

October 2025 (Issue 07)

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West Sussex Summary

New Businesses September 2025

- 689 new businesses incorporated. (29% increase from August 2025)
- 599 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (27% increase from August 2025)
- Net increase of 90 new businesses. (41% increase from August 2025)

Claimants September 2025

- Claimant count increased by 2.5% in West Sussex over the last month.
- The claimant count rate increased to 3.1% in West Sussex, same as regional average of 3.1% and below national average of 4.1%.

Universal Credit Claimants September 2025

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 1% in West Sussex over the last month.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (202% increase). Higher increase than national (173%) or regional (185%) average.
- In August 2025, 15.4% of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.5%.

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

- West Sussex: 397,959 (decrease 0.02%)
- West Sussex (South West): 195,521 (decrease 0.02%)
- West Sussex (North East): 202,438 (decrease 0.02%)
- South East: 4,278,394 (decrease 0.03%)
- UK: 30,324,232 (decrease 0.03%)

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

- West Sussex (South West): 2,437 (decrease 1.02%)
- West Sussex (North East): 2,749 (decrease 0.54%)
- South East: 2,693 (decrease 0.55%)
- UK: 2,546 (decrease 0.86%)

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 September 2025, there were 10,943 unique job postings in West Sussex, which is almost 2.3% lower than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (April 2025 to September 2025), home health aide is the top posted followed closely by janitors/cleaners.

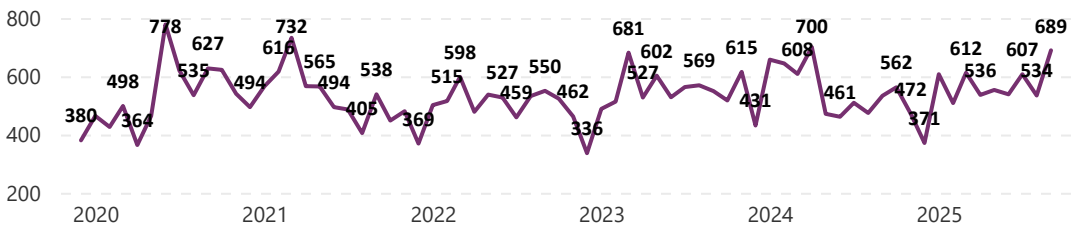
Monthly Average Private Rental Prices in West Sussex September 2025

- Adur: £1,370
- Arun: £1,196
- Chichester: £1,286
- Crawley: £1,448
- Horsham: £1,422
- Mid Sussex: £1,377
- Worthing: £1,307

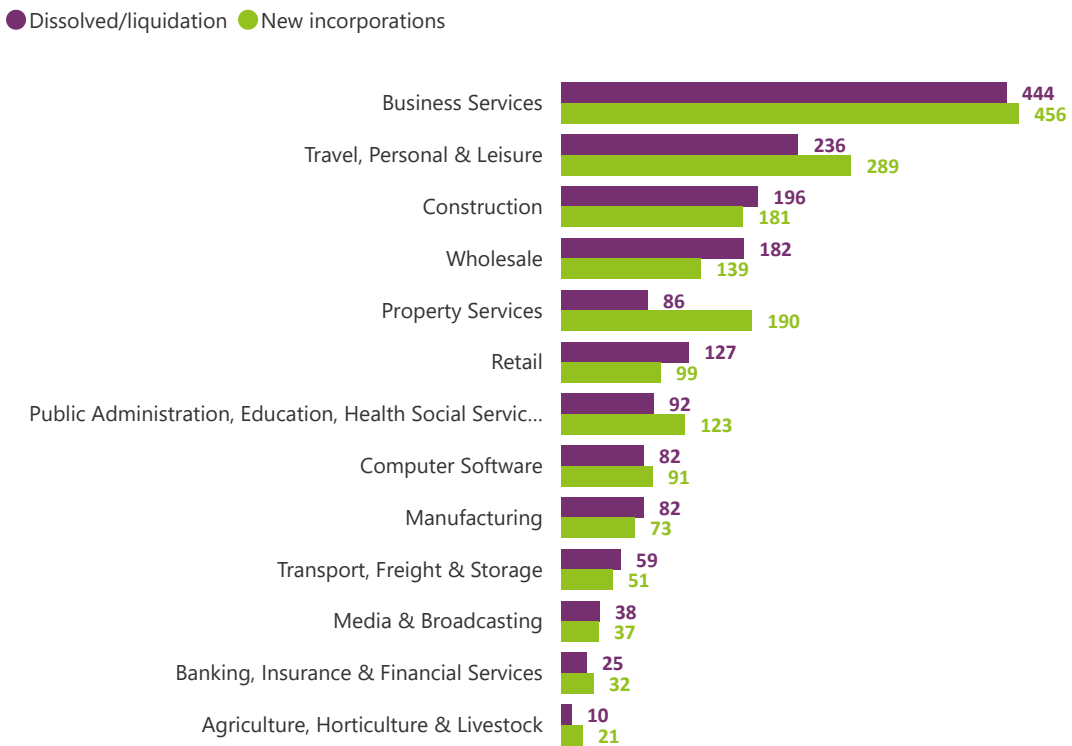
West Sussex: New Businesses



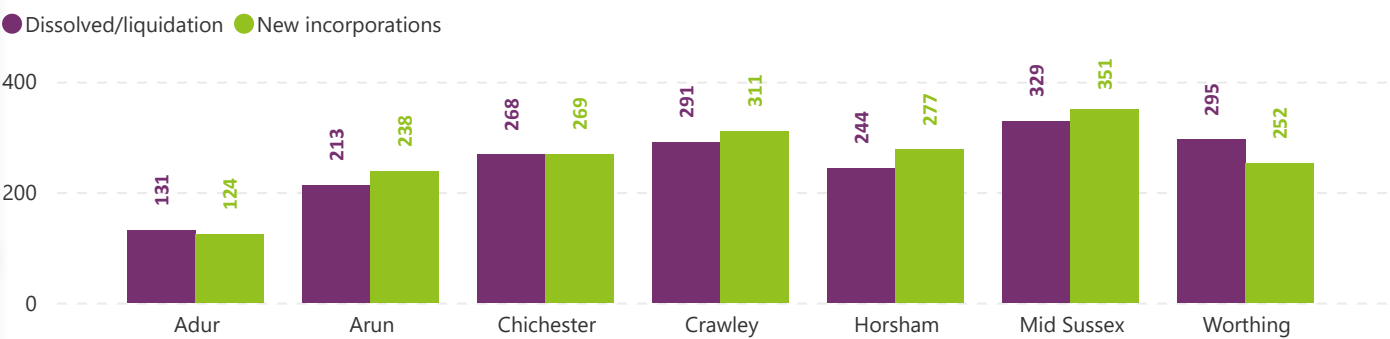
New business incorporations in West Sussex



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



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Jul'25-Sep'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. Construction, Wholesale, Retail and Transport, Freight, Storage, Manufacturing, Media and Broadcasting have seen a slight decline, all other industries have experienced substantial increases in new businesses. This indicates a positive and encouraging trend across the broader economy.

Last 12 months:

- 7,018 new businesses incorporated.
- 6,377 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 641 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,822 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,771 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net increase of 51 businesses.

September 2025:

