

# West Sussex Economy Snapshot

**December 2022 (Issue 29)**

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](mailto:business.support@westsussex.gov.uk) or [sue.cooper@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sue.cooper@westsussex.gov.uk)

# West Sussex Headlines

Over the last month, October-November, there was an increase of 1.6% in the number of claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex, regional and national figures increased by 2% and 2.4%. Except for Horsham and Mid Sussex, all districts & boroughs in West Sussex saw an increase 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 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 0.47% from October 2022, higher growth than South East and the UK. Within West Sussex, Mid Sussex has the highest number of employees at 71,531 and Adur the lowest at 26,561. 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 11.1% from the previous month. Health care related occupations – care workers and nursing continue to be in highest demand, and customer service occupations, administrative occupations, sales 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- Dec 2021 – Nov 2022 was higher than the number of businesses that have been dissolved or have gone into liquidation – by around 787 business. In the last three months Sep – Nov 2022 there were 598 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.

December Census data releases included topic summaries looking at household composition, economic activity, and employment of residents by industry and occupation. In West Sussex, the percentage of residents aged 16+ who were in employment the week before the 2021 census increased by around 5.7% since 2011. Arun had the highest number of residents in work in the county.

# Inside this report

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

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## National Headlines

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew in October by 0.5% following a fall in the previous month (a decrease of 0.6% in September). Monthly GDP is now estimated to be 0.4% below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) levels (February 2020). Service sector grew by 0.6% in October 2022. Wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles are the main contributors to the service sector growth in GDP. Consumer-facing services grew in October 2022 by 1.2%, following a fall of 1.7% in September 2022 - wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles was the major contributor to this rise. Production remained flat in October 2022 after a rise of 0.2% in September 2022. Construction grew by 0.8% in October 2022, following a growth of 0.4% in September.

The number of payrolled employees have continued to increase nationally, albeit at a slower rate, and over the year November 2021-November 2022 rose by 2.7%. Early estimates suggest that median monthly pay increased by over 8.0% since November 2021 and by 17.3% compared with February 2020.

From the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICs), 94% of business reported they were trading. 73% reported some form of business concern for December 2022. 13% of the businesses reported that they were affected by industrial action in October 2022. 17% of businesses not permanently stopped trading with 10 or more employees reported their employees' hourly wages had increased in October 2022 compared with September 2022. 13% of businesses not permanently stopped trading were experiencing a shortage of workers, this percentage was higher for businesses with 10 or more employees at 32%.

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 2,029 in November 2022, 21% higher than in the same month in the previous year and 35% higher than three years previously.

# New Businesses, West Sussex

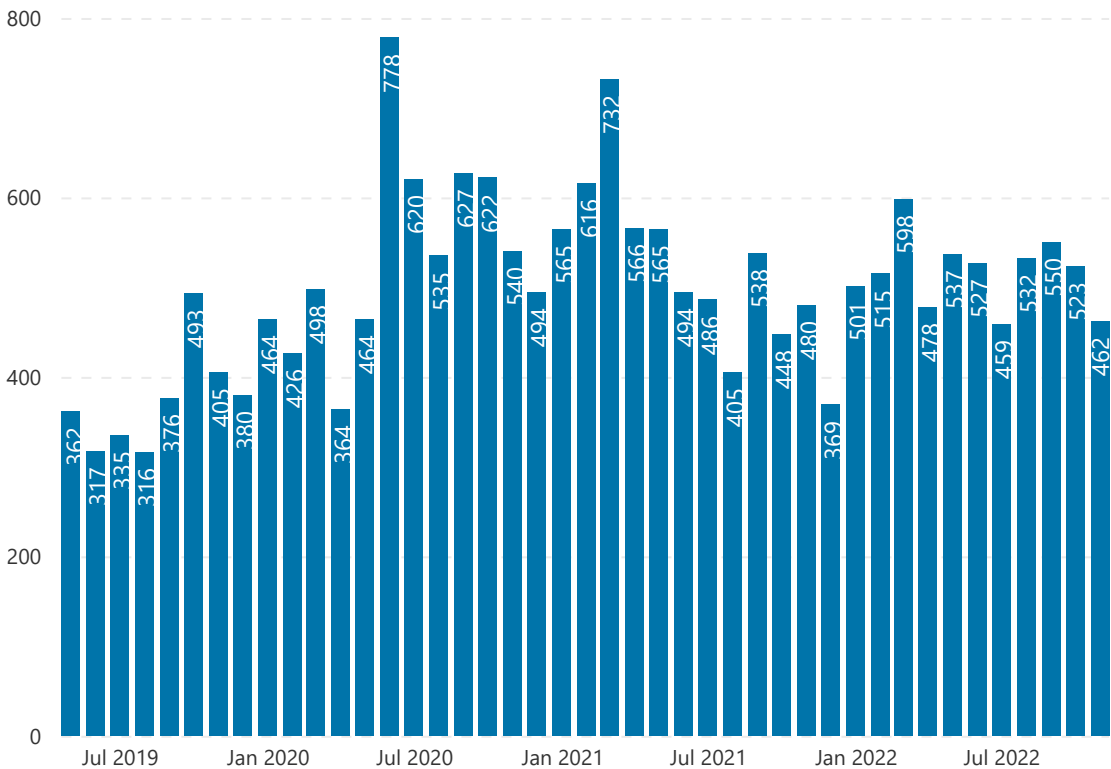
Source: FAME

Released: December 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, December 2021- November 2022 there were around 5,907 new business incorporations, higher than the 5,120 businesses that were dissolved, or which had gone into liquidation.

