

West Sussex Economy Snapshot

November 2022 (Issue 28)

West Sussex County Council

This is a monthly 'snapshot' of the West Sussex economy, produced by the County Council's Performance & Intelligence team with contributions from partners. The data presented here is publicly available and any analysis provided is for information purposes only.

This report includes national data that can provide a context to the trends seen from the data in West Sussex.

The latest COVID-19 figures relating to West Sussex are available on the [county dashboard](#).

Previous reports can be found on the [Business West Sussex](#) pages.

If you have any questions relating to the information in this report, please email business.support@westsussex.gov.uk or sue.cooper@westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex Headlines

Over the last month, September-October, there was a decrease of -1% in the number of claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex, whereas regional and national figures increased by 0.7% and 0.05%. Except Worthing, all districts & boroughs in West Sussex saw a decrease over this time. Crawley continues to have the highest numbers of claimants and the highest claimant count rate, which at 4.1% is higher than the county, regional and national rates. Mid Sussex has the lowest claimant count rate.

The latest data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), released in October, provides information on the earnings of employees who are living in an area and, who are working in an area. It suggests that West Sussex has lower workplace and resident earnings compared to regional and national averages. Workplace earnings in Crawley and Worthing are higher than resident earnings. ASHE is a sample survey, it's subject to sampling issues therefore should be treated with caution.

From the recently released and relatively new data set on the number of PAYE employees and average monthly pay, the number of employees on payrolls are continuing to increase in West Sussex. The number of employees on payrolls, from this data, is above that seen before April 2020. West Sussex's employees increased by 0.38% from September 2022, higher growth than South East and the UK. Similarly, the median monthly pay levels have risen to levels higher than seen at the beginning of 2020. Compared to the regional and national median monthly pay, North East West Sussex (Crawley, Horsham & Mid Sussex) has higher monthly pay levels than South West Sussex (Adur, Arun, Chichester & Worthing).

Job postings continue to be higher than pre-pandemic. Unique job postings increased by 11.6% from the previous month. Health care related occupations – care workers and nursing continue to be in highest demand, and customer service occupations, sales, administrative occupations and programming & software developing professions continue to be in the top ten most advertised postings. Demand is also strong for catering related occupations – kitchen and catering assistants as well as chefs. From postings over the last six months Finance has been the most sought 'specialised' skill.

The number of new business incorporations in West Sussex over the last year- Nov 2021 – Oct 2022 was higher than the number of businesses that have been dissolved or have gone into liquidation – by around 382 business. In the last three months Aug– Oct 2022 there were 220 more new business incorporations than there had been for those which were dissolved or gone into liquidation. Mid Sussex has the highest number of new business incorporations, also companies dissolved, or had gone into liquidation. In West Sussex, the highest numbers of new businesses were seen in the business services sector which also had the highest number of businesses that were dissolved or in liquidation.

November Census data releases included topic summaries looking at demography and migration, UK armed forces veterans and ethnic groups, national identity, language and religion. Around 30% of households in West Sussex are single person households and 11.9% of households are single persons aged 66 and over which is higher than national and regional rates.

Inside this report

This report is split into two sections - local West Sussex data and National trends.

West Sussex

New Businesses	5
Businesses	6
Claimant Count	7
Universal Credit Claimants	9
Earnings	10
Real Time Information Pay as you Earn Employees	11
Job Postings	13
Census	14

National

Gross Domestic Product	15
Labour Market	16
Businesses currently trading	17
Business Closures	18

National Headlines

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell in August by 0.6% following a fall in the previous month (a decrease of 0.1% in August). Monthly GDP is now estimated to be 0.2% below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) levels (February 2020). Service sector fell by 0.8% in September 2022. Information and communication activities and wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles are all the main contributors to the service sector decline in GDP. Consumer-facing services fell in September 2022 by 1.7%, following a fall of 1.6% in August 2022 - retail trade was the major contributor to this decline. Production output fell by 0.2% in September 2022 after a fall of 1.4% in August 2022. Construction grew by 0.4% in September 2022, following a growth of 0.6% in August.

The number of payrolled employees have continued to increase nationally, albeit at a slower lower rate, and over the year October 2021-October 2022 rose by 2.7%. Early estimates suggest that median monthly pay increased by over 6.0% since October 2021 and by 14.4% compared with February 2020.

From the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICs), 46% of businesses reported that the prices of goods or services bought had increased from September 2022. 24% of trading businesses in the other service activities industry reported that they expect their turnover to increase in December 2022. Energy prices continued to be the most common reason for trading businesses to consider raising their prices at 38%. Based on the responses of businesses trading the proportion of the workforce that were working as part of a hybrid model between 31 October - 13 November 2022 was 21%, with 64% working from a designated workspace and 8% working from home.

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 1,948 in October 2022, 38% higher than in the same month in the previous year and 32% higher than three years previously.

