West Sussex Economy Snapshot

March 2025 (Issue 56)

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West Sussex Summary

WSCC Performance & Insight

New Businesses February 2025

- 506 new businesses incorporated.
- 452 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net increase of 54 businesses.

Claimants February 2025

- Claimant count increased by 5.5% in West Sussex over the last month.
- The claimant count rate increased to 3.1% in West Sussex, remaining below the regional average of 3.3% and the national average of 4.3%.

Universal Credit Claimants February 2025

- Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.2% in West Sussex over the last month.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (178% increase). Higher increase than national (154%) or regional (165%) average.
- 14.15% of the 16-64 population in West Sussex are claiming UC, close to the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 17.12%.

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

- West Sussex: 399,839 (decreased by 0.01%)
- West Sussex (South East): 196,557 (increased by 0.03%)
- West Sussex (North West): 202,282 (decreased by 0.05%)
- South East: 4,297,320 (decreased by 0.01%)
- UK: 30,432,858 (increased by 0.03%)

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

- West Sussex (South East): £2,355 (decreased by 0.3%)
- West Sussex (North West): £2,668(increased by 0.04%)
- South East: £2,474 (decreased by 0.19%)
- UK: £2,465 (decreased by 0.28%)

Job Postings (Lightcast)

- In February 2025, there were 20,858 unique job postings in West Sussex, which is 15% lower than the same time last year.
- In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (September 2024 to February 2025), teaching assistants still make up the highest number of postings.

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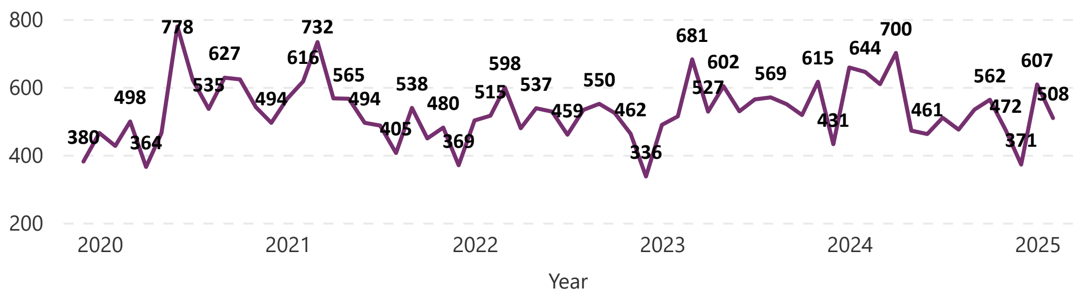
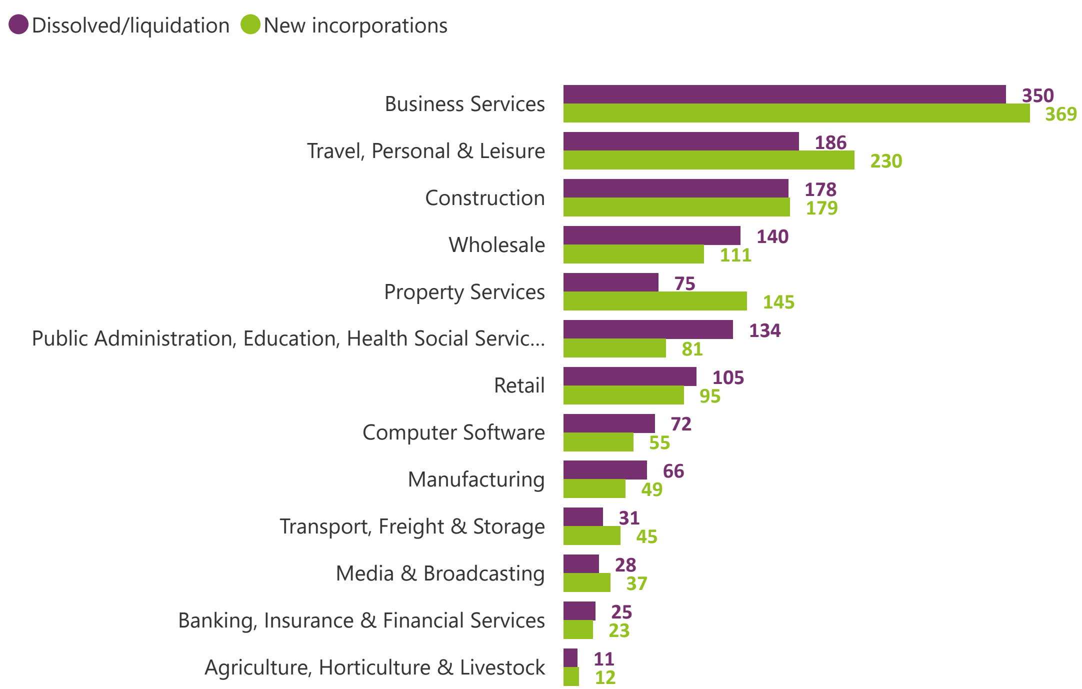
West Sussex: New Businesses

New business incorporations in West Sussex



Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Dec'24-Feb'25)

Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry in West Sussex (Dec'24 - Feb'25)



Summary of Business Formation Trends in West Sussex

Overall trend: In the last three months, Chichester and Mid Sussex have seen slightly more business openings than closures. However, other regions have experienced slightly more closures. The sectors with a noticeable mix of closures and openings are business services, travel, personal and leisure, and property services, which have had significantly more openings than closures. The remaining sectors have seen slight increases or decreases.

Last 12 months:

- 6,706 new businesses incorporated.
- 5,969 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net gain of 737 businesses.

Last 3 months:

- 1,487 new businesses incorporated.
- 1,511 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net loss of 24 businesses.

February 2025:

- 506 new businesses incorporated.
- 452 businesses dissolved or liquidated.
- Net increase of 54 businesses.