In the last 3 months – September – November 2022 there were 598 more new business incorporations than there had been for those which have dissolved/in liquidation.

## New business incorporations in West Sussex



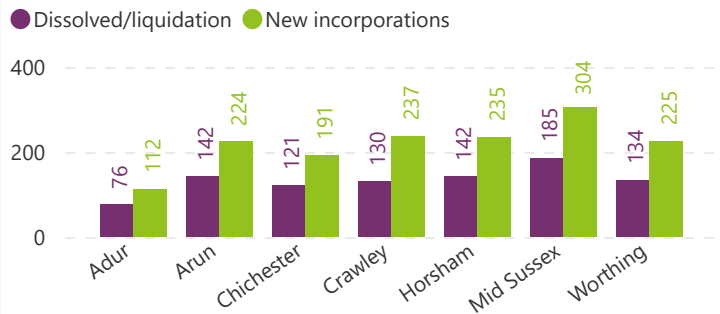
# Businesses, West Sussex

Source: FAME

Released: December 2022

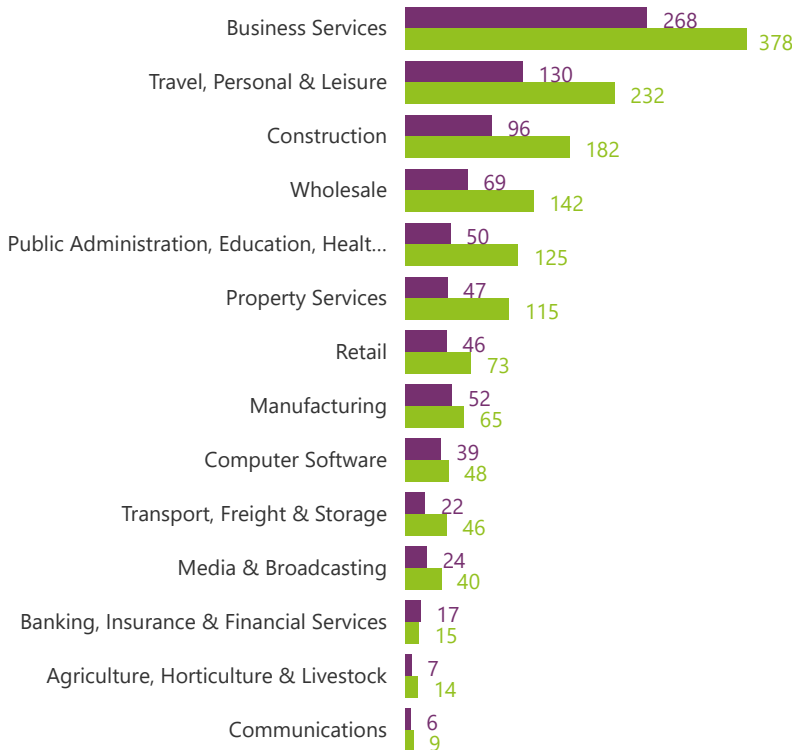
Over the last three-month period – Sep 2022– Nov 2022 Mid Sussex continues to have the highest number of new business incorporations. Mid Sussex also has the highest number of companies that have dissolved or are in liquidation. There is increasing speculation that with high inflation levels as well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

**Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Sep-Nov 22)**



**Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry (Sep-Nov 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. Banking, insurance & financial services 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: 13 December 2022 (November 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.

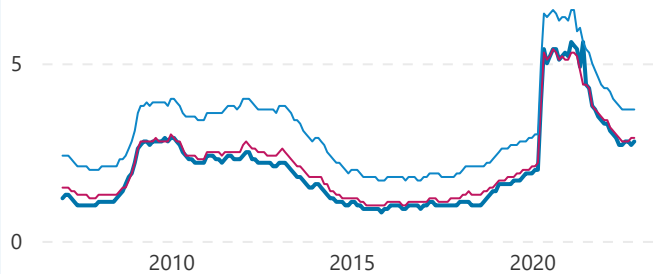
There were 13,970 claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex in November 2022, an increase of 1.6% from the previous month, compared with a regional and national (England) increase of 2% and 2.4%.

All districts and boroughs in West Sussex saw an increase in claimants from Oct'22, except Horsham and Mid Sussex. Worthing saw an increase in claimants at 4.3%.

