

West Sussex Economy Snapshot

January 2023 (Issue 30)

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, November-December, there was an increase of 1.5% in the number of claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex, regional and national figures increased by 2% each. Except for Crawley and Worthing, 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 latest data from the Annual Population Survey, released in Jan 2023, is for the period Oct 2021-Sep 2022. It suggests that West Sussex has higher economic activity rates and employment rates than the national and regional average. Self-employment rates have dropped over the last year – as they have regionally and nationally. Economic inactivity rates have decreased in West Sussex since twelve months to Sep 2021, with an exception amongst 16-24 year olds. The increase in economic inactivity in West Sussex since the pandemic in West Sussex has largely been driven by those who are now in full time education.

The number of employees on payrolls is 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 0.15% from November 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 fell by -2% 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- Jan 2022 – Dec 2022 was higher than the number of businesses that have been dissolved or have gone into liquidation – by around 599 businesses. In the last three months Oct – Dec 2022 there were 272 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 housing, sexual orientation and gender identity and education household composition, economic activity, and employment of residents by industry and occupation. In West Sussex, the number and percentage of residents aged 16+ degree level qualification is higher, at 32.7%. 38% of households in the county own their property outright, and 31.7% own with a mortgage or loan, or shared ownership.

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 November by 0.1% following a growth in the previous month (an increase of 0.5% in October). Monthly GDP is now estimated to be 0.3% below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) levels (February 2020). Service sector grew by 0.2% in November 2022. Administrative and support service activities and information and communication are the main contributors to the service sector growth in GDP. Consumer-facing services grew in November 2022 by 0.4%, following a growth of 1.5% in October 2022 - food and beverage service activities was the major contributor to this rise. Production fell by 0.2% in November 2022 after a fall of 0.1% in October 2022. Construction was flat in November 2022, following a growth of 0.4% in November.

The number of payrolled employees has continued to increase nationally, albeit at a slower rate, and over the year December 2021-December 2022 rose by 2.3%. Early estimates suggest that median monthly pay increased by over 7.7% since December 2021 and by 17.9% compared with February 2020.

From the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICs), 95% of businesses reported they were trading. 30% of trading businesses reported turnover was lower compared with November 2022. 13% of the businesses reported that they were affected by industrial action in October 2022. 41% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in December 2022 compared to the previous month. Energy prices remain the top reason businesses are considering raising their prices in February 2023. 25% of businesses reported an increase in their staffing costs over the last three months.

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 1,964 in December 2022, 32% higher than in the same month in the previous year and 76% higher than three years previously.

New Businesses, West Sussex

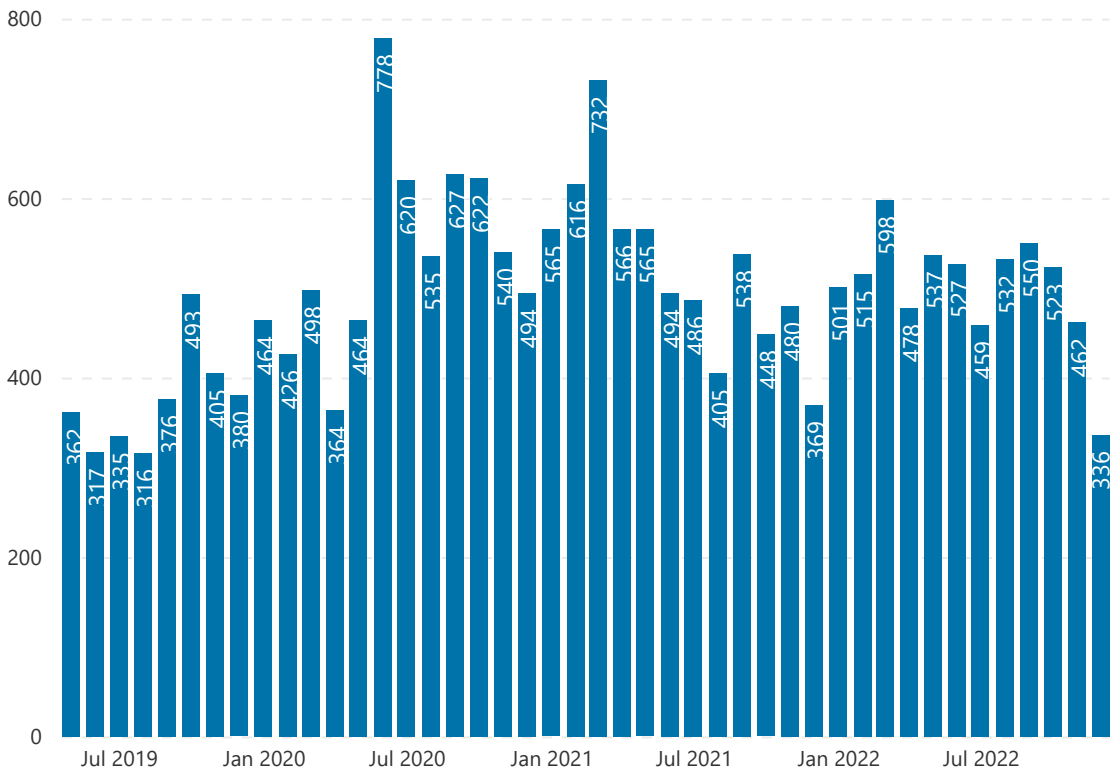
Source: FAME

Released: January 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, January 2022-December 2022 there were around 5,855 new business incorporations, higher than the 5,256 businesses that were dissolved, or which had gone into liquidation.

In the last 3 months – October – December 2022 there were 272 more new business incorporations than there had been for those which have dissolved/in liquidation.