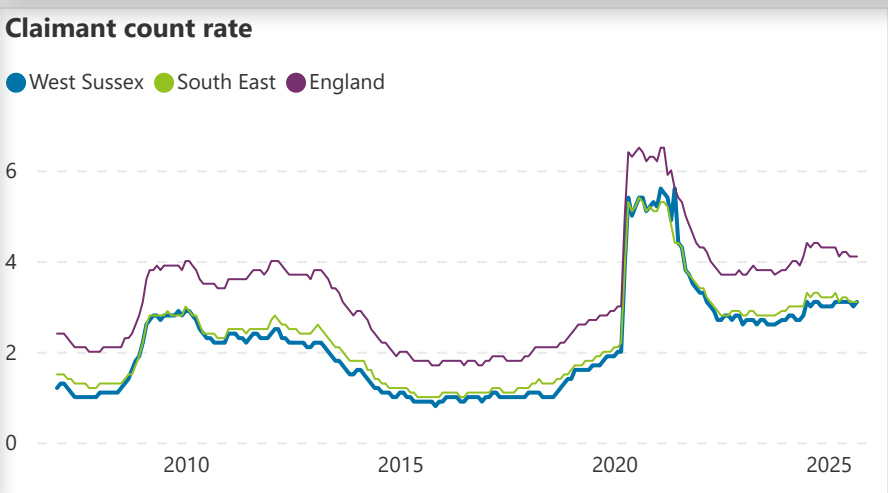
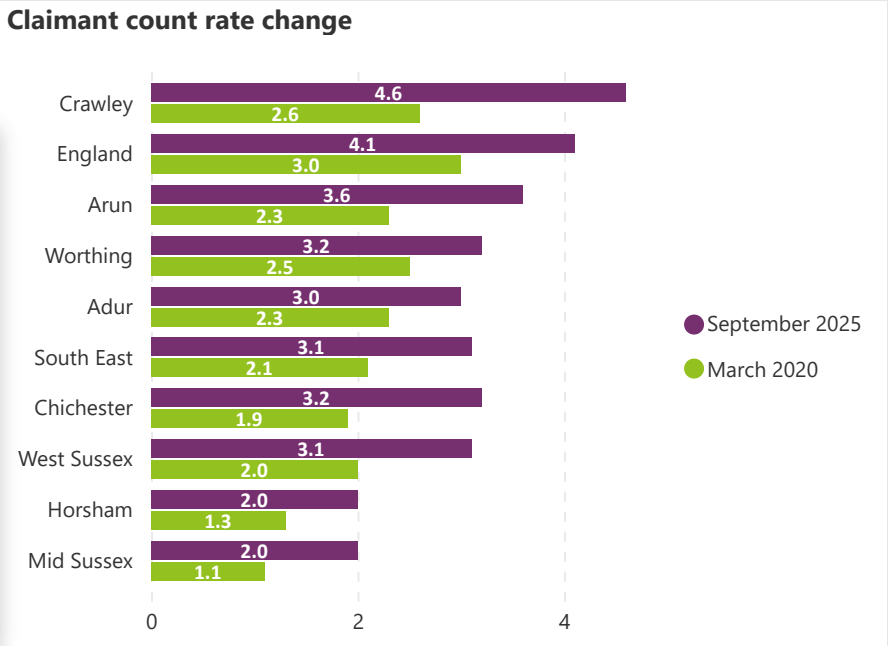
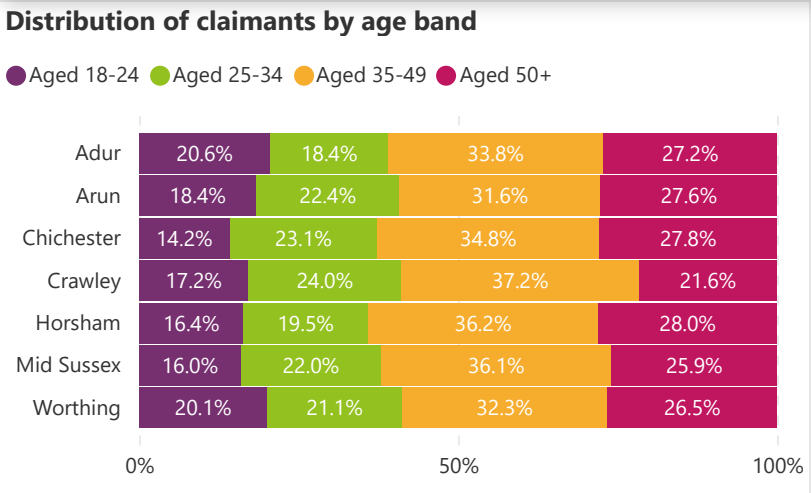
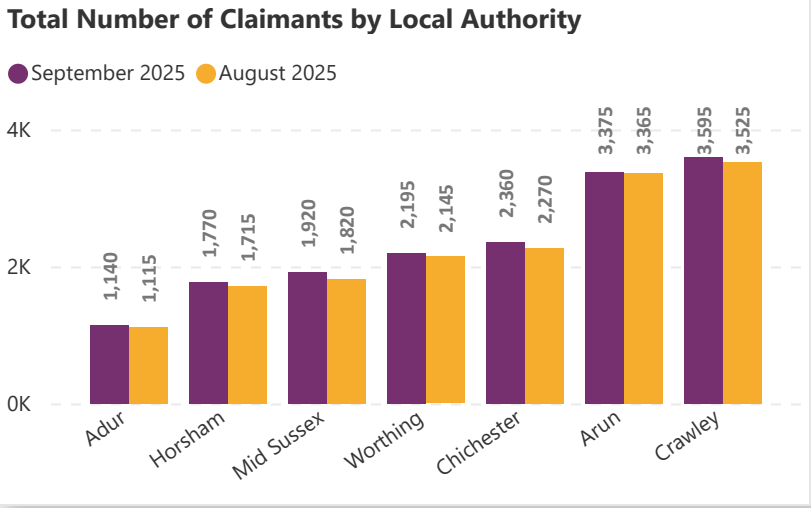
- 689 new businesses incorporated. (29% increase from August 2025)
- 599 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (27% increase from August 2025)
- Net increase of 90 businesses. (41% increase from August 2025)

West Sussex: Claimant Count



15,955
Aug'25

16,350
Sep'25



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, September 2025

- Overall:**
- Claimant count has increased over the last month by 2.5% (16,350) in West Sussex.
 - Claimant count rate is 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining below national average of 4.1% and same as regional at 3.1%.

- Breakdown by district (Aug'25 - Sep'25):**
- Increases:**
- Adur (2.2%)
 - Arun (0.3%)
 - Chichester (4%)
 - Crawley (2%)
 - Horsham (3.2%)
 - Worthing (2.3%)
 - Mid Sussex (5.5%)

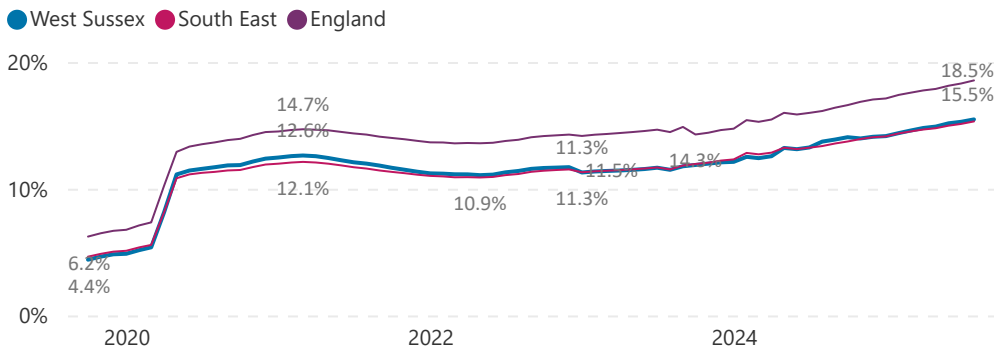
- Specifics (Sep'25):**
- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (3,595).
 - Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.6%), higher than regional and national average.
 - Mid Sussex had the lowest claimant count rate (1.9%).

*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.

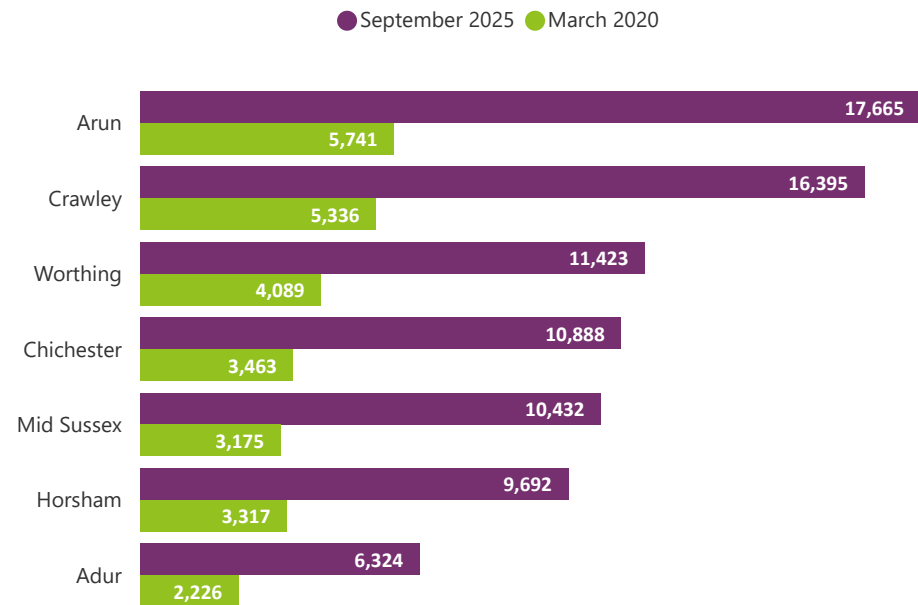
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



