

July 2026 (Issue 4)

Table of contents

No. Page title

1	West Sussex Summary
2-3	West Sussex new businesses (FAME)
4-5	Claimants
6-7	Universal Credit Claimants
8	IT Business Sector
9	Real Time Information PAYE (employees)
10	Real Time Information PAYE (median pay)
11	Job Postings (Lightcast)
12	House Prices
13	National Summary
14	Job Vacancies (UK)
15	Gross Domestic Product
16	Labour Market
17	Business Trading
18	Business Closures (Company)
19	Business Closures (Individual)

West Sussex Summary



New Businesses July 2026

- 521 new businesses incorporated. (8% more than June 2026)
- 759 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (95% increase from June 2026)
- Net decrease of 238 businesses.

Claimants July 2026

- Claimant count increased by **1.3%** in West Sussex over the last month.
- The claimant count rate slightly increased from **3%** to **3.1%** in West Sussex, matching the regional rate, which also remained unchanged at **3.1%**. Meanwhile, the national rate decreased to **4.0%**.

Universal Credit Claimants May 2026 (latest revised data May 2026 updates quarterly)

- Universal Credit claimants increased by **0.4%** in West Sussex over the last month.
- In April 2026, **15.7%** of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of **19.6%**.

West Sussex IT businesses and IT job postings summary (July 2026):

- **Business incorporations** have grown strongly since 2024, remaining well above historic levels despite a slight decline in 2026.
- **IT job postings** fell significantly from their 2021 peak but have shown signs of recovery during 2025–2026.
- **Overall**, the IT sector appears to be expanding, with strong business formation and improving demand for IT talent.

No of Employees (Real Time Information) July 2026 (% Change from June 2026 - July 2026)

- West Sussex: 396,502 (decreased by **0.10%**)
- West Sussex (South West): 194,970 (decreased by **0.11%**)

- West Sussex (North East): 201,532 (decreased by **0.08%**)
- South East: 4,273,158 (decreased by **0.06%**)
- UK: 30,263,016 (decreased by **0.04%**)

Median Pay (Real Time Information) June 2026 (% Change from June 2026 - July 2026)

- West Sussex (South West): 2,543 (increased by **0.63%**)
- West Sussex (North East): 2,846 (increased by **0.14%**)
- South East: 2,792 (increased by **0.29%**)
- UK: 2,642 (increased by **0.23%**)

Job Postings (Lightcast)

- In July 2026, there were **11,656** unique job postings in West Sussex, which is about **15%** higher than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (**February 2026 to July 2026**), home health aide is the top posted followed closely by janitors/cleaners.

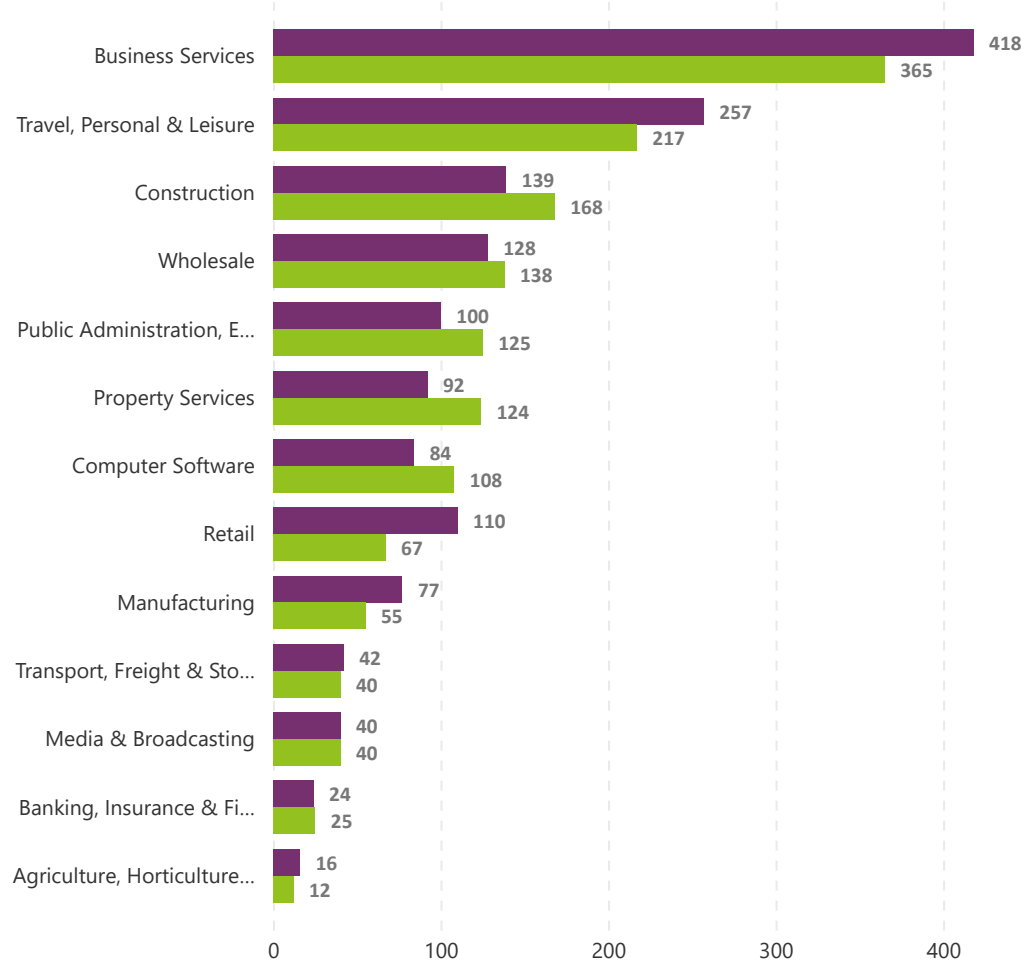
Average House Price June 2026

- Adur: £380,000
- Arun: £322,000
- Chichester: £430,000
- Crawley: £338,000
- Horsham: £437,000
- Mid Sussex: £426,000
- Worthing: £296,000

West Sussex: New Businesses

Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry in West Sussex (May'26 - Jul'26)

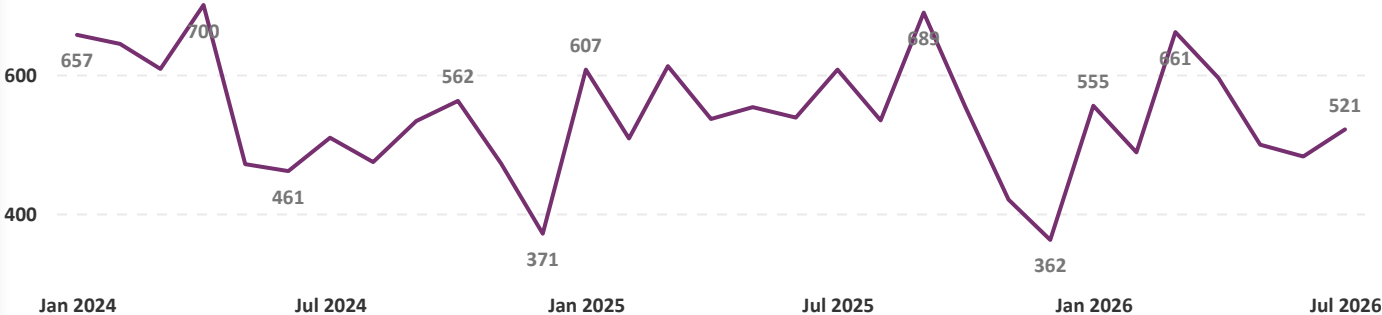
● Dissolved/liquidation ● New incorporations



New Business Count

8% ▲

New business incorporations in West Sussex



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend:

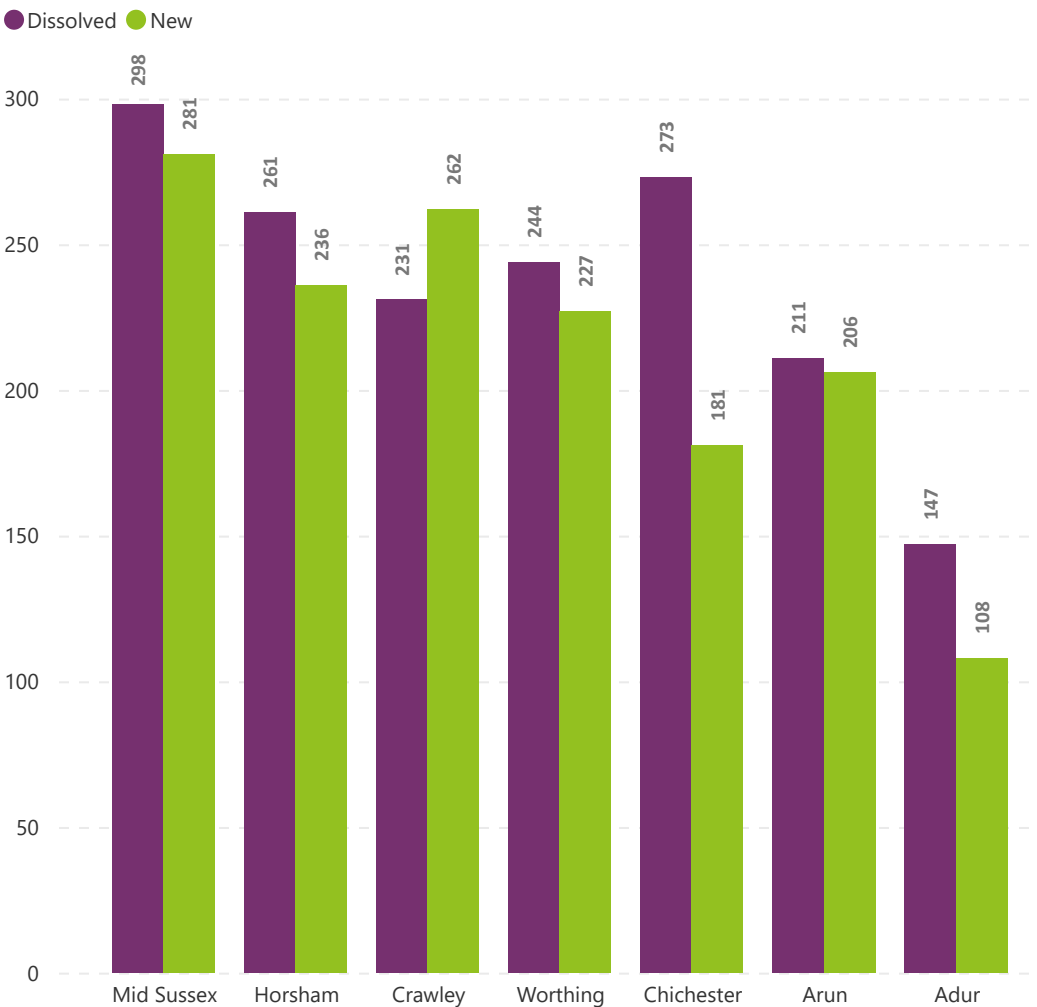
- A mix of new business incorporations and dissolutions was recorded across all sectors, with **business closures exceeding new incorporations in Business Services, Travel, Personal & Leisure, Retail, Manufacturing, and Agriculture.**
- **Construction, Wholesale, Public Administration, Property Services, Computer Software, and Banking, Insurance & Finance** recorded net business growth, with more new businesses being incorporated than dissolved.
- **Overall, West Sussex recorded slightly higher levels of business liquidation than new business creation** across the sectors shown, indicating a challenging business environment during **May to July 2026.**

July 2026:

- 521 new businesses incorporated. (8% more than June 2026)
- 759 businesses dissolved or liquidated. (95% increase from June 2026)
- Net decrease of 238 businesses.