New business incorporations in West Sussex



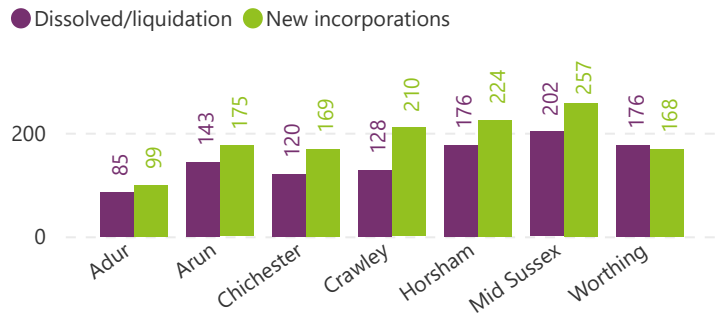
Businesses, West Sussex

Source: FAME

Released: January 2022

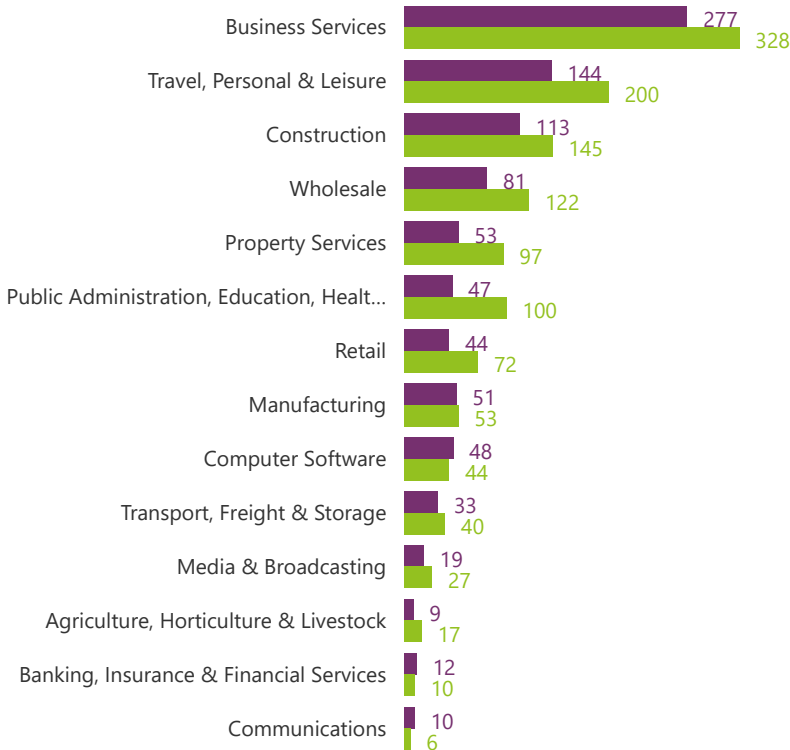
Over the last three-month period – Oct 2022- Dec 2022 Mid Sussex continues to have the highest number of new business incorporations. Mid Sussex also has the highest number of companies that have dissolved or are in liquidation. There is increasing speculation that with high inflation levels as well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

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



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry (Oct- Dec 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. Computer software, banking, insurance & financial services and communications 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.

Economic Activity, West Sussex

Source: Annual Population Survey

Released: 27 January 2023 (Latest Data: Oct 2021-Sep 2022)

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a residence-based labour market survey encompassing population, economic activity, economic inactivity, and qualifications. Whilst some of the data sets are released annually, most are updated quarterly. The APS is a sample survey, it's subject to sampling issues and there have been some changes in the collection of data and sample composition made in data collection during the pandemic, however, it does provide an indication of trends around economic activity.

The latest figures published cover the twelve months to Sep'22. West Sussex has higher economic activity rates compared with the regional and national average and at 81.50% continues to have higher employment rates (78.90%) compared with that of the South East Region (78.0%) and England (75.70%). Within the county, Chichester has the lowest economic activity and employment rates and Horsham has the highest economic activity and employment rate. Self-employment rate for West Sussex is now at 10.0%, slightly higher than the national rate but lower than for the South East region.

Compared to the year ending Sep 2021, self-employment rates have decreased in Adur, Chichester and Worthing. Worthing has the highest self-employment rate in the county at 13.30%. However, with significant fluctuations in the data in recent quarters, together with sampling issues these figures should be treated with some caution.

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	Oct 20-Sep 21	Oct 21-Sep 22	Oct 20-Sep 21	Oct 21-Sep 22	Oct 20-Sep 21	Oct 21-Sep 22
Adur	91.20	74.30	86.10	73.20	12.00	7.30
Arun	82.60	86.70	81.30	82.20	9.20	10.20
Chichester	69.10	67.70	67.40	66.10	13.80	7.60
Crawley	89.30	81.60	87.20	80.20	3.90	6.00
Horsham	76.70	88.60	73.90	87.50	11.00	11.20
Mid Sussex	82.40	85.00	78.20	85.00	7.80	12.60
Worthing	82.70	79.80	79.80	71.50	14.40	13.30
West Sussex	81.40	81.50	78.70	78.90	10.00	10.00
South East	81.10	80.40	77.90	78.00	10.60	10.10
England	78.90	78.70	75.00	75.70	9.70	9.40