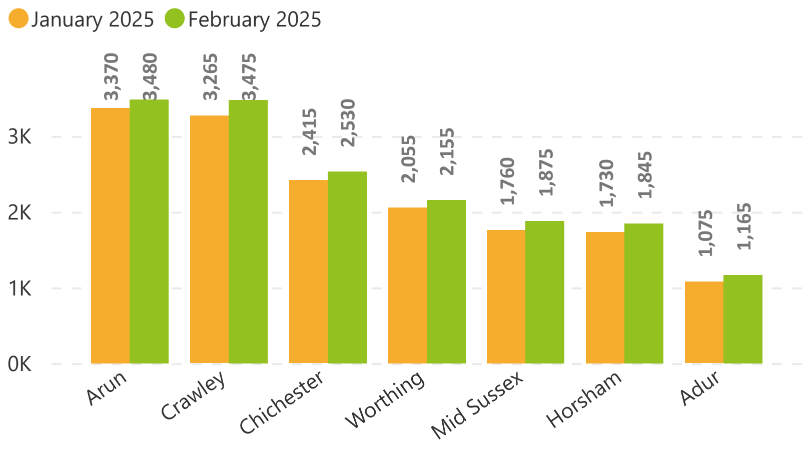
Source: FAME

Released: March 2025

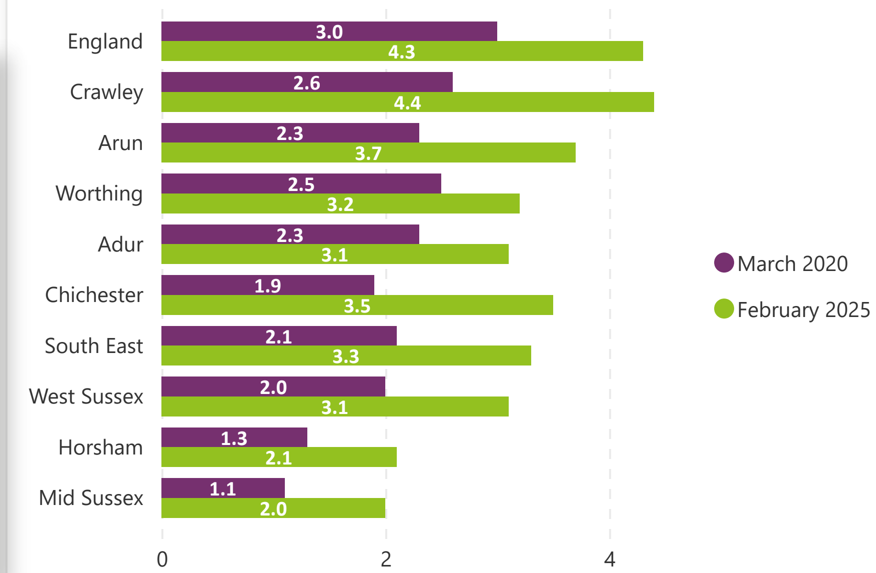
West Sussex: Claimant Count

16,525	15,670
Feb'25	Jan'25

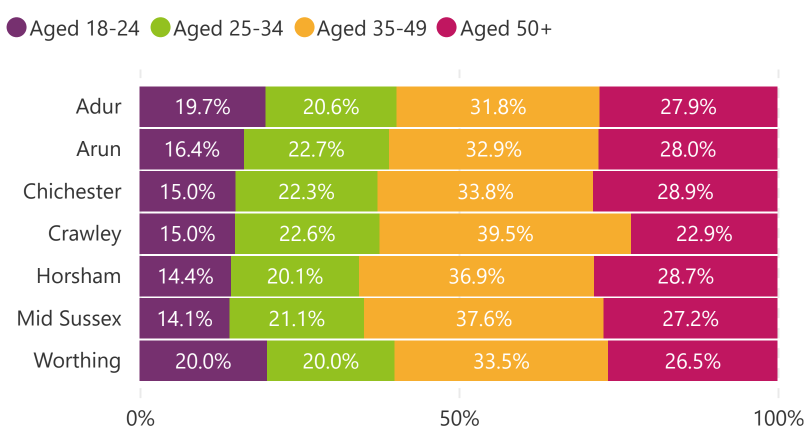
Total Number of Claimants by Local Authority



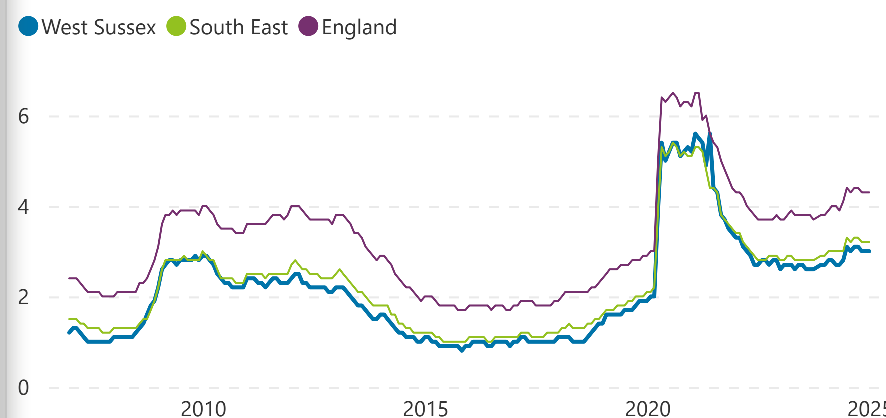
Claimant count rate change



Distribution of claimants by age band



Claimant count rate



Source: ONS, Claimant Count

Released: 16 Mar 2025 (Feb 2025 Figures are provisional)

Summary of Claimant Count Changes in West Sussex, February 2025

Overall:

- Claimant count has increased over the last month by 5.5% (16,525) in West Sussex.
- Claimant count rate is 3.1% in West Sussex, staying below the regional average of 3.3% and national 4.3%.

Breakdown by district:

- **Increases (Jan'25 - Feb'25):**
  a. Adur (8.4%)
  b. Arun (3.3%)
  c. Chichester (4.8%)
  d. Crawley (6.4%)
  e. Horsham (6.6%)
  f. Mid Sussex (6.5%)
  g. Worthing (4.9%)

Specifics (Feb'25):

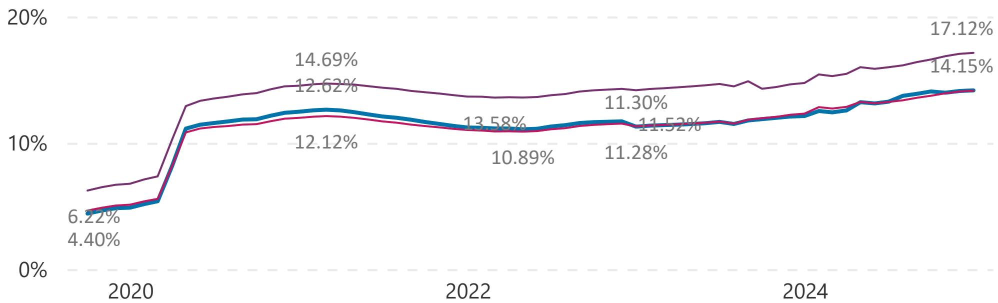
- Arun recorded the highest claimant count (3,480).
- Crawley had the highest claimant count rate (4.4%), higher then national average.
- Mid Sussex had the lowest claimant count rate.

*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.