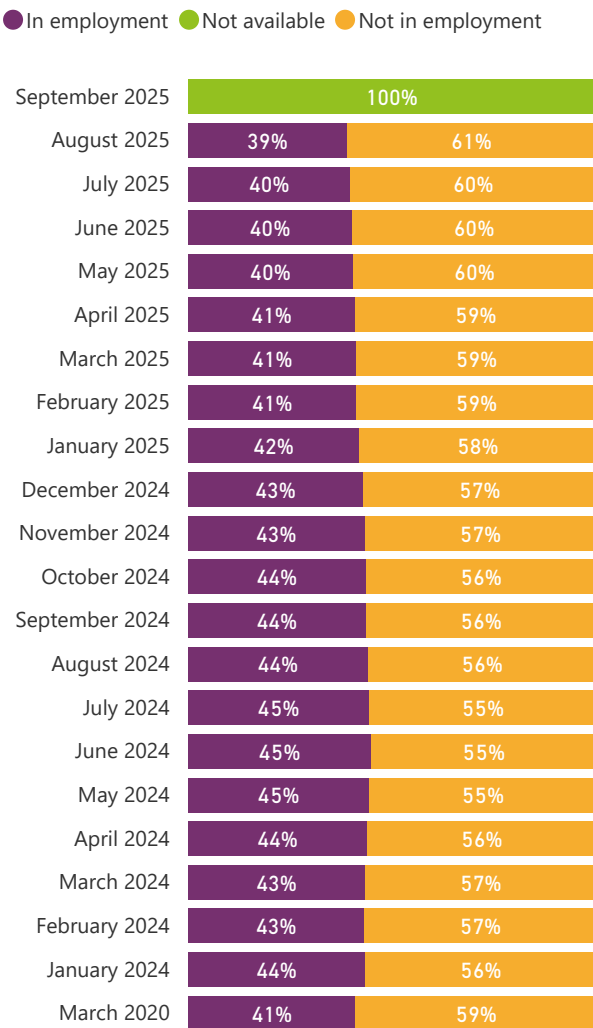
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, September 2025

Overall:

- In September 2025, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by 1% (82,819 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (202% increase).
- Higher increase than national (173%) or regional (185%) average.
- The percentage of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 15.4%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 18.5% for the last month.

Employment status:

- 39% of claimants were in employment in August 2025. Higher than national (33%) or regional (36%) averages.
- Mid Sussex and Horsham have the highest percentage of employed claimants (41%).

District-specific:

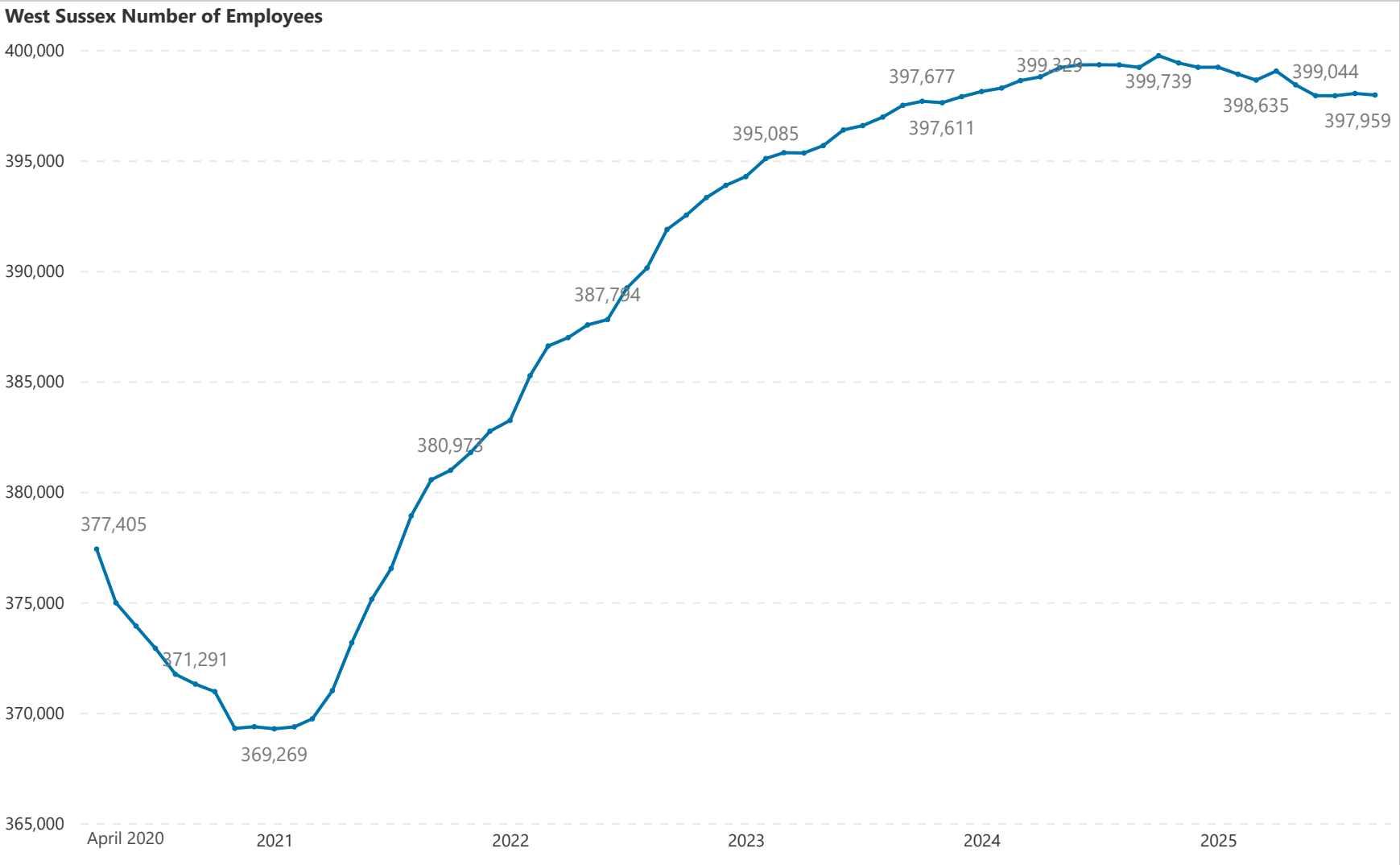
- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (228%) since March 2020.
- At September 2025, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 17,665.

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

Overall:

- West Sussex: 397,959
- West Sussex (South West): 195,521
- West Sussex (North East): 202,438
- South East: 4,278,394
- UK: 30,324,232

One Month Change (August 2025 - September 2025):

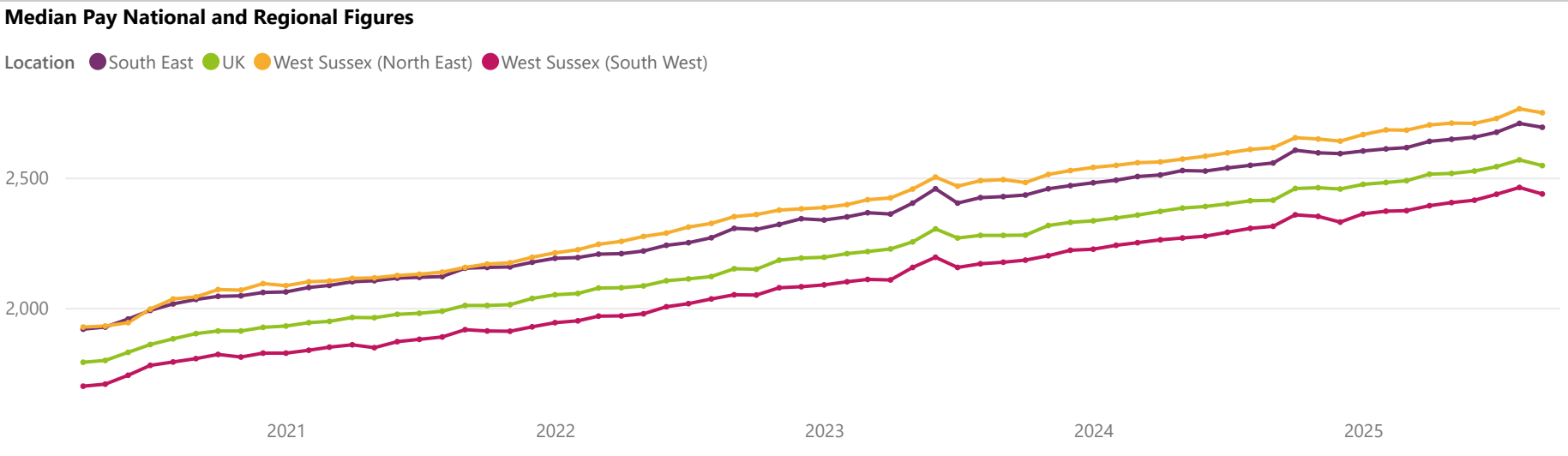
- West Sussex decreased by 0.02%
- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 0.02%
- West Sussex (North East) decreased by 0.02%
- South East decreased by 0.03%
- England decreased by 0.03%