New Businesses, West Sussex

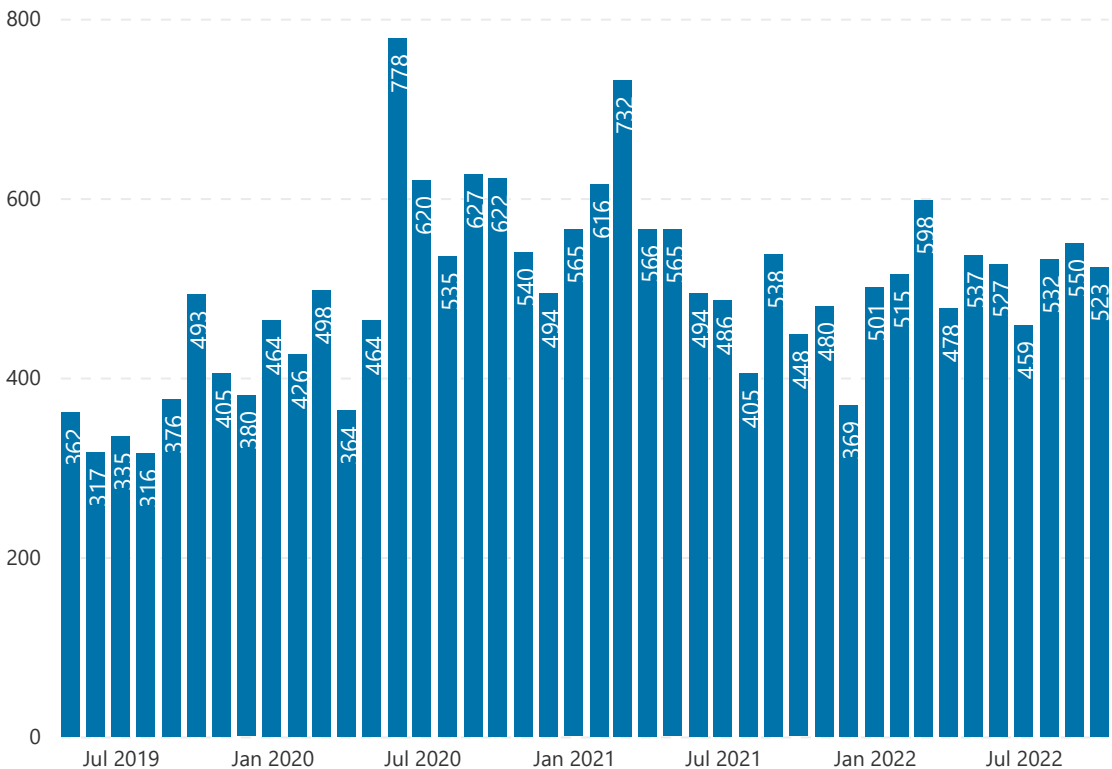
Source: FAME

Released: November 2022

There is no doubt that the time series shows fluctuations month on month, but generally the numbers of new business formations have tended to be at levels great than those seen pre-pandemic. In the last 12 months, November 2021- October 2022 there were around 5,927 new business incorporations, higher than the 5,545 businesses that were dissolved, or which had gone into liquidation.

In the last 3 months – August– October 2022 there were 220 more new business incorporations than there had been for those which have dissolved/in liquidation.

New business incorporations in West Sussex



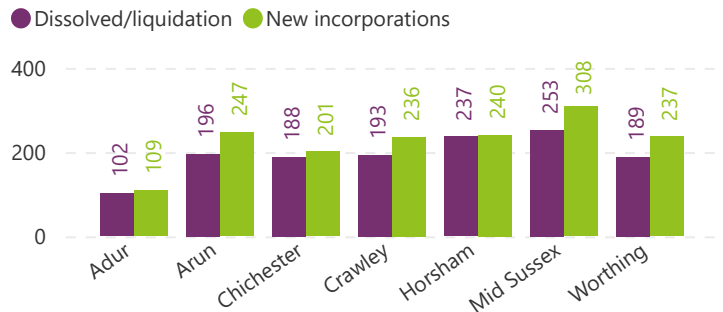
Businesses, West Sussex

Source: FAME

Released: November 2022

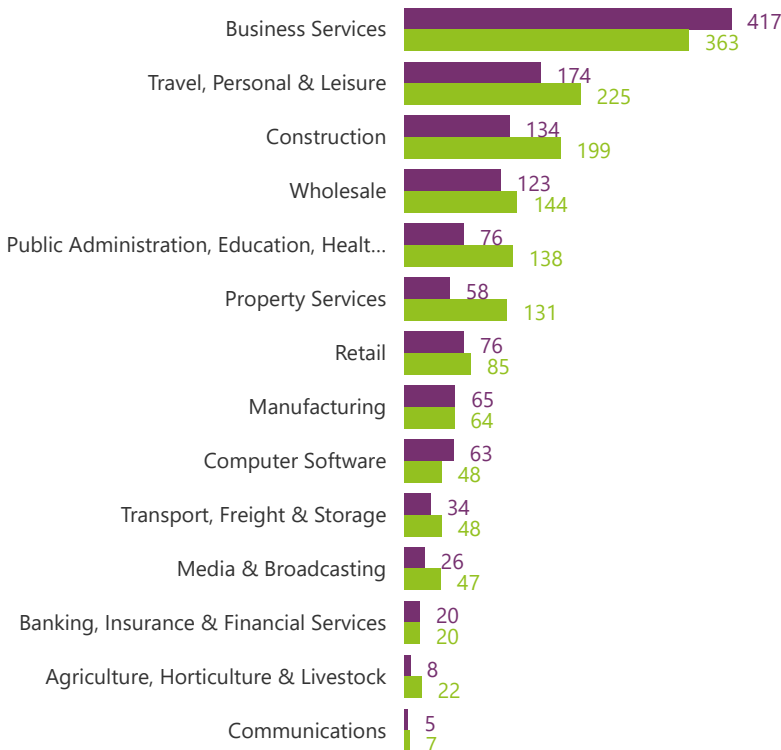
Over the last three-month period – Aug 2022– Oct 2022 Mid Sussex continues to have the highest number of new business incorporations. Mid Sussex also has the highest number of companies that have dissolved or are in liquidation. There is increasing speculation that with high inflation levels as well as rising fuel and energy costs that more businesses will close.

Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Aug-Oct 22)



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry (Aug-Oct 22)

● Dissolved/liquidation ● New incorporations



Business services has the highest number of new incorporations as well as numbers dissolved or in liquidation over the last 3 months, a continuation of the past trends. Business services, manufacturing & computer software saw more closed businesses than new business formations. The top three sectors for new business formations are as in previous months – business services, travel personal and leisure, and construction.

Claimant Count, West Sussex

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

Released: 15 November 2022 (October 2022 figures are provisional)

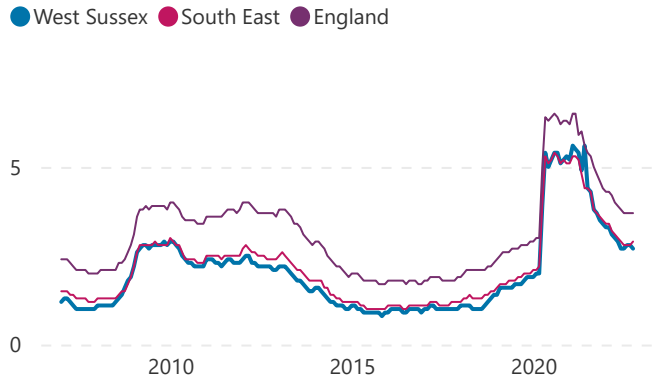
The claimant count includes those people who are claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit principally because they are out of work or working very few hours and/or have a very low wage.

There were 13,845 claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex in October 2022, a decrease of -1% from the previous month, compared with a regional and national (England) increase of 0.7% and 0.05%.

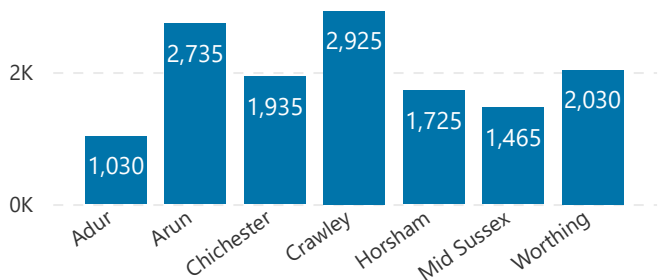
All districts and boroughs in West Sussex saw a decrease in claimants from Sep'22, except Worthing. Worthing saw an increase in claimants at 2%.

Crawley has the highest number of claimants at 2,925 and the highest claimant count rate at 4.1%, higher than the regional and national rates. Mid Sussex has the lowest claimant count rate at 1.6%. In West Sussex, % of male claimants aged 16+ fell by -0.1% and female increased by 1.4%.

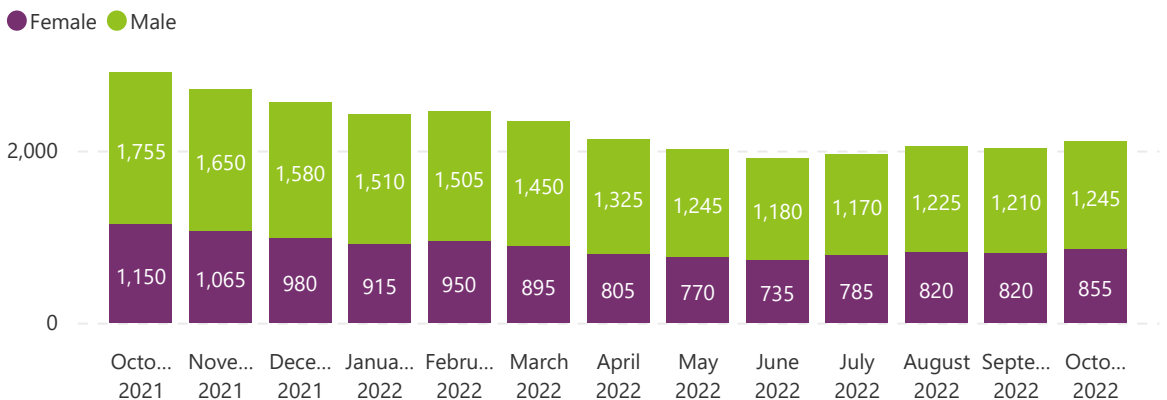
Claimant count rate



Number of claimants



Claimant count by gender, 18-24 age group



Claimant Count, West Sussex

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

Released: 15 November 2022 (October 2022 figures are provisional)

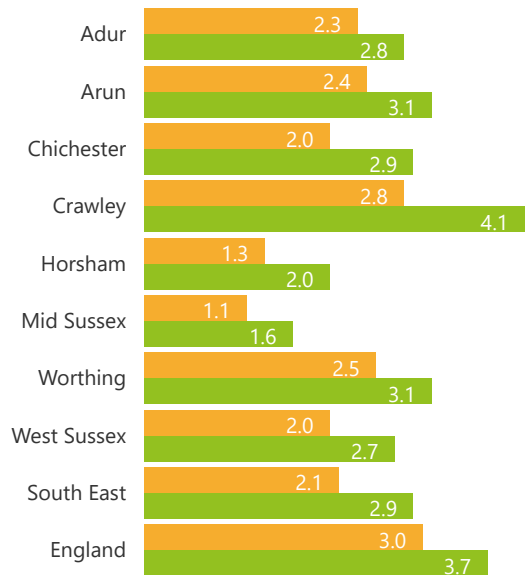
Age profile of claimants: Worthing (19.4%) has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds, and Chichester the lowest at 11.6%. Chichester has a higher proportion of claimants who are over 50 years.