West Sussex: New Businesses

Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (May'26-Jul'26)



Adur ratio

-26.5%

Arun ratio

-2.4%

Chichester ratio

-33.7%

Crawley ratio

13.4%

Horsham ratio

-9.6%

Mid Sussex ratio

-5.7%

Worthing ratio

-7.0%

West Sussex ratio

-9.8%

Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Over the last 3 months:

- A mix of new business incorporations and dissolutions was recorded across all local authorities, with **business closures exceeding new incorporations in Mid Sussex, Horsham, Worthing, Chichester, Arun, and Adur.**
- **Crawley was the only district to record net business growth**, with 262 new business incorporations compared with 231 dissolutions, indicating stronger business creation than closure during the period.
- **Chichester recorded the largest gap between business closures and new incorporations**, with 273 dissolutions compared with 181 new businesses, suggesting a particularly challenging business environment.
- **Overall, West Sussex districts recorded higher levels of business liquidation than new business creation between May and July 2026**, with only Crawley showing a net increase in business numbers.

Last 12 months:

- 6,785 new businesses incorporated.
- 7,010 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net decrease of 225 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,501 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,665 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net decrease of 164 businesses.

West Sussex: Claimant Count (numbers)

16,480
Jun'26

16,695
Jul'26

West Sussex Change
1.3% ▲

Adur
2.6% ▲

Arun
1.1% ▲

Horsham
1.2% ▲

Chichester
2.2% ▲

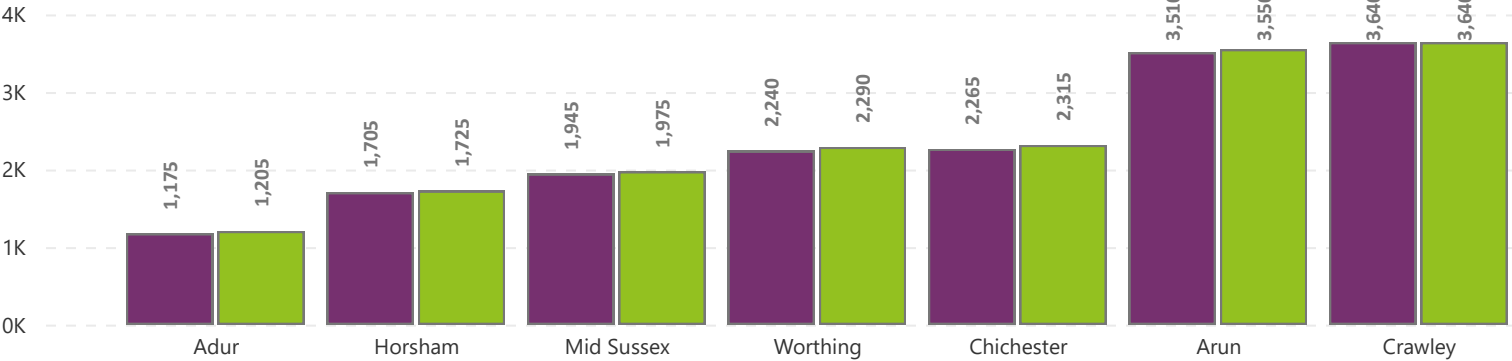
Crawley
0.0% —

Mid Sussex
1.5% ▲

Worthing
2.2% ▲

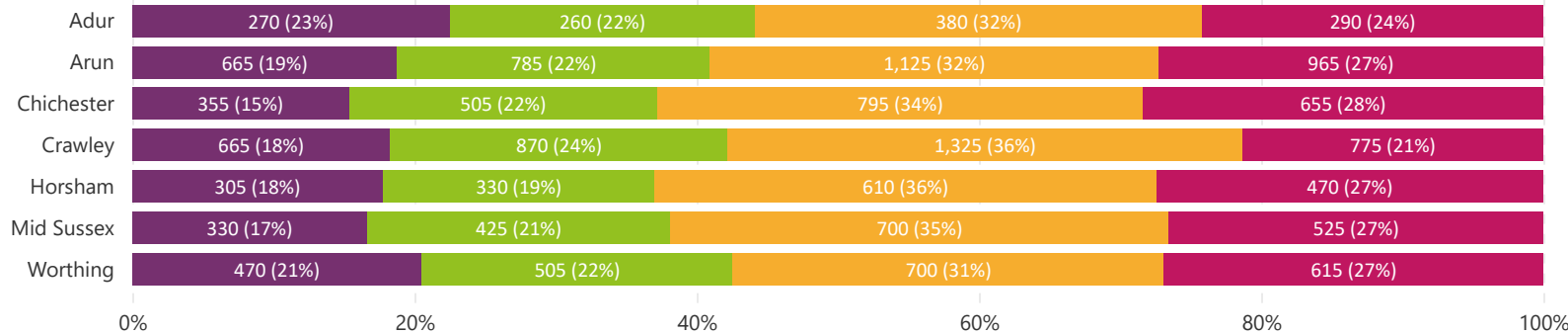
Total Number of Claimants by Local Authority

● June 2026 ● July 2026



Distribution of claimants by age band

● Aged 18-24 ● Aged 25-34 ● Aged 35-49 ● Aged 50+



Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, July 2026

Breakdown by district (Jun'26 - Jul'26):

Age groups:

- Adur highest % of young claimants.
- Arun and Crawley has the most number of young claimants (665)
- Crawley has the highest number of claimants who are age 35-49

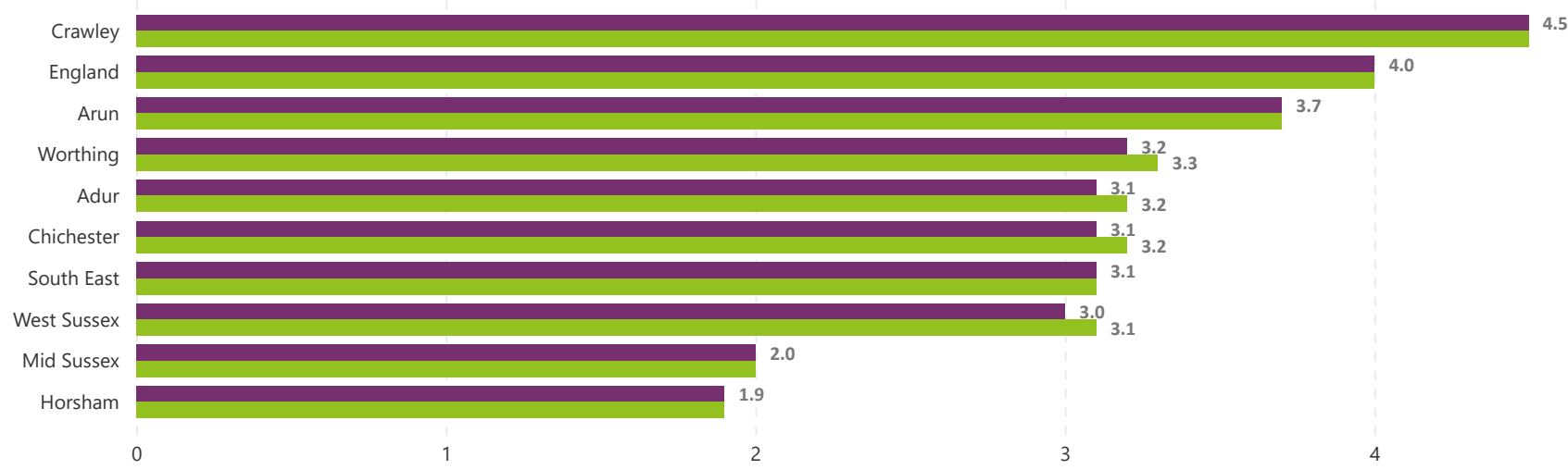
Specifics (Jul'26):

- Crawley recorded the highest claimant count (**3,640**).
- Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (**4.5%**), higher then regional and national average.

