

December 2025 (Issue 09)

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West Sussex Summary

New Businesses November 2025

- 420 new businesses were incorporated (a 31% decrease from October 2025).
- 454 businesses were dissolved or liquidated (an 11% increase from October 2025).
- There were 34 more businesses dissolved than newly incorporated.

Claimants November 2025

- Claimant count increased by 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%.

Universal Credit Claimants November 2025

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 2% in West Sussex over the last month.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (210% increase). Higher increase than national (178%) or regional (191%) average.
- In October 2025, 15.8% of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.9%.

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

- West Sussex: 396,632 (decreased by 0.17%)
- West Sussex (South West): 194,938 (decreased by 0.21%)
- West Sussex (North East): 201,694 (decreased by 0.13%)
- South East: 4,140,256 (decreased by 0.1%)
- UK: 30,256,4820 (decreased by 0.13%)
- Adur: 26,760 (decreased by 0.05%)
- Arun: 68,459 (increased by 0.07%)
- Chichester: 49,454 (decreased by 0.27%)
- Crawley: 62,263 (decreased by 0.38%)
- Horsham: 66,596 (decreased by 0.08%)
- Mid Sussex: 72,834 (decreased by 0.19%)
- Worthing: 50,264 (decreased by 0.3%)

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

- West Sussex (South West): 2,431 (decreased by 0.65%)
- West Sussex (North East): 2,731 (decreased by 0.51%)
- Adur: 2,450 (decreased by 0.65%)
- Arun: 2,372 (decreased by 0.67%)
- Chichester: 2,431 (decreased by 0.73%)
- Crawley: 2,642 (decreased by 0.68%)
- Horsham: 2,737 (decreased by 0.11%)
- Mid Sussex: 2,838 (decreased by 0.56%)
- Worthing: 2,518 (decreased by 0.36%)
- South East: 2,684 (decreased by 0.63%)
- UK: 2,543 (decreased by 0.12%)

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 November 2025, there were 9,606 unique job postings in West Sussex, which is almost 17% lower than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (June 2025 to November 2025), janitors/cleaners is the top posted followed closely by home health aide.

West Sussex/National Summary

Summary of Economic Activity for Jul 2024 - Jun 2025

Economic Activity

- West Sussex: 82.8%
- South East: 81.0%
- England: 79.1%

Employment Rate

- West Sussex: 81.1%
- South East: 78.2%
- England: 75.8%

Self Employed

- West Sussex: 12.1%
- South East: 10.2%
- England: 9.8%

Three Month Change % (Mar - Jun 2025)

Economic Activity

- West Sussex: 0.6%
- South East: -0.1%
- England: 0.3%

Employment Rate

- West Sussex: 0.9%
- South East: -0.2%
- England: 0.1%

Self Employed

- West Sussex: 0.3%
- South East: 0.2%
- England: 0.2%

Summary of Economic inactivity for July 2024 - June 2025

Overall Economic Inactivity

- West Sussex: 17.2%
- South East: 19.0%
- England: 20.9%

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

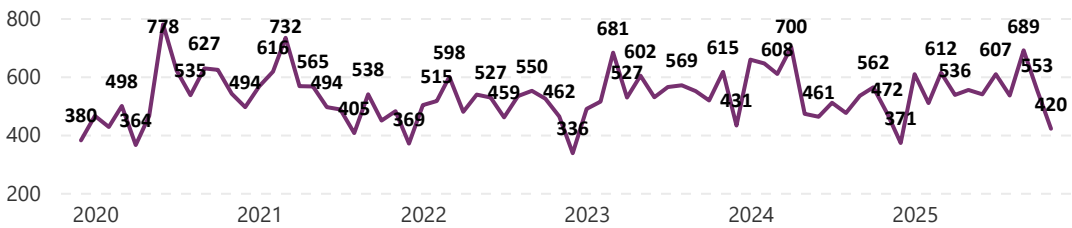
- Long Term Sick: 2.2%
- Retired: 3.2%
- Student: -2.2%

Economic inactivity has reduced over the past year in West Sussex for the age groups of 16-24 and 50+ but has increased in the age group of 25-49.

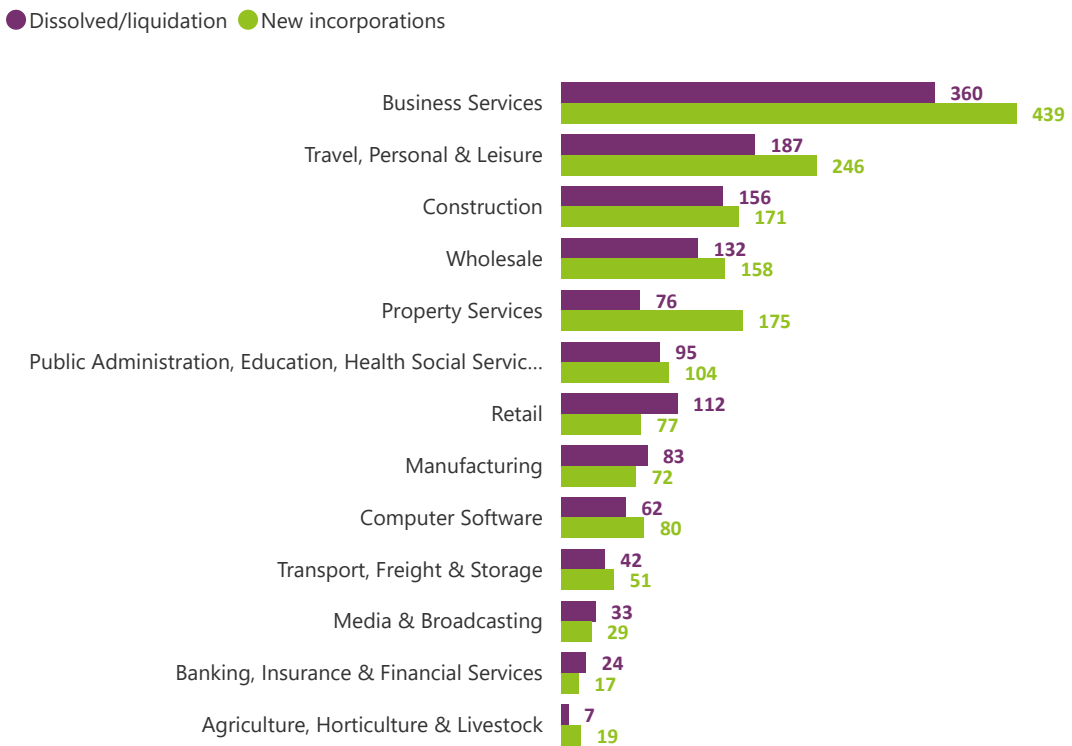
- West Sussex 16-24 age group % change: -8.7%
- West Sussex 25-49 age group % change: 0.7%
- West Sussex 50+ age group % change: -0.8%

West Sussex: New Businesses

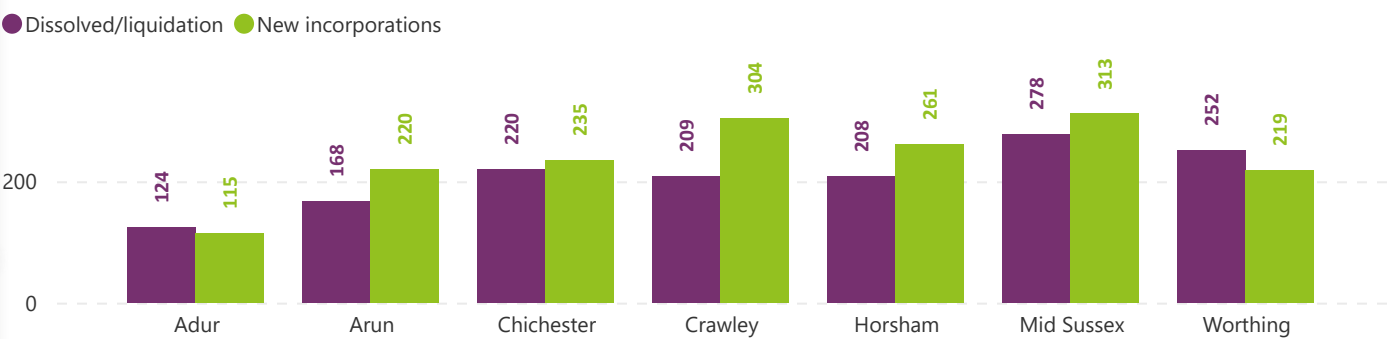
New business incorporations in West Sussex



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



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Sep'25-Nov'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 Adur and Worthing. Retail, Manufacturing, Media, Broadcasting, Banking, Insurance and Financial Services 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:

- 6,884 new businesses incorporated.
- 6,264 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 620 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,667 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,459 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net increase of 208 businesses.