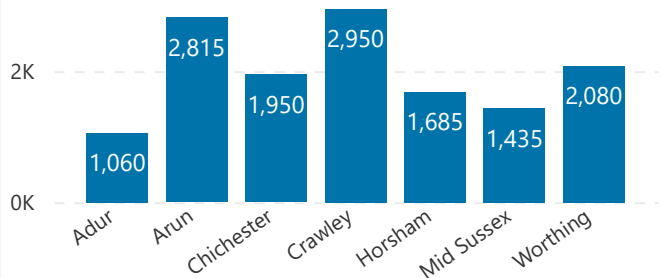
Crawley has the highest number of claimants at 2,950 and the highest claimant count rate at 4.1%, higher than the regional and national rates. Mid Sussex has the lowest claimant count rate at 1.6%. In West Sussex, % of male claimants aged 16+ increased by 1% and female increased by 2.4%.

## Claimant count rate

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



## Number of claimants



## Claimant count by gender, 18-24 age group

● Female ● Male



# Claimant Count, West Sussex

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

Released: 13 December 2022 (November 2022 figures are provisional)

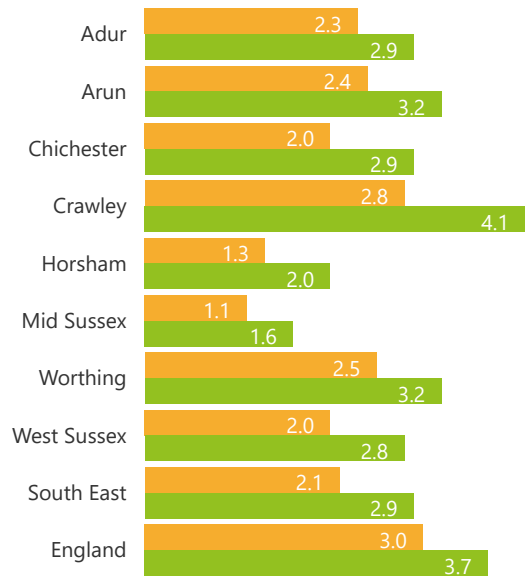
Age profile of claimants: Worthing (19.4%) has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds, and Chichester the lowest at 12.3%. Chichester has a higher proportion of claimants who are over 50 years.

There are 2,160 claimants aged 18-24 in West Sussex, which is an increase of 3.1% from the previous month. National (England) and regional figures also increased by 2.9% and 3.2% for this age category. Crawley has the highest number of claimants in this age group at 470. It was only Horsham and Mid Sussex in West Sussex that saw a fall, (-7.5% & -2.5%), in the claimants aged 18-24 over the last month, and all other local authorities in the county saw an increase.

Within West Sussex, over the last month, there was an increase of 1.6% in claimants amongst males aged 18-24 years; females by 4.7%.

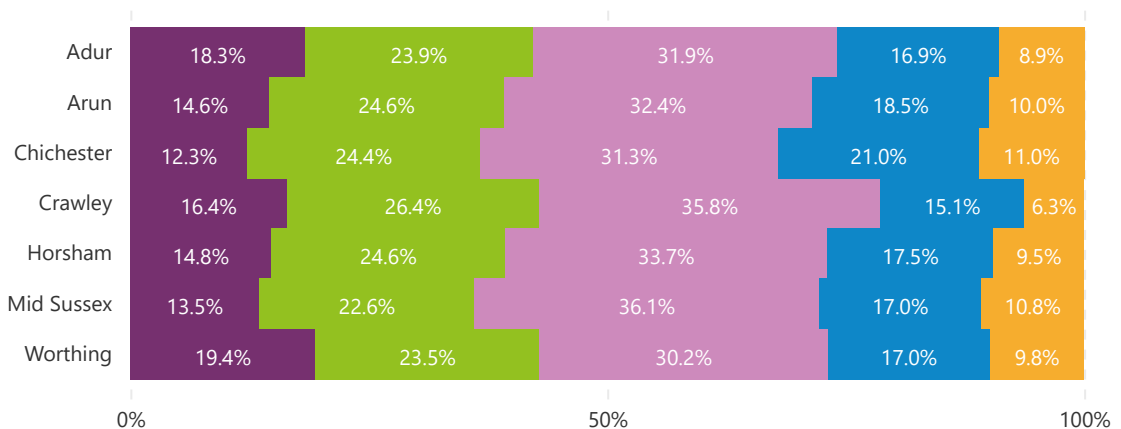
## Claimant count rates change

● March 2020 ● November 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](#)

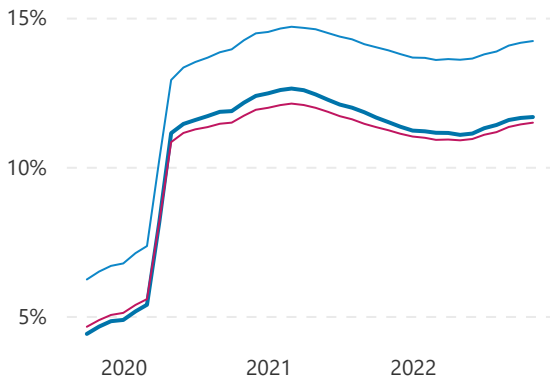
Released: 13 December 2022 (November 2022 figures are provisional)

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 November 2022, there were 59,630 Universal Credit claimants, which is a 1.2% increase from previous month. The numbers of people claiming Universal Credit in West Sussex has increased 118% since March 2020 - from 27,355 to 59,630 in November 2022. In West Sussex, the percentage of people in employment claiming Universal Credit increased since Mar'20 from 41.14% to 45.8% in Oct'22. In Oct'22, within West Sussex, Mid Sussex has seen the highest percentage of Universal Credit claimants who are in work at 48% followed by Crawley and Horsham at 47%.