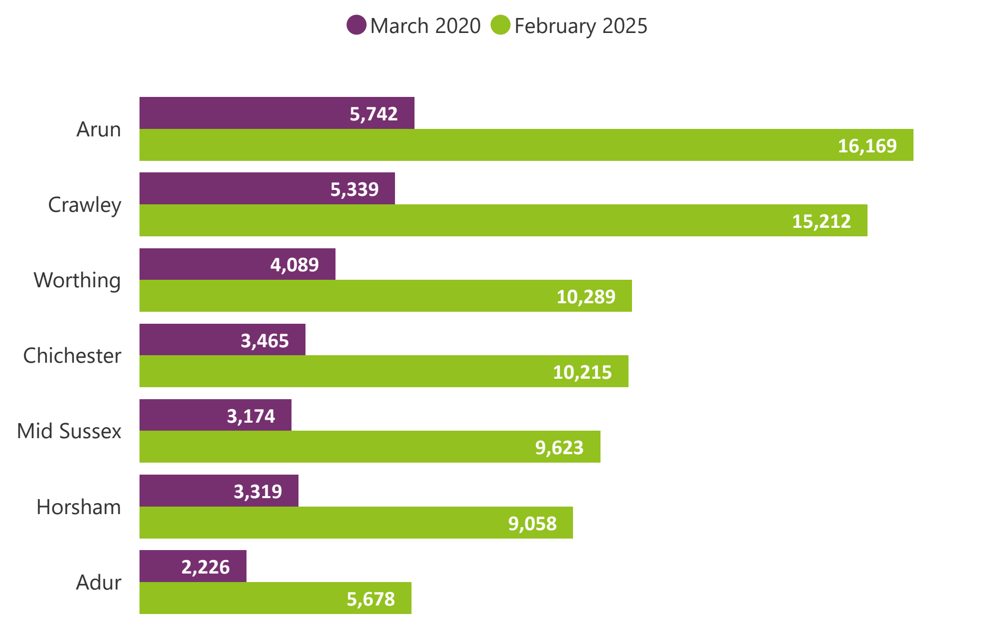
West Sussex: Universal Credit Claimants

WSCC Performance & Insight

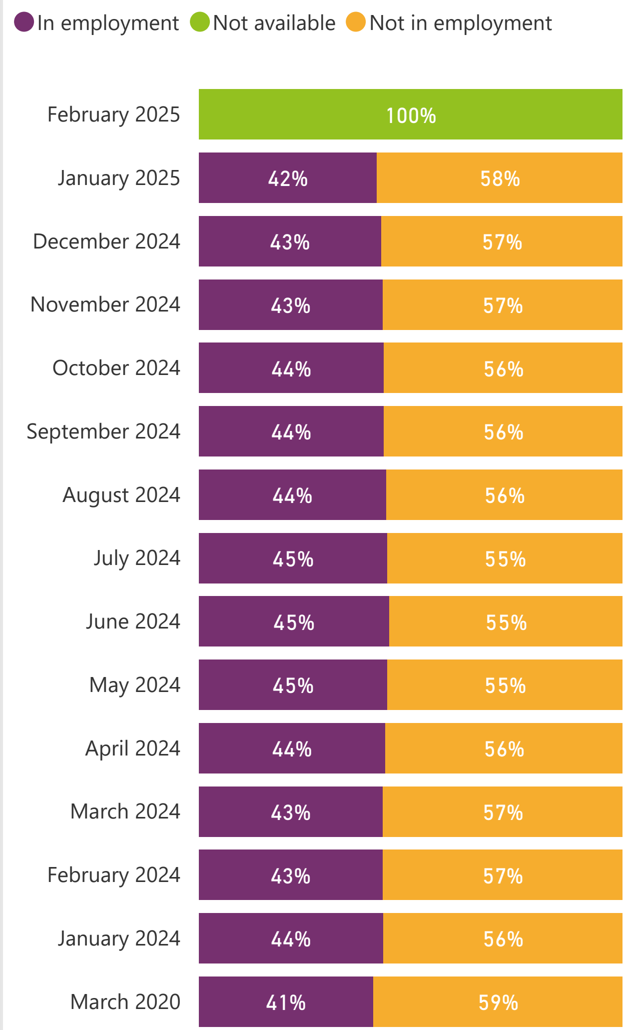
Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



Summary of Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, February 2025

Overall:

- In February 2025, Universal Credit claimants increased by 1.2% (76,244 total) over the last month in West Sussex.
- Significant rise since March 2020 (178% increase).
- Higher increase than national (154%) or regional (165%) average.
- The percentage of the 16-64 population claiming UC in West Sussex has risen to 14.15%, which is almost the same as the regional percentage and lower than the national percentage of 17.12% for the last month.

Employment status:

- 42% of claimants were in employment in January 2025. Higher than national (36%) or regional (39%) average.
- Mid Sussex has the highest percentage of employed claimants (45%).

District-specific:

- Mid Sussex had the highest percentage increase in claimants (203%) since March 2020.
- At February 2025, Arun had the highest number of claimants at 16,169.

Note: Employment/not in employment breakdown for February 2025 is not available.

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Source: Department for Work and Pension Released: 17 Feb 2025

(Jan 2025 figures are provisional)

West Sussex: Hyper Local Needs

OCSI (Local Insight) has released a new measure called the Hyper Local Need measure. The hyper-local need measure demonstrates the ways in which complex social and economic challenges cluster in communities around the country. The hyper local need measure is broken down into 5 different dimensions which make up an overall score for an area. The measure incorporates a range of data. The 5 dimensions are as follows:

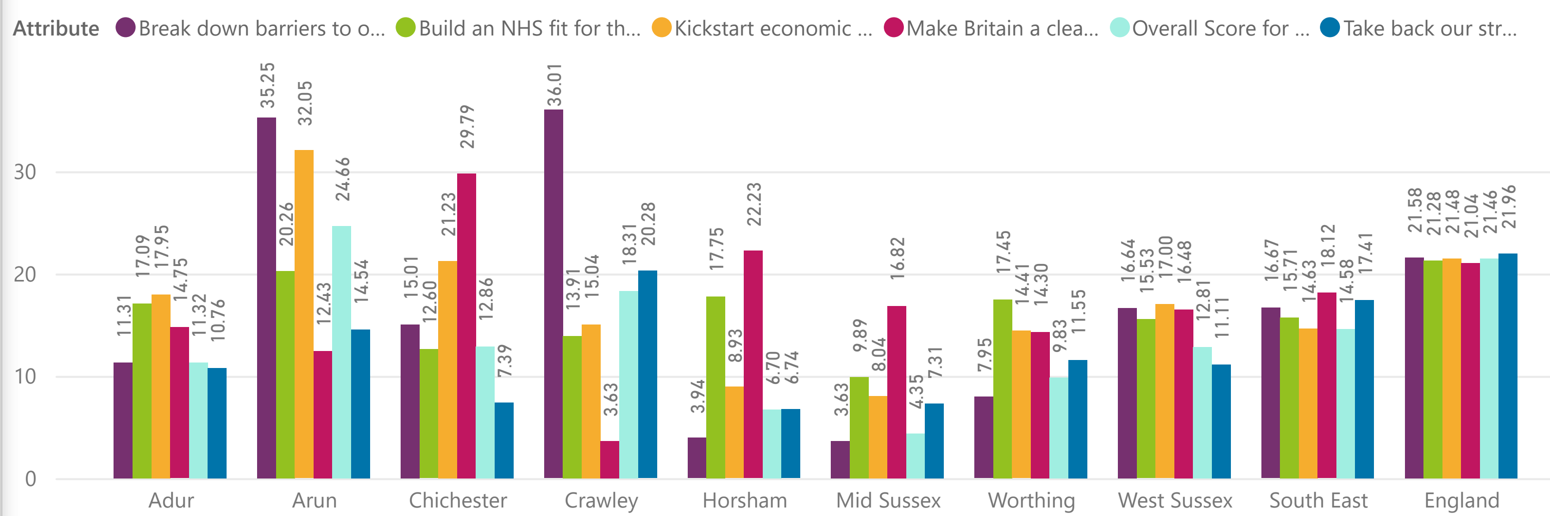
- Kickstart economic growth: Employment and worklessness in the local economy, quality of jobs, economic productivity and local infrastructure.
- Make Britain a clean energy superpower: Carbon footprint, fuel poverty and energy efficiency in housing.
- Take back our streets: Crime deprivation and high crime rates in local areas.
- Break down barriers to opportunity: Child education and barriers to learning, educational opportunities, quality of education settings and adult skills outcomes.
- Build an NHS fit for the future: Disability and social care needs in local areas, general health, access to services and mortality.

The higher the score, the higher the needs of an area. Rankings of Hyper Local Need are available at LSOA (Lower Super Output Area) level. There are 7 LSOAs in West Sussex (six in Arun and one in Crawley) which lie in the 10% of LSOAs in England with the highest Hyper Local Need.

Hyper Local Needs Measure

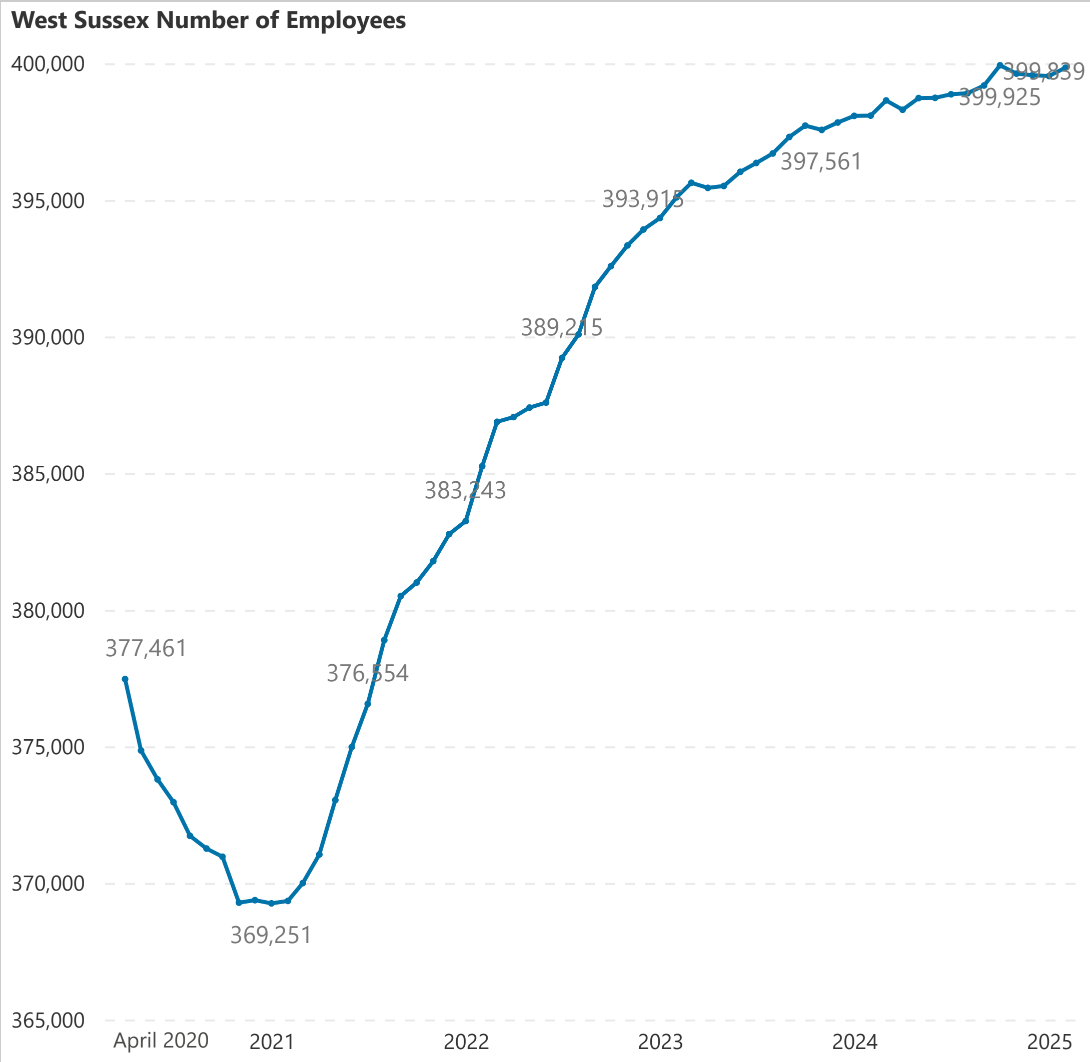
Location	Overall Score for Hyper Local Need Measure	Kickstart economic growth	Make Britain a clean energy superpower	Take back our streets	Break down barriers to opportunity	Build an NHS fit for the future
Adur	11.32	17.95	14.75	10.76	11.31	17.09
Arun	24.66	32.05	12.43	14.54	35.25	20.26
Chichester	12.86	21.23	29.79	7.39	15.01	12.60
Crawley	18.31	15.04	3.63	20.28	36.01	13.91
Horsham	6.70	8.93	22.23	6.74	3.94	17.75
Mid Sussex	4.35	8.04	16.82	7.31	3.63	9.89
Worthing	9.83	14.41	14.30	11.55	7.95	17.45
West Sussex	12.81	17.00	16.48	11.11	16.64	15.53
South East	14.58	14.63	18.12	17.41	16.67	15.71
England	21.46	21.48	21.04	21.96	21.58	21.28

Hyper Local Needs Measure



Source: Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) Released: 2024

Real Time Information Earnings and Employment



Summary of RTI employees in West Sussex for February 2025.