November 2025:

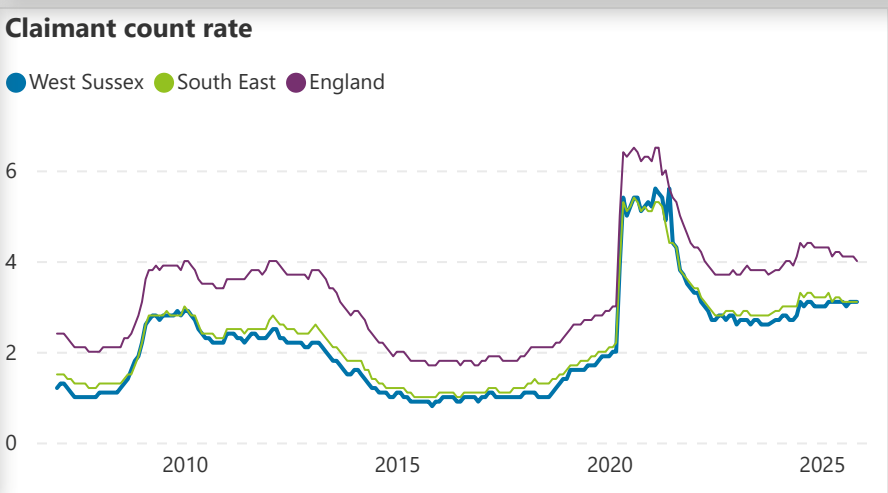
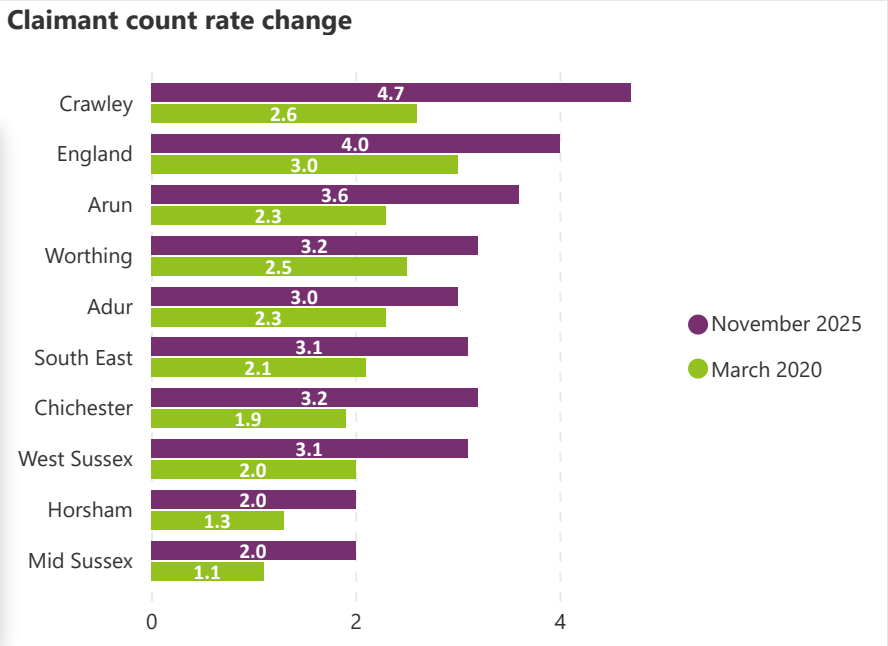
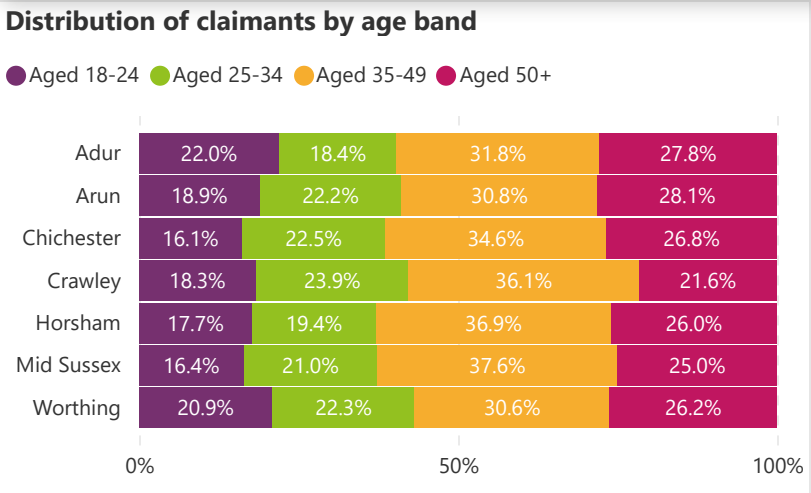
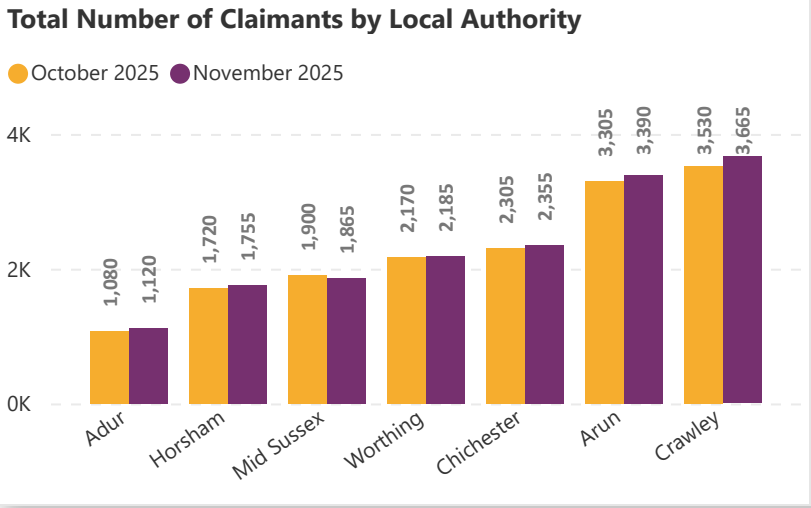
- 420 new businesses incorporated. (31% decrease from October 2025)
- 454 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (11% increase from October 2025)
- Net decrease of 34 businesses.

West Sussex: Claimant Count



16,010
Oct'25

16,340
Nov'25



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, November 2025

- Overall:**
- Claimant count has increased over the last month by 2% (16,340) in West Sussex.
 - Claimant count rate is 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining below national average of 4% and same as regional at 3.1%.

- Breakdown by district (Oct'25 - Nov'25):**
- Increases:**
- Adur (3.7%)
 - Arun (2.6%)
 - Chichester (2.2%)
 - Crawley (3.8%)
 - Horsham (2%)
 - Worthing (0.7%)
- Decrease:**
- Mid Sussex (1.8%)

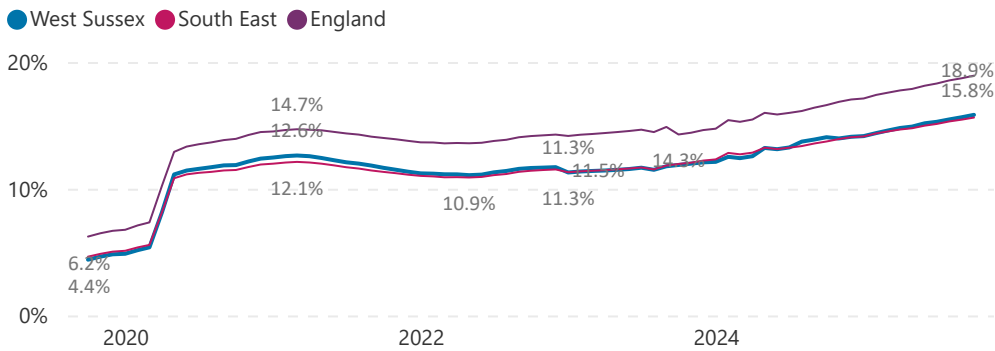
- Specifics (Nov'25):**
- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (3,665).
 - Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.7%), higher than regional and national average.
 - Horsham and Mid Sussex had the lowest claimant count rate (2%).

*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.

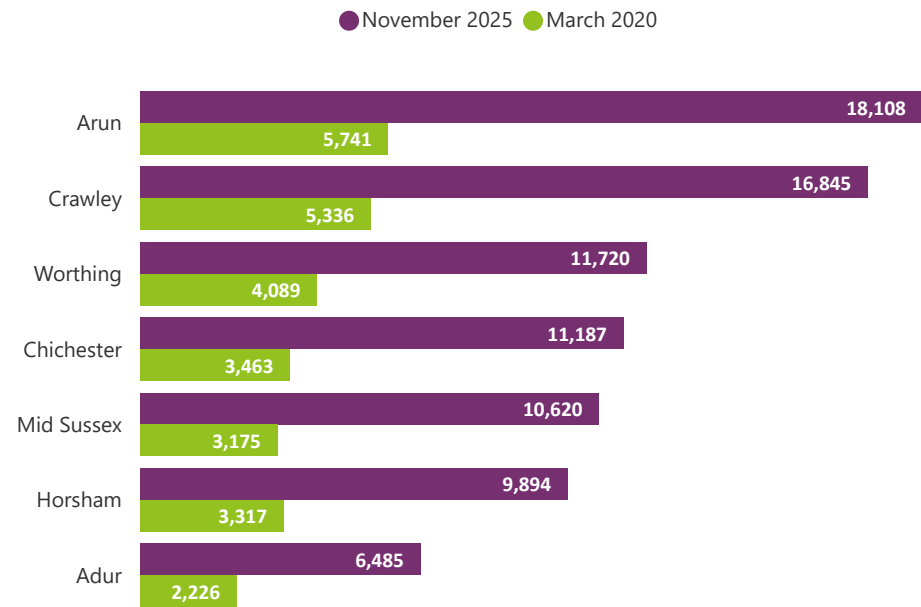
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



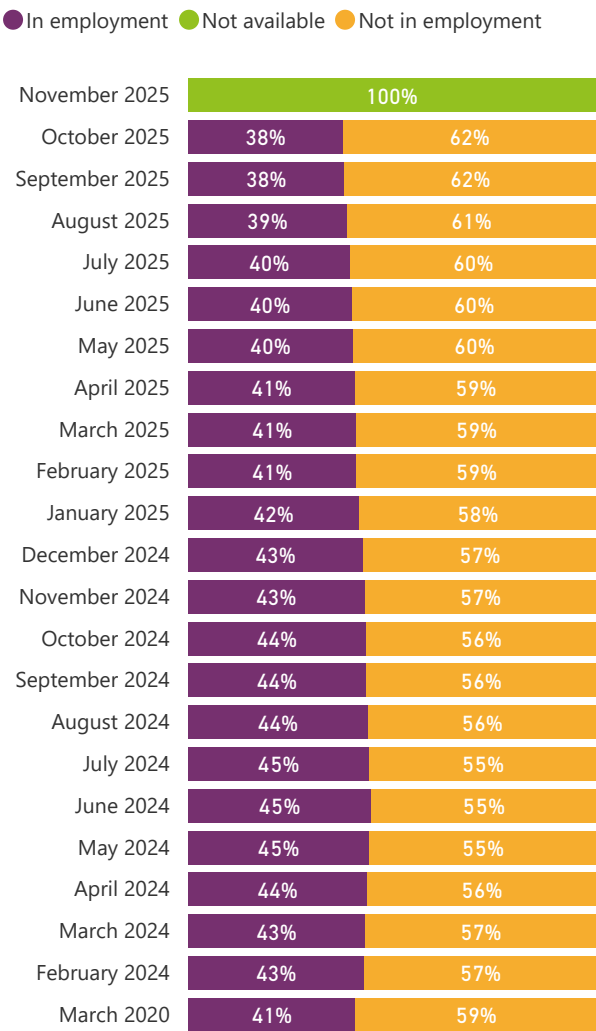
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, November 2025

Overall:

- In November 2025, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by almost 2% (84,859 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (210% increase).
- Higher increase than national (178%) or regional (191%) average.
- The percentage (October 2025) of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 15.8%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.9% for the last month.