Crawley has seen the highest % rise (135%) over the period from March 2020 (at the start of the pandemic) to November 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.

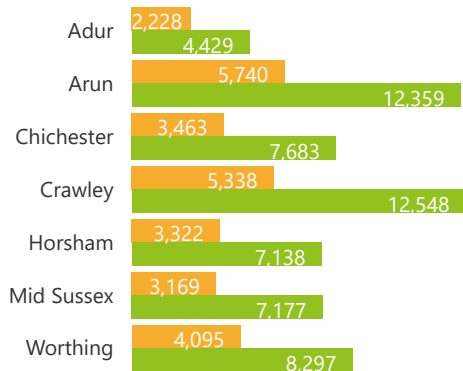
## Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



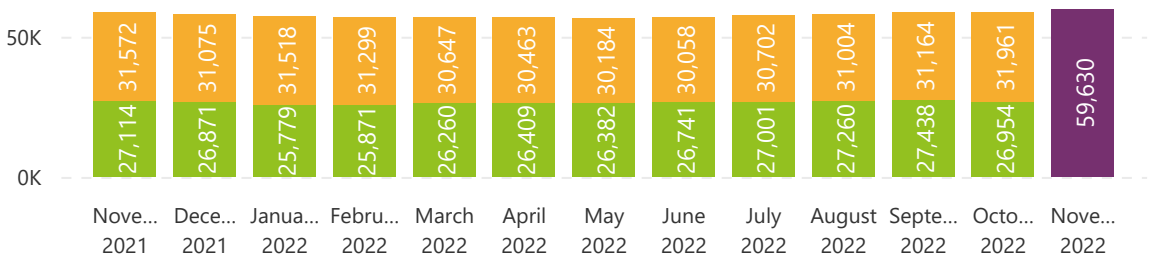
## Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change

● March 2020 ● November 2022



## Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status

● In employment ● N/A ● Not in employment



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

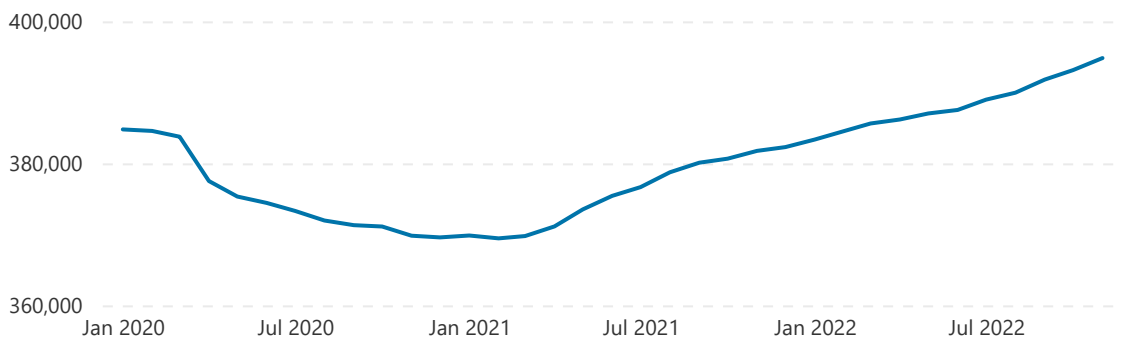
Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

Released: 13 December 2022

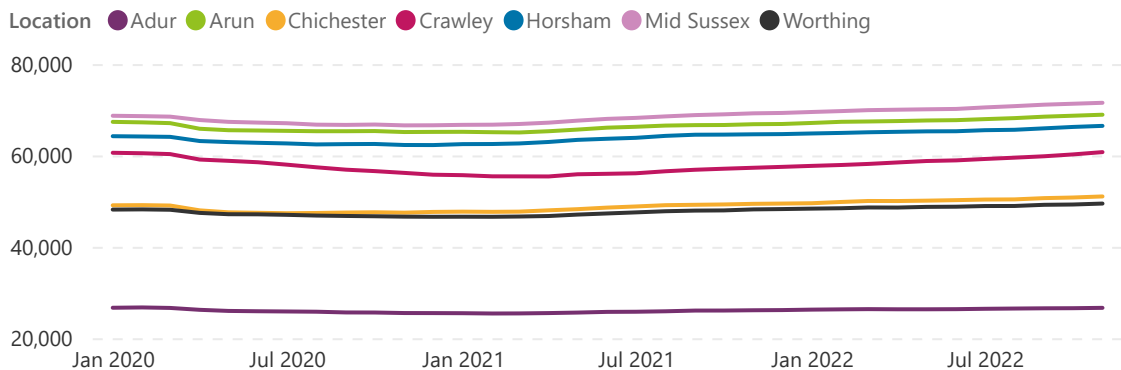
These figures are from a set of 'experimental statistics' from ONS from the earnings and employment statistics Pay as You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) seasonally adjusted data set. The latest data is up to the month of November 2022. West Sussex's employees increased by 0.47% from October 2022. The South East's employees grew by 0.35% and the UK's employees grew by 0.36%. The local authority with the largest growth from October was Crawley with 0.84%. Adur and Mid Sussex both saw the smallest growth in employees with 0.29%.

