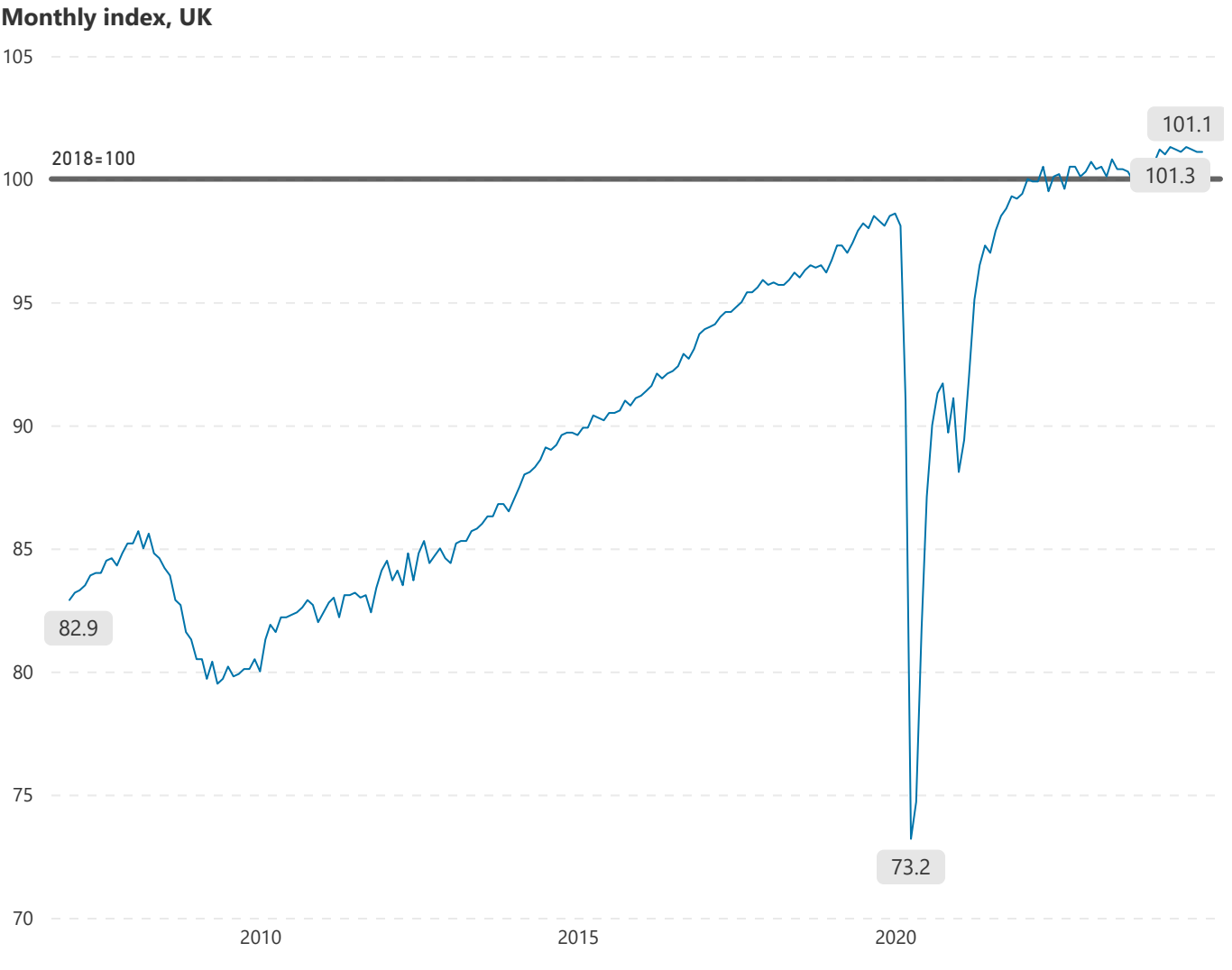
Summary of job vacancies (UK).