Employment status:

- 38% of claimants were in employment in October 2025. Higher than national (33%) or regional (35%) average.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham has the highest percentage of employed claimants (40%).

District-specific:

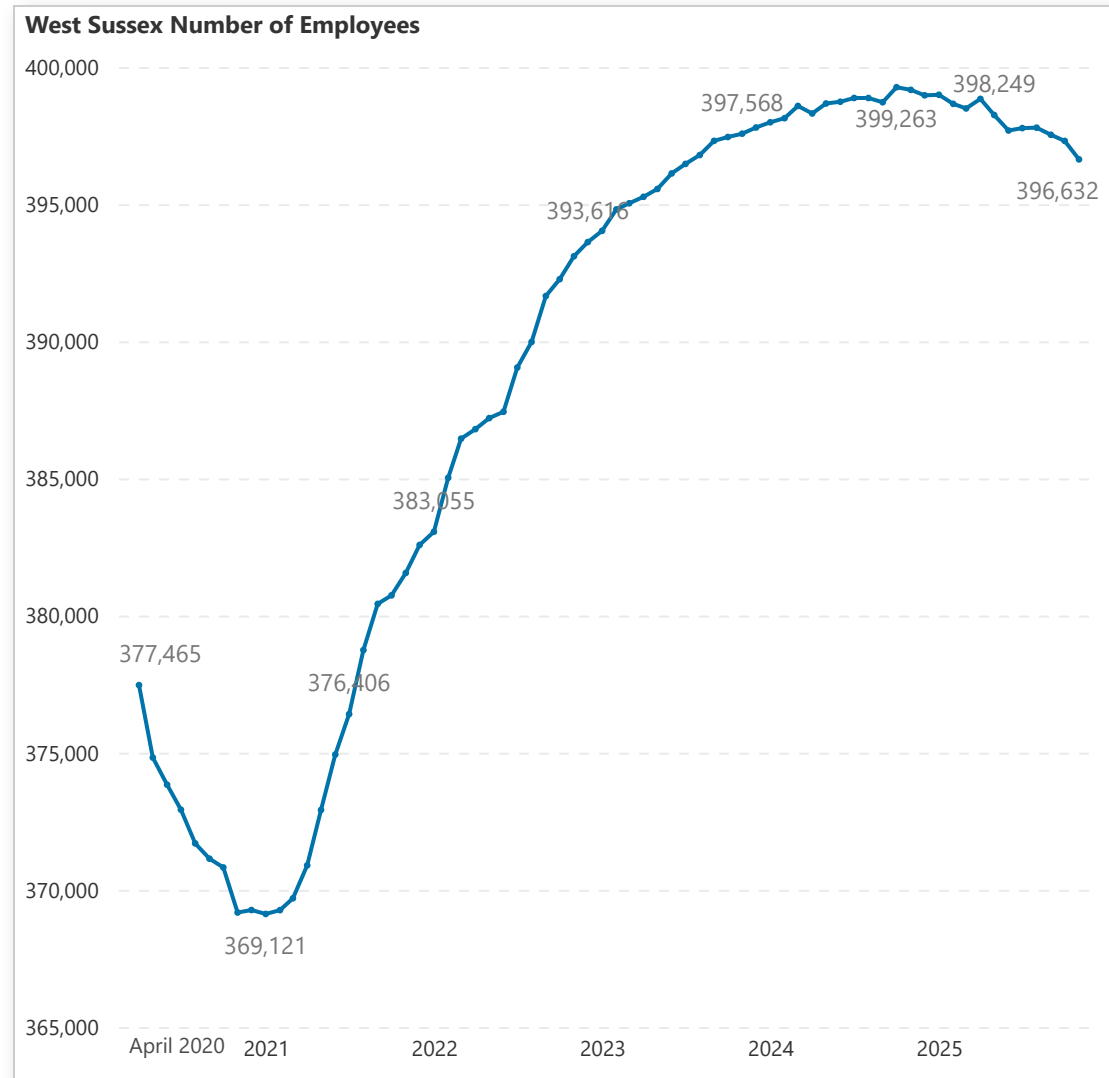
- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (234%) since March 2020.
- At November 2025, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 18,108.

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

Overall:

- West Sussex: 396,632
- West Sussex (South West): 194,938
- West Sussex (North East): 201,694
- Adur: 26,760
- Arun: 68,459
- Chichester: 49,454
- Crawley: 62,263
- Horsham: 66,596
- Mid Sussex: 72,834
- Worthing: 50,264
- South East: 4,140,256
- UK: 30,256,4820

One Month Change (October 2025 - November 2025):

- West Sussex decreasing 0.17%
- West Sussex (South West) decreasing 0.21%
- West Sussex (North East) decreasing 0.13%
- Adur decreasing 0.05%
- Arun increasing 0.07%
- Chichester decreasing 0.27%
- Crawley decreasing 0.38%
- Horsham decreasing 0.08%
- Mid Sussex decreasing 0.19%
- Worthing decreasing 0.30%
- South East decreasing 0.10%
- UK decreasing 0.13%

Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for November 2025.

Three Month Change (August 2025 - November 2025):

- West Sussex decreasing 0.29%
- West Sussex (South West) decreasing 0.13%
- West Sussex (North East) decreasing 0.30%
- Adur decreasing 0.05%
- Arun increasing 0.07%
- Chichester decreasing 0.27%
- Crawley decreasing 0.38%
- Horsham decreasing 0.08%
- Mid Sussex decreasing 0.19%
- Worthing decreasing 0.30%
- South East decreasing 0.20%
- UK decreasing 0.29%

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

Released: 11 December 2025

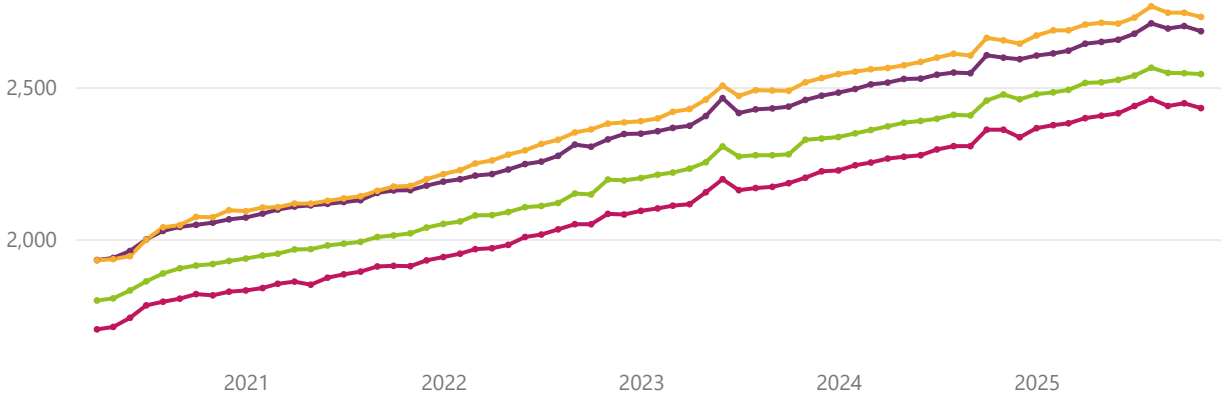


Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



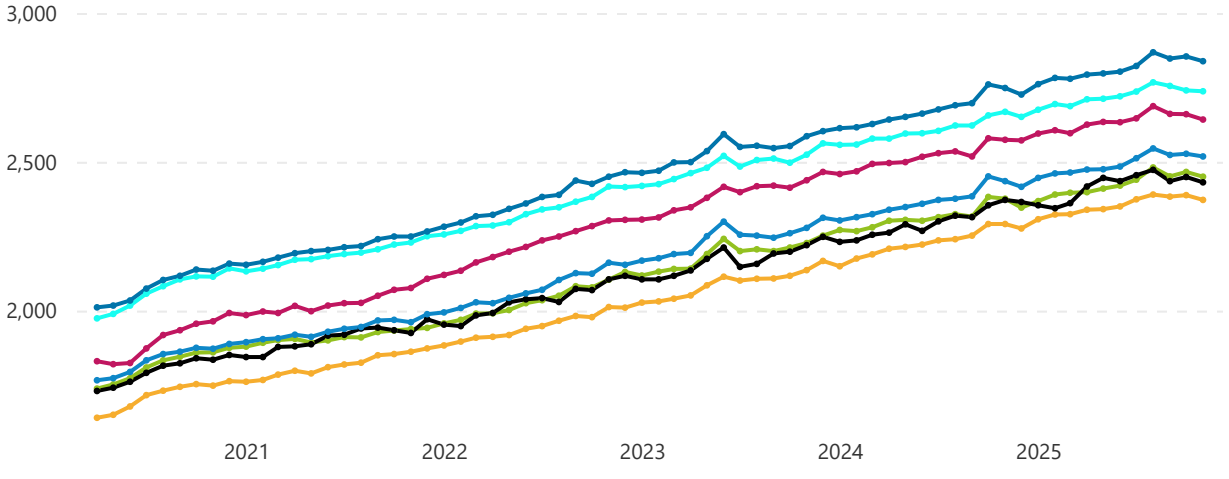
Median Pay National and Regional Figures