Three Month Change (July 2025 - September 2025):

- West Sussex increased by 0.01%
- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 0.01%
- West Sussex (North East) increased by 0.02%
- South East decreased by 0.05%
- England decreased by less than 0.01%

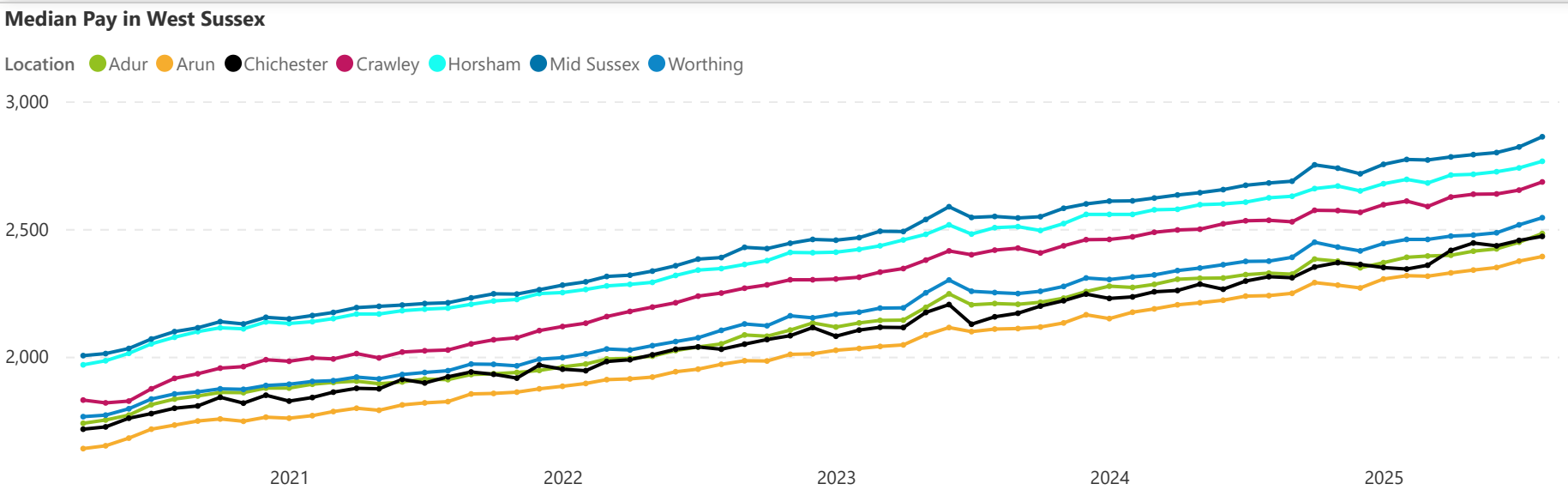


Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



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

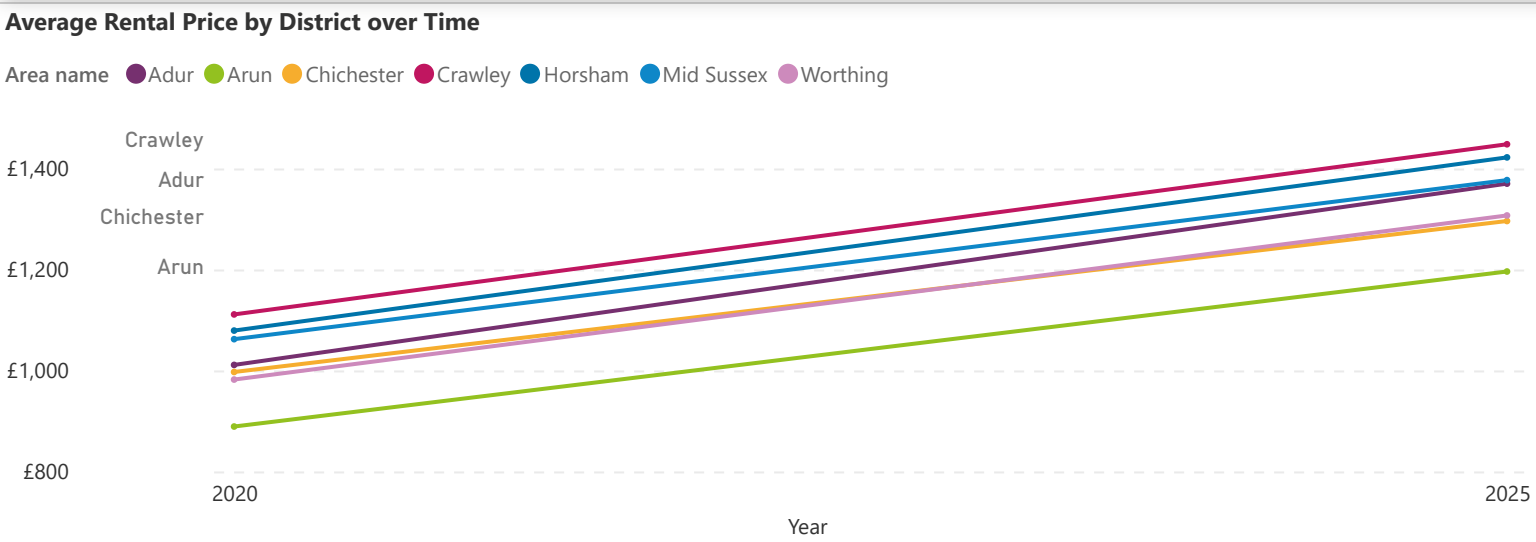
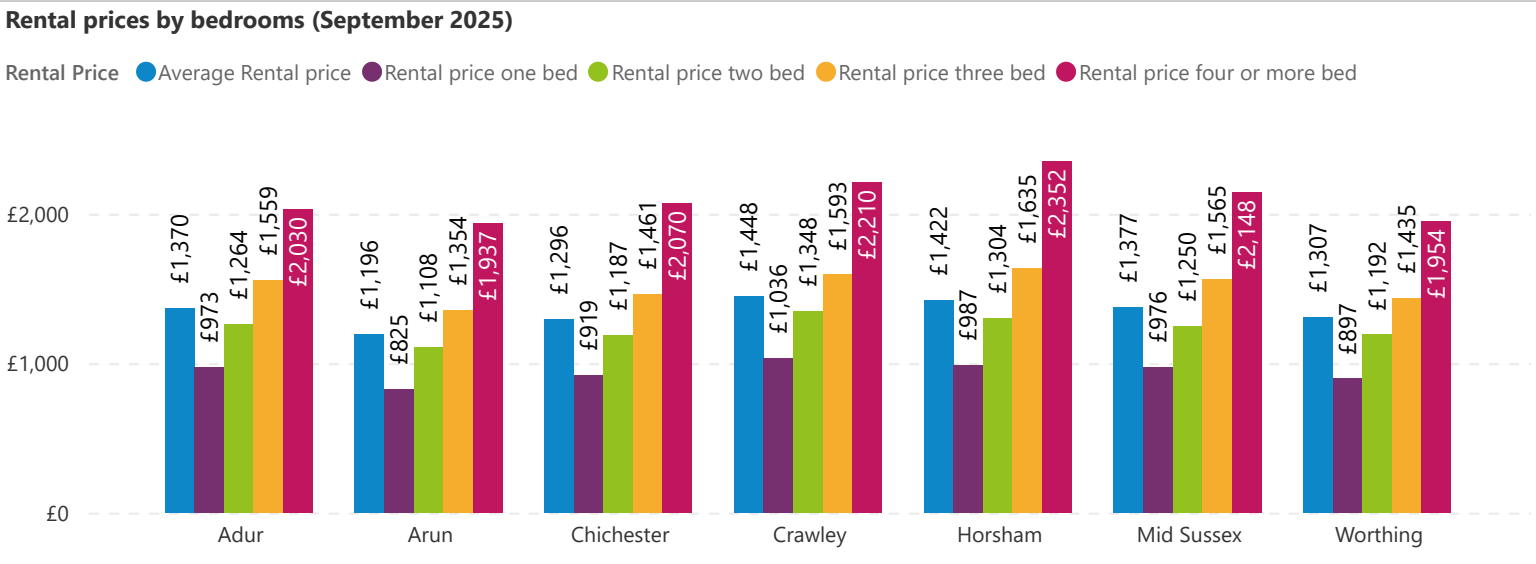
- Overall:**
- West Sussex (South West): 2,437
 - West Sussex (North East): 2,749
 - South East: 2,693
 - UK: 2,546
- One Month Change (August 2025 - September 2025):**
- West Sussex (South West) decreased by 1.02%
 - West Sussex (North East) decreased by 0.54%
 - South East decreased by 0.55%
 - England decreased by 0.86%



- Three Month Change (July 2025 - September 2025):**
- West Sussex (South West) increased by 0.99%
 - West Sussex (North East) increased by 1.51%
 - South East increased by 1.43%
 - England increased by 0.83%



Private Rent Prices over Time and by Bedroom



Summary of private rental housing in West Sussex.