Overall:

- Estimated vacancies in October to December was 812,000.
- Decreasing 24,000 or 2.9% from July to September 2024.
- Vacancies have been decreasing for two and a half years, with quarterly decreases in 10 of the 18 industry sectors in October to December 2024.
- Total estimated vacancies are 2.0% above their pre-coronavirus pandemic level



Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



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

Overall:

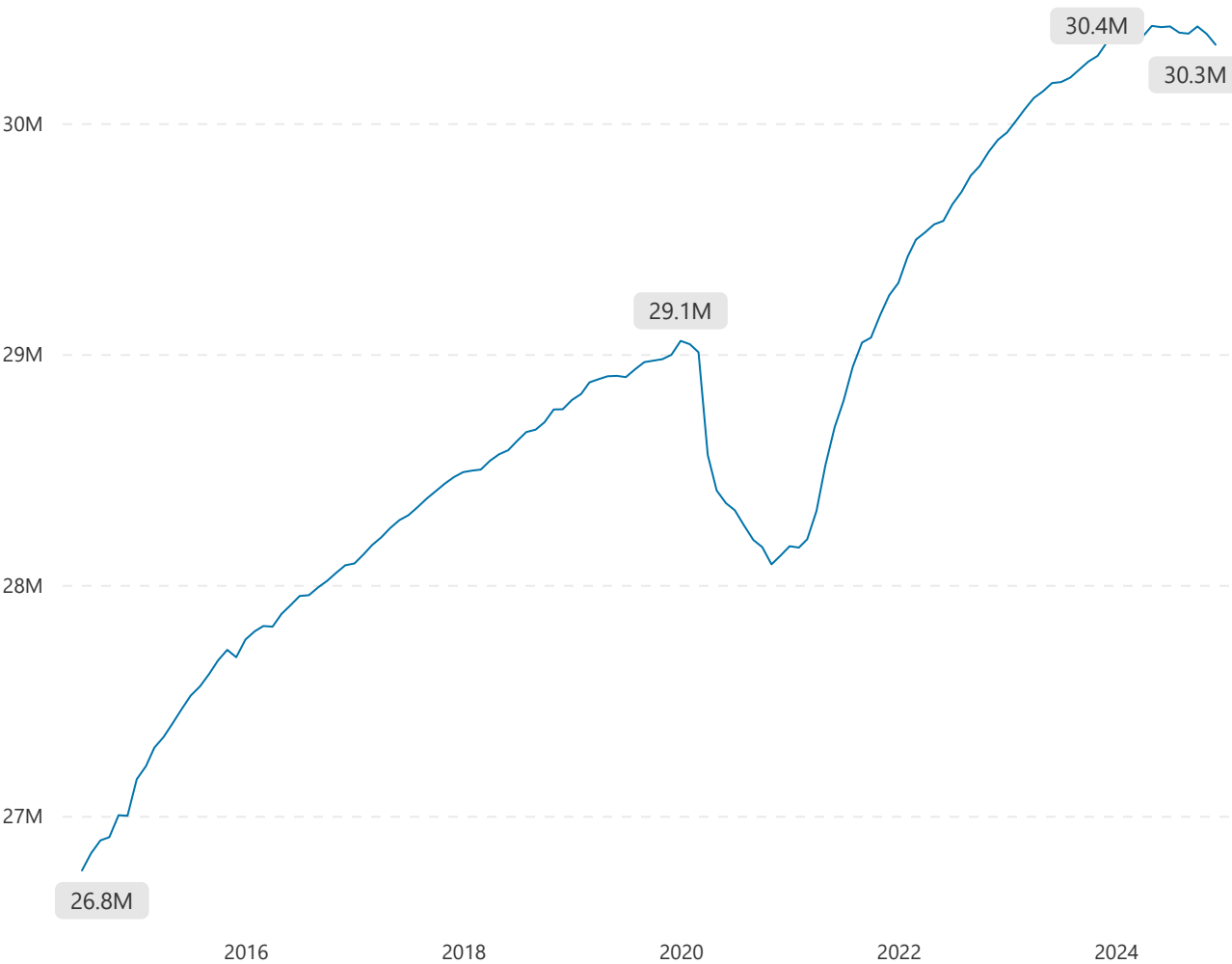
- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in November 2024 after a 0.1% fall in October 2024.
- Real GDP is estimated to have shown no growth in the three months to November 2024 compared with the three months to August 2024.