Location ● South East ● UK ● West Sussex (North East) ● West Sussex (South West)



Median Pay in West Sussex

Location ● Adur ● Arun ● Chichester ● Crawley ● Horsham ● Mid Sussex ● Worthing



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

Overall:

- West Sussex (South West): 2,431
- West Sussex (North East): 2,731
- Adur: 2,450
- Arun: 2,372
- Chichester: 2,431
- Crawley: 2,642
- Horsham: 2,737
- Mid Sussex: 2,838
- Worthing: 2,518
- South East: 2,684
- UK: 2,543

One Month Change (October 2025 - November 2025):

- West Sussex (South West) decreasing 0.65%
- West Sussex (North East) decreasing 0.51%
- Adur decreasing 0.65%
- Arun decreasing 0.67%
- Chichester decreasing 0.73%
- Crawley decreasing 0.68%
- Horsham decreasing 0.11%
- Mid Sussex decreasing 0.56%
- Worthing decreasing 0.36%
- South East decreasing 0.63%
- UK decreasing 0.12%

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

Three Month Change (August 2025 - November 2025):

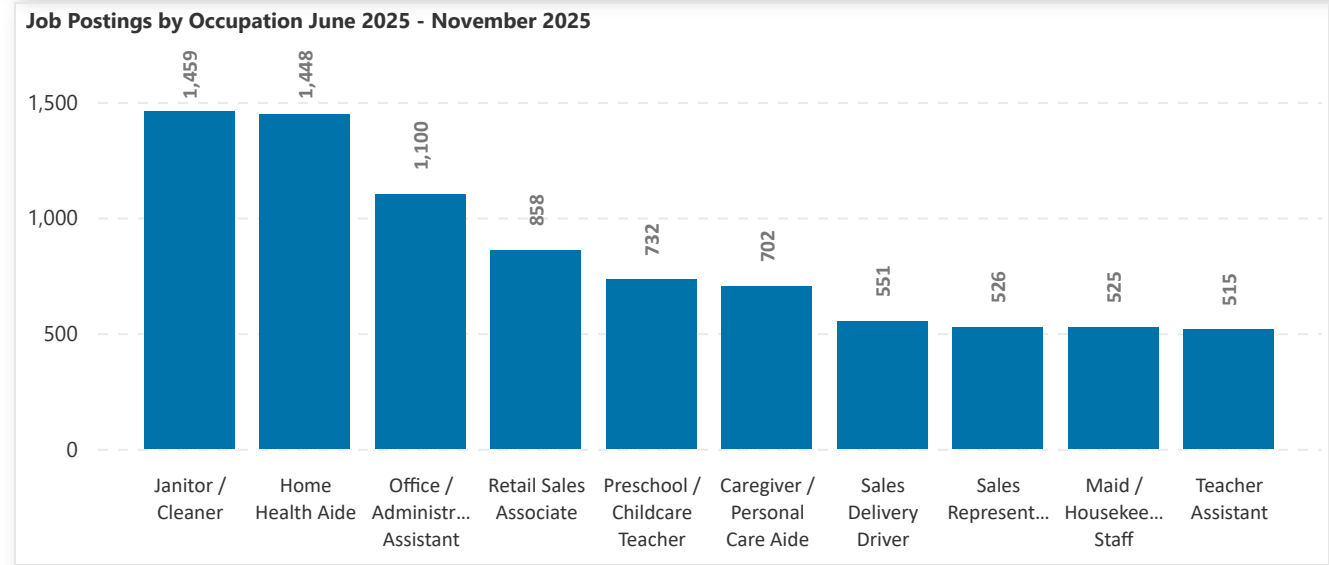
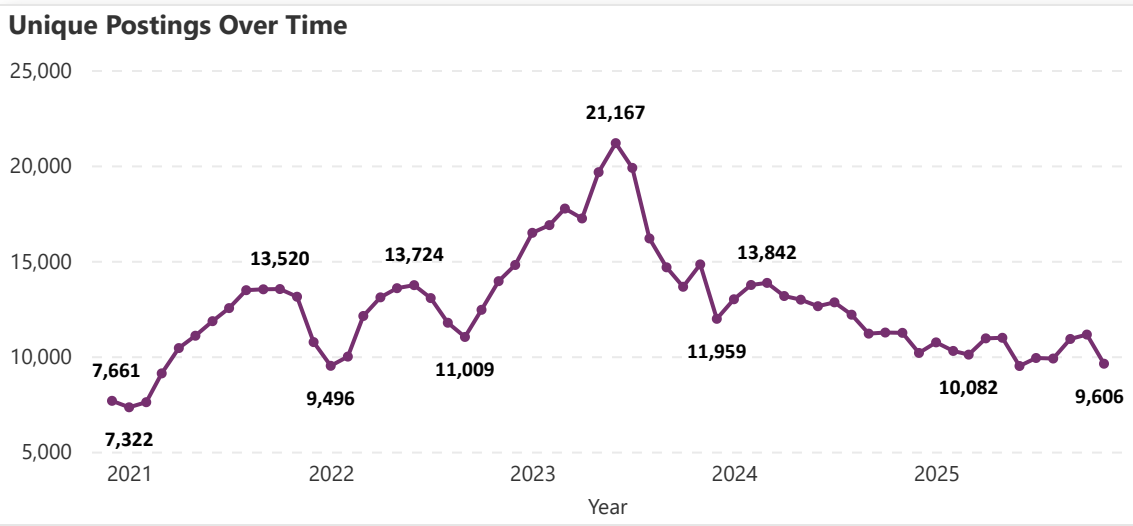
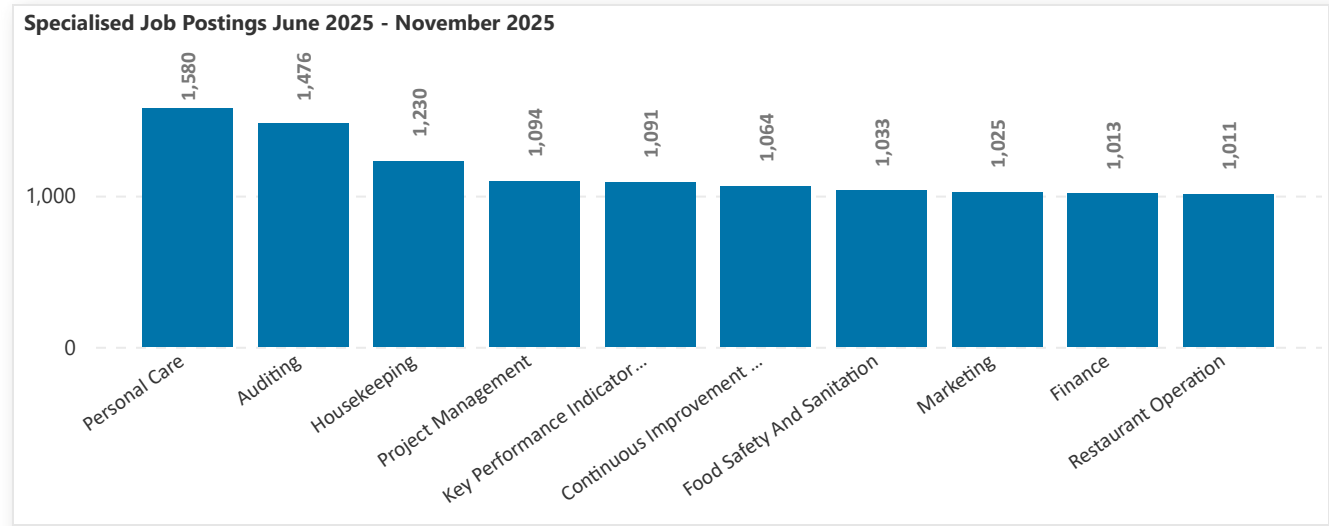
- West Sussex (South West) decreasing 1.22%
- West Sussex (North East) decreasing 1.27%
- Adur decreasing 1.25%
- Arun decreasing 0.75%
- Chichester decreasing 1.70%
- Crawley decreasing 1.67%
- Horsham decreasing 1.08%
- Mid Sussex decreasing 1.05%
- Worthing decreasing 1.06%
- South East decreasing 0.96%
- UK decreasing 0.82%

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

Released: 11 December 2025



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 November 2025 there were 9,606 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 (June 2025 to November 2025), Janitor/Cleaner is the most frequently posted role, making up the highest number of occupations followed by Home Health Aide. The remaining occupations appear to be evenly distributed.



National Summary



Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in September 2025 to November 2025 was 729,000.
- Decreasing 2,000 or 0.2% from September to November 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 77,000 (9.6%) in September 2025 to November 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in August 2025 to October 2025, up from 2.3 in the previous quarter and 1.8 in the previous.

Gross Domestic Product

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

Labour Market

- Early estimates for November 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.6% or 171,000 from the previous year.
- The largest increase was in the health and social work sector, with a rise of 31,000. The largest decrease was in the wholesale and retail sector, with a fall of 70,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for October 2025 compared with September 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 32,000 reported in the last bulletin to an decrease of 22,000.
- Early estimates for November 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 2.7% compared with October 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in November 2025 was highest in the wholesale and retail sector, with an increase of 6.2%. Annual growth was lowest in the education sector, with a decrease of 3.3%.