There are 2,100 claimants aged 18-24 in West Sussex, which is an increase of 3.4% from the previous month. National (England) and regional figures also increased by 2.4% and 3.4% for this age category. Crawley has the highest number of claimants in this age group at 455. It was only Chichester and Mid Sussex in West Sussex that saw a fall, (-4.3% & -7%), in the claimants aged 18-24 over the last month, Adur saw no change and all other local authorities in the county saw an increase.

Within West Sussex, over the last month, there was an increase of 2.9% in claimants amongst males aged 18-24 years; females by 4.3%.

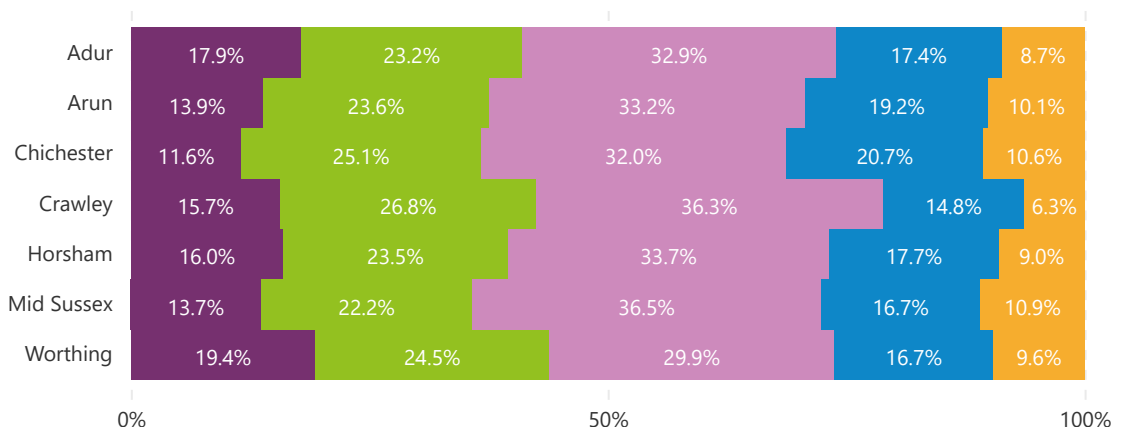
Claimant count rates change

● March 2020 ● October 2022



Distribution of claimants by age band

● Aged 16-24 ● Aged 25-34 ● Aged 35-49 ● Aged 50-59 ● Aged 60+



Universal Credit Claimants, West Sussex

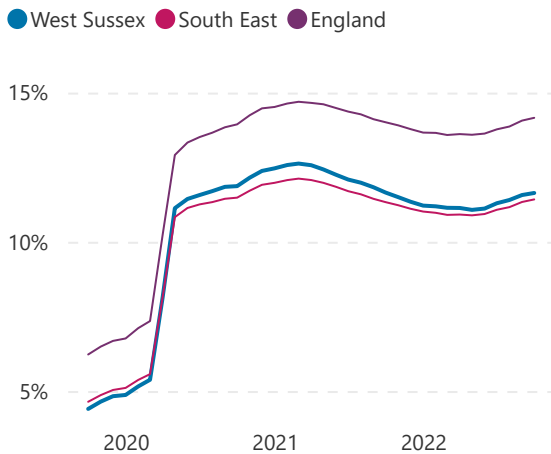
Source: [Department for Work and Pensions](#)

Released: 15 November 2022 (October 2022 figures are provisional)

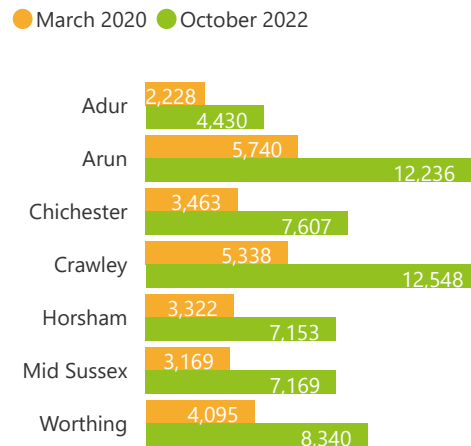
Universal Credit is a single payment for each household to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. In October 2022, there were 59,494 Universal Credit claimants, which is a 1.5% increase from previous month. The numbers of people claiming Universal Credit in West Sussex has increased 118% since March 2020 - from 27,355 to 59,494 in October 2022. In West Sussex, the percentage of people in employment claiming Universal Credit increased since Mar'20 from 41.14% to 46.8% in Sep'22. Within West Sussex, Mid Sussex has seen the highest percentage of Universal Credit claimants who are in work at 49% followed by Crawley and Horsham at 48%.

Crawley has seen the highest % rise (135%) over the period from March 2020 (at the start of the pandemic) to October 2022 though there has been a significant rise in the number of residents claiming Universal Credit across the county. Please note the latest figures are always provisional and they are not broken down by employment/not in employment.

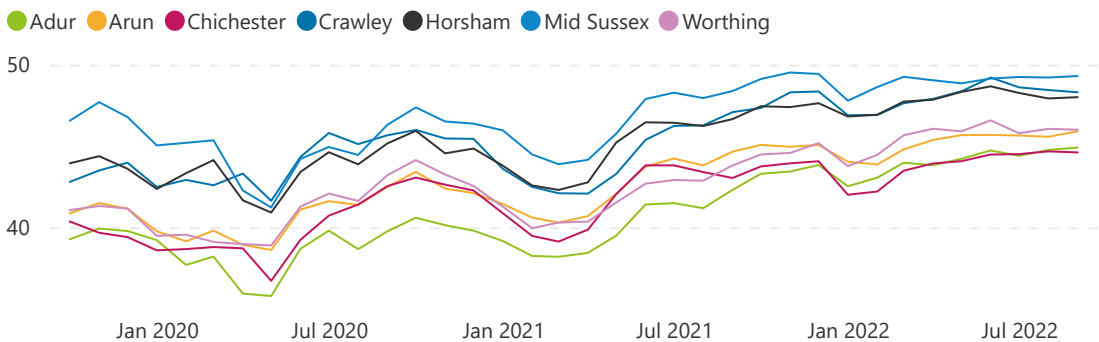
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Percentage of UC claimants who are in work



Earnings, West Sussex

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Released: October 2022

Earnings data comes from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Data is based on a sample survey of employee jobs carried out each April and taken from HM Revenue & Customs Pay as You Earn (PAYE) records. Workplace earnings in West Sussex local authorities are lower than resident earnings, the exception being in Crawley and Worthing where workplace earnings are higher. Workplace earnings of Crawley are higher than the national and regional averages.