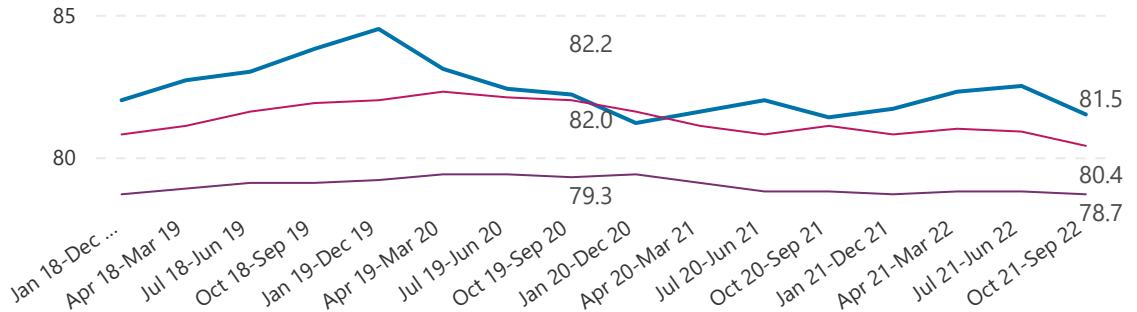
Economic Activity, West Sussex

Source: Annual Population Survey

Released: 27 January 2023 (Latest Data: Oct 2021-Sep 2022)

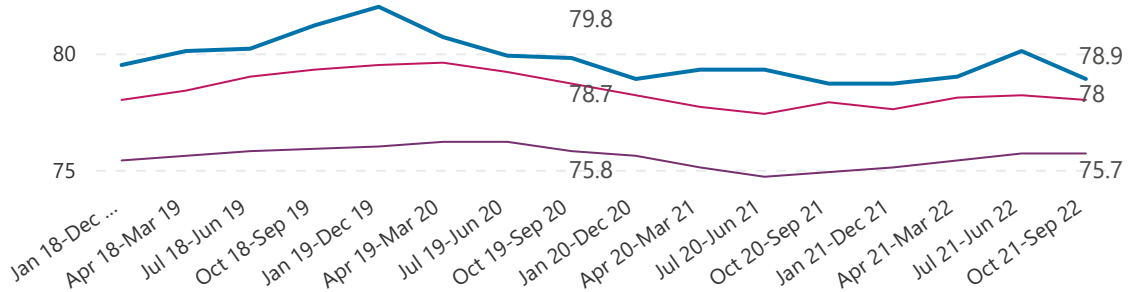
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



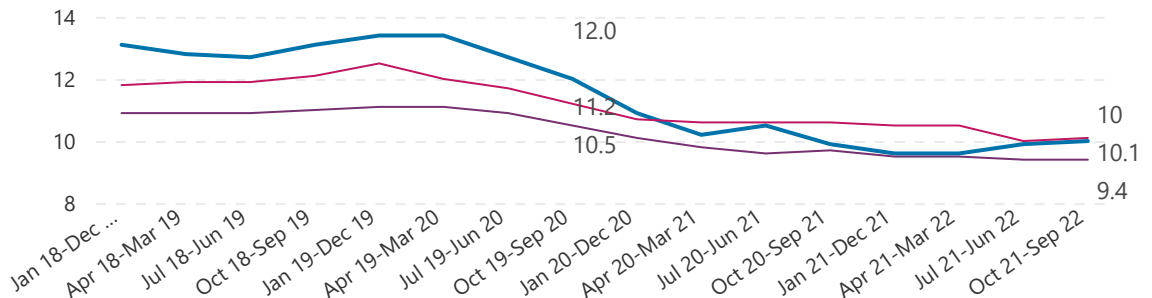
Employment rate - aged 16-64

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



% aged 16-64 who are self employed

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



Economically Inactive, West Sussex

Source: Annual Population Survey

Released: 27 January 2023 (Latest Data: Oct 2021-Sep 2022)

Economically inactive are those who are not in employment who have not been seeking work and/or are unable to work. This group includes people who are retired, those looking after family, those who are long term sick and students. In West Sussex, there are higher numbers of economically inactive than there were before the pandemic.

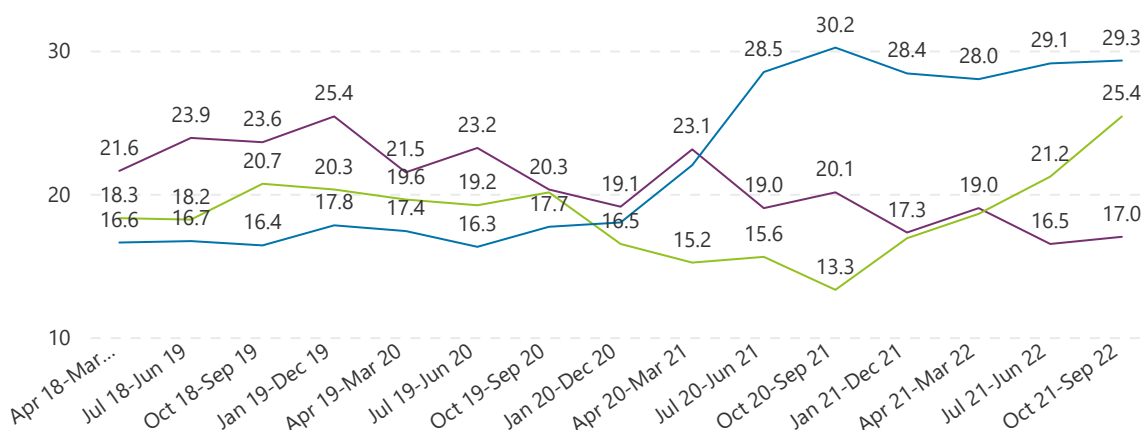
Economic inactivity due to long-term sickness has fallen below the pre-pandemic levels. What is noticeable however, is the increase, since the end of 2020, amongst those who are economically inactive for the reason that they are students, though this was fallen slightly, and has again increased in the year ending June 2021. Economic inactivity by those who are retired has also seen a steady increase in West Sussex.