Business Trading

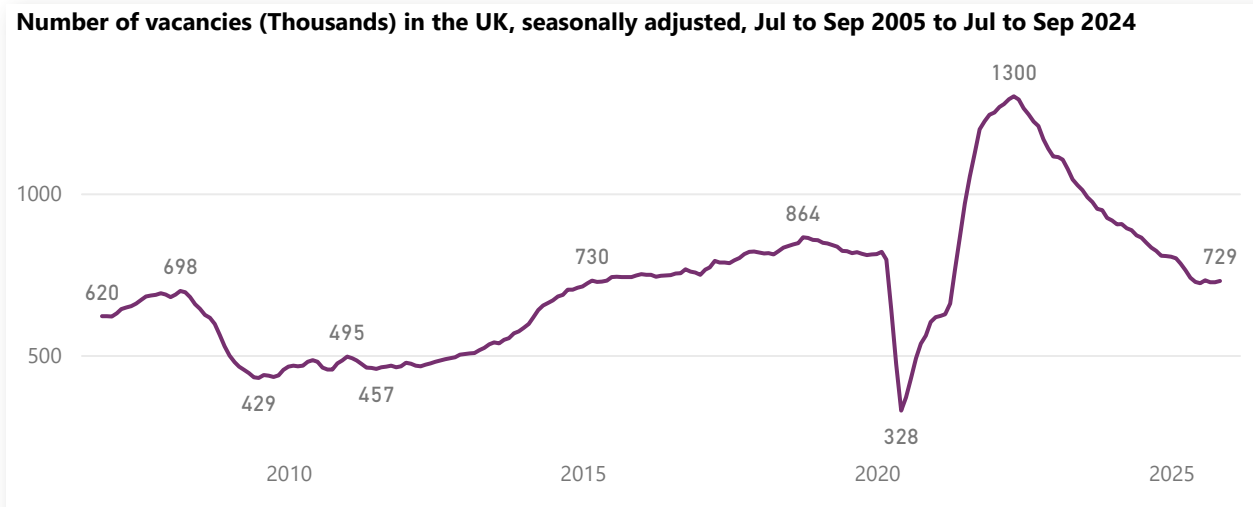
- 13% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in November 2025 compared with October 2025.
- 25% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in January 2026.
- 19% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in January 2026.

- In early December 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 33%. For businesses with 10 or more employees, the most commonly reported challenge was economic uncertainty at 36%.
- 27% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in November 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 9% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services they sell in November 2025.
- 23% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods or services they sell to increase in January 2026.
- 30% of trading businesses cited labour costs as a reason for considering raising their prices in January 2026

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 1,866 in November 2025, which was 8% lower than in October 2025 and 7% lower than in the same month of the previous year.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 250 compulsory liquidations, 1,461 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 136 administrations and 18 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 9,348 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 489 bankruptcies (lower than usual due to a temporary backlog of debtor bankruptcies), 3,838 debt relief orders (DROs) and 4,585 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in November 2025 were lower than October 2025. Monthly numbers of DROs have been at historically high levels since the abolition of the upfront £90 fee in April 2024
- Bankruptcy numbers remain low relative to historic levels. Average monthly numbers so far in 2025 are similar to those in 2024.

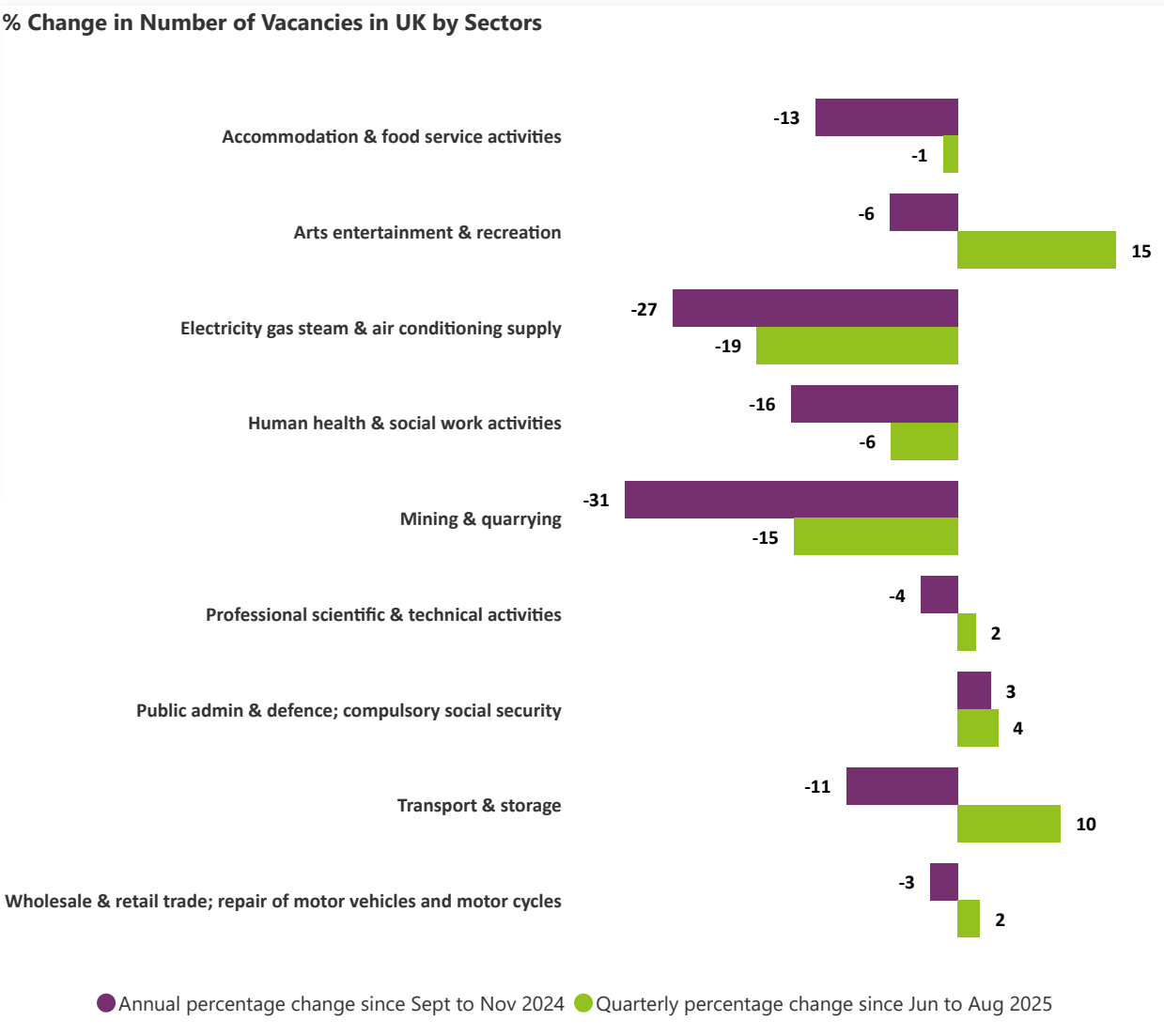
Job Vacancies (UK)



Summary of job vacancies (UK).

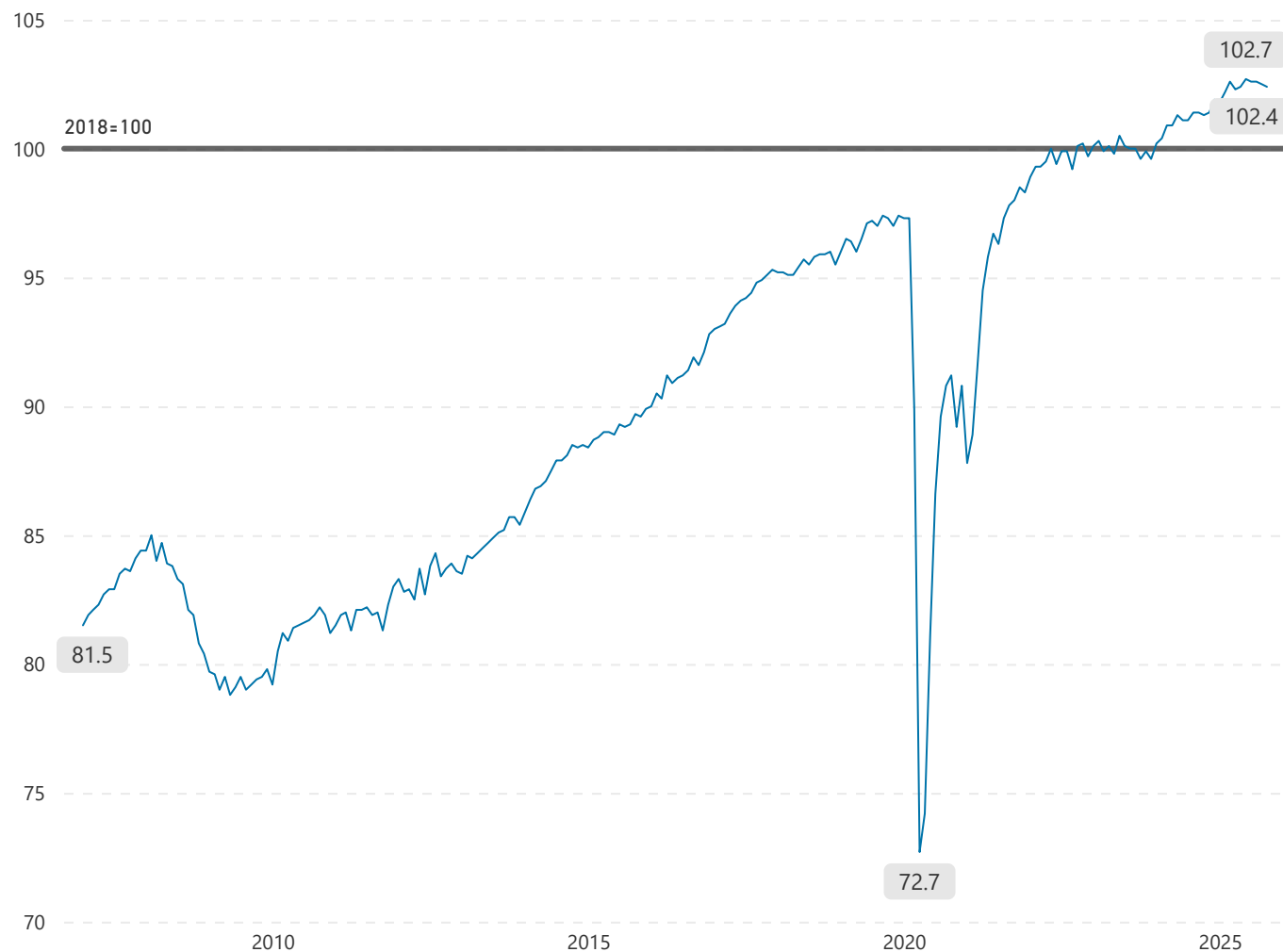
Overall:

- Estimated vacancies in September 2025 to November 2025 was 729,000.
- Decreasing 2,000 or 0.2% from September to November 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 77,000 (9.6%) in September 2025 to November 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in August 2025 to October 2025, up from 2.3 in the previous quarter and 1.8 in the previous.