West Sussex: Claimant Count (rate)

Claimant count rate change

June 2026 July 2026



West Sussex Change

0.1 ▲

England Change

0.0 —

South East Change

0.0 —

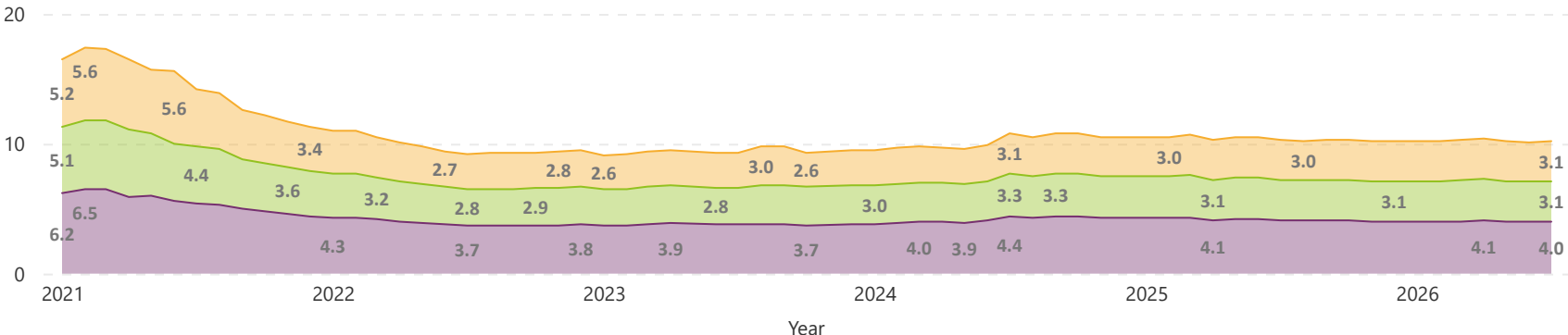
Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, July 2026

Overall:

- Claimant count has increased over the last month by **1.3%** (16,695) in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate slightly increased from 3% to **3.1% in West Sussex**, remaining below the **national average of 4%** and same as the **regional rate of 3.1%**.
- Horsham had the lowest claimant count rate (**1.9%**).

Claimant count rate

England South East West Sussex



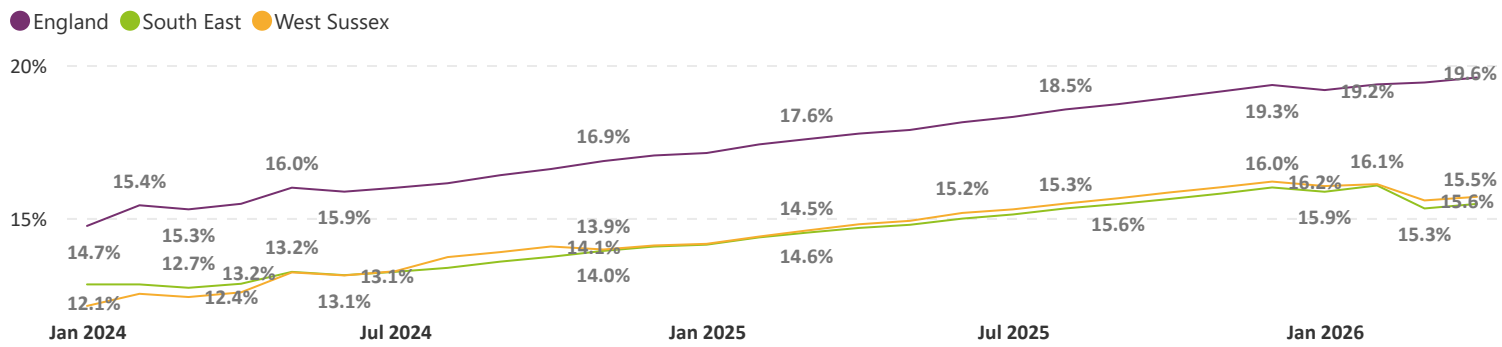
Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)
Released: 21 July 2026 (Jun 2026 Figures are provisional)

*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.

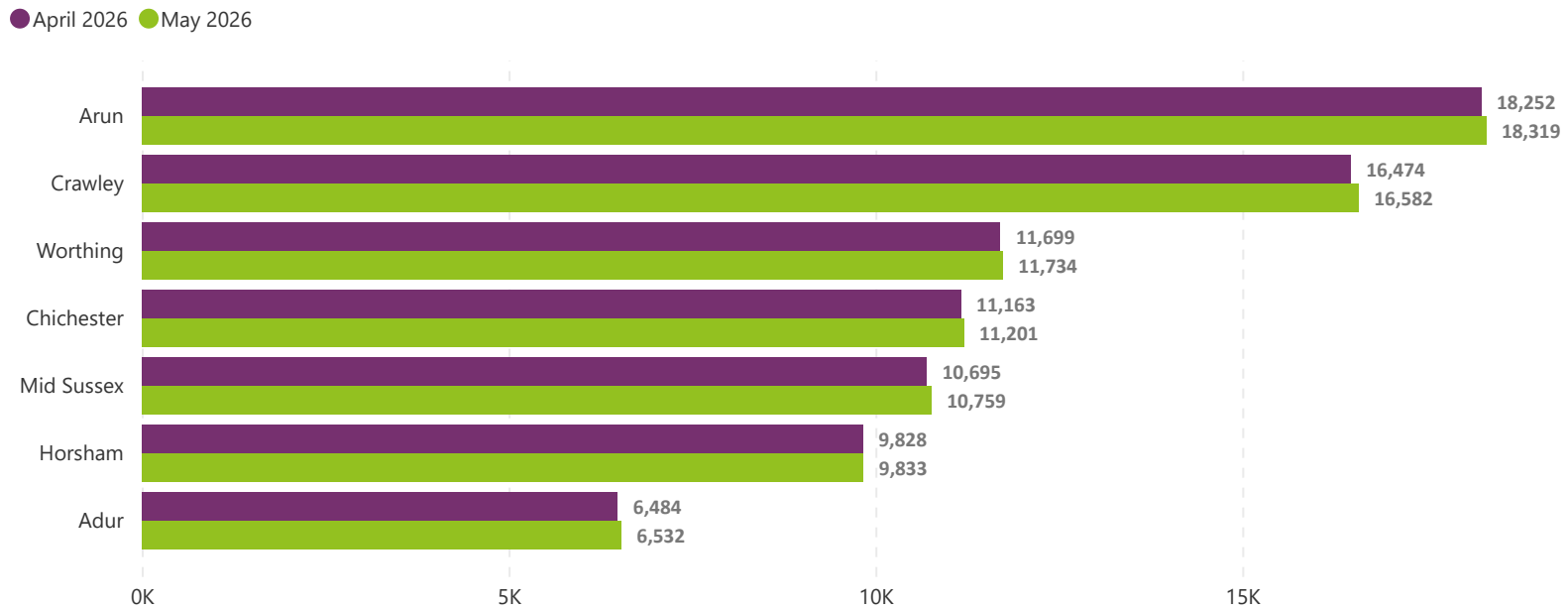
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants



Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Adur

0.7% ▲

Arun

0.4% ▲

Chichester

0.3% ▲

Crawley

0.7% ▲

Horsham

0.1% ▲

Mid Sussex

0.6% ▲

Worthing

0.3% ▲

West Sussex

0.4% ▲

Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, May 2026

Overall:

- In May 2026, numbers of Universal Credit claimants increased by almost 0.4% (84,960 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- The percentage (May 2026) of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 15.7%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 19.6% for the last month.

District-specific:

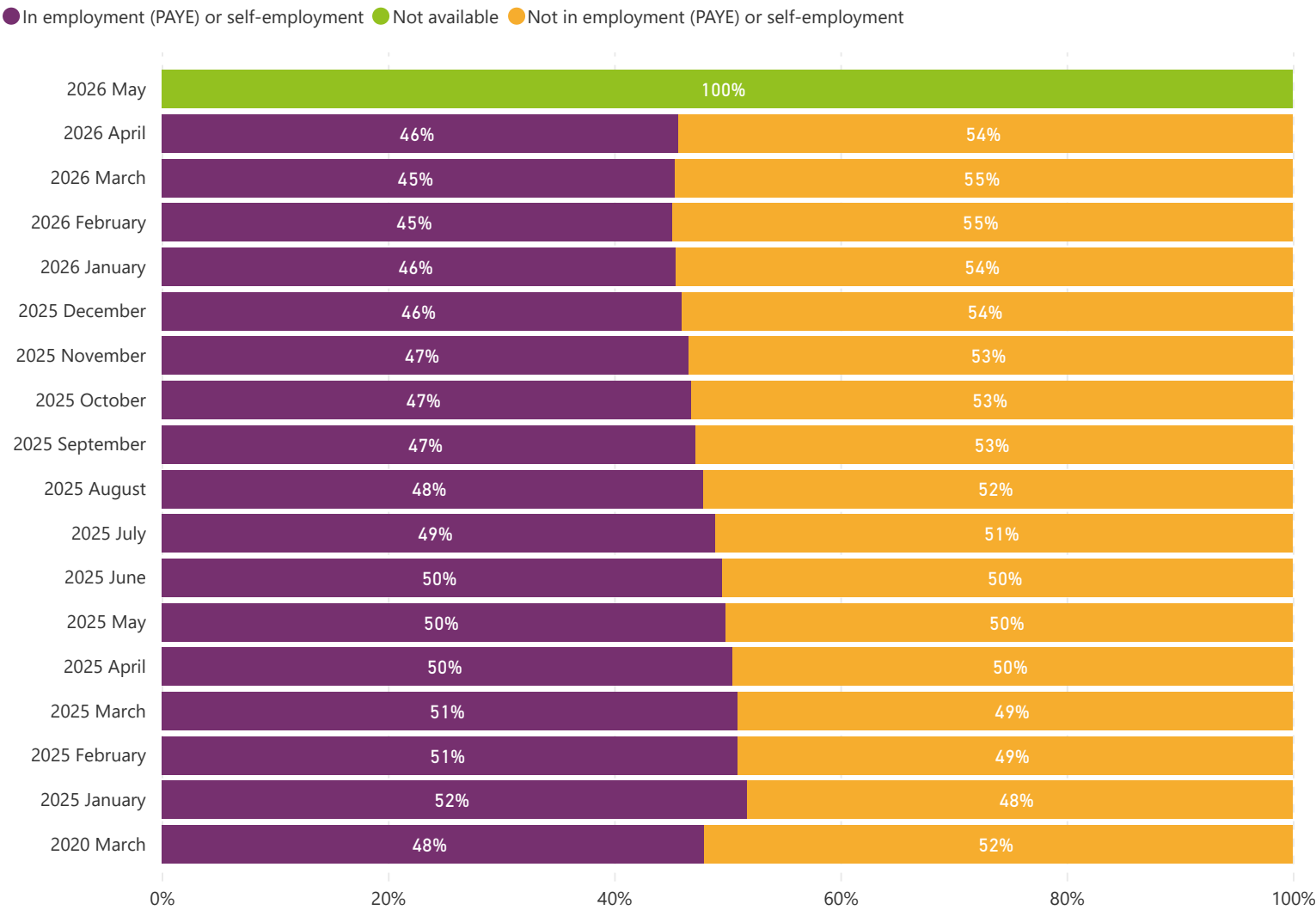
- Adur had the highest percentage increase in claimants (0.7%) since April 2026.
- At May 2026, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 18,319.