Economically inactive by age

Age	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-49		Aged 50+	
	Apr 19-Mar 20	Oct 21-Sep 22	Apr 19-Mar 20	Oct 21-Sep 22	Apr 19-Mar 20	Oct 21-Sep 22
West Sussex	21,800	30,300	22,100	20,900	211,300	212,700
South East	299,600	350,700	266,900	305,600	1,936,500	1,997,400
England	2,235,700	2,311,500	2,282,200	2,199,000	11,526,900	12,087,000

Reasons for Economic Inactivity in West Sussex

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



Claimant Count, West Sussex

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

Released: 17 January 2023 (December 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.

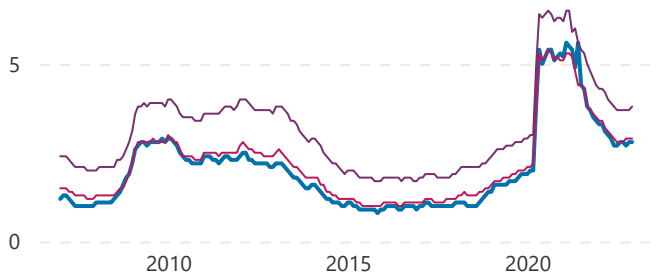
There were 14,035 claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex in December 2022, an increase of 1.5% from the previous month, compared with a regional and national (England) increase of 2% each.

All districts and boroughs in West Sussex saw an increase in claimants from Nov'22, except Crawley and Worthing. Arun saw the highest increase in claimants at 5%.

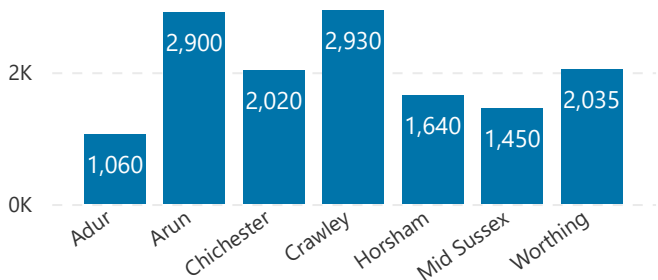
Crawley has the highest number of claimants at 2,930 and the highest claimant count rate at 4.1%, higher than the regional and national rates. Mid Sussex has the lowest claimant count rate at 1.6%. In West Sussex, % of male claimants aged 16+ increased by 1.3% and female increased by 1.9%.

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: 17 January 2023 (December 2022 figures are provisional)

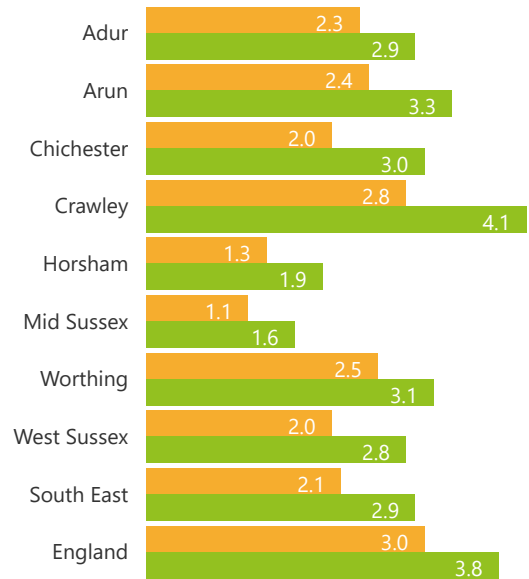
Age profile of claimants: Worthing (20.1%) has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds, and Chichester the lowest at 12.4%. Chichester has a higher proportion of claimants who are over 50 years.

There are 2,155 claimants aged 18-24 in West Sussex, which is an increase of 1.2% from the previous month. National (England) and regional figures also increased by 1.2% and 1.7% for this age category. Crawley has the highest number of claimants in this age group at 435. It was only Crawley in West Sussex that saw a fall, (-8.4%), 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 0.8% in claimants amongst males aged 18-24 years; females by 1.7%.