Comparison between resident and workplace full-time weekly earnings, 2022

● Residence ● Workplace



Comparison between resident and workplace full-time weekly earnings, 2021-2022

Breakdown 2	Residence			Workplace		
	2021	2022	% change 2021-2022	2021	2022	% change 2021-2022
Adur	530.60	567.30	6.92%	515.40	541.70	5.10%
Arun	574.50	546.50	-4.87%	515.30	517.20	0.37%
Chichester	654.90	645.00	-1.51%	574.90	570.60	-0.75%
Crawley	593.90	670.70	12.93%	670.70	707.00	5.41%
Horsham	669.60	702.40	4.90%	592.00	618.00	4.39%
Mid Sussex	666.40	747.70	12.20%	575.30	635.90	10.53%
Worthing	576.10	606.80	5.33%	548.00	625.30	14.11%
West Sussex	608.80	639.20	4.99%	576.80	613.13	6.30%
South East	660.00	685.30	3.83%	635.80	664.30	4.48%
England	613.30	645.80	5.30%	613.30	645.60	5.27%

Real Time Information Pay As You Earn (RTI PAYE), Employees, West Sussex

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

Released: 15 November 2022

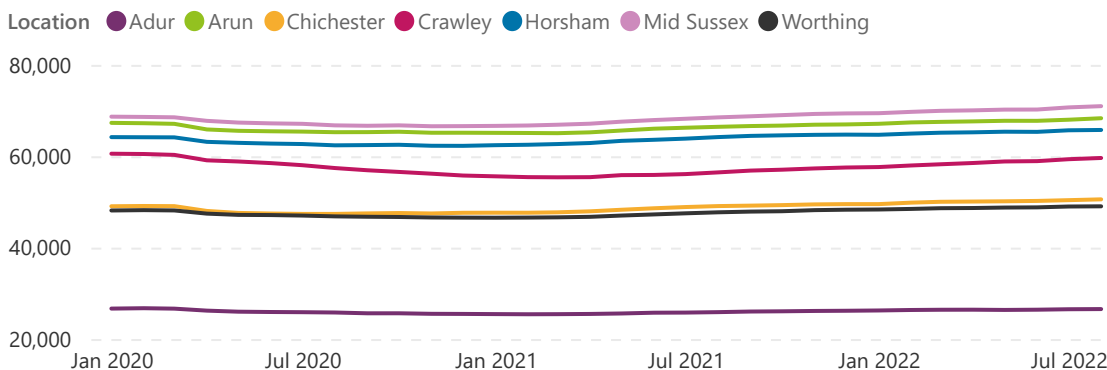
These figures are from a set of 'experimental statistics' from ONS from the earnings and employment statistics Pay as You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) seasonally adjusted data set. The latest data is up to the month of October 2022 for national, regional and county levels and up to August 2022 for local authorities. West Sussex's employees increased by 0.38% from September 2022. The South East's employees grew by 0.23% and the UKs employees grew by 0.25%

The latest data shows that Mid Sussex has the highest number of employees at 70,968 in West Sussex and Adur the lowest at 26,555. The timeline of employees in West Sussex shows a decrease from April 2020, at the beginning of the first lockdown and continuing to decrease until March 2021 at which point the employee figures begin to increase again. This increase has continued to the current date where all districts except Crawley have reached or exceeded the employee figures seen pre-April 2020.

West Sussex Number of Employees



District Number of Employees



Real Time Information Pay As You Earn (RTI PAYE), Median Pay, West Sussex

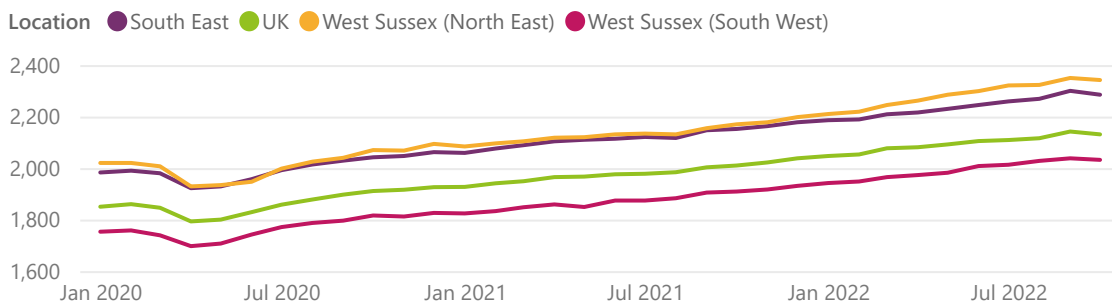
Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