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 October 2025.

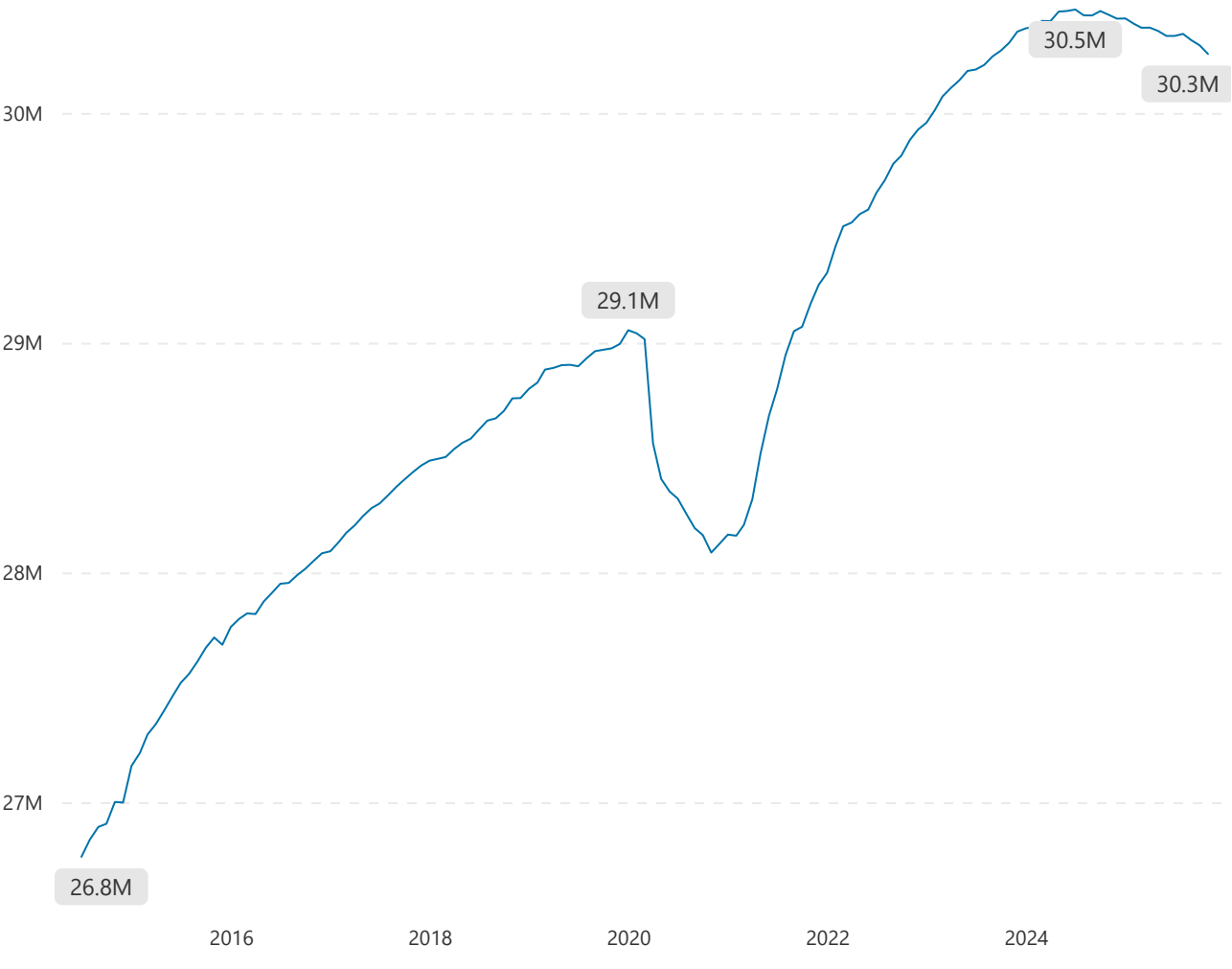
Output growth:

- Services no growth in the three months to October 2025
- Production fell by 0.5% in the three months to October 2025
- Construction grew by 0.3% in the three months to October 2025

Labour Market



Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for November 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.6% or 171,000 from the previous year.
- The largest increase was in the health and social work sector, with a rise of 31,000. The largest decrease was in the wholesale and retail sector, with a fall of 70,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for October 2025 compared with September 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 32,000 reported in the last bulletin to an decrease of 22,000.
- Early estimates for November 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 2.7% compared with October 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in November 2025 was highest in the wholesale and retail sector, with an increase of 6.2%. Annual growth was lowest in the education sector, with a decrease of 3.3%.



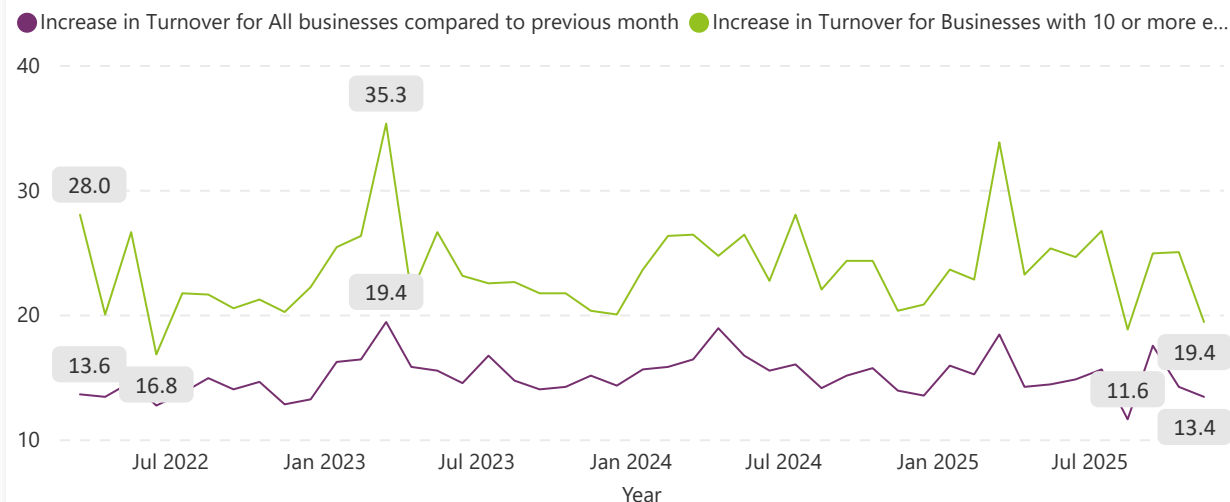
Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

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.

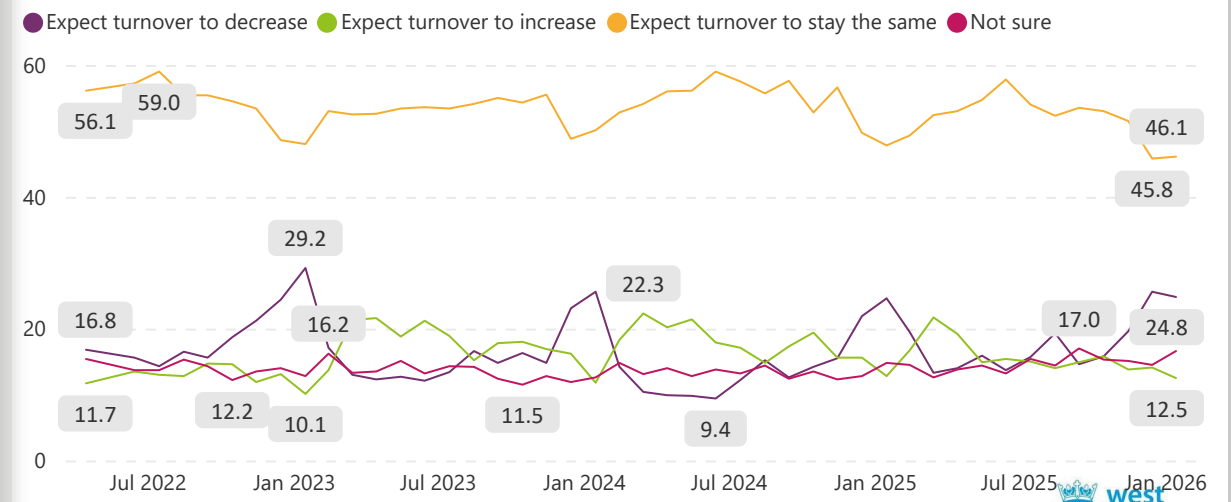
Overall:

- 13% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in November 2025 compared with October 2025.
- 25% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in January 2026.
- 19% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in January 2026.
- In early December 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 33%. For businesses with 10 or more employees, the most commonly reported challenge was economic uncertainty at 36%.
- 27% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in November 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 9% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services they sell in November 2025.
- 23% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods or services they sell to increase in January 2026.
- 30% of trading businesses cited labour costs as a reason for considering raising their prices in January 2026

Turnover Comparison of Previous Month

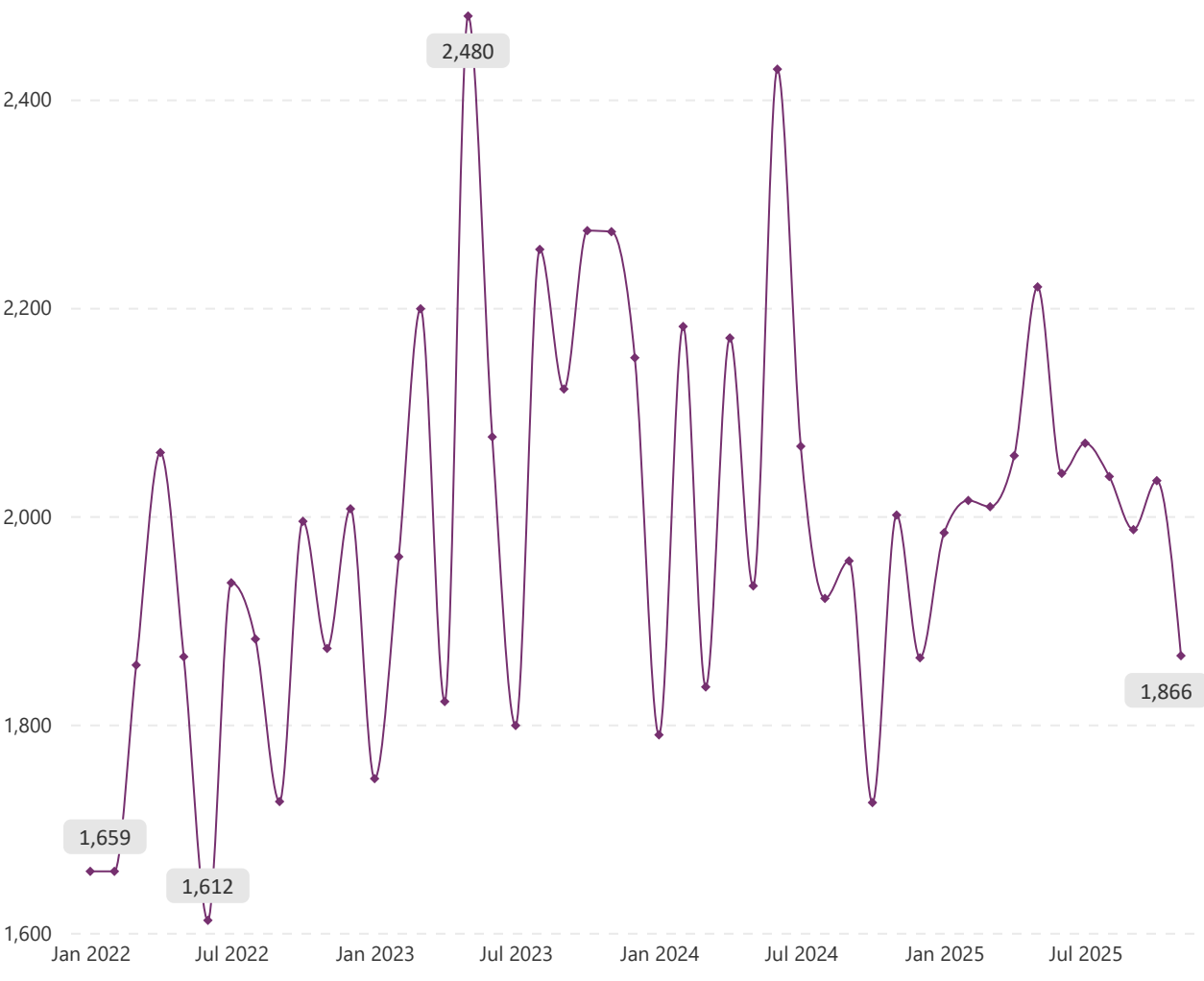


Expected Turnover Figures



Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales

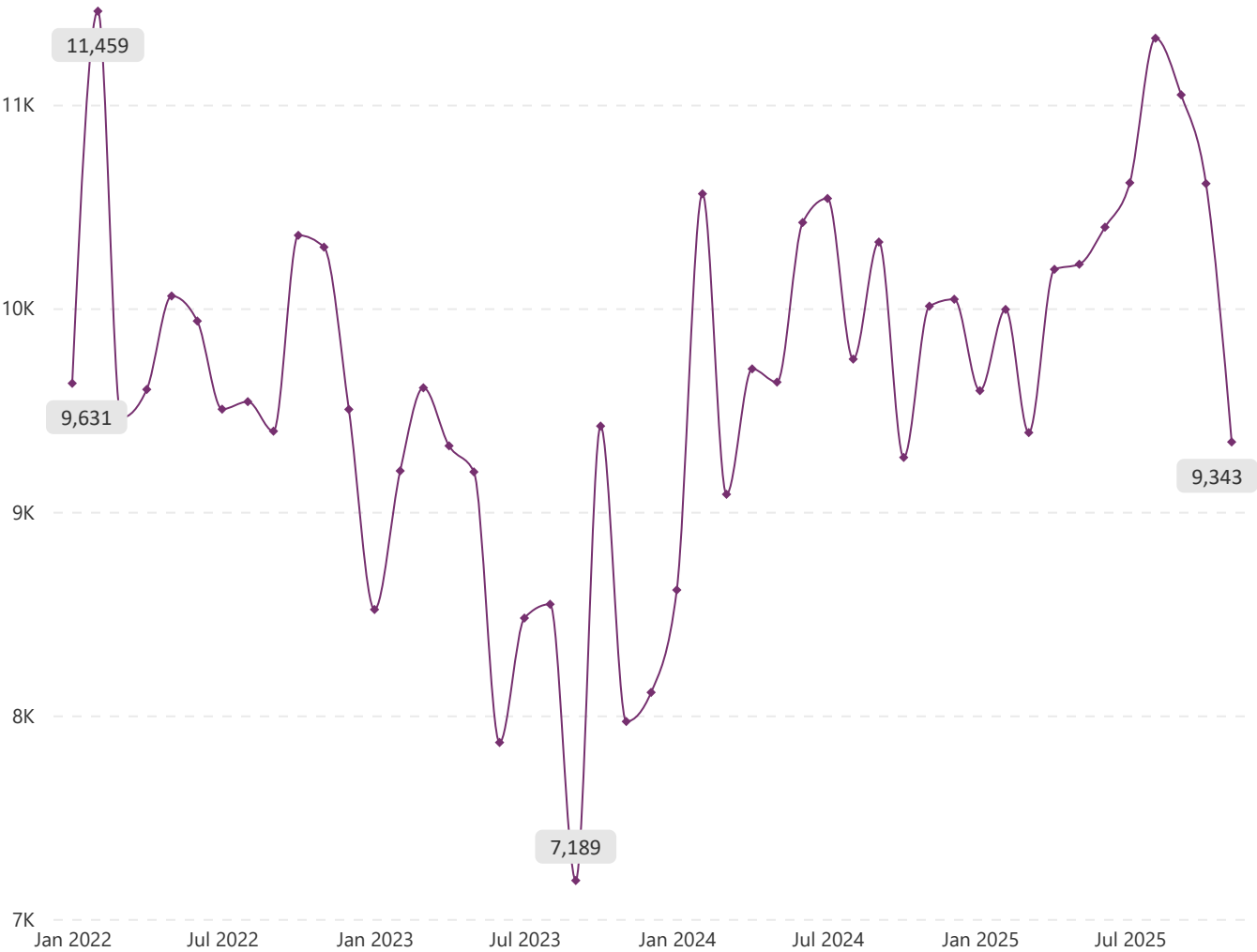


Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

- Overall:**
- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 1,866 in November 2025, which was 8% lower than in October 2025 and 7% lower than in the same month of the previous year.
 - Company insolvencies consisted of 250 compulsory liquidations, 1,461 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 136 administrations and 18 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).

Business Closures (Individual)

Individual insolvencies in England & Wales



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

Overall:

- There were 9,348 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 489 bankruptcies (lower than usual due to a temporary backlog of debtor bankruptcies), 3,838 debt relief orders (DROs) and 4,585 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in November 2025 were lower than October 2025. Monthly numbers of DROs have been at historically high levels since the abolition of the upfront £90 fee in April 2024
- Bankruptcy numbers remain low relative to historic levels. Average monthly numbers so far in 2025 are similar to those in 2024.