Overall:

- West Sussex: 399,839
- West Sussex (South East): 196,557
- West Sussex (North West): 202,282
- Adur: 26,875
- Arun: 68,775
- Chichester: 50,190
- Crawley: 62,853
- Horsham: 67,165
- Mid Sussex: 73,264
- Worthing: 50,717
- South East: 4,297,320
- UK: 30,432,858

One Month Change (Jan 2025 - Feb 2025):

- West Sussex decreased by 0.01%
- West Sussex (South East) increased by 0.03%
- West Sussex (North West) decreased by 0.05%
- Adur increased by 0.02%
- Arun increased by 0.01%
- Chichester saw no change
- Crawley decreased by 0.16%
- Horsham increased by 0.04%
- Mid Sussex decreased by 0.03%
- Worthing increased by 0.1%
- South East decreased by 0.01%
- UK increased by 0.03%

Three Month Change (Nov 2024 - Feb 2025):

- West Sussex decreased by 0.1%
- West Sussex (South East) decreased by 0.04%
- West Sussex (North West) decreased by 0.16%
- Adur increased by 0.03%
- Arun increased by 0.19%
- Chichester decreased by 0.51%
- Crawley decreased by 0.24%
- Horsham decreased by 0.33%
- Mid Sussex increased by 0.07%
- Worthing increased by 0.09%
- South East decreased by 0.02%
- UK decreased by 0.09%

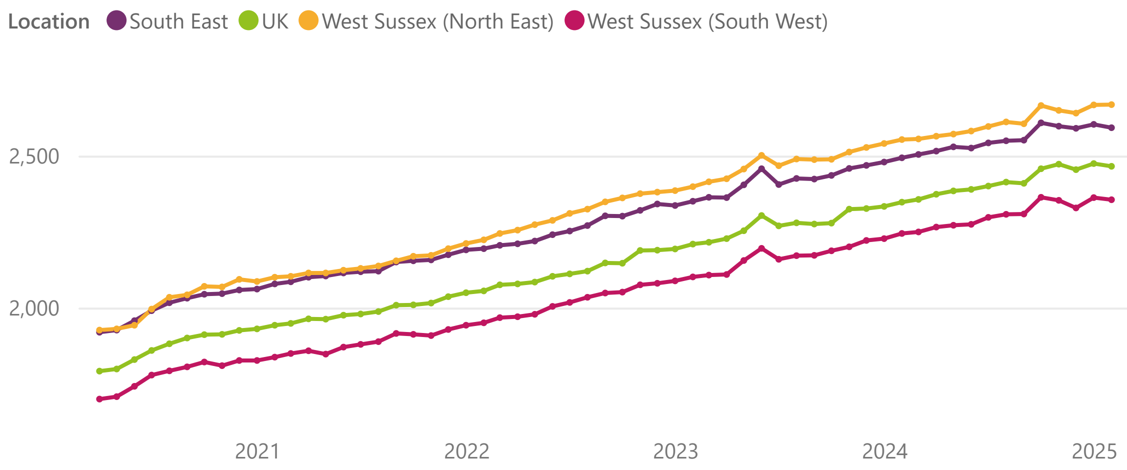
Source: ONS - Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted

Released: 20 March 2025

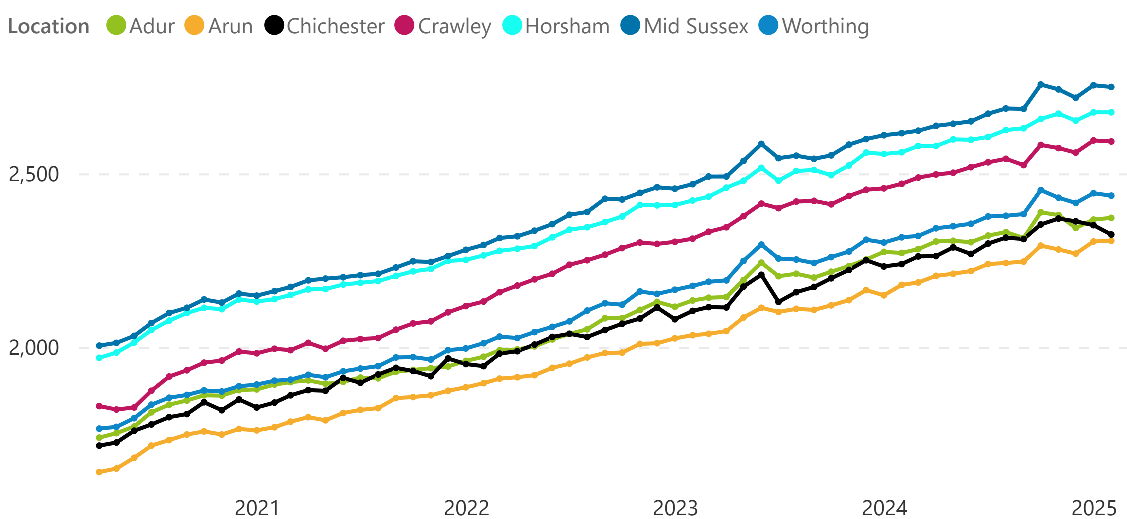
Real Time Information Earnings and Employment

WSCC Performance & Insight

Median Pay National and Regional Figures



Median Pay in West Sussex



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

Overall:

- West Sussex (South East): £2,355
- West Sussex (North West): £2,668
- Adur: £2,372
- Arun: £2,306
- Chichester: £2,324
- Crawley: £2,592
- Horsham: £2,676
- Mid Sussex: £2,749
- Worthing: £2,436
- South East: £2,474
- UK: £2,465

One Month Change (Jan 2025 - Feb 2025):

- West Sussex (South East) decreased by 0.3%
- West Sussex (North West) increased by 0.04%
- Adur increased by 0.21%
- Arun increased by 0.09%
- Chichester decreased by 1.15%
- Crawley decreased by 0.12%
- Horsham saw no change
- Mid Sussex decreased by 0.18%
- Worthing decreased by 0.29%
- South East decreased by 0.19%
- UK decreased by 0.28%

Three Month Change (Nov 2024 - Feb 2025):

- West Sussex (South East) decreased by 0.08%
- West Sussex (North West) decreased by 0.72%
- Adur decreased by 0.34%
- Arun increased by 1.10%
- Chichester decreased by 1.94%
- Crawley increased by 0.74%
- Horsham increased by 0.15%
- Mid Sussex increased by 0.26%
- Worthing increased by 0.25%
- South East decreased by 0.19%
- UK decreased by 0.28%