Update: From May 2026 this data is released on a **quarterly** basis. The definition of the "Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit" is being updated. Previously, the population denominator for ages 16-64 was derived from Census 2021 data. From March 2026 onwards, this will instead be calculated using the latest mid-year population estimates, ensuring the indicator reflects more up-to-date demographic changes.

Source: [Department for Work and Pension](#) Released: 18 Aug 2026
(May 2026 figures are provisional)

West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants

Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, May 2026

Employment status:

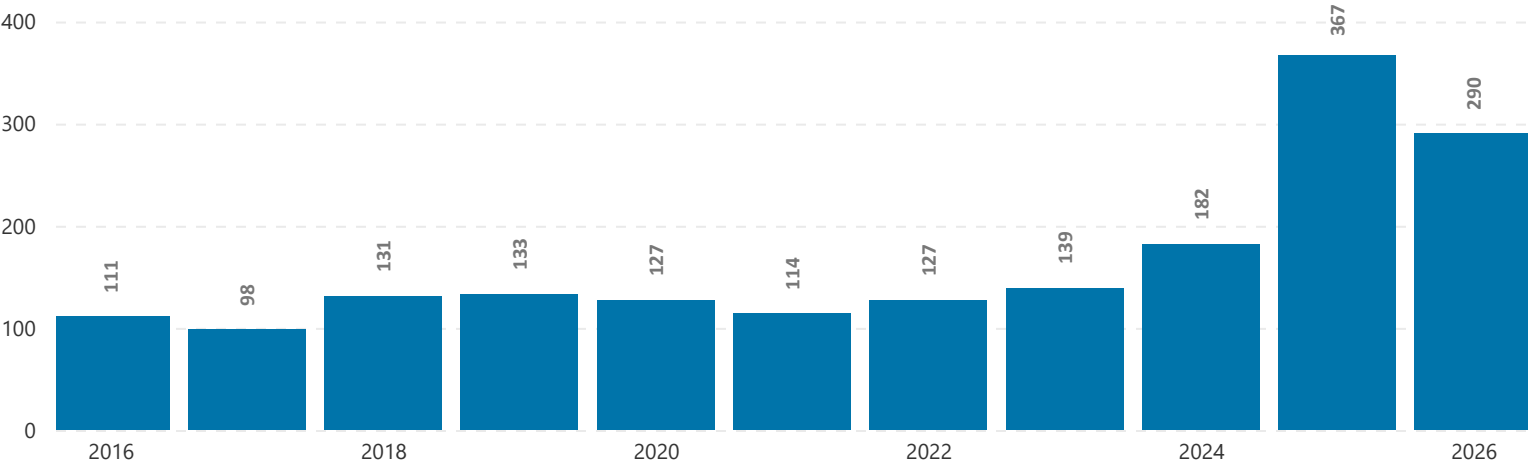
- 46% of claimants were in employment in May 2026. Higher than national (38%) or regional (43%) average.
- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage of employed claimants (50%).

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for May 2026 is not available.

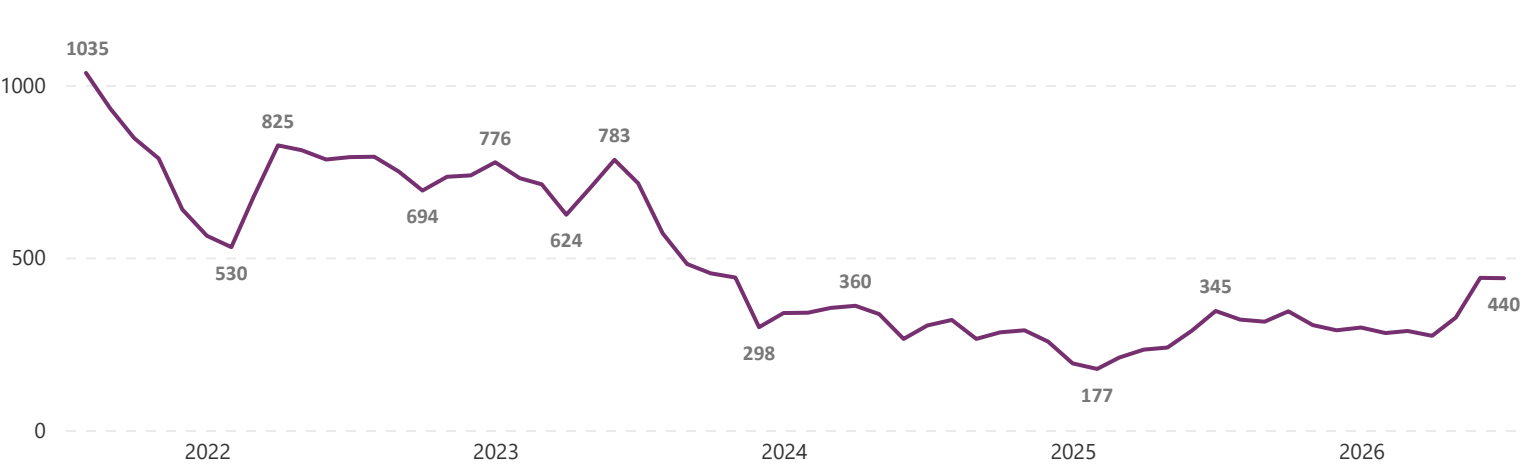
Update: Since May 2026, the DWP has changed the way it reports its figures. Data will now be published quarterly instead of more frequent releases. In addition, employment indicators have been updated to provide a broader view of the labour market by incorporating both PAYE employees and self-employed individuals.

West Sussex: IT business sector

New Company Incorporation Trends in the IT Sector (West Sussex)



IT Job Posting Trends (West Sussex)



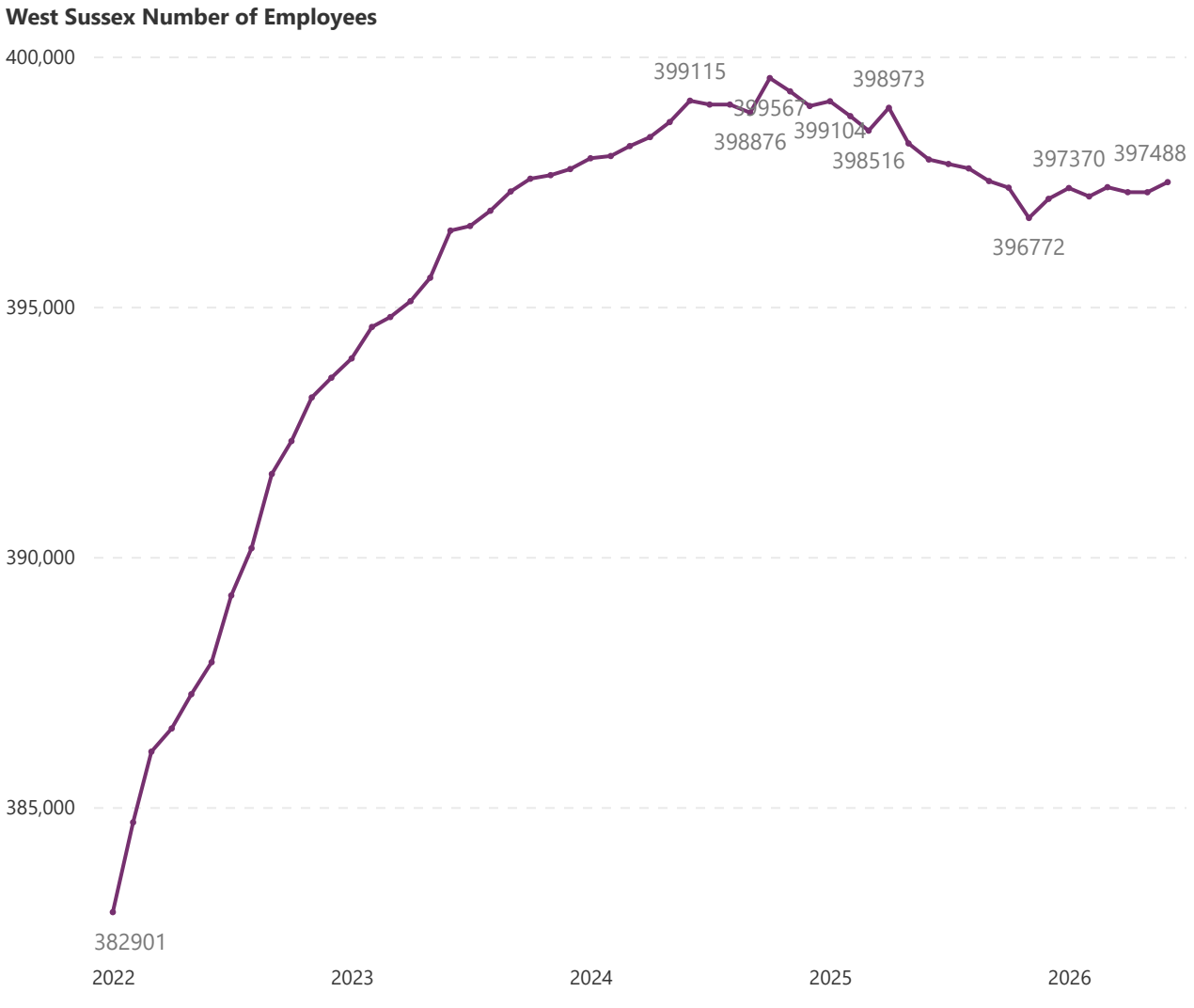
This is for the following SIC codes:

- **62012** – Business and Domestic Software Development
- **62020** – Information Technology Consultancy Activities
- **62030** – Computer Facilities Management Activities
- **62090** – Other Information Technology Service Activities
- **63110** – Data Processing, Hosting and Related Activities
- **63120** – Web Portals

New IT sector company incorporations in West Sussex remained stable between 2016 and 2023, ranging from 98 to 139 businesses per year. Growth accelerated sharply from **2024**, **increasing** from **192** incorporations to a peak of **367** in **2025**. Although **2026** is only halfway through, it has already recorded **290** incorporations, putting it on track to exceed previous years. This sustained growth highlights the increasing importance of the IT sector to the local economy, reflecting strong entrepreneurial activity and rising demand for digital and technology services across West Sussex.