Current average rental prices:

- Adur: £1,370
- Arun: £1,196
- Chichester: £1,286
- Crawley: £1,448
- Horsham: £1,422
- Mid Sussex: £1,377
- Worthing: £1,307

Average Rental price % change 1-year (September 2024 - September 2025):

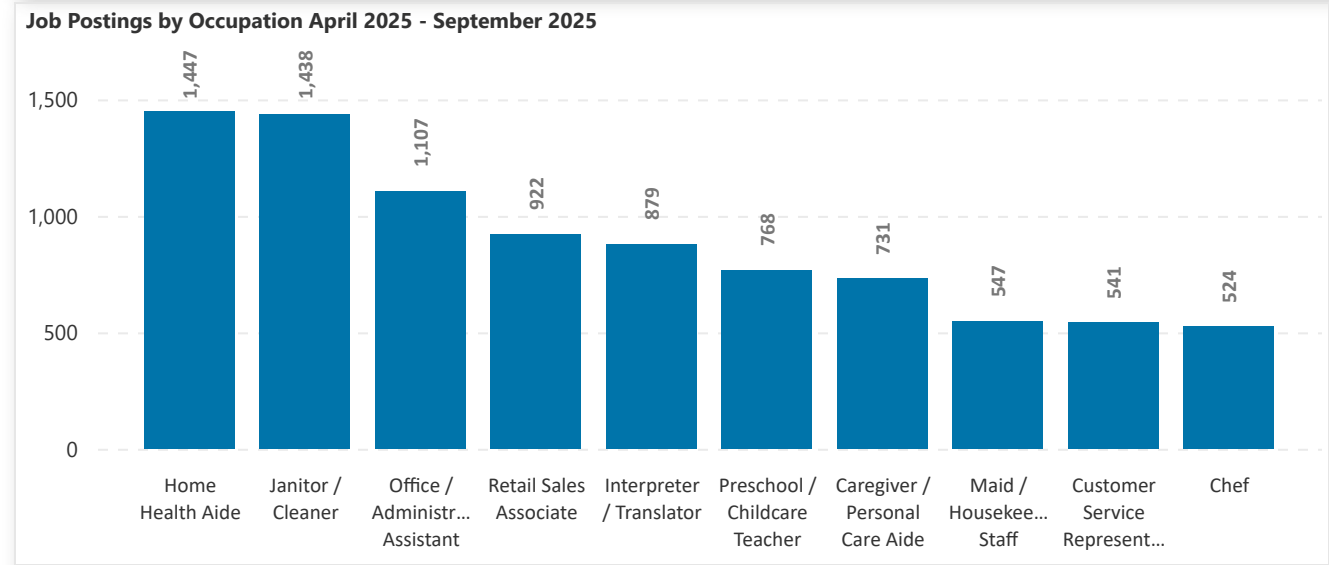
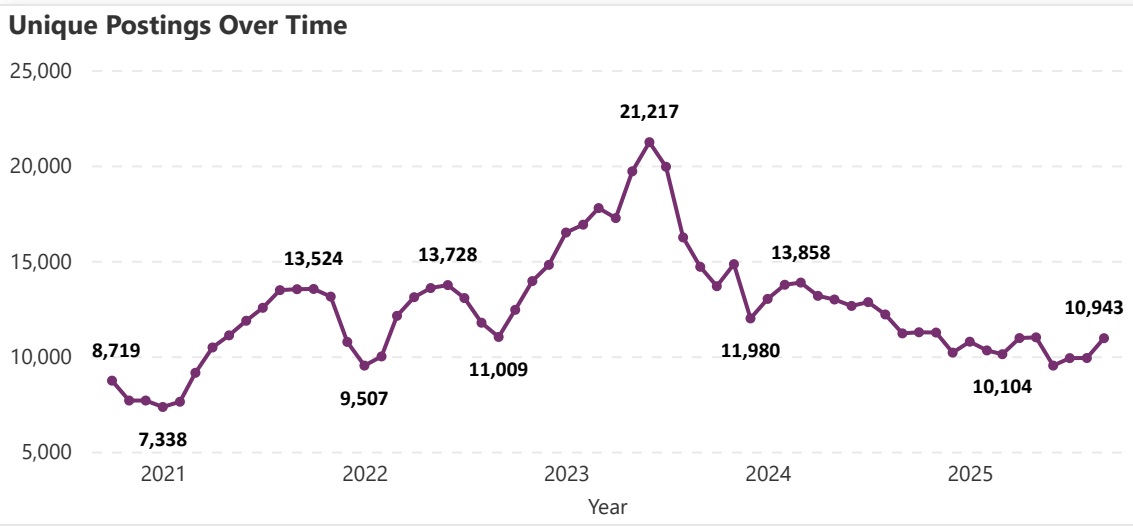
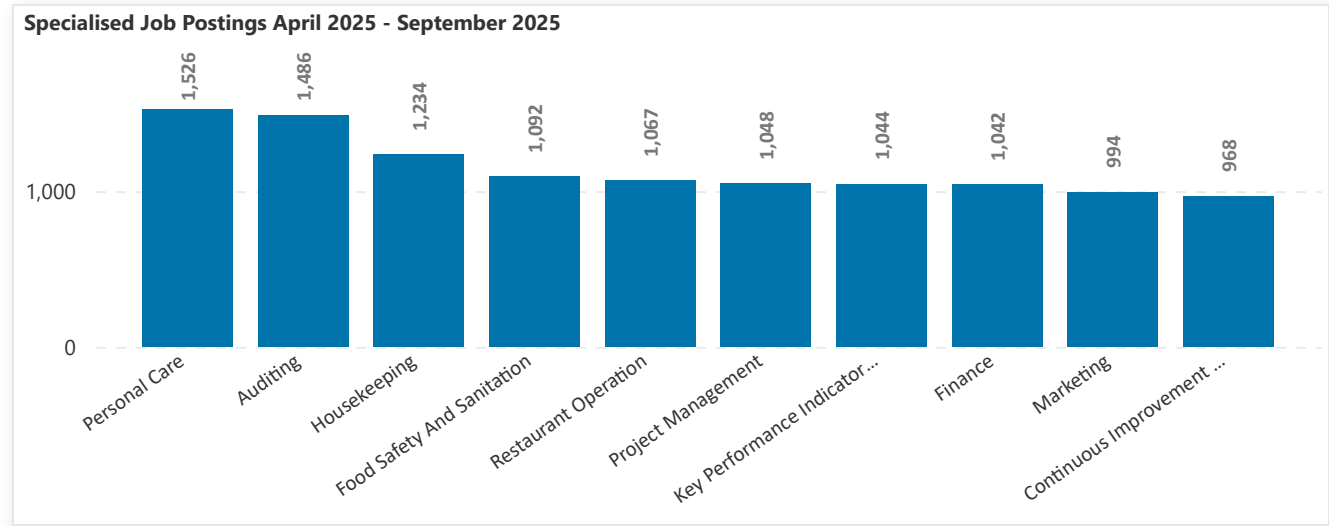
- 4.5% increase in Adur
- 6.3% increase in Arun
- 4.1% increase in Chichester
- 5.5% increase in Crawley
- 5.3% increase in Horsham
- 4.6% increase in Mid Sussex
- 4% increase in Worthing

Average Rental price % change 5-year (September 2020 - September 2025):

- 35.5% increase in Adur
- 34.5% increase in Arun
- 30% increase in Chichester
- 30.3% increase in Crawley
- 31.8% increase in Horsham
- 29.7% increase in Mid Sussex
- 33.1% increase in Worthing



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 September 2025 there were 10,943 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 21,217 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (April 2025 to September 2025), Home Health Aide is the most frequently posted role, making up the highest number of occupations followed by Janitor/Cleaner. The remaining occupations appear to be evenly distributed.