Source: ONS - Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted

Released: 20 March 2025

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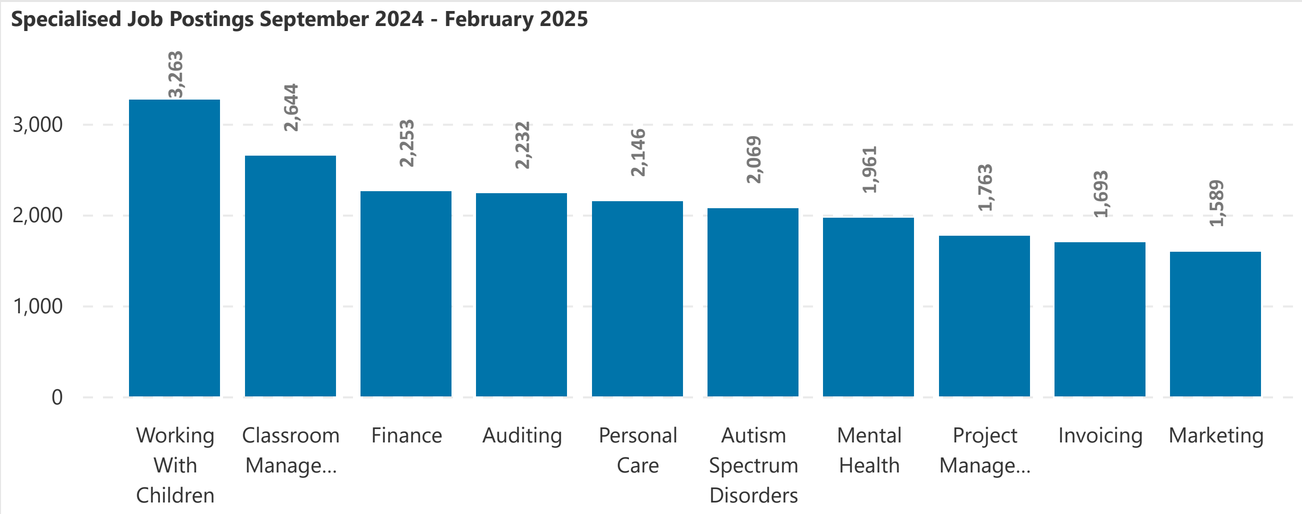
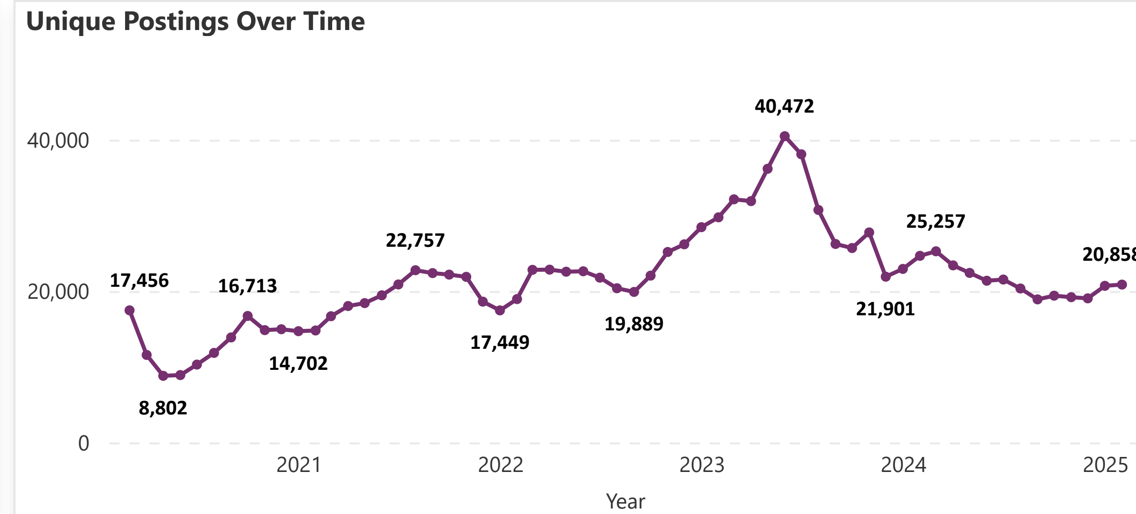
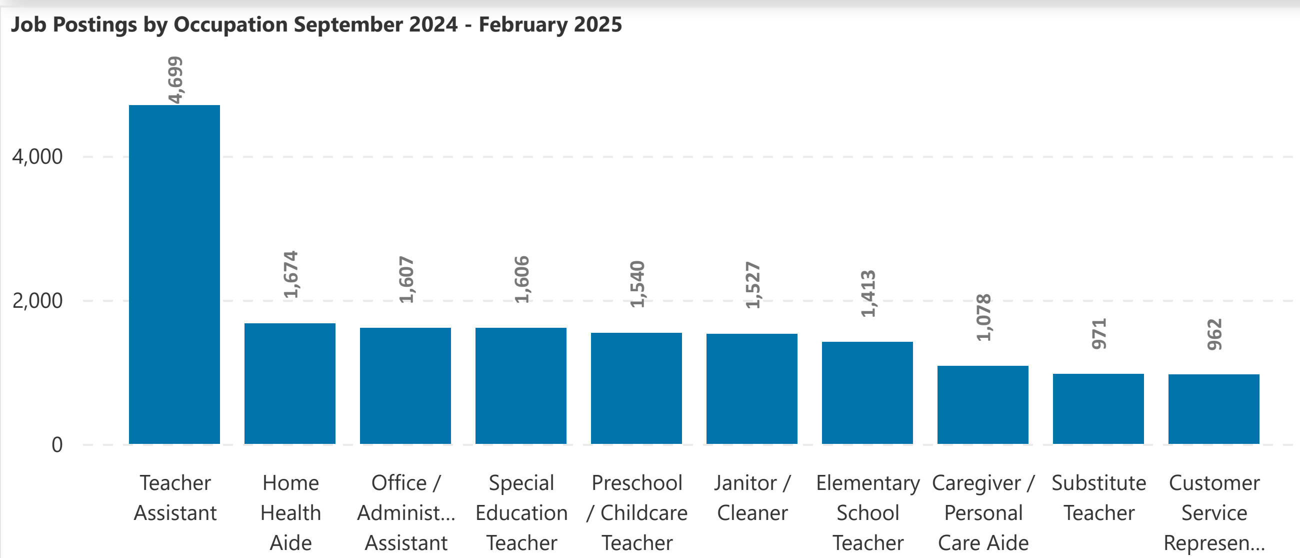
Job Postings







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 February 2025 there were 20,858 unique job postings in West Sussex, a significant reduction from the peak in June 2023 of 40,472 but still higher than the general levels seen pre-Covid. In terms of the top posted occupations over the last six months (September 2024 to February 2025), teaching assistants continue to be the most frequently posted role, making up the highest number of occupations. The remaining occupations appear to be evenly distributed.