IT job postings in West Sussex have shown a general downward trend since 2021, falling from a peak of **1,035 vacancies** to a low of **177 vacancies** in early **2025**. Demand remained relatively strong throughout **2022 and 2023**, with postings typically ranging between **530 and 776 vacancies**, before declining sharply towards the end of 2023 and throughout 2024. While vacancy levels remain below previous highs, there are signs of recovery in **2025 and 2026**, with postings increasing to **345** and most recently **440 vacancies**. This suggests that employer demand for IT talent is beginning to strengthen following a period of market contraction.

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



West Sussex Change %

-0.10% ▼

South East Change %

-0.06% ▼

Uk Change %

-0.04% ▼

Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for July 2026.

Overall:

- West Sussex: 396,502
- West Sussex (South West): 194,970
- West Sussex (North East): 201,532
- South East: 4,273,158
- UK: 30,262,016

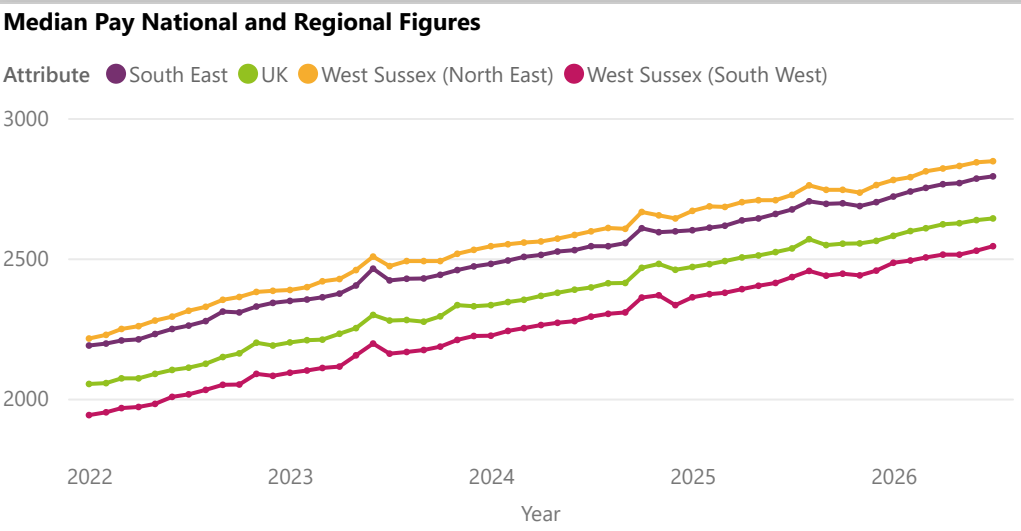
One Month Change (June 2026 - July 2026):

- West Sussex fell by 0.10%
- West Sussex (South West) fell by 0.11%
- West Sussex (North East) fell by 0.08%
- South East fell by 0.06%
- UK fell by 0.04%

Three Month Change (April 2026 - July 2026):

- West Sussex fell by 0.14%
- West Sussex (South West) fell by 0.22%
- West Sussex (North East) fell by 0.07%
- South East fell by 0.04%
- UK fell by 0.09%

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



West Sussex South West Change % Pay

0.63% ▲

West Sussex North East Change % Pay

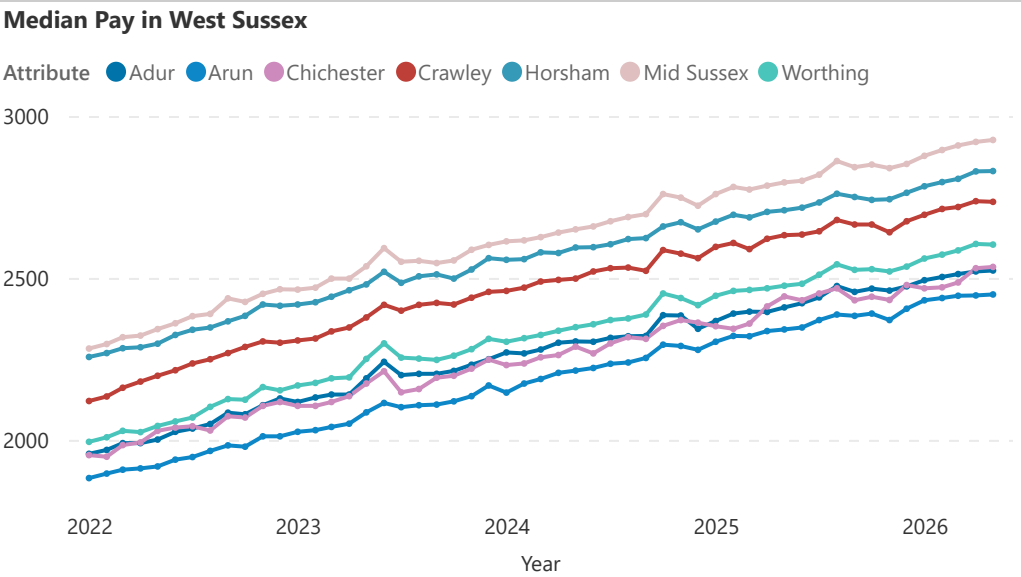
0.14% ▲

South East Change % Pay

0.29% ▲

UK Change % Pay

0.23% ▲



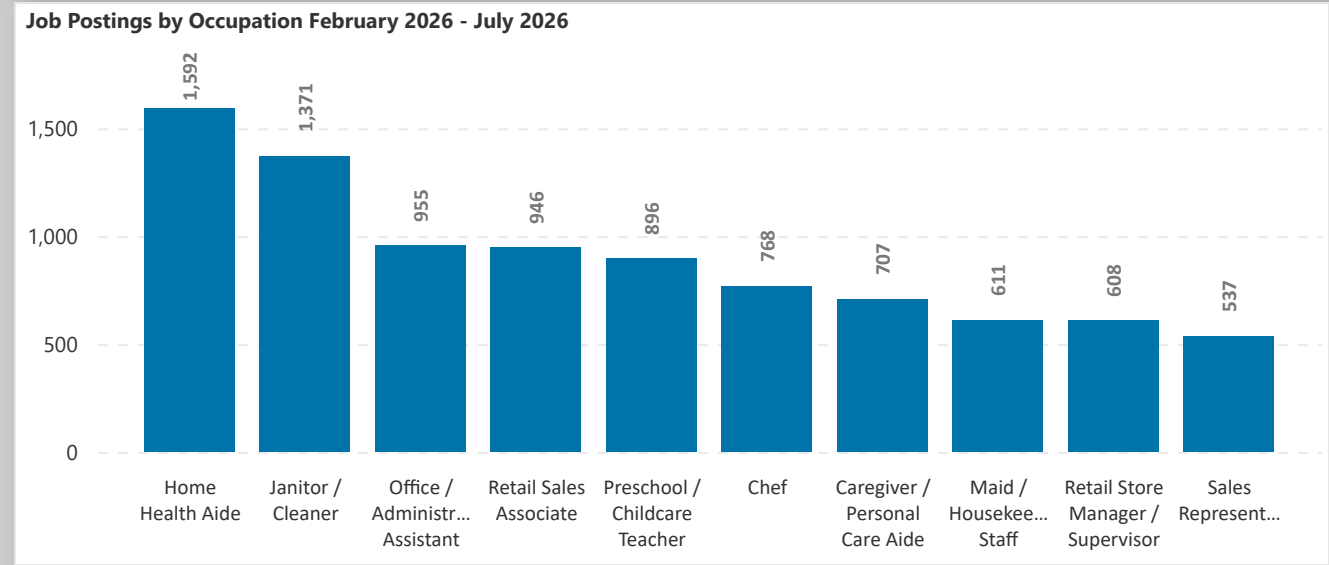
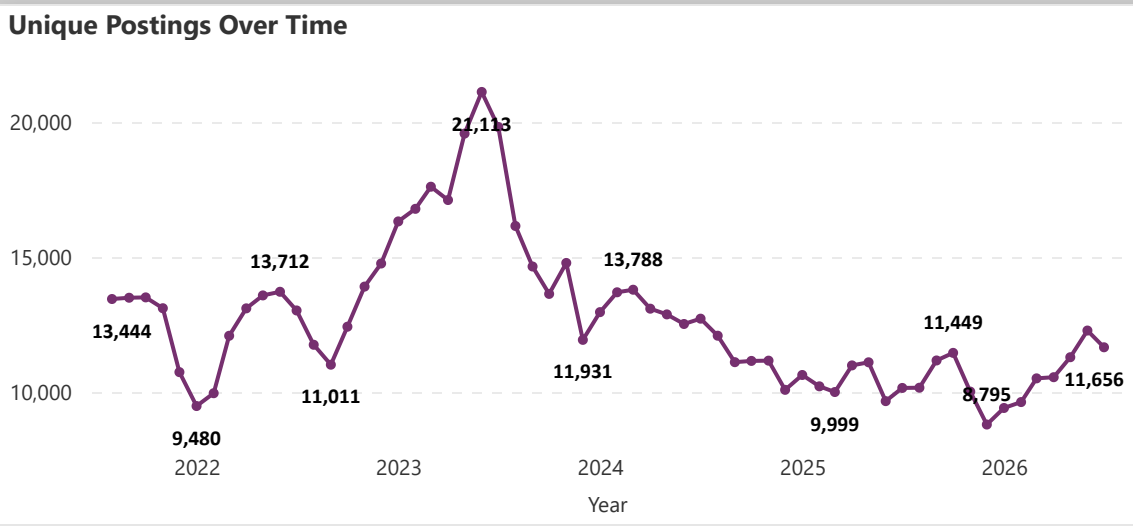
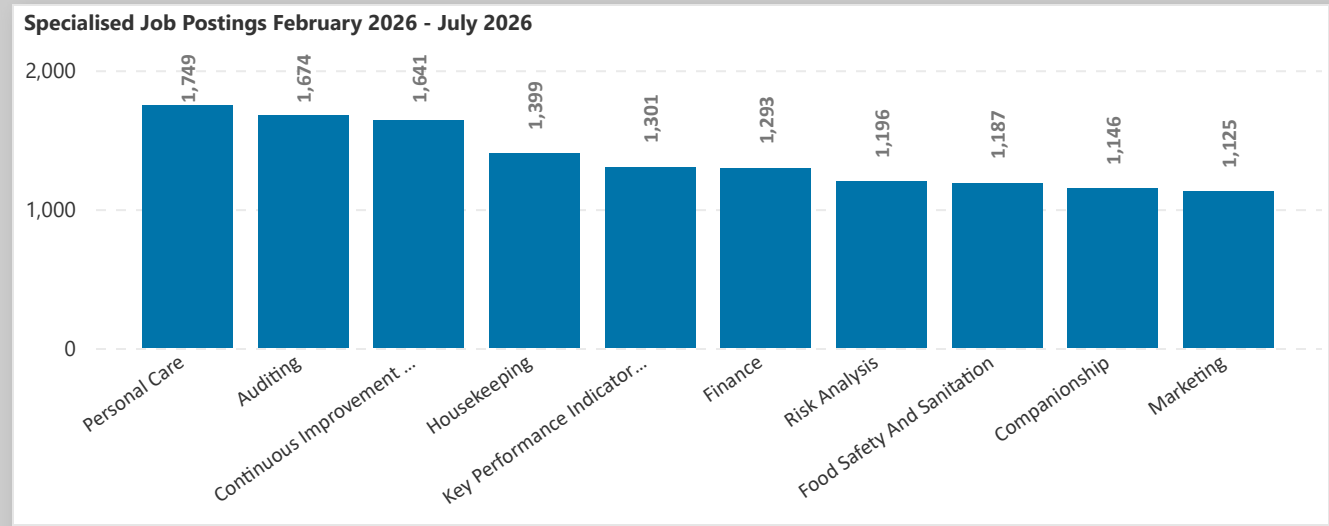
Summary of RTI median pay in West Sussex for July 2026.