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	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Adur	77.6%	74.2%	77.6%	68.1%	N/A	5.9%
Arun	87.0%	85.5%	81.2%	83.6%	5.0%	11.3%
Chichester	67.8%	85.3%	65.5%	85.3%	13.9%	18.0%
Crawley	78.6%	84.6%	78.6%	80.9%	N/A	9.3%
Horsham	79.9%	86.0%	78.0%	83.8%	13.9%	14.7%
Mid Sussex	80.6%	81.9%	78.7%	80.7%	13.6%	12.4%
Worthing	88.4%	81.9%	82.3%	80.7%	15.4%	10.6%
West Sussex	80.5%	82.8%	77.6%	81.1%	11.1%	12.1%
South East	81.9%	81.0%	79.2%	78.2%	9.7%	10.2%
England	78.6%	79.1%	75.6%	75.8%	9.3%	9.8%

Summary of Economic Activity for Jul 2024 - Jun 2025

Economic Activity

- West Sussex: 82.8%
- South East: 81.0%
- England: 79.1%

Employment Rate

- West Sussex: 81.1%
- South East: 78.2%
- England: 75.8%

Self Employed

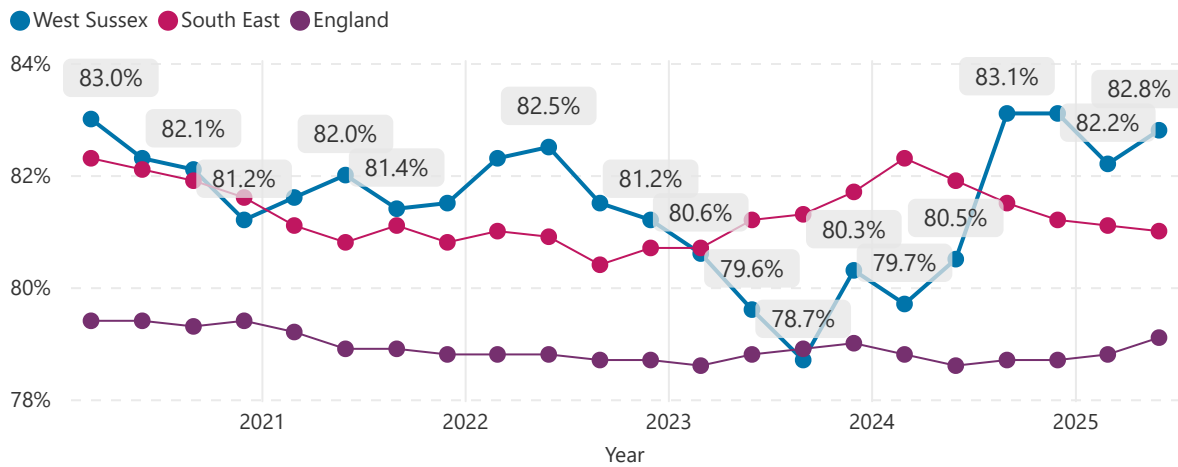
- West Sussex: 12.1%
- South East: 10.2%
- England: 9.8%

NB - The information on Economic Activity and Inactivity on the this slide and the next few slides is drawn from the Annual Population Survey and should be interpreted with some caution due to the APS's small sample size.

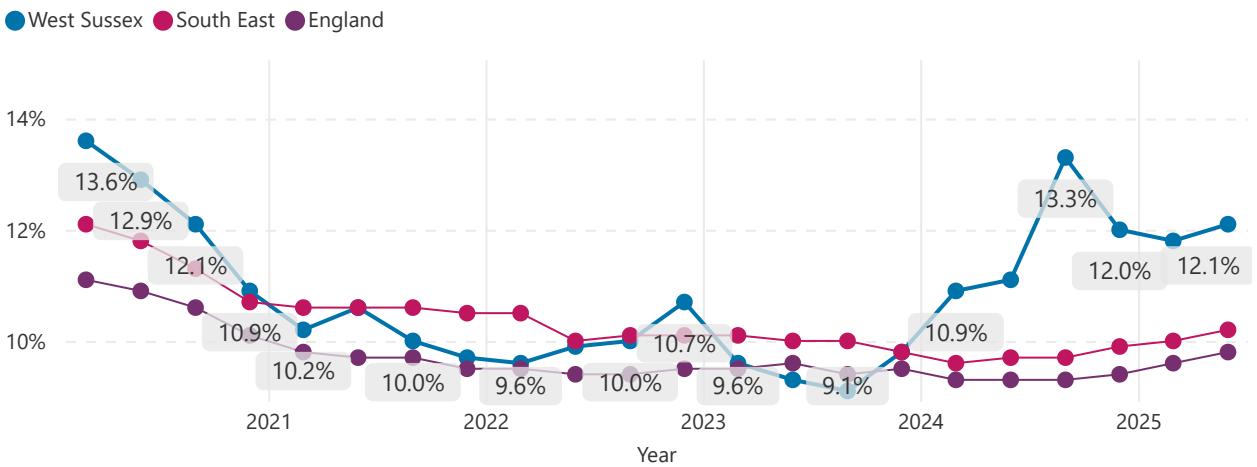


Economic Activity

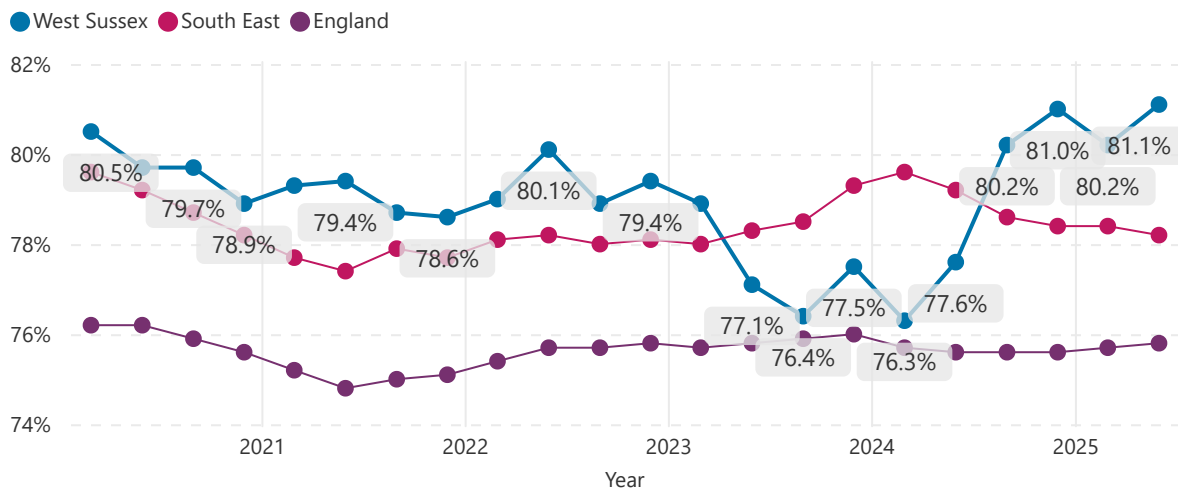
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64



% aged 16-64 who are self employed



Employment rate - aged 16-64



Summary of Economic Activity for Jul 2024 - Jun 2025

Three Month Change % (Mar - Jun 2025)

Economic Activity

West Sussex: 0.6%
South East: -0.1%
England: 0.3%

Employment Rate

West Sussex: 0.9%
South East: -0.2%
England: 0.1%

Self Employed

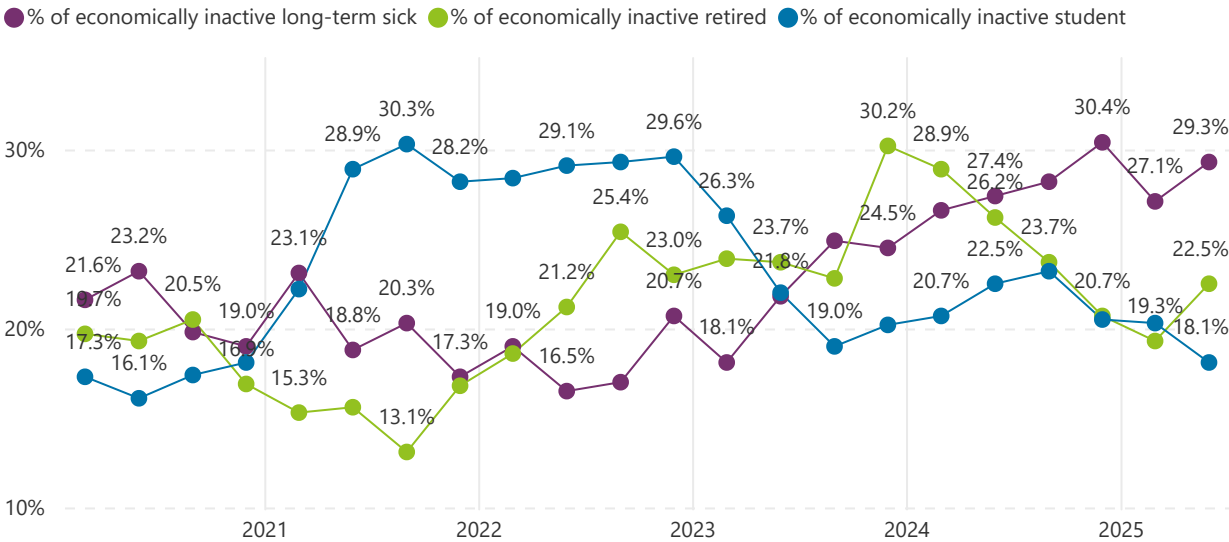
West Sussex: 0.3%
South East: 0.2%
England: 0.2%

Economic Inactivity

Economically inactive by age (%)

Age	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-49		Aged 50+	
Location	Jul 2023- Jun 2024	Jul 2024- Jun 2025	Jul 2023- Jun 2024	Jul 2024- Jun 2025	Jul 2023- Jun 2024	Jul 2024- Jun 2025
West Sussex	42.10%	33.40%	6.90%	7.60%	56.80%	56.00%
South East	37.40%	42.90%	8.60%	9.40%	54.40%	53.30%
England	41.40%	41.60%	12.00%	11.90%	56.40%	55.50%

Reasons for Economic Inactivity in West Sussex



Summary of Economic inactivity for July 2024 - June 2025

Overall Economic Inactivity

- West Sussex: 17.2%
- South East: 19.0%
- England: 20.9%

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

- Long Term Sick: 2.2%
- Retired: 3.2%
- Student: -2.2%

Economic inactivity has reduced over the past year in West Sussex for the age groups of 16-24 and 50+ but has increased in the age group of 25-49.

- West Sussex 16-24 age group % change: -8.7%
- West Sussex 25-49 age group % change: 0.7%
- West Sussex 50+ age group % change: -0.8%