Source: Lightcast

Released: March 2025

National Summary

Job Vacancies

- Estimated vacancies in December 2024 to February 2025 was 816,000.
- Increasing 1,000 or 0.1% from December 2024 to February 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 98,000 (10.7%) in December 2024 to February 2025 from level of a year ago.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 1.9 in November 2024 to January 2025.
- Estimated number of workforce jobs was 36.9 million in December 2024. An increase of 155,000 from September 2024.
- Estimated number of workforce jobs was up by 403,000 (1.1%) in December 2024 from the level of a year ago.

Gross Domestic Product

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% in January 2025.
- Real GDP is estimated to have grown 0.2% in the three months to January 2025, compared with the three months to October 2024.

Labour Market

- Early estimates for February 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees increased slightly with a rise of 0.2% or 67,000.
- The change in employees was highest in the health and social work sector with 92,000 employees.
- The accommodation and food service activities sector saw the highest fall with 64,000 employees.
- Payrolled employment slightly increased by 21,000 (0.1%) employees in February 2025.
- UK payrolled employee growth for January 2025 compared with December 2024 has been revised from an increase of 21,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 9,000.
- Early estimates for February 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 5.0% compared with February 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in February 2025 was highest in the accommodation and food service activities sector, with an increase of 9.3%, and lowest in the finance and insurance sector, with an increase of 2.1%.

Business Trading

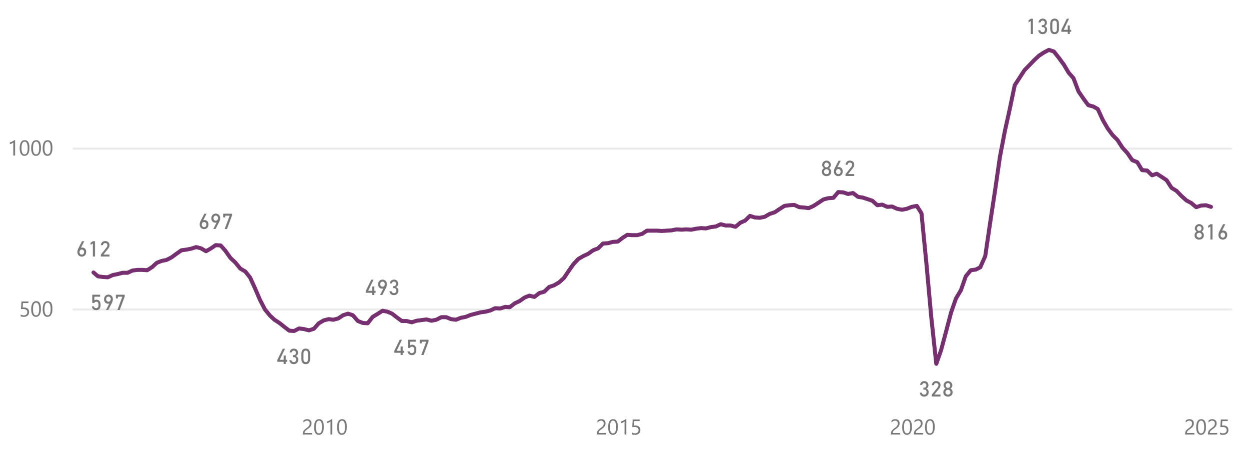
- 26 % of trading business reported their turnover had decreased in February 2025 compared with January 2025.
- 14% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in April 2025.
- In early March 2025, the cost of labour was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses with 10 or more employees at 37%.
- 29% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in February 2025.
- 56% of trading businesses with 10 or more employees reported labour costs as a reason for considering raising their prices in April 2025.
- In early March 2025, 8% of trading businesses reported that they were currently experiencing worker shortages, which is broadly stable since February 2024; this rises to 18% for businesses with 10 or more employees, which is broadly stable since September 2024.

Business Closures

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 2,035 in February 2025, 3% higher than in January 2025.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 393 compulsory liquidations, 1,520 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 115 administrations and 7 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).
- There were 10,147 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 600 bankruptcies, 3,865 debt relief orders (DROs) and 5,682 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The DRO numbers in February have been at record-high monthly levels since the abolition of the upfront £90 fee in April 2024.
- The number of IVAs registered in February 2025 was similar to the average monthly number seen in 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels and were also 10% lower than in February 2024.

Job Vacancies (UK)

Number of vacancies (Thousands) in the UK, seasonally adjusted, Jul to Sep 2005 to Jul to Sep 2024