Released: 15 November 2022

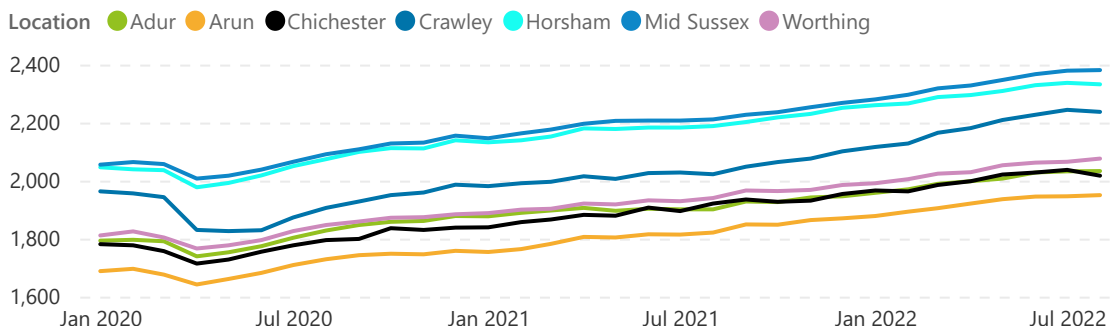
As in the previous page, these figures are based on the ONS statistics from the earnings and employment Pay As You Earn (Seasonally Adjusted) RTI data set and are up to the month of October 2022 for national, regional and the two sub-county levels. The data set is up to date for the month of August 2022 for local authorities. The local authority with the largest percentage increase of pay from July 2022 was Worthing with 0.53% compared to a decrease of 0.98% in Chichester. West Sussex South West had a decrease in median monthly pay by -0.29% and the North East had a decrease in median monthly pay by -0.34% from September 2022. The South East's monthly median pay fell by -0.65% and the UK's fell by -0.51% since September 2022.

The district with the highest median monthly pay is Mid Sussex at £2,381, and the lowest is seen in Arun at £1,950. A decrease in median pay can be seen in between the month of March and April 2020 which was the beginning of the first lockdown. Median monthly pay trends then return to pre lockdown levels by July 2020 for all local authorities. Compared to the regional and national median monthly pay, North East West Sussex (Crawley, Horsham & Mid Sussex) has higher monthly pay levels than South West Sussex (Adur, Arun, Chichester & Worthing).

Median Pay National and Regional Figures



Median Pay in West Sussex



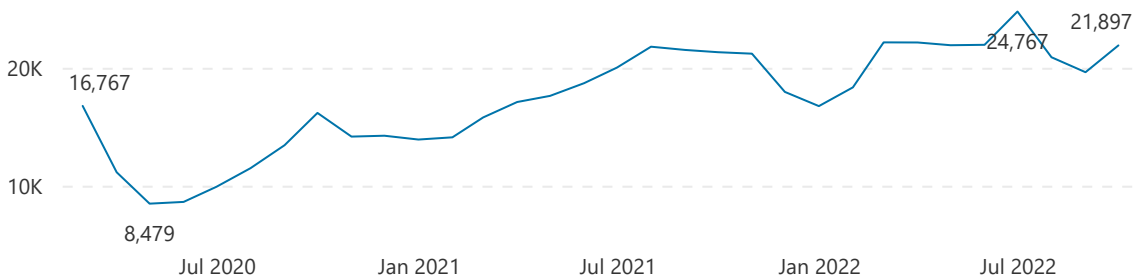
Job Postings, West Sussex

Source: Lightcast

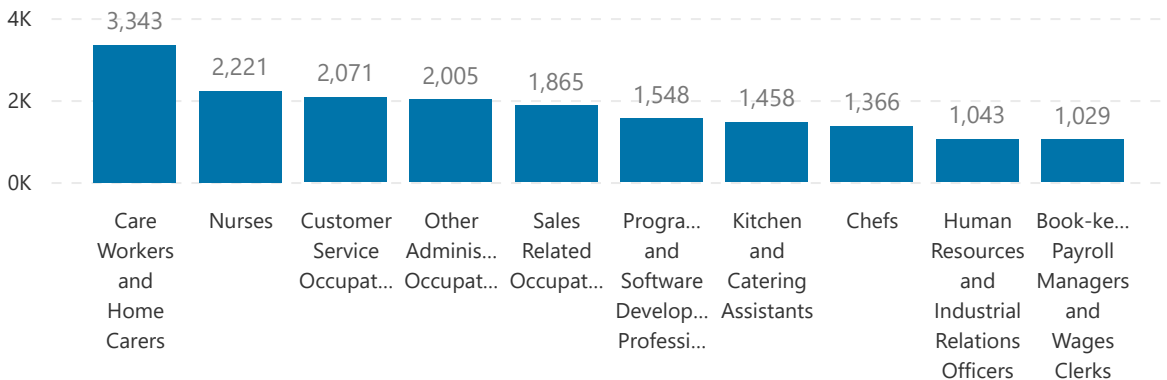
Released: November 2022

Job postings continue to be generally higher than pre-pandemic levels though have seen a fall since July'22. In terms of the 'top' posted occupations over the last six months to October 2022, care workers and home carers continue to make up the highest numbers of job postings, followed by nurses. Customer service, sales related and administrative occupations are also in demand. Programmers and software development professional along with occupations within the catering sector continue to be in the top 10 occupations posted