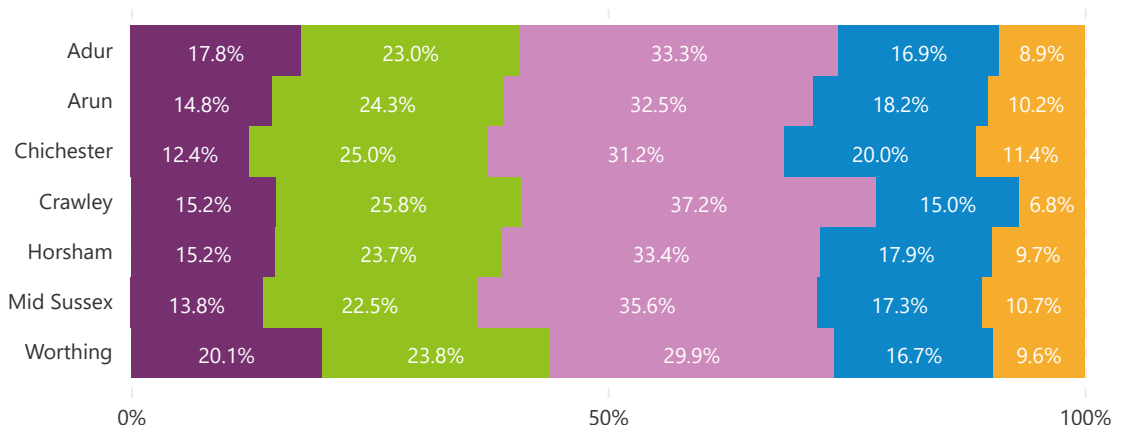
Claimant count rates change

● March 2020 ● December 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

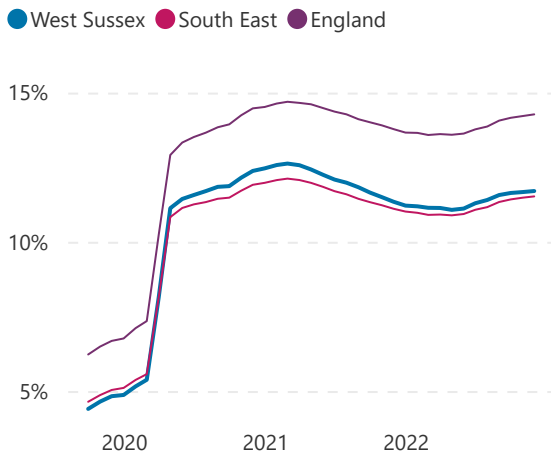
Source: [Department for Work and Pensions](#)

Released: 17 January 2023 (December 2022 figures are provisional)

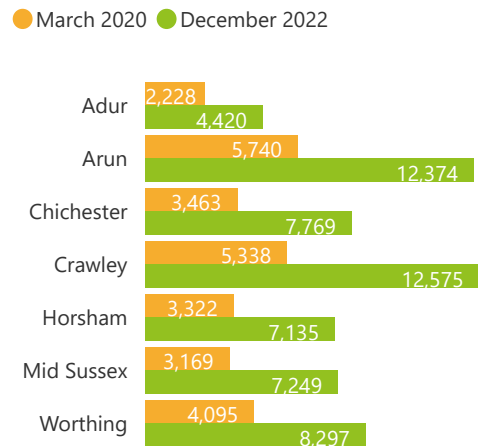
Universal Credit is a single payment for each household to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. In December 2022, there were 59,824 Universal Credit claimants, which is a 1.2% increase from previous month. The numbers of people claiming Universal Credit in West Sussex has increased 118% since March 2020 - from 27,355 to 59,630 in December 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 (136%) over the period from March 2020 (at the start of the pandemic) to December 2022 though there has been a significant rise in the number of residents claiming Universal Credit across the county. Please note November and December 2022 employment/not in employment breakdown hasn't released yet.

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



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

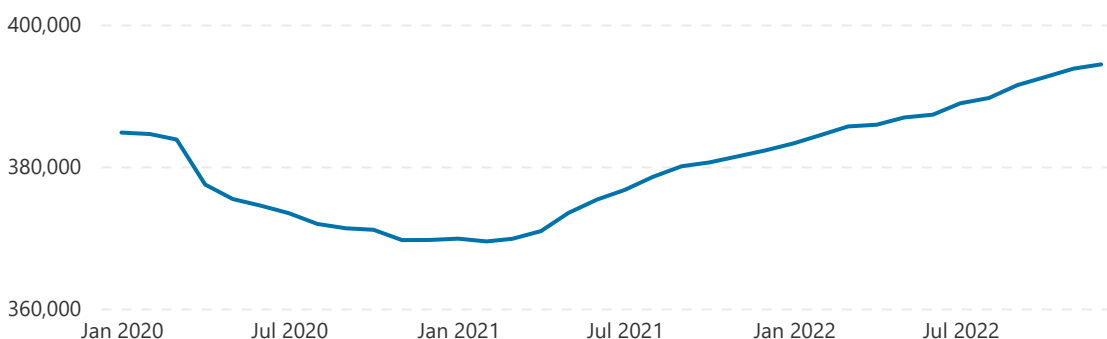
Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

Released: 17 January 2023

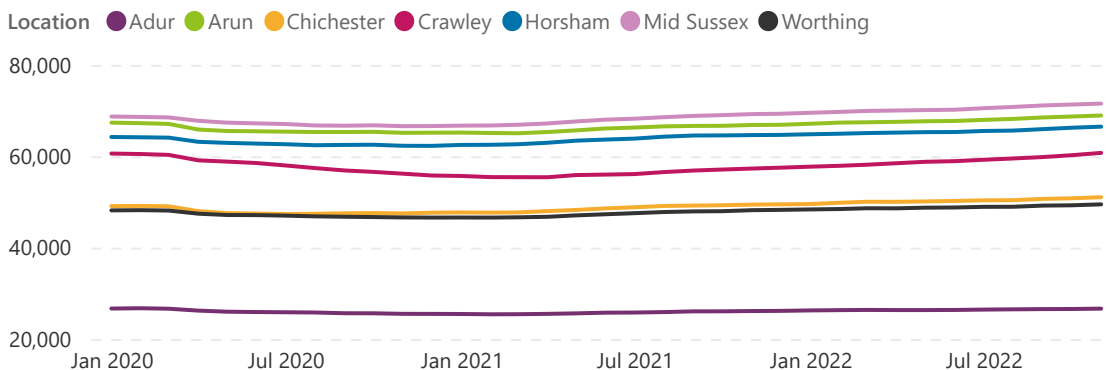
These figures are from a set of 'experimental statistics' from ONS from the earnings and employment statistics Pay as You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) seasonally adjusted data set. The latest data is up to the month of December 2022. West Sussex's employees increased by 0.15% from November 2022. The South East's employees grew by 0.002% and the UK's employees grew by 0.09%. 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