- Overall:**
- West Sussex (South West): 2,543
 - West Sussex (North East): 2,846
 - South East: 2,792
 - UK: 2,642

- One Month Change (June 2026 - July 2026):**
- West Sussex (South West) rose by 0.63%
 - West Sussex (North East) rose by 0.14%
 - South East rose by 0.29%
 - UK rose by 0.23%

- Three Month Change (April 2026 - July 2026):**
- West Sussex (South West) rose by 1.19%
 - West Sussex (North East) rose by 0.92%
 - South East rose by 1.01%
 - UK rose by 0.80%

Job Postings



Summary of the job postings in West Sussex by Lightcast.

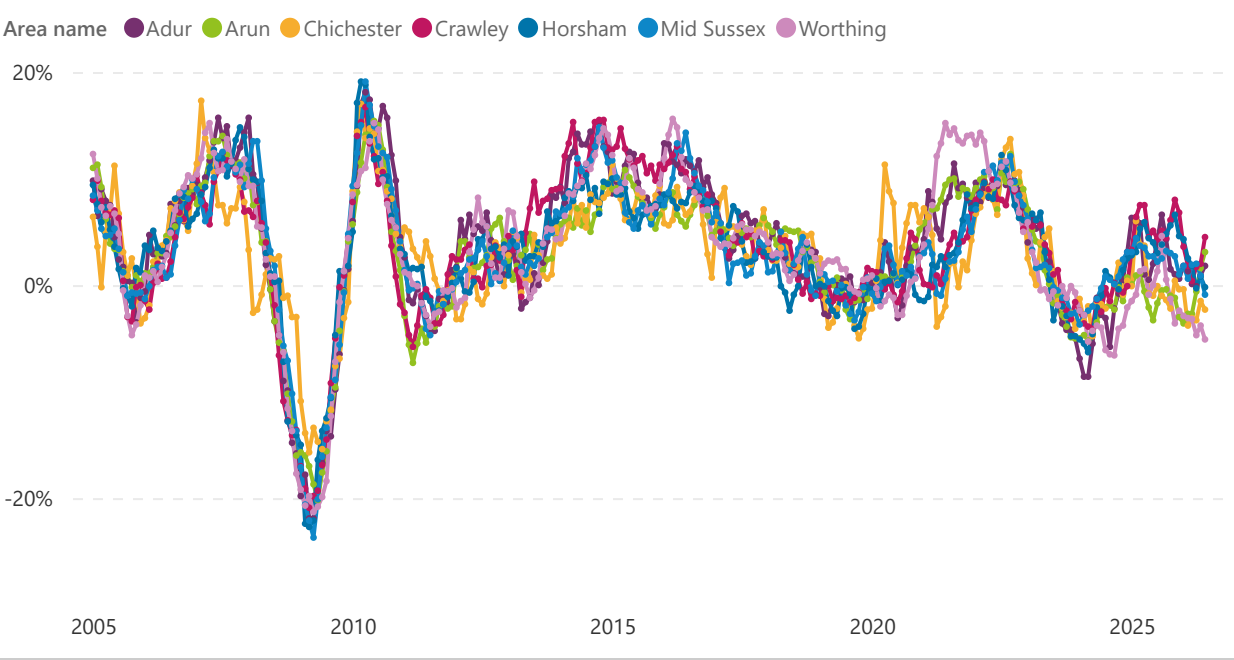
WSCC has access to Lightcast from which the numbers of job postings by occupation type, along with other information including skills requirements and job titles is available. In July 2026 there were 11,656 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 21,113 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (February 2026 to July 2026), 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.

House Prices

House Price Data (June Provisional ONS)

Area	Average First-time buyers	Average House Price	Average Monthly Rent	Average Mortgage Buyers
Adur	£323,000.0	£380,000.00	£1,399.00	£375,000.00
Arun	£255,000.0	£322,000.00	£1,227.00	£320,000.00
Chichester	£338,000.0	£430,000.00	£1,328.00	£429,000.00
Crawley	£303,000.0	£338,000.00	£1,486.00	£339,000.00
Horsham	£321,000.0	£437,000.00	£1,465.00	£425,000.00
Mid Sussex	£323,000.0	£426,000.00	£1,420.00	£432,000.00
Worthing	£244,000.0	£296,000.00	£1,303.00	£303,000.00

Annual House Price Change %



Highest Average House Price
Horsham

Highest Average Mortgages
Mid Sussex

Highest Average Monthly Rent
Crawley

Highest First Time Buyer Average
Chichester

National Summary

Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in May to July 2026 was 707,000.
- Decreasing 6,000 or 0.8% from February 2026 to April 2026.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 19,000 (2.7%) in May to July 2026 from levels in the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in April 2026 to June 2026, this has remained unchanged since July to September 2025.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.4% in June 2026.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for July 2026 indicate that the number of payrolled employees was 30.3 million which is a fall of 0.3% from the previous year.
- The largest increase was in the administrative and support services sector, with a rise of 63,000. The largest decrease was in the wholesale and retail sector, with a fall of 75,000 employees.
- Early estimates for July 2026 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 4.2% compared with July 2025.
- Annual growth in median pay in July 2026 was highest in the health and social work sector, with an increase of 5.3%. it was lowest in the education sector, with a increase of 3.3%.

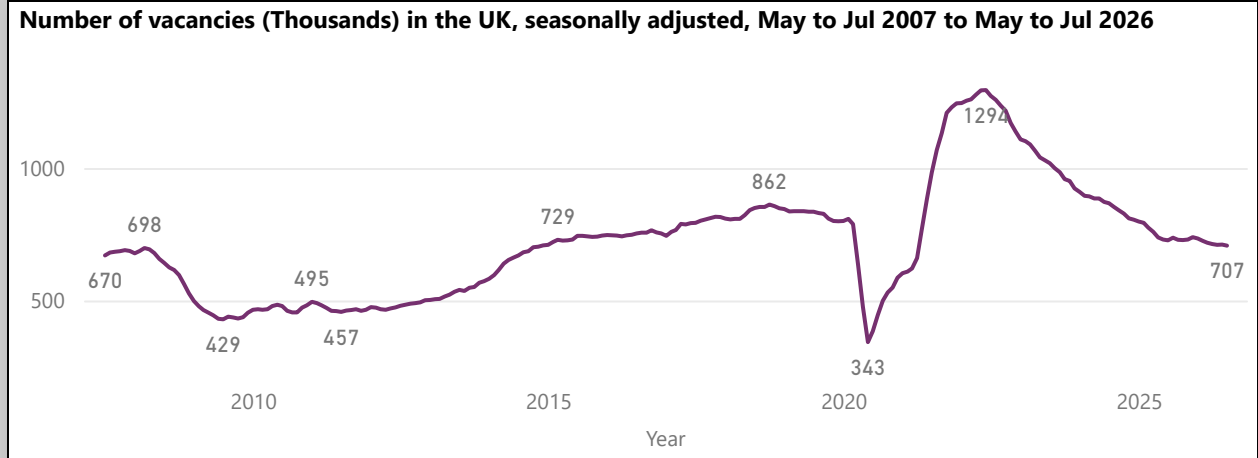
Business Trading

- 15% of trading businesses reported that their turnover had increased in July 2026 compared with the previous month
- In early August 2026, economic uncertainty was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses at 29%.
- 27% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods and services bought in July 2026 when compared to the previous month.
- 14% of trading businesses expect the prices of goods or services they sell to increase in September 2026.
- 25% of businesses reported at least some level of concern about energy prices in August 2026.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales stood at 1,931 in July 2026, which was 5% higher than in June 2026.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 288 compulsory liquidations, 1,497 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 124 administrations and 22 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 11,926 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 664 bankruptcies, 3,820 debt relief orders (DROs) and 7,442 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).