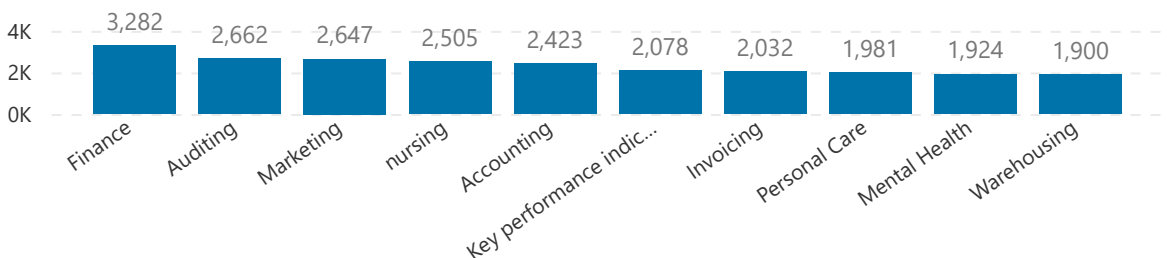
Unique job postings over time in West Sussex



Top 10 posted occupations (unique postings May-Oct 22)



Top 10 hard skills (unique postings May-Oct 22)



2021 Census Release, West Sussex

Source: ONS

Released: November 2022

During November there have been further releases of data from the 2021 Census. These have included topic summaries looking at demography and migration, UK armed forces veterans and ethnic groups, national identity, language and religion. Further releases are expected throughout December and early 2023 and will include summaries around the labour market and travel to work, housing, sexual orientation and gender identity, education and health, disability and unpaid care.

Further details can be found [here](#). ONS have also put together some [interactive mapping](#) that allows for the comparison of Census data across different areas across England and Wales.

Some key headlines from the Census data so far include:

- West Sussex population from 2011-2021 grew by 9.4% higher than the national and regional percentage increase;
- The highest percentage increases 2011-'21 in population were amongst the over 65s which increased in West Sussex by 21%;
- Arun has the highest proportion of the population aged 65 years and over in West Sussex at over at 28.4%, compared with Crawley which had the lowest in the county at 13.3%;
- 29.7% of households in West Sussex are single person households, it's highest in Worthing at 33.8% of households;
- 11.9% of households in West Sussex are single person, aged 66yrs and over, higher than the national (9.2%) and regional (10.2%) percentage. That is highest in Arun at 14.8% a reflection of the higher proportion of older people in Arun;
- 87.1% of the population in West Sussex were born in the UK; 94.2% of the county's population have English as their main language, higher than the national and regional average.
- 3.4% of the population in West Sussex has previously served in the UK armed forces, compared with the South East at 3.2% and England at 2.9%

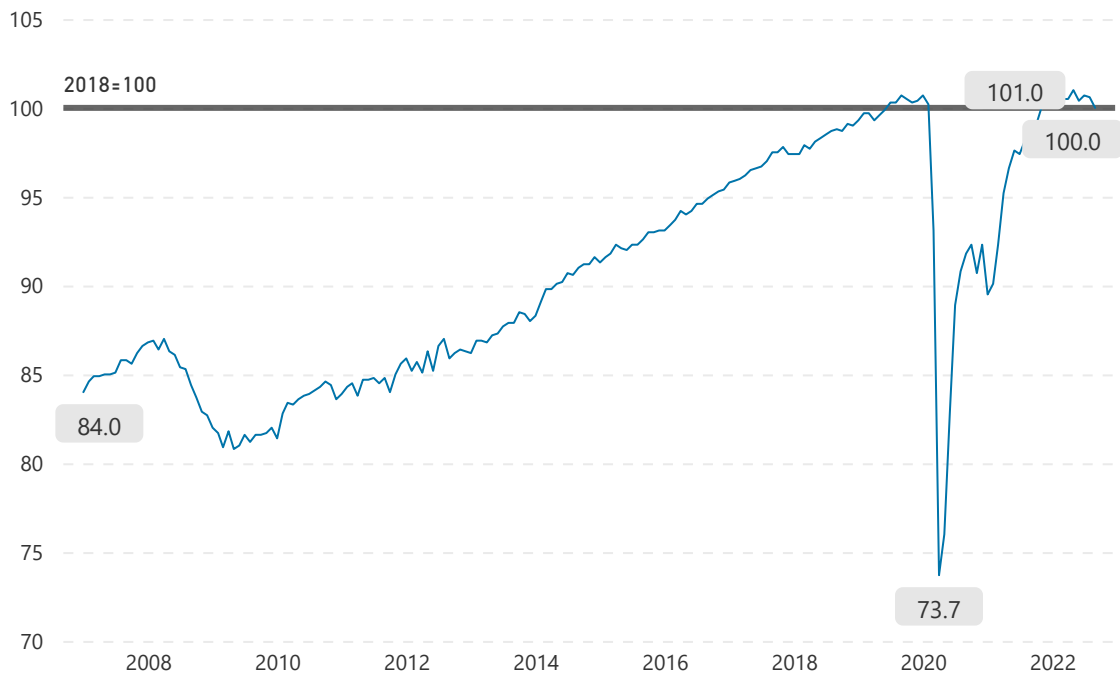
National Headlines - Gross Domestic Product (GDP), UK

Source: [ONS, GDP Monthly Estimate](#)

Released: 11 November 2022

- Gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have fallen by 0.6% in September 2022, after a fall of 0.1% in August 2022. Looking at the broader picture, GDP fell in by 0.2% the three months to September compared with the three months to June 2022. Monthly GDP is now estimated to be 0.2% below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) levels (February 2020).
- Services fell by 0.8% in September 2022 after a growth of 0.1% in August 2022. Information and communication activities and wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles fell by 3.2% and 2.0% respectively and were the largest contributors to the fall in services in September.
- Consumer-facing services fell by 1.7% in September 2022, after a fall of 1.6% in August 2022. The largest negative contributor in consumer-facing services was retail trade, except for motor vehicles and motorcycles (1.4%).
- Production output grew by 0.2% in September 2022 after a fall of 1.4% in August 2022. Electricity, gas, steam and air was the main driver of production growth (1.6%).
- Construction grew by 0.4% in September 2022 after a growth of 0.6% in August 2022. This increase in construction output came from an increase in both new work (0.6%) and repair and maintenance (0.2%).