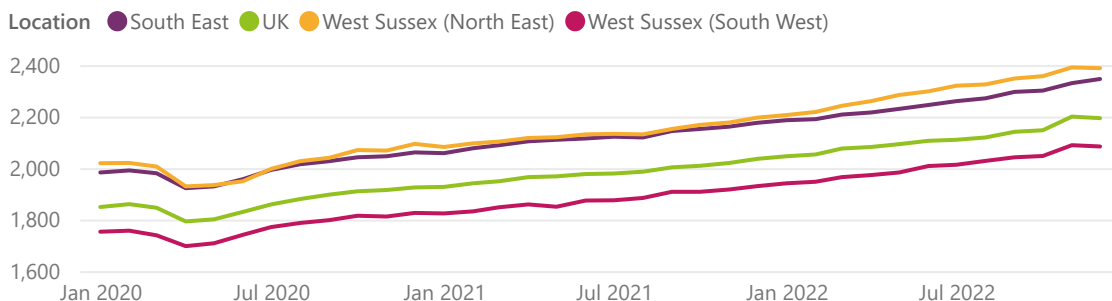
Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

Released: 17 January 2023

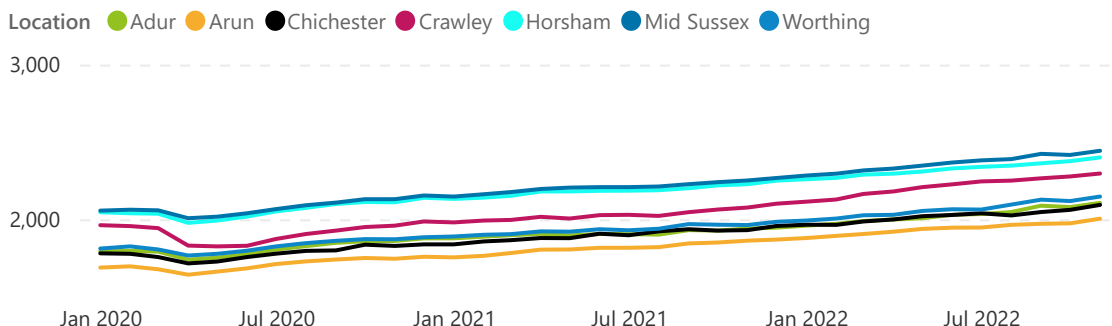
As in the previous page, these figures are based on the ONS statistics from the earnings and employment Pay As You Earn (Seasonally Adjusted) RTI data set and are up to the month of December 2022. The local authority with the largest percentage increase of pay from October 2022 was Chichester with 1.55% compared to an increase of 0.83% in Crawley which saw the lowest increase. West Sussex South West had a decrease in median monthly pay by -0.23% and the North East had a decrease in median monthly pay by -0.12% from November 2022. The South East's monthly median pay grew by 0.69% and the UK's fell by -0.27% since November 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



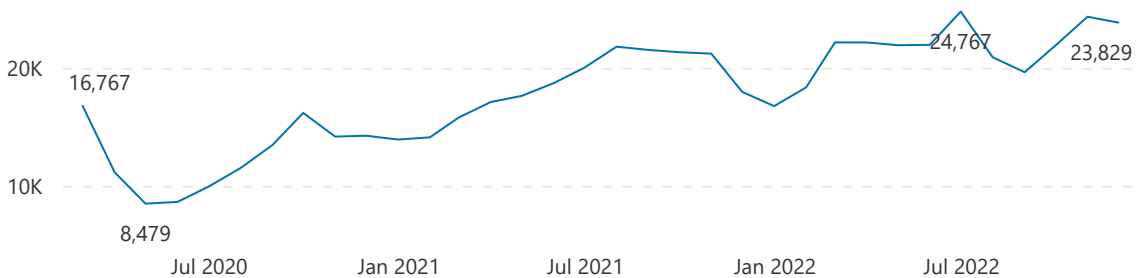
Job Postings, West Sussex

Source: Lightcast

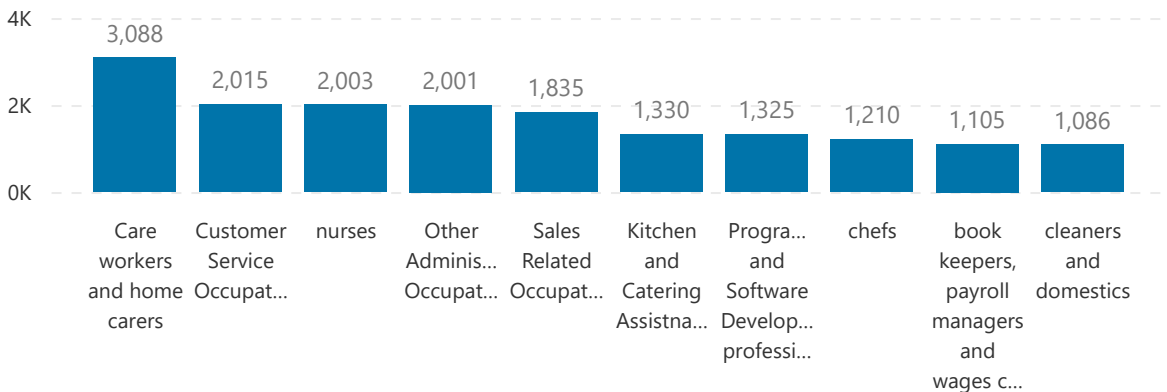
Released: January 2022

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 December 2022, care workers and home carers continue to make up the highest numbers of job postings, followed by customer service. Nurses, administrative and sales related 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

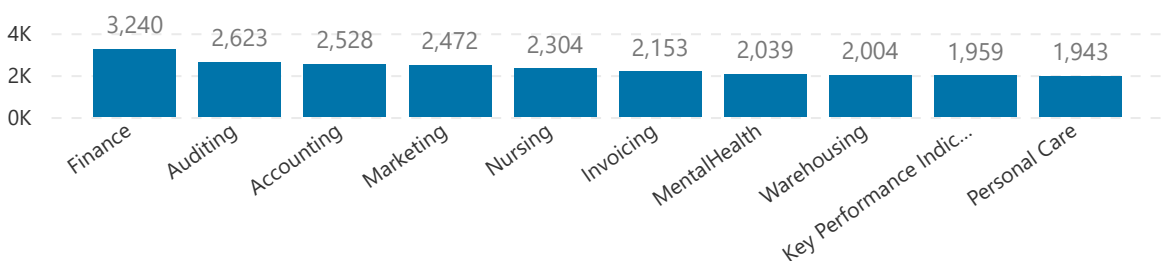
Unique job postings over time in West Sussex