The latest data shows that Mid Sussex has the highest number of employees at 71,531 in West Sussex and Adur the lowest at 26,561. 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 and boroughs have 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

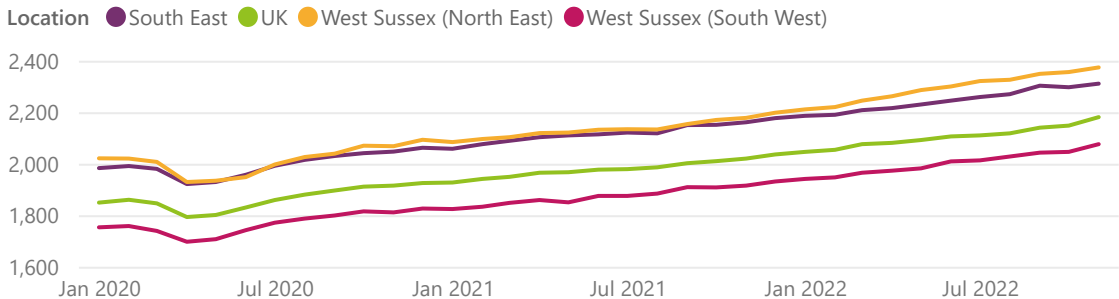
Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

Released: 13 December 2022

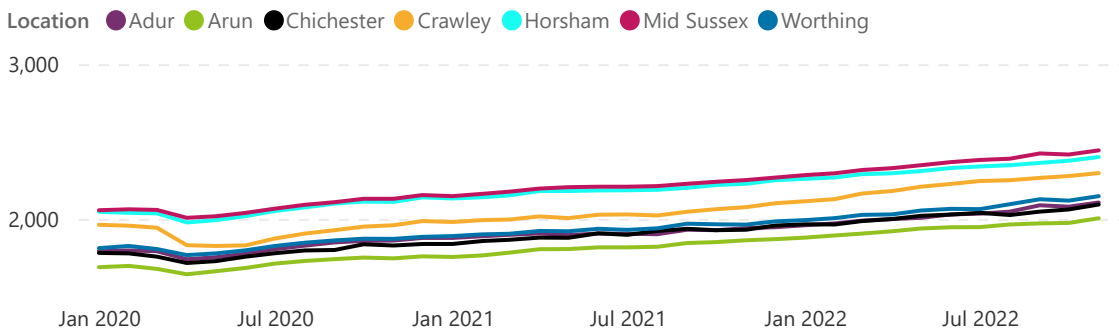
As in the previous page, these figures are based on the ONS statistics from the earnings and employment Pay As You Earn (Seasonally Adjusted) RTI data set and are up to the month of November 2022. The local authority with the largest percentage increase of pay from October 2022 was Chichester with 1.55% compared to an increase of 0.83% in Crawley which saw the lowest increase. West Sussex South West had a increase in median monthly pay by 1.47% and the North East had an increase in median monthly pay by 0.76% from October 2022. The South East's monthly median pay grew by 0.61% and the UK's grew by 1.54% since October 2022.

The local authority with the highest median monthly pay is Mid Sussex at £2,443, and the lowest is seen in Arun at £2,004. 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