National Summary



Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in July 2025 to September 2025 was 717,000.
- Decreasing 9,000 or 1.3% from July 2025 to September 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 115,000 (13.8%) in July 2025 to September 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.4 in June 2025 to August 2025, up from 2.3 in the previous quarter.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in August 2025.
- Real GDP is estimated to have grown 0.3% in the three months to August 2025, compared with the three months to May 2025.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for September 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.3% or 127,000 from the previous year.
- The change in employees was highest in the health and social work sector with a rise of 45,000 employees.
- The accommodation and food service activities sector saw the highest fall with 59,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for August 2025 compared with July 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 8,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 10,000.
- Early estimates for September 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 5.5% compared with September 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in September 2025 was highest in the transportation and storage sector, with an increase of 8.0%; it was lowest in the professional, scientific and technical sector, with an increase of 3.0%

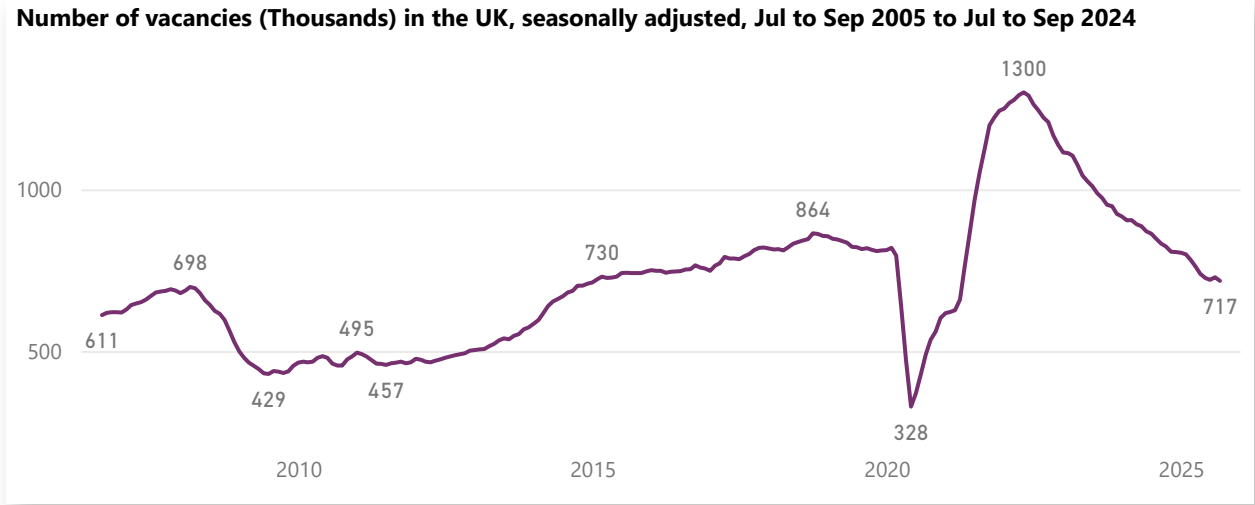
Business Trading

- 17% of trading businesses reported their turnover had increased in September 2025 compared with August 2025.
- 25% of trading businesses reported their turnover had decreased in September 2025 compared with August 2025.
- 20 % of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in November 2025.
- 14% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in November 2025.
- In early October 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 28%. For businesses with 10 or more employees, the most commonly reported challenge was cost of labour at 33%.
- 22% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in September 2025 when compared to the previous month.
- 8% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services they sell in September 2025.
- 18% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were experiencing worker shortages in early October 2025.
- 20% of trading businesses expected their performance to increase over the next 12 months.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 2,000 in September 2025, similar to the levels in August 2025 and the same month in the previous year.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 281 compulsory liquidations, 1,578 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 124 administrations and 17 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 11,101 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 622 bankruptcies, 3,985 debt relief orders (DROs) and 6,494 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in September 2025 were lower than the record high seen in August 2025, but remains at the historically high levels seen in the first half of 2025.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels but were 9% higher than in September 2024.

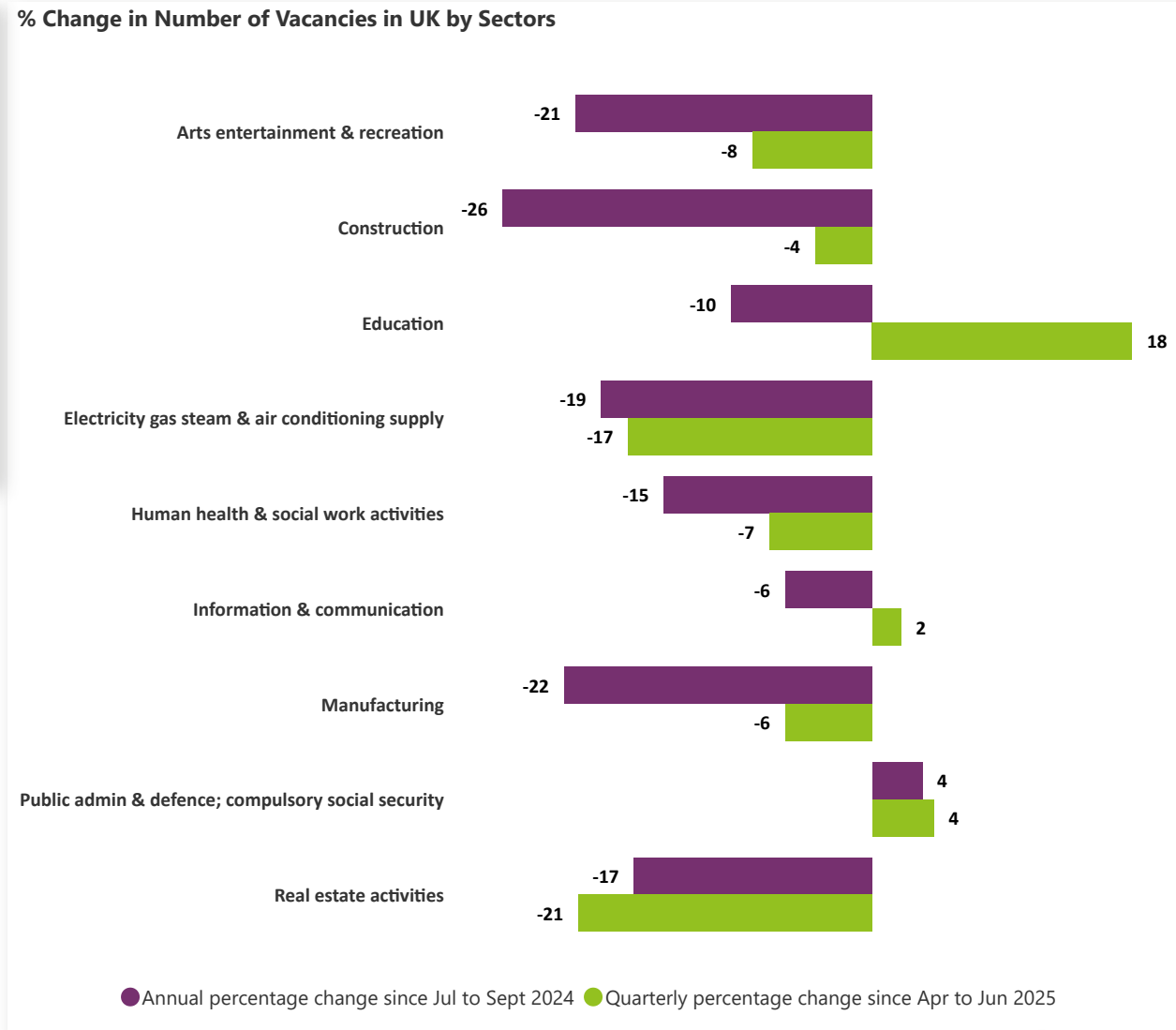
Job Vacancies (UK)



Summary of job vacancies (UK).