Monthly index, UK



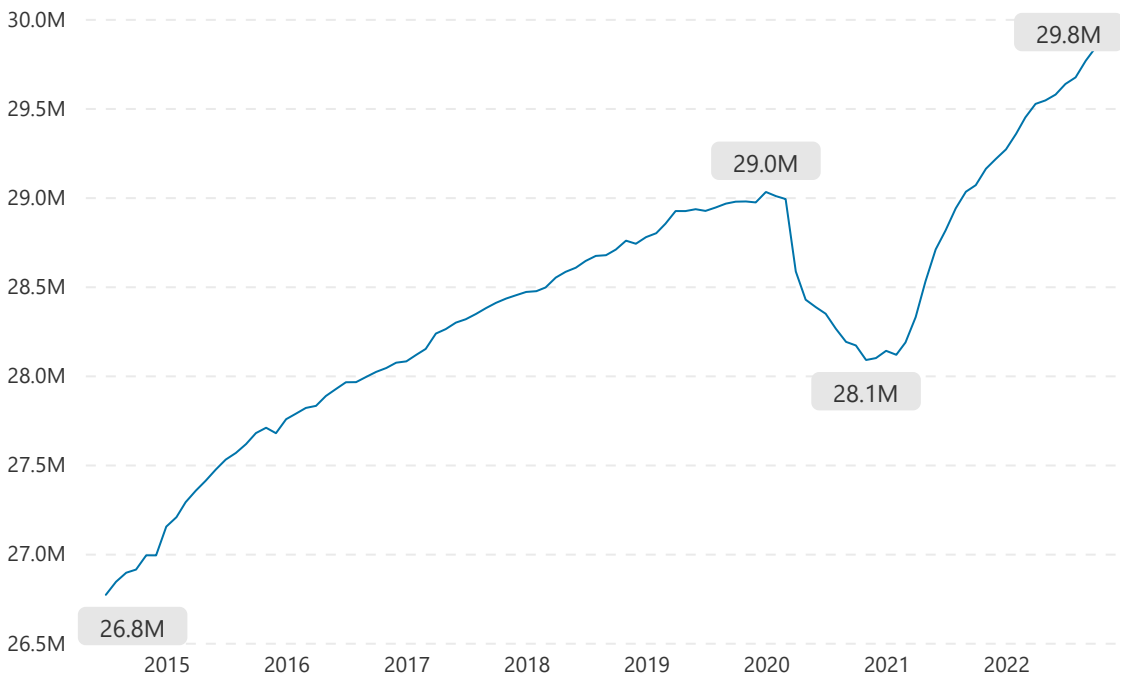
Labour Market, UK

Source: [ONS, Earning and Employment from Pay As You Earn](#)

Released: 15 November 2022

- Early estimates for October 2022 indicate that the number of payrolled employees rose by 2.7% compared with October 2021, a rise of 772,000 employees; the number of payrolled employees was up by 2.9% since February 2020, a rise of 834,000.
- Payrolled employment increased by 74,000 employees (0.2%) in October 2022 when compared with September 2022, though this should be treated as a provisional estimate and is likely to be revised when more data is received next month.
- UK payrolled employee growth for September 2022 compared with August 2022 has been revised from an increase of 69,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 94,000, because of the incorporation of additional real time information (RTI) submissions into the statistics, which takes place every publication and reduces the need for imputation.
- Early estimates for October 2022 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 6.0% compared with October 2021 and increased by 14.6% when compared with February 2020.
- All age groups saw an increase in payrolled employees between October 2021 and October 2022; there was an increase of 153,000 payrolled employees aged under 25 years.

Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Businesses currently trading, UK

Source: [ONS, Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#)

Released: 17 November 2022

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 69 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live for the period of 31 October – 13 November 2022.

- In early November 2022, 94% of businesses reported they were trading, with 85% fully trading and 9% partially trading.
- From the responses, around 21% of the workforce were working a hybrid model with 64% working from a designated workspace and 8% working from home.
- In early November 2022, 24% of trading businesses in the other service activities industry reported that they expect their turnover to increase in December 2022. In comparison, nearly a quarter (24%) of all trading businesses expect their turnover to decrease in December 2022
- In October 2022, 46% of businesses currently trading reported that the prices of goods or services bought had increased from the previous month.
- Energy prices continued to be the most common reason for trading businesses of all sizes to consider raising their prices at 38%.
- In early November 2022, 11% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they were using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model; improved staff well-being was reported as the main reason for doing so, 76%.
- Nearly one in five (19%) businesses reported that domestic demand for goods and services in October 2022 decreased compared with the previous calendar month, broadly stable with September 2022; in contrast nearly half (45%) reported domestic demand stayed the same.

Businesses Closures, UK

Source: Gov.uk, [Monthly Insolvency Statistics](#)

Released: 15 November 2022

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 1,948 in October 2022, 38% higher than in the same month in the previous year (1,410 in October 2021), and 32% higher than the number registered three years previously (1,477 in October 2019).

In October 2022 there were 1,594 Creditors' Voluntary Liquidations (CVLs). 28% higher than in October 2021 and 53% higher than October 2019. Numbers of administrations and company voluntary arrangements (CVAs) remained lower than before the pandemic.

For individuals, 531 bankruptcies were registered, which was 14% lower than in October 2021 and 62% lower than October 2019.

There were, on average, 7,610 Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) registered per month in the three-month period ending October 2022, which is 8% higher than the three-month period ending October 2021.

Company insolvencies in England & Wales