Output growth:

- Services: 0.1%
- Production: -0.4%
- Constructions: 0.4%

Labour Market

Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for December 2024 indicate a fall of 8,000 payrolled employees compared with the previous year.
- The estimated number of payrolled employees in December decreased by 47,000 (0.2%) when compared to November 2024.
- Health and social work sector saw the largest increase with 109,000 employees.
- The growth in payrolled employees in November 2024 compared to October has been revised from a decrease of 35,000 to a decrease of 32,000.
- December Median Monthly Pay has increased by 5.6% compared with the previous year.
- The highest growth in median pay is in the sector accommodation and food service activities (10.0%) and the lowest increase is in the education sector (0.9%).

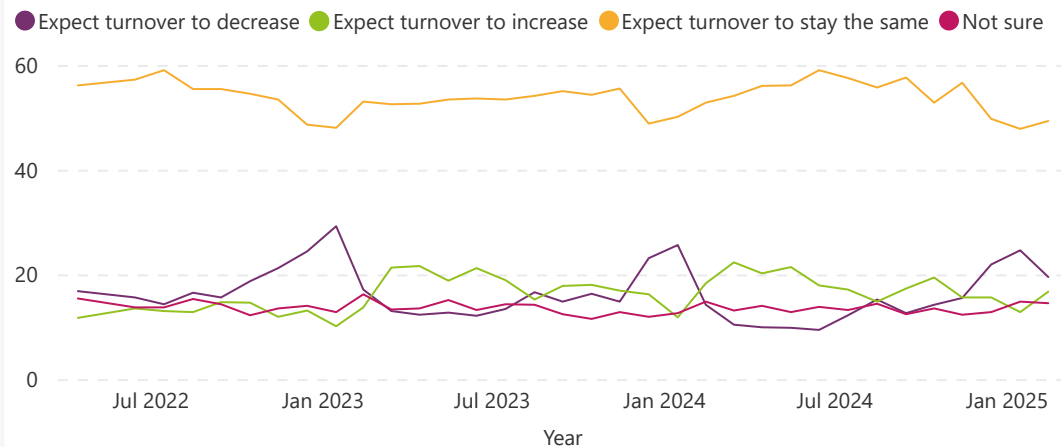
Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

This data is the final results from Wave 122 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 2 to 15 December.

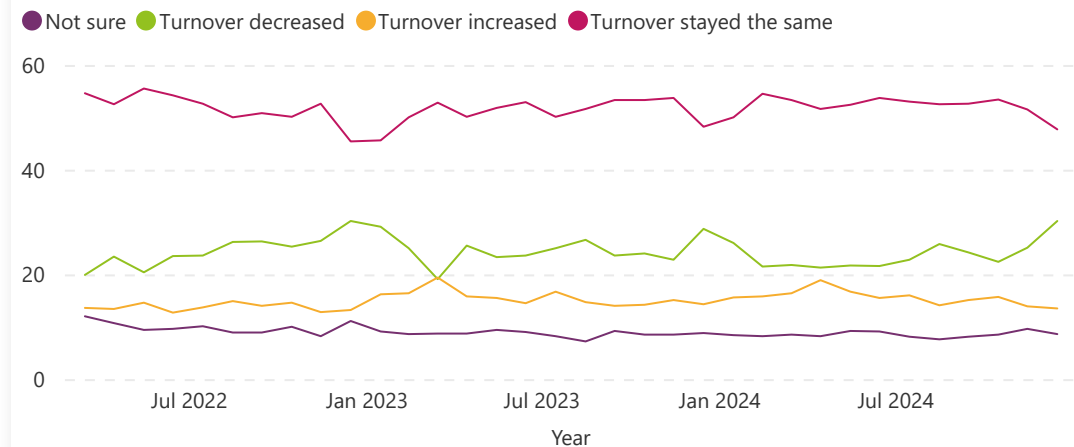
Overall:

- 30% of trading business reported their turnover had decreased in December 2024 compared with November 2024.
- 62% of trading businesses reported that they were experiencing at least one challenge that was having an impact on their turnover.
- 20% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in February 2025.
- 20% of trading businesses expect to raise the prices of goods or services they sell in February 2025.
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- 18% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they had experienced recruitment difficulties in December 2024.