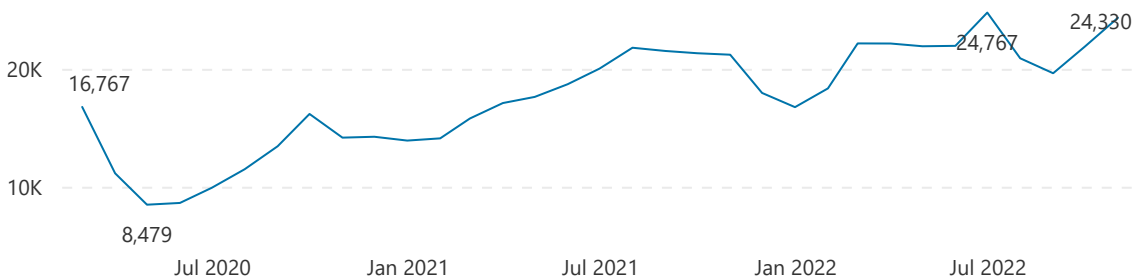
# Job Postings, West Sussex

Source: Lightcast

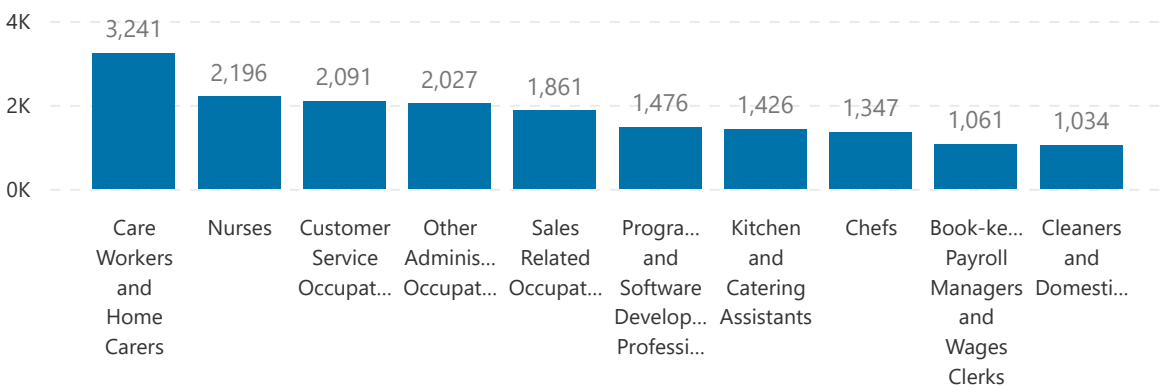
Released: December 2022

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 November 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

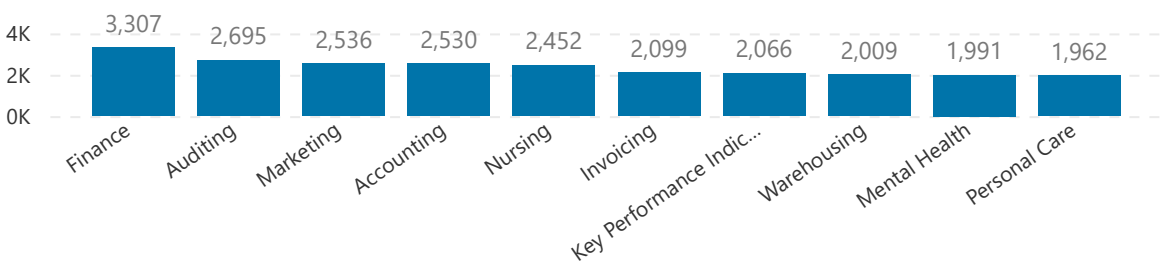
## Unique job postings over time in West Sussex



## Top 10 posted occupations (unique postings Jun- Nov 22)



## Top 10 hard skills (unique postings Jun-Nov 22)



# 2021 Census Release, West Sussex

Source: ONS

Released: December 2022

Since the last Snapshot there have been further releases from the 2021 Census. These have included topic summaries considering household composition, economic activity, and employment of residents by industry and occupation. In January it is expected that some data around education attainment and health, disability, and unpaid care will become available. There is a lot of information that has been released and the team are currently undertaking some analysis and looking at changes in trends since the 2011 Census. 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:

- The numbers of residents aged 16 and over who are in employment the week before the 2021 Census in West Sussex was 420,600 and an increase of around 5.7% since 2011, this compares with an increase of 4.3% in the South East region as well as in England.
- Arun had the highest numbers of residents in work in the county at 73,200, Horsham had the highest % increase since 2011 at 7.9% closely followed by Arun at 7.5%, growth in Adur was negligible at 0.8%.
- The highest number of residents (63,100) in West Sussex were employed in health and social work activities which has seen an increase of over 20% since 2011 closely followed by the wholesale and retail trade sector at 60,447. Whilst this trend was broadly the same across all local authority areas health and social work activities were particularly strong in Worthing, Arun, Adur and Chichester.

Percentage of all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the census by industrial sector																
Industry (current)	Adur		Arun		Chichester		Crawley		Horsham		Mid Sussex		Worthing		West Sussex	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
No. usual residents 16yrs+ in work	29,600	29,800	68,100	73,200	53,900	56,400	55,700	58,900	66,900	72,200	72,800	76,600	51,000	53,600	397,900	420,600
A,B,D,E Agriculture and Utilities	2.8	2.3	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.8	1.7	1.7	2.5	2.6	1.9	1.9	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.3
C: Manufacturing	8.3	5.9	8.8	8.1	7.2	6.6	6.5	5.5	7.6	6.2	5.7	4.9	8.4	6.5	7.4	6.2
F: Construction	9.8	11.4	8.6	9.8	7.9	8.7	6.2	7.7	7.7	8.7	7.6	8.7	7.3	8.5	7.8	8.9
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16.9	15.1	17.0	16.8	15.2	13.3	17.0	16.2	15.4	13.3	13.4	12.4	15.7	14.1	15.7	14.4
H: Transport and storage	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.3	2.8	15.5	12.9	6.1	5.4	6.5	5.0	4.2	3.8	6.5	5.6
I: Accommodation and food service activities	4.0	3.9	6.4	5.7	6.4	5.7	8.0	6.1	4.2	3.8	4.4	3.7	4.4	4.3	5.5	4.8
J: Information and communication	3.0	4.1	2.8	3.0	3.9	4.3	3.8	4.4	4.8	6.0	5.0	5.8	3.6	4.3	4.0	4.6
K: Financial and insurance activities	5.5	4.7	3.2	2.6	3.1	3.1	5.0	4.6	6.1	5.3	7.7	6.9	5.6	4.3	5.2	4.6
L: Real estate activities	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.2	0.8	0.9	1.8	2.1	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.3	5.7	5.0	4.9	7.3	7.2	4.5	4.4	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.8	5.5	5.7	6.4	6.4
N: Administrative and support service activities	4.5	5.1	5.2	6.1	5.1	6.1	7.8	7.7	5.6	6.4	5.7	6.3	4.8	5.0	5.6	6.2
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.1	6.1	6.5	4.4	4.7	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.9	6.1	6.0	5.1	5.3
P: Education	9.1	9.9	8.3	8.0	10.2	9.7	6.0	6.3	9.6	9.9	10.1	10.3	8.0	8.8	8.8	9.0
Q: Human health and social work activities	14.2	15.8	14.4	16.3	13.3	15.1	9.0	13.2	10.2	11.9	13.0	14.5	16.7	19.5	12.8	15.0
R, S, T, U Other	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.9	6.0	3.7	3.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.1