Top 10 posted occupations (unique postings Jul-Dec 22)



Top 10 hard skills (unique postings Jul-Dec 22)



2021 Census Release, West Sussex

Source: ONS

Released: January 2022

There have been further releases from the 2021 Census over the last month. These have included topic summaries considering around housing, sexual orientation and gender identity and education 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, along with some [interactive tools](#) that looks at how some things have changed in the 10 years between census', and from the nomis website there are some [Census profiles](#) already put together for areas in England and Wales.

Some key headlines from the Census data so far include:

- The numbers and percentages of residents aged 16 years and over in West Sussex who hold a degree level qualification is higher, at 32.7% in West Sussex than it was in 2011 (27.8%). Mid Sussex has the highest % of residents holding a degree level qualification (38.7%) and Arun the lowest at 26.4%.
- The percentage of residents aged 16 yrs + who hold a degree level qualification in West Sussex is lower than the national (England) and regional average.
- 38% of households in the county own their property outright, and 31.7% own with a mortgage or loan, or shared ownership. Nearly 30% of households live in a detached property and 27.2% in a semi-detached property.
- The proportion of households who do not have a car or van in West Sussex has fallen to 16% in 2021 compared to 17.8% in 2011.

Percentage of residents aged 16 years and over by highest level of qualification held

	West Sussex	Adur	Arun	Chichester	Crawley	Horsham	Mid Sussex	Worthing	South East	England
Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No qualifications	15.8	19.5	19.7	14.8	17.8	12.5	11.7	16.2	15.4	18.1
Level 1 and entry level qualifications	10.5	11.5	11.6	8.8	13.3	9.5	9.3	10.7	9.8	9.7
Level 2 qualifications	15.2	15.0	15.3	13.7	16.3	15.6	15.0	15.2	13.9	13.3
Apprenticeship	5.4	6.3	6.5	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.7	5.4	5.1	5.3
Level 3 qualifications	17.5	17.1	17.2	17.8	16.4	18.1	18.0	17.8	17.4	16.9
Level 4 qualifications or above	32.7	27.9	26.4	37.2	27.5	37.0	38.7	31.7	35.8	33.9
Other qualifications	2.9	2.7	3.3	2.5	3.4	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.8

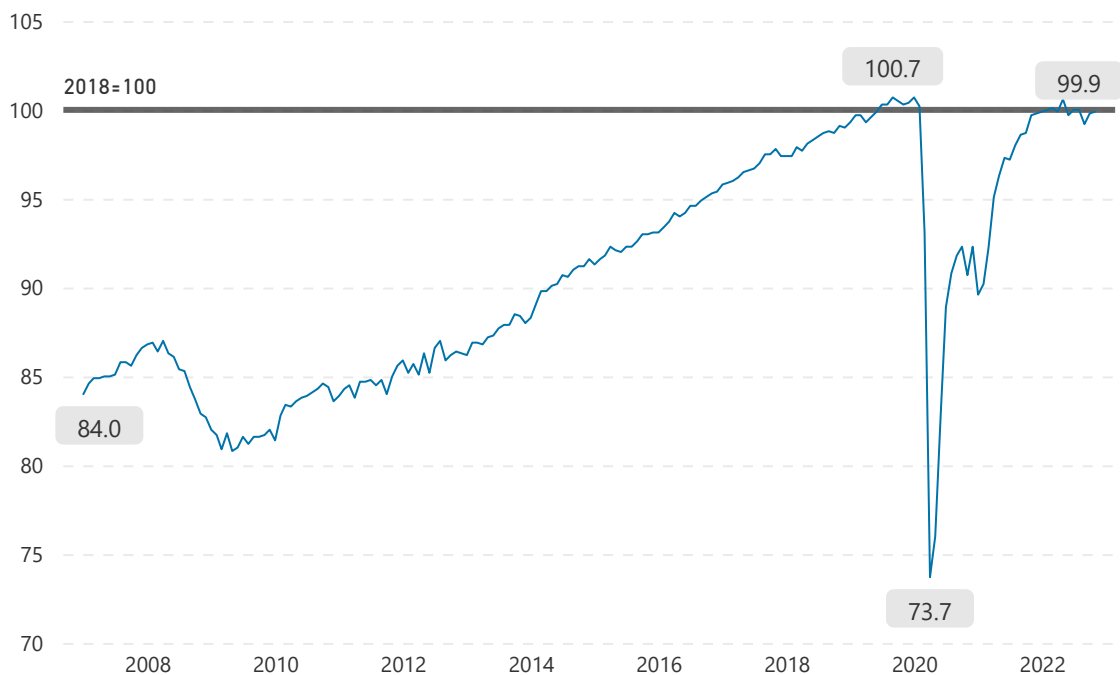
National Headlines - Gross Domestic Product (GDP), UK

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

Released: 13 January 2023

- Gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in November 2022, after a growth of 0.5% in October 2022. Looking at the broader picture, GDP fell in by 0.3% the three months to Nov'22. Monthly GDP is now estimated to be 0.3% below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) levels (February 2020).
- Services grew by 0.2% in November 2022 after a growth of 0.7% in October 2022. Administrative and support service activities (0.12%) and information and communication (0.11%) was the largest contributor to the rise in services in November.
- Consumer-facing services grew by 0.4% in November 2022, after a growth of 1.5% in October 2022. The largest positive contributor in consumer-facing services was food and beverage service activities (2.2%).
- Production fell by 0.2% in November 2022 after a fall of 0.1% in October 2022. Manufacturing was the main driver of negative production growth which was offset by positive contribution from mining and quarrying.
- Construction was flat in November 2022 after a growth of 0.4% in October 2022. This flat growth in construction output came from a decrease in new work (0.4%), offset by an increase in repair and maintenance (0.6%).