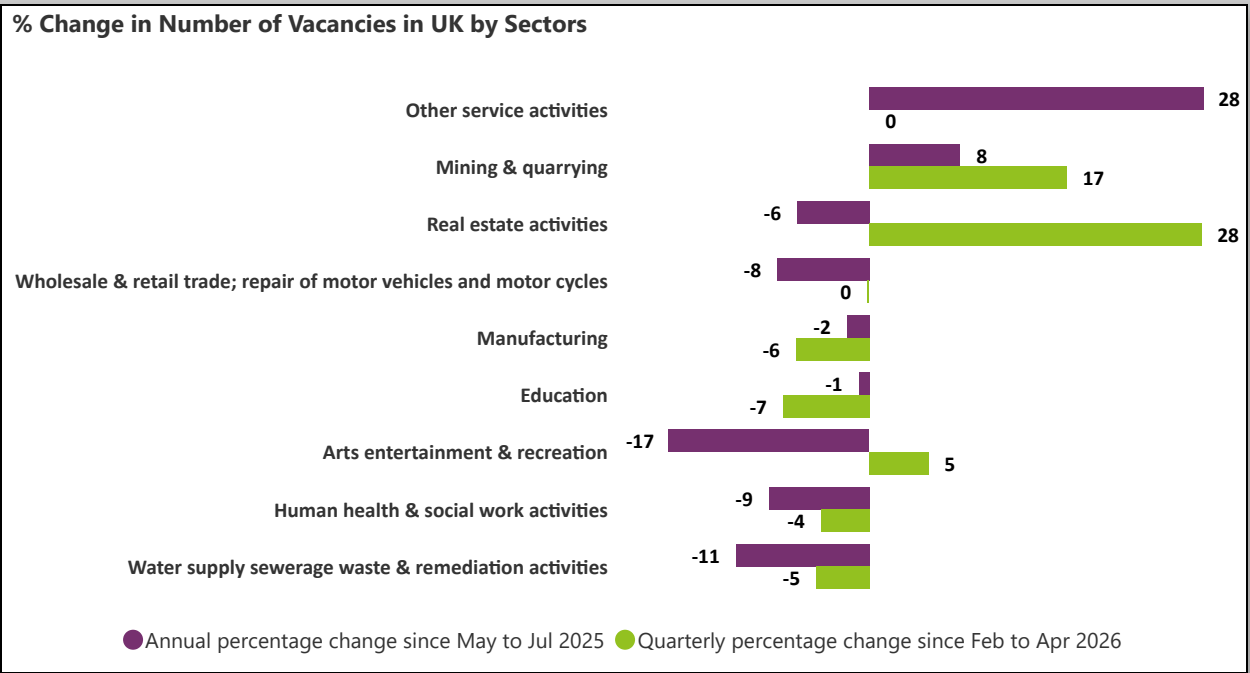
Job Vacancies (UK)



Summary of job vacancies (UK).

Overall:

- Estimated vacancies are for the period of May to July 2026.
- Vacancies change measures from the dates February 2026 to April 2026.
- Total estimated vacancies are measured from May to July 2026 and the change from the previous year.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 2.5 in April 2026 to June 2026, this has remained unchanged since July to September 2025.



Total Estimated Vacancies Change

19000 ▼

Job Vacancies

707000 ▼

Vacancies Change %

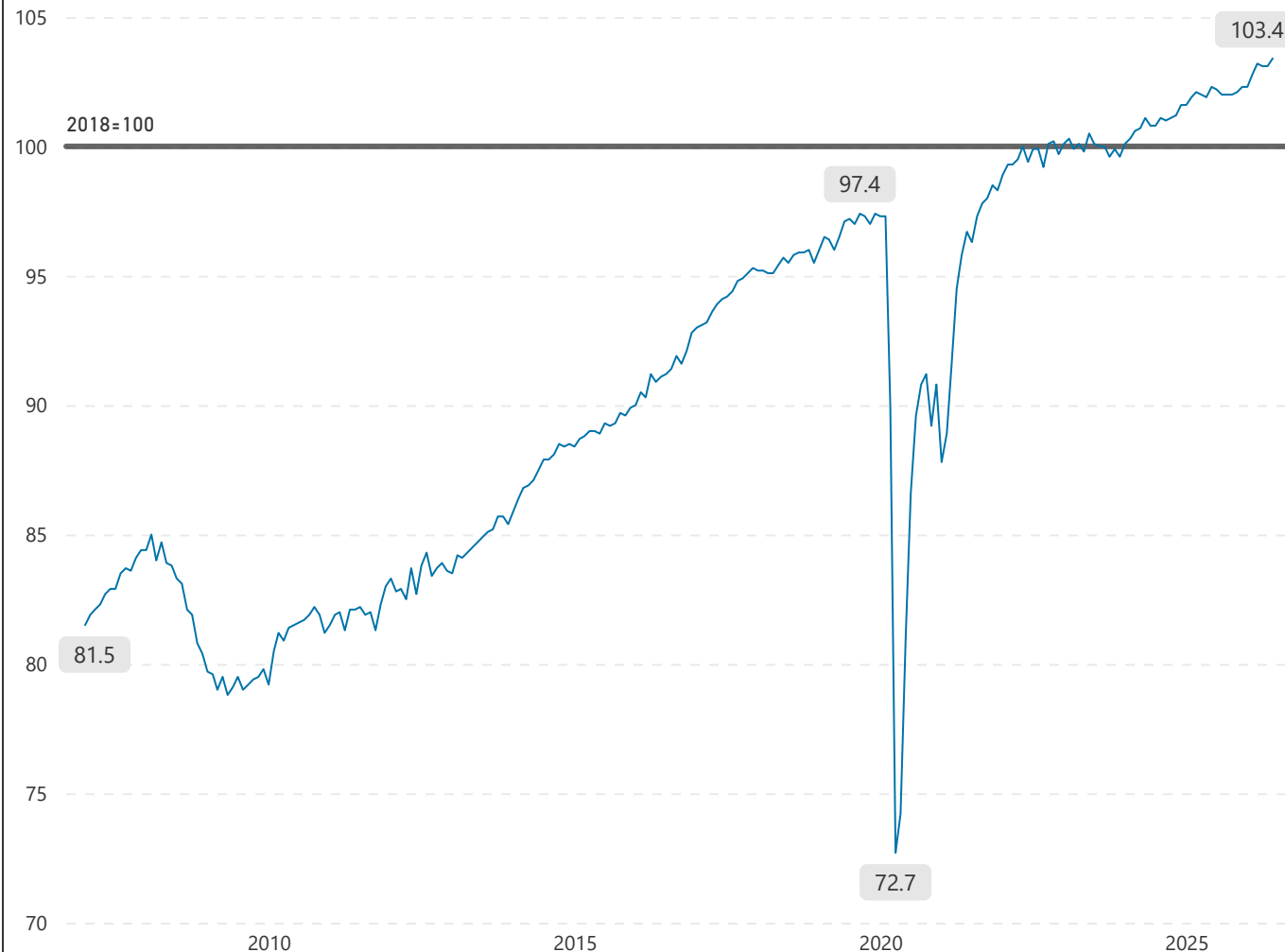
0.80% ▼

Total Estimated Vacancies % Change

2.70% ▼

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Monthly index, UK



GDP % Change

0.40% ▲

Services % Chan...

0.50% ▲

Production % C...

0.00% —

Construction % ...

0.30% ▲

Summary of Gross Domestic Product for the three months up to June 2026 (GDP) (UK).

Overall:

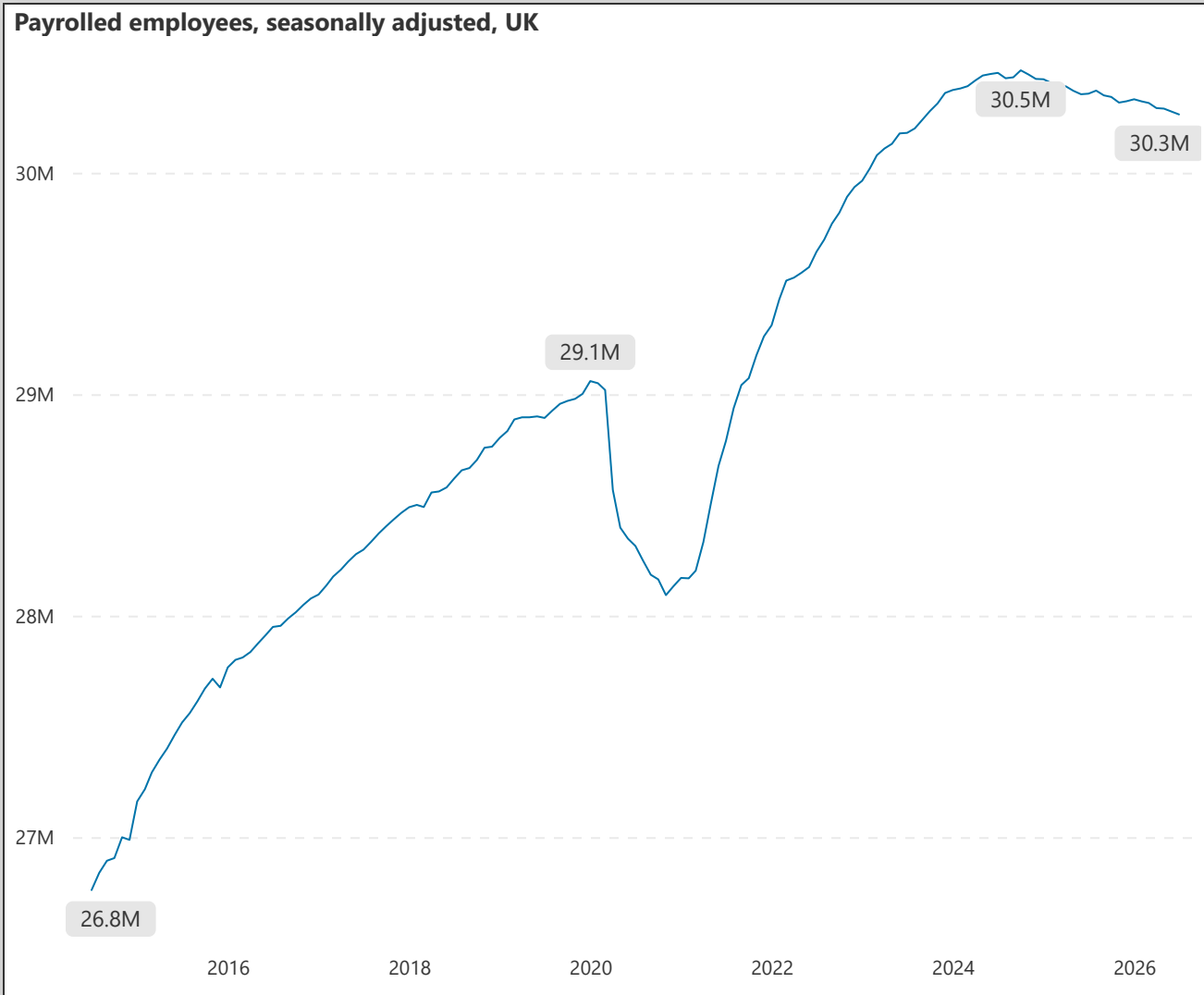
- Monthly GDP is an estimate of all final goods and services produced within a country's borders during a specific period typically a year or quarter.