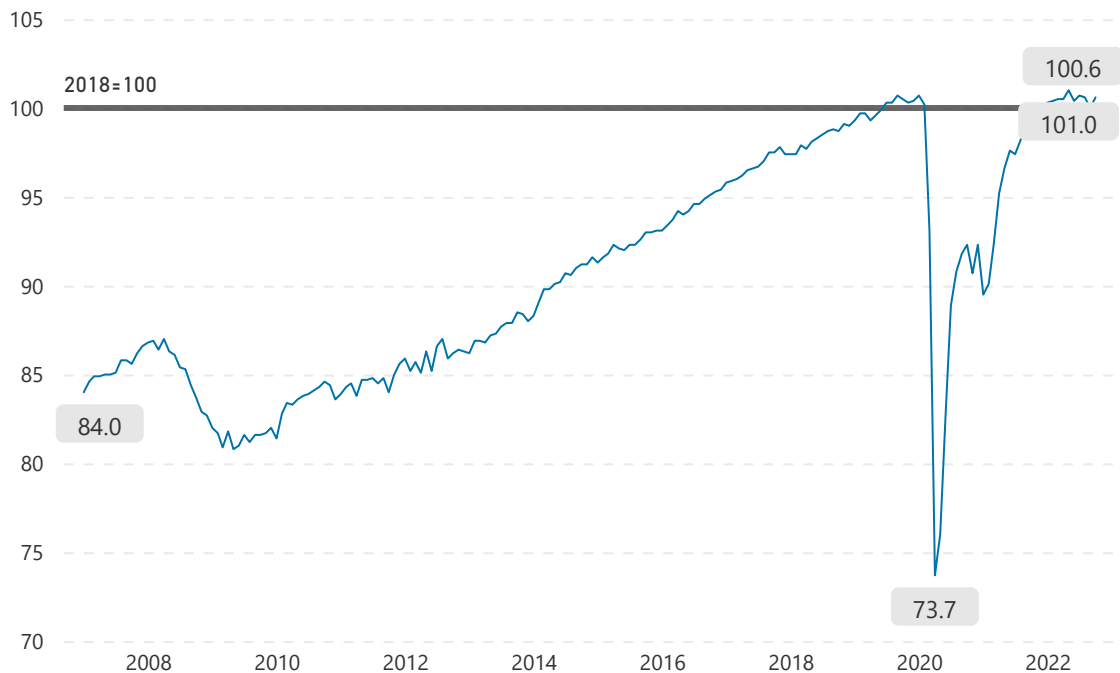
# National Headlines - Gross Domestic Product (GDP), UK

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

Released: 12 December 2022

- Gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have grown by 0.5% in October 2022, after a fall of 0.6% in September 2022. Looking at the broader picture, GDP fell in by 0.3% the three months to October compared with the three months to July 2022. Monthly GDP is now estimated to be 0.4% above its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) levels (February 2020).
- Services grew by 0.6% in October 2022 after a fall of 0.8% in September 2022. Wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles grew by 1.9% and was the largest contributor to the rise in services in October.
- Consumer-facing services grew by 1.2% in October 2022, after a fall of 1.7% in September 2022. The largest positive contributor in consumer-facing services was wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (6.5%).
- Production remained flat in October 2022 after a rise of 0.2% in September 2022. Manufacturing was the only sub-sector to contribute positivity to production which was offset by negative contributions from electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.
- Construction grew by 0.8% in October 2022 after a growth of 0.4% in September 2022. This increase in construction output came from an increase in both new work (0.5%) and repair and maintenance (1.3%).