Expected Turnover Change for February 2025

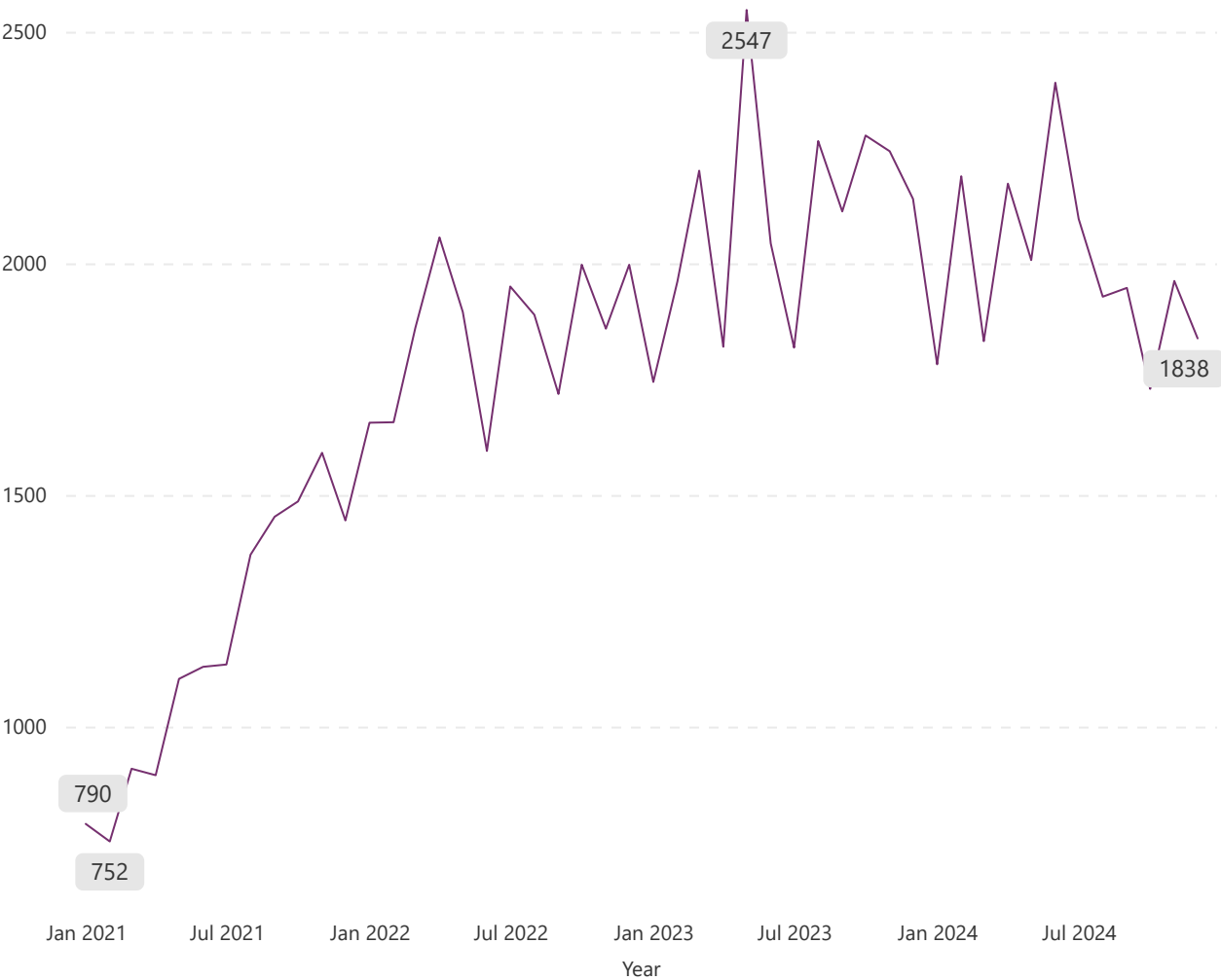


Turnover Change from November to December 2024



Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales

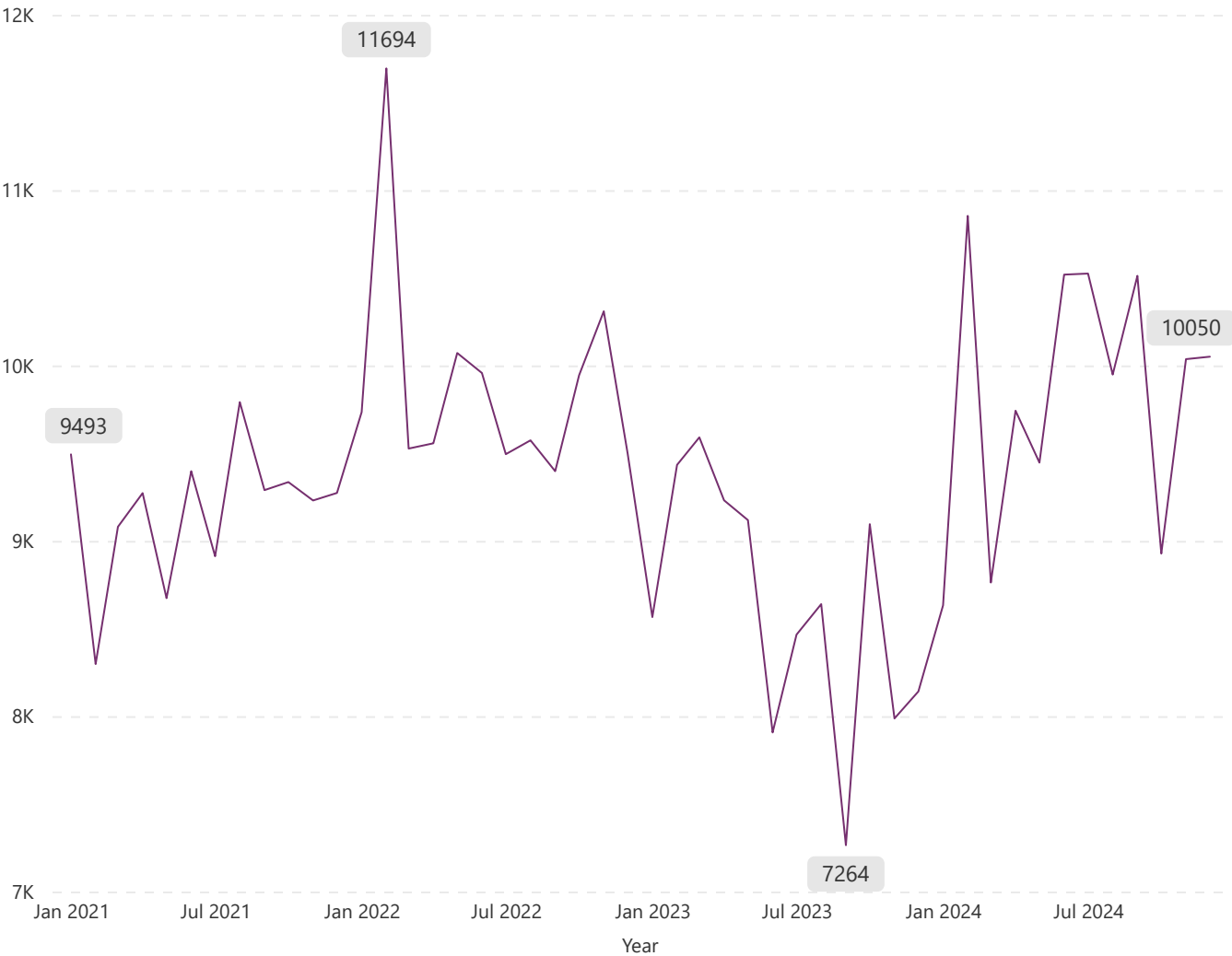


Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

- Overall:**
- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 1,838 in December 2024, 6% lower than November 2024.
 - Company insolvencies consisted of 273 compulsory liquidations, 1,421 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 127 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 10,050 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 549 bankruptcies, 3,473 debt relief orders (DROs) and 6,028 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in December 2024 was 5% lower than in November.
- The number of IVAs registered in December was 10% higher than the average monthly number seen in 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels and were also lower than in December 2023.
- There were 5,650 breathing space registrations in December 2024.