Output growth:

GDP growth is measured in three sectors:

- Services deals with a large and diverse grouping of industries that produce intangible economic output. This includes: wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, information and communication, transportation and storage and many more.
- Production deals with industries at each stage of production (manufacturing, services and agriculture).
- Construction deals with the amount of output chargeable to customers for building and civil engineering.

Labour Market



No. of Payrolled Employees
30.3 million

Payrolled Employees % Change
0.30% ▼

Largest Sector Increase Change
63000 ▲

Largest Sector No Decrease
-75000 ▼

Monthly Median Pay % Change
4.20% ▲

- Summary of Labour Market (UK).
- Overall:**
- Estimates are for July 2026 with the change being measured from the previous year.
 - The largest increase sector was in administrative and support services sector.
 - The largest decrease sector was in wholesale and retail sector.
 - Median monthly median change is for July 2025 to July 2026.
 - Annual growth in median pay in July 2026 was highest in the health and social work sector, with an increase of 5.3%. it was lowest in the education sector, with a increase of 3.3%.

Business Trading

Turnover % Change in Previous Month

15% ▼

Challenge affecting turnover

Economic Uncertainty

Goods and services bought

27% ▼

Goods and services sell expectations %

14% ▲

Goods and services sell

14% —

Concern regarding energy prices

25% ▲

Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

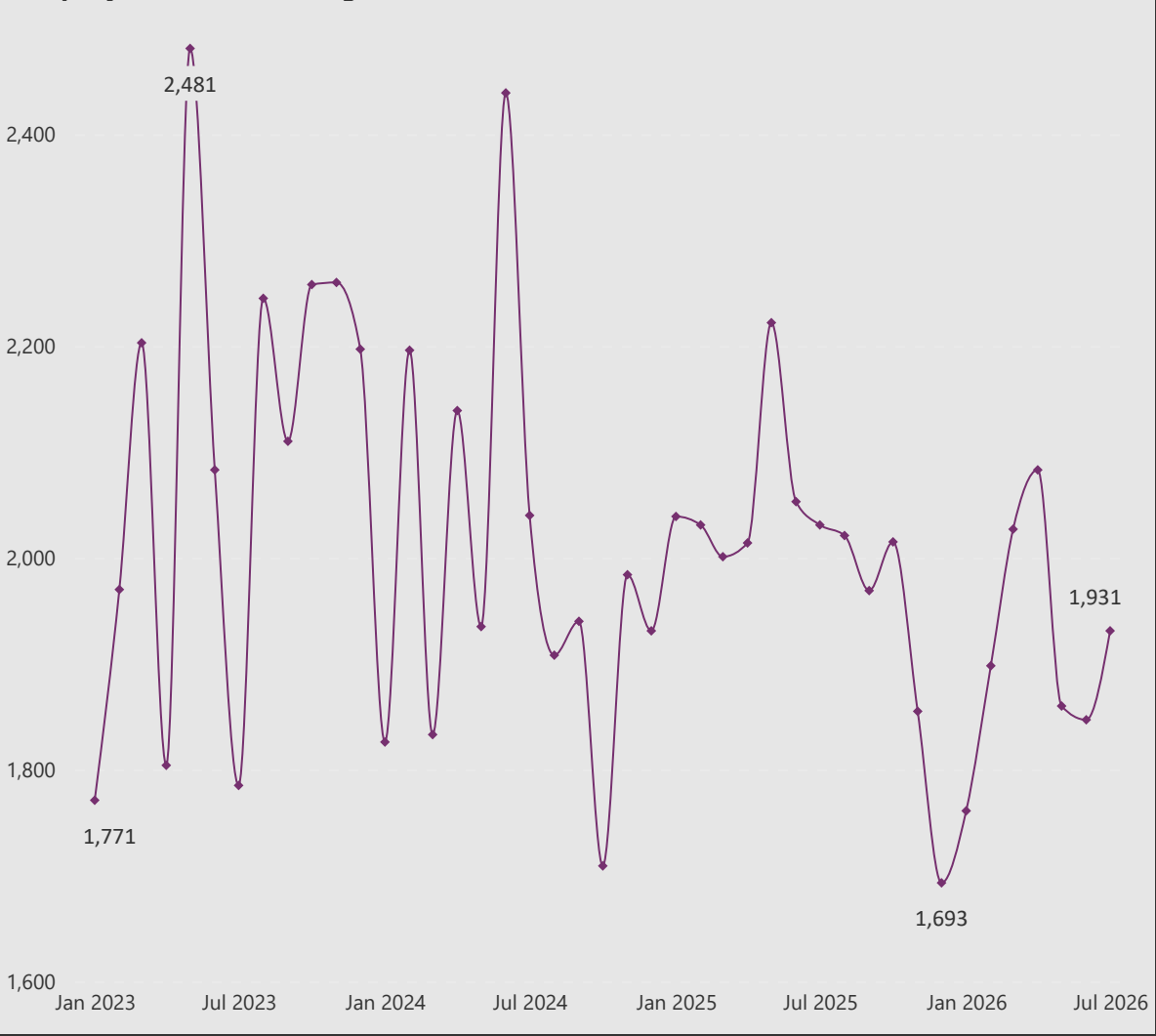
This data is the final results from Wave 162 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 6 to 20 August 2026.

Overall:

- All figures shown above are for trading businesses.
- Goods and services bought and sold refer to the previous month of August 2026 while goods and services expectation refer to what businesses expect prices to be in the next month of September 2026.

Business Closures (Company)

Company insolvencies in England & Wales



Company insolvencies No

1931 ▲

Insolvency % Change

5.00% ▲

Administrations

124

Compulsory liquidations

288

Creditors' voluntary liquidations

1497

Company voluntary arrangements

22

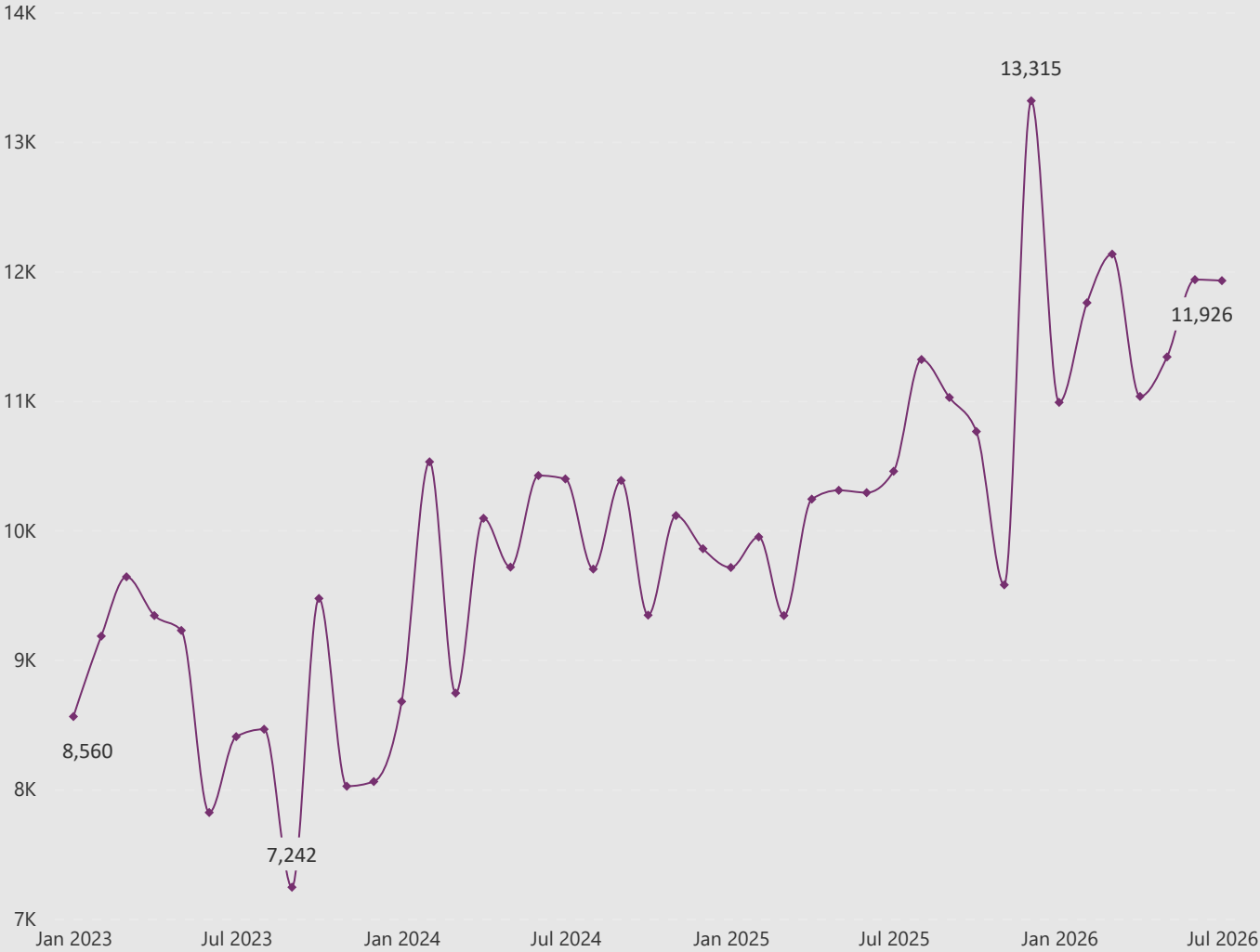
Summary of business closures (company) on the UK economy.

Overall:

- Company insolvencies figures are for England and Wales for the month of July 2026.

Business Closures (Individual)

Individual insolvencies in England & Wales



individual insolvancie...

11926 ▲

Bankruptcies

664

Debt relief orders

3,820

Individual voluntary arrangements

7,442

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

Overall:

- Individual insolvencies figures are for England and Wales for the month of July 2026.