## Monthly index, UK



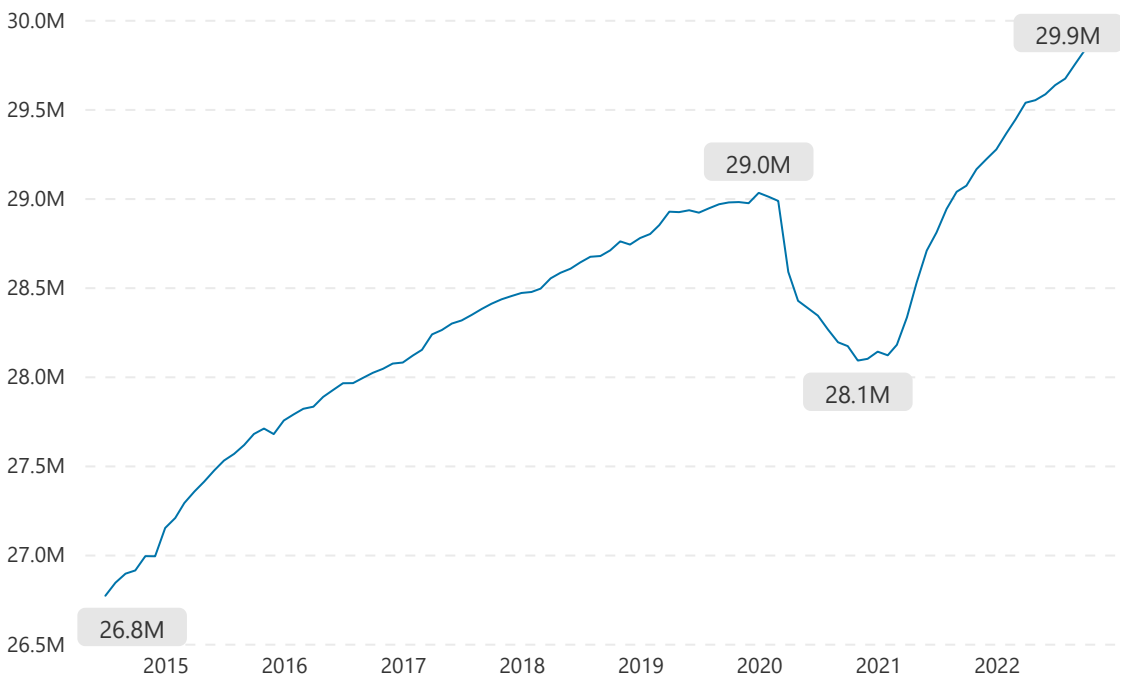
# Labour Market, UK

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

Released: 13 December 2022

- Early estimates for November 2022 indicate that the number of payrolled employees rose by 2.7% compared with November 2021, a rise of 777,000 employees; the number of payrolled employees was up by 3.2% since February 2020, a rise of 834,000.
- Payrolled employment increased by 107,000 employees (0.4%) in November 2022 when compared with October 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 October 2022 compared with September 2022 has been revised from an increase of 74,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 79,000, 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 November 2022 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 8.0% compared with November 2021 and increased by 17.3% when compared with February 2020.
- All age groups saw an increase in payrolled employees between November 2021 and November 2022; there was an increase of 121,000 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: 15 December 2022

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 70 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live for the period of 14 November – 27 November 2022.

- In late November 2022, 94% of businesses reported they were trading, with 85% fully trading and 9% partially trading.
- Of currently trading businesses with 10 or more employees, 19% had exported and 25% imported in the last 12 months.
- 73% of businesses reported some form of business concern for December 2022. This percentage was higher for businesses with 10 or more employees at 84%. The accommodation and food service activities industry had the highest proportion of all sized businesses reporting some form of concern at 93%.
- 13% of businesses were affected by industrial action in October 2022. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles industry reported the highest proportion (18%) of businesses affected by industrial action. 27% businesses were unable to obtain necessary goods, 24% of businesses were unable to operate fully and 23% of businesses were unable to obtain necessary services.
- 17% of businesses not permanently stopped trading with 10 or more employees reported their employees' hourly wages had increased in October 2022 compared with September 2022; this fell to 10% for all sized businesses. 22% of businesses with 10 or more employees reporting increased wages were seen in the education industry. This is down 9% from the proportion reported in September 2022.
- 13% businesses not permanently stopped trading were experiencing a shortage of workers. This percentage was higher for businesses with 10 or more employees at 32%. 54% of businesses with 10 employees or more reported employees were working increased hours and 37% of businesses were unable to meet demands.



# 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 2,029 in November 2022, 21% higher than in the same month in the previous year (1,676 in November 2021), and 35% higher than the number registered three years previously (1,505 in November 2019).

In November 2022 there were 1,595 Creditors' Voluntary Liquidations (CVLs). 5% higher than in November 2021 and 50% higher than November 2019. Numbers of administrations and company voluntary arrangements (CVAs) remained lower than before the pandemic.

For individuals, 546 bankruptcies were registered, which was 16% lower than in November 2021 and 60% lower than November 2019.

There were, on average, 7,801 Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) registered per month in the three-month period ending November 2022, which is 11% higher than the three-month period ending November 2021.

## Company insolvencies in England & Wales