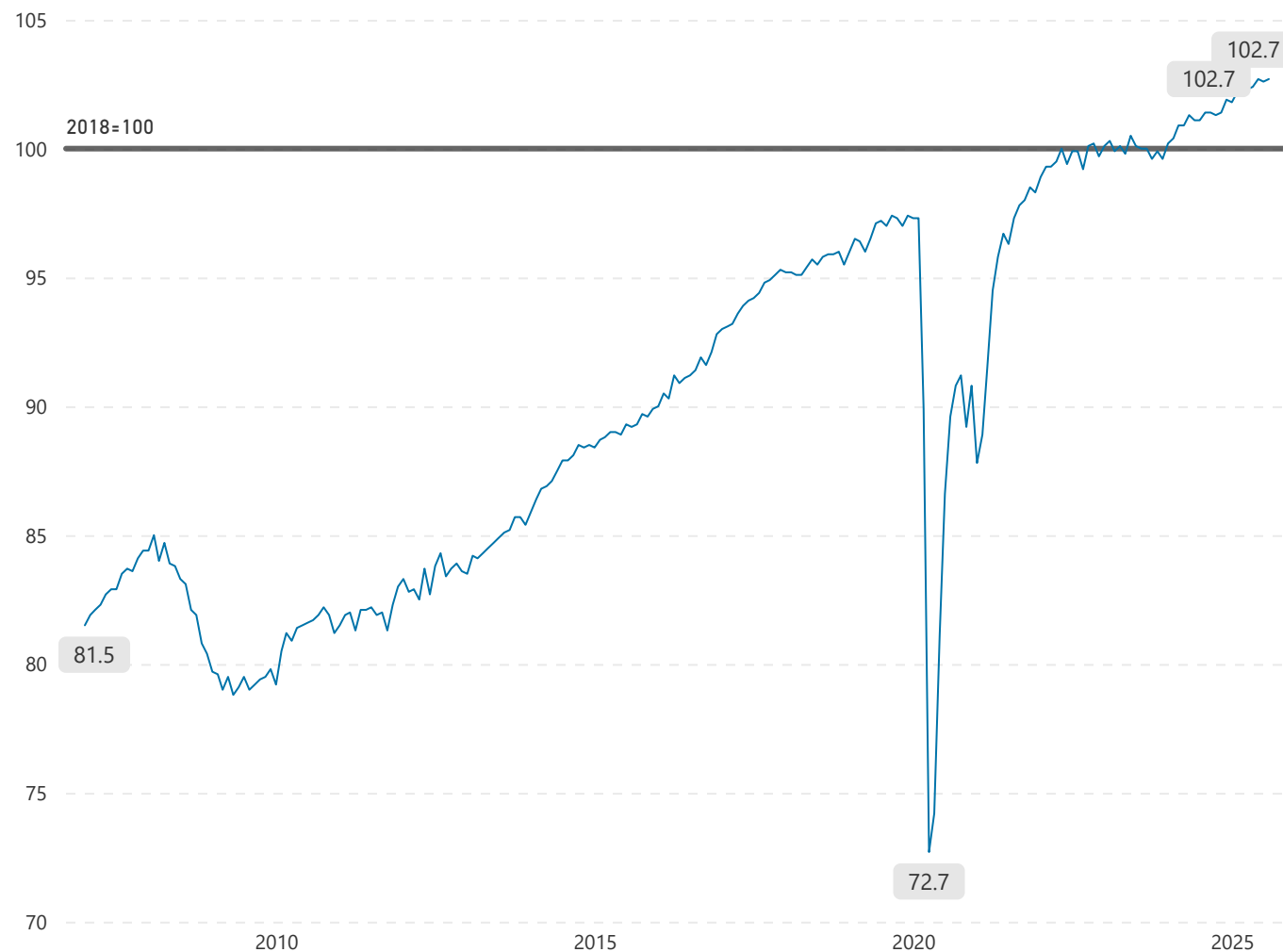
Overall:

- Estimated vacancies in July 2025 to September 2025 was 717,000.
- Decreasing 9,000 or 1.3% from July 2025 to September 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 115,000 (13.8%) in July 2025 to September 2025 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.4 in June 2025 to August 2025, up from 2.3 in the previous quarter.



Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Monthly index, UK



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

Overall:

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in August 2025.
- Real GDP is estimated to have grown 0.3% in the three months to August 2025, compared with the three months to May 2025.

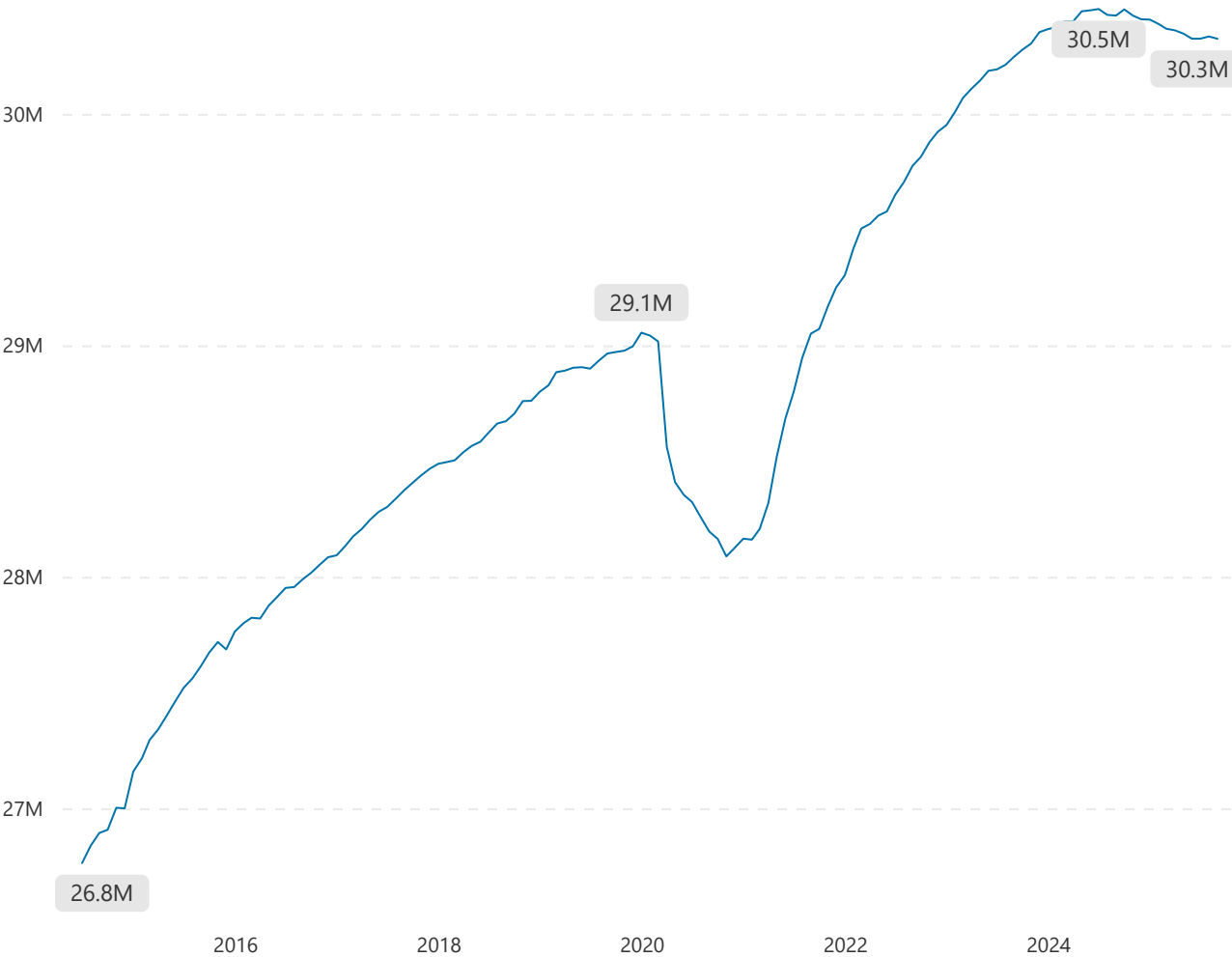
Output growth:

- Services grew by 0.4% in the three months to August 2025
- Production fell by 0.3% in the three months to August 2025
- Construction grew by 0.3% in the three months to August 2025

Labour Market



Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for September 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.3% or 127,000 from the previous year.
- The change in employees was highest in the health and social work sector with a rise 45,000 employees.
- The accommodation and food service activities sector saw the highest fall with 59,000 employees.
- UK payrolled employee growth for August 2025 compared with July 2025 has been revised from a decrease of 8,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 10,000.
- Early estimates for September 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 5.5% compared with September 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in September 2025 was highest in the transportation and storage sector, with an increase of 8.0%; it was lowest in the professional, scientific and technical sector, with an increase of 3.0%

Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

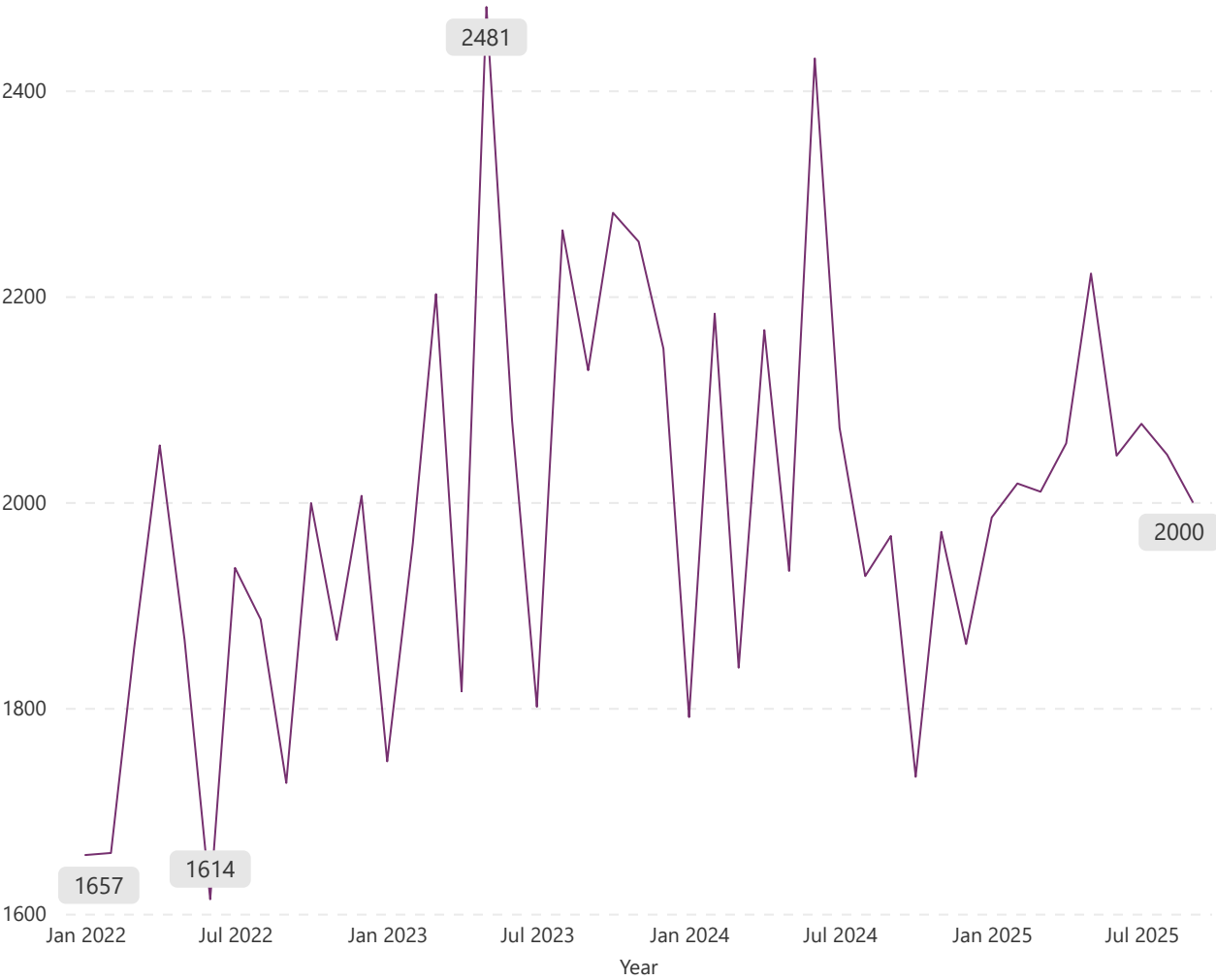
This data is the final results from Wave 138 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 4 to 17 August 2025.

Overall:

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- 25% of trading businesses reported their turnover had decreased in September 2025 compared with August 2025.
- 20 % of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in November 2025.
- 14% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in November 2025.
- In early October 2025, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 28%. For businesses with 10 or more employees, the most commonly reported challenge was cost of labour at 33%.
- 22% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in September 2025 when compared to the previous month.
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- 20% of trading businesses expected their performance to increase over the next 12 months.

Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales

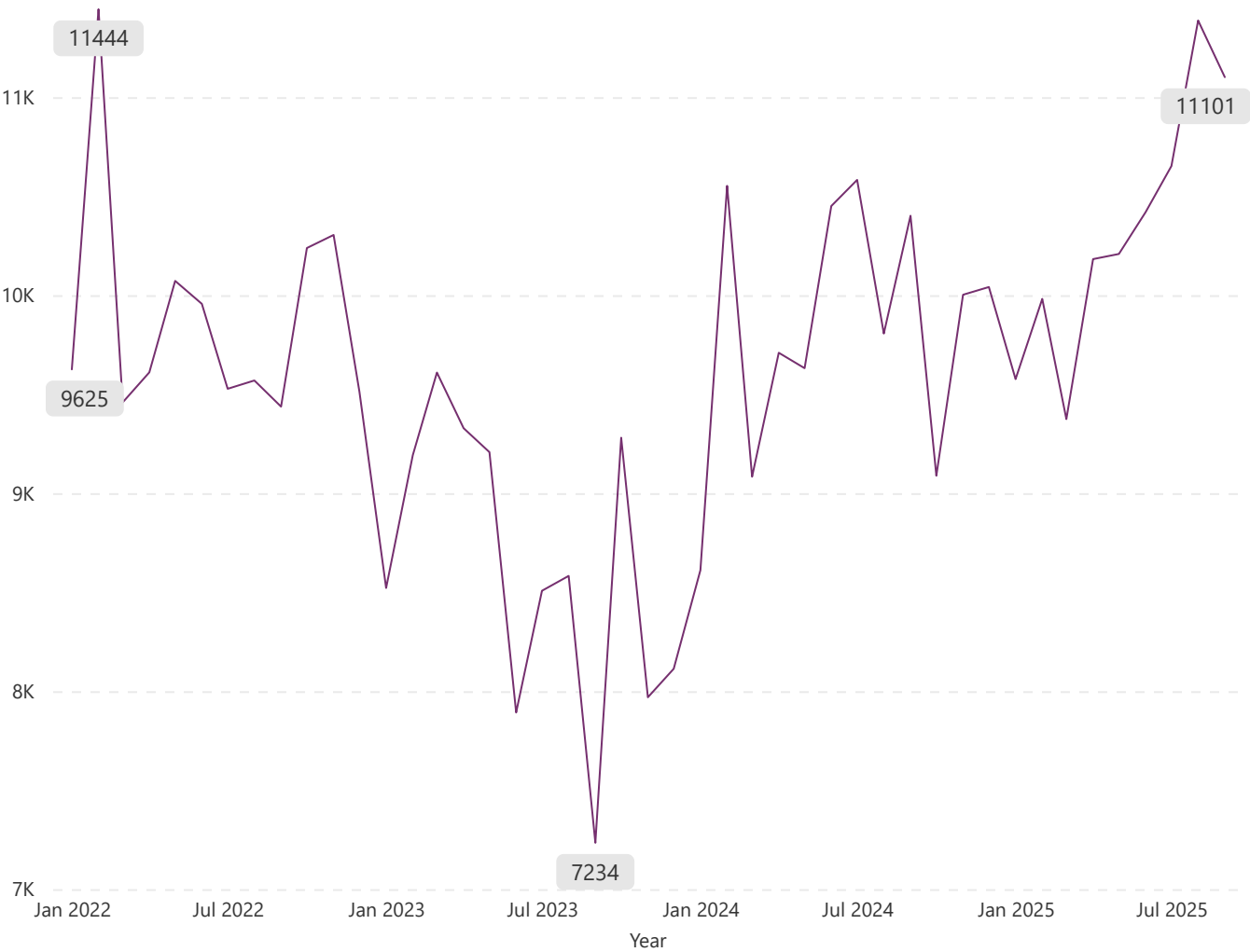


Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

- Overall:**
- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 2,000 in September 2025, similar to the levels in August 2025 and the same month in the previous year.
 - Company insolvencies consisted of 281 compulsory liquidations, 1,578 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 124 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 11,101 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 622 bankruptcies, 3,985 debt relief orders (DROs) and 6,494 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The number of DROs in September 2025 were lower than the record high seen in August 2025, but remains at the historically high levels seen in the first half of 2025.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels but were 9% higher than in September 2024.