Monthly index, UK



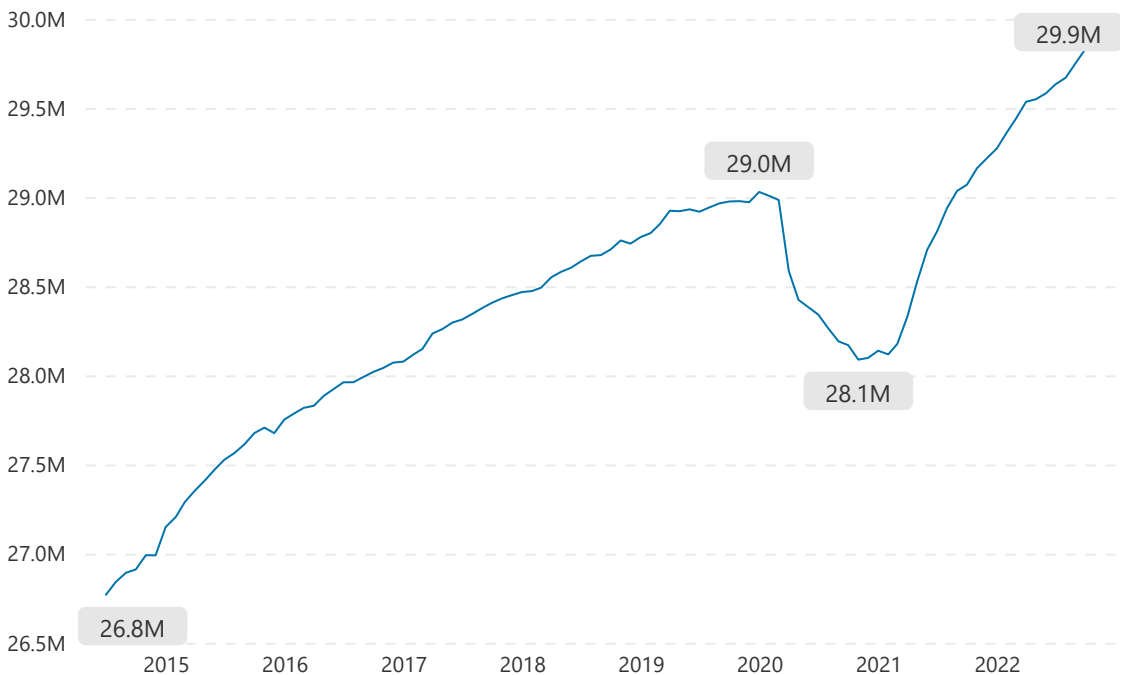
Labour Market, UK

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

Released: 17 January 2023

- Early estimates for December 2022 indicate that the number of payrolled employees rose by 2.3% compared with December 2021, a rise of 676,000 employees; the number of payrolled employees was up by 3.1% since February 2020, a rise of 888,000.
- Payrolled employment increased by 28,000 employees (0.1%) in December 2022 when compared with November 2022, though this should be treated as a provisional estimate and is likely to be revised when more data are received next month.
- UK payrolled employee growth for November 2022 compared with October 2022 has been revised from an increase of 107,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 70,000, 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 December 2022 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 7.7% compared with December 2021, and increased by 17.9% when compared with February 2020.
- All age groups saw an increase in payrolled employees between December 2021 and December 2022; there was an increase of 83,000 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: 26 January 2023

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 74 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live for the period of 9 to 22 January 2023.

- In mid-January 2023, 95% of businesses reported they were trading, with 85% fully trading and 9% partially trading.
- In December 2022, almost a third (30%) of trading businesses reported turnover was lower compared with November 2022, while 13% reported their turnover was higher; the wholesale and retail trade industry reported the largest percentage of businesses whose turnover was lower, at 46%.
- Of trading businesses, 41% reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in December 2022 compared with November 2022, down from 42% reported between October and November 2022.
- Energy prices remain the top reason businesses are considering raising their prices in February 2023 with 35% of trading businesses reporting this.
- Almost a quarter (23%) of businesses reported their overall performance such as pricing, trading and workforce had decreased in December 2022 compared with December 2021
- In mid-January 2023, a quarter (25%) of businesses reported an increase in their staffing costs over the last three months, with the accommodation and food service activities industry reporting the largest proportion of businesses whose staffing costs had increased, at 44%.

Businesses Closures, UK

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

Released: 17 January 2023

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 1,964 in December 2022, 32% higher than in the same month in the previous year (1,489 in December 2021), and 76% higher than the number registered three years previously (1,119 in December 2019).

There were 183 compulsory liquidations in December 2022, more than three and a half times as many as in December 2021 and 8% higher than in December 2019. Numbers of compulsory liquidations have increased from historical lows seen during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

There were 1,979 Debt Relief Orders (DROs) in December 2022, which was 6% higher than December 2021 but 5% lower than the pre-pandemic comparison month (December 2019).

There were, on average, 7,233 Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) registered per month in the three-month period ending December 2022, which is 9% higher than the three-month period ending December 2021, and 26% higher than the three-month period ending December 2019.

Company insolvencies in England & Wales