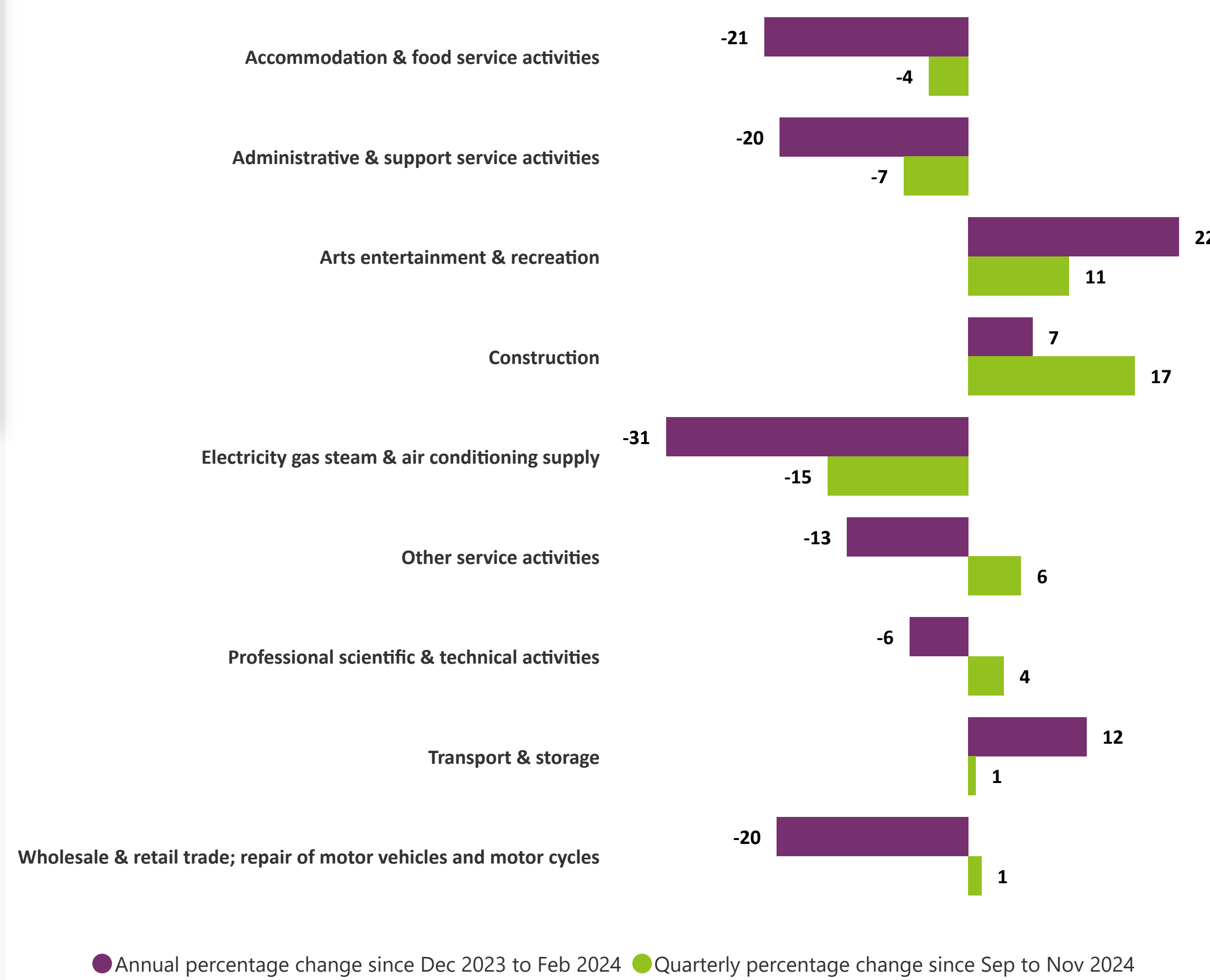


Summary of job vacancies (UK).

Overall:

- Estimated vacancies in December 2024 to February 2025 was 816,000.
- Increasing 1,000 or 0.1% from December 2024 to February 2025.
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 98,000 (10.7%) in December 2024 to February 2025 from level of a year ago.
- The number of unemployed people per vacancy was 1.9 in November 2024 to January 2025.
- Estimated number of workforce jobs was 36.9 million in December 2024. An increase of 155,000 from September 2024.
- Estimated number of workforce jobs was up by 403,000 (1.1%) in December 2024 from the level of a year ago.

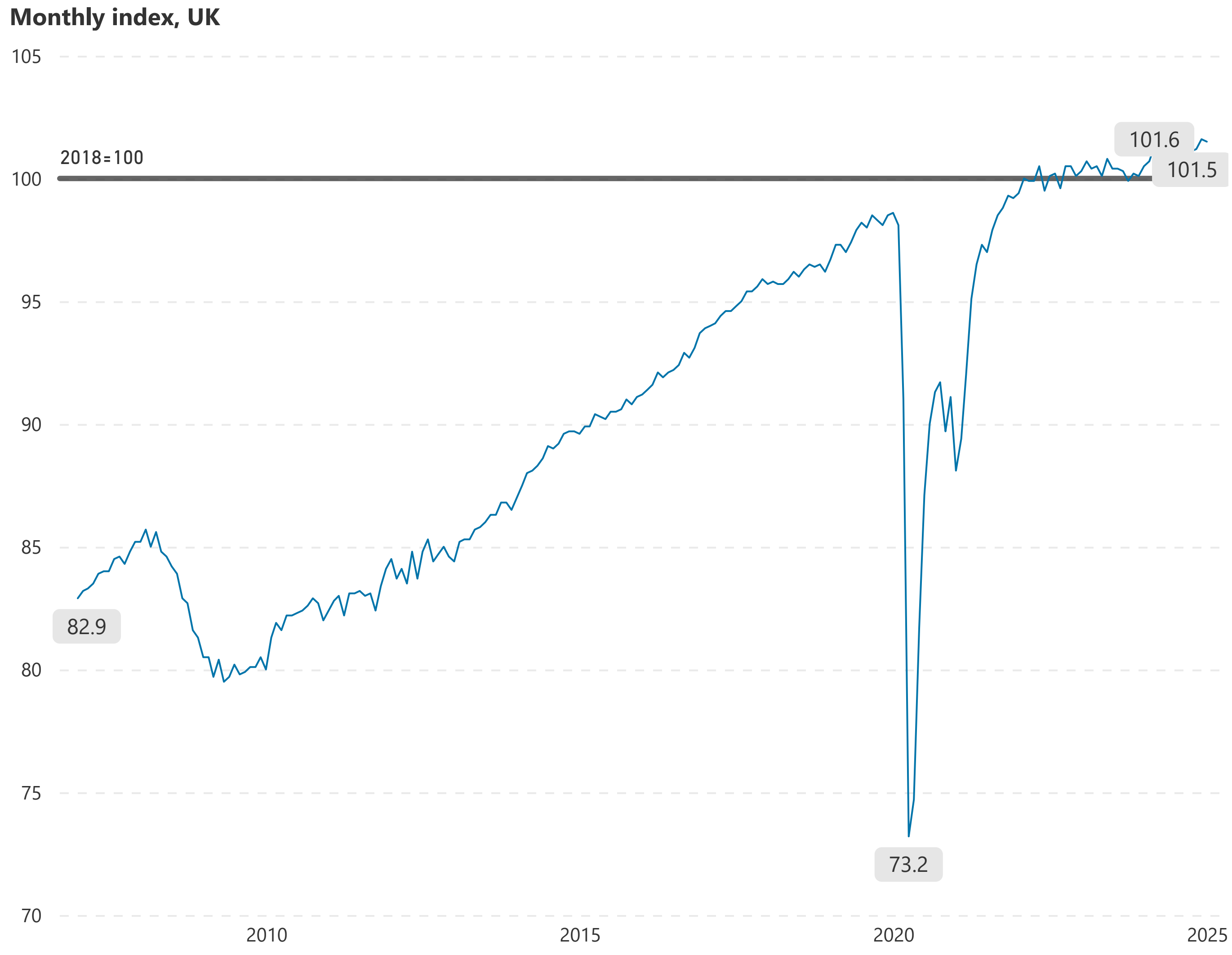
% Change in Number of Vacancies in UK by Sectors



Source: ONS

Released: 20 March 2025

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



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

Overall:

- Monthly GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% in January 2025.
- Real GDP is estimated to have grown 0.2% in the three months to January 2025, compared with the three months to October 2024.

Output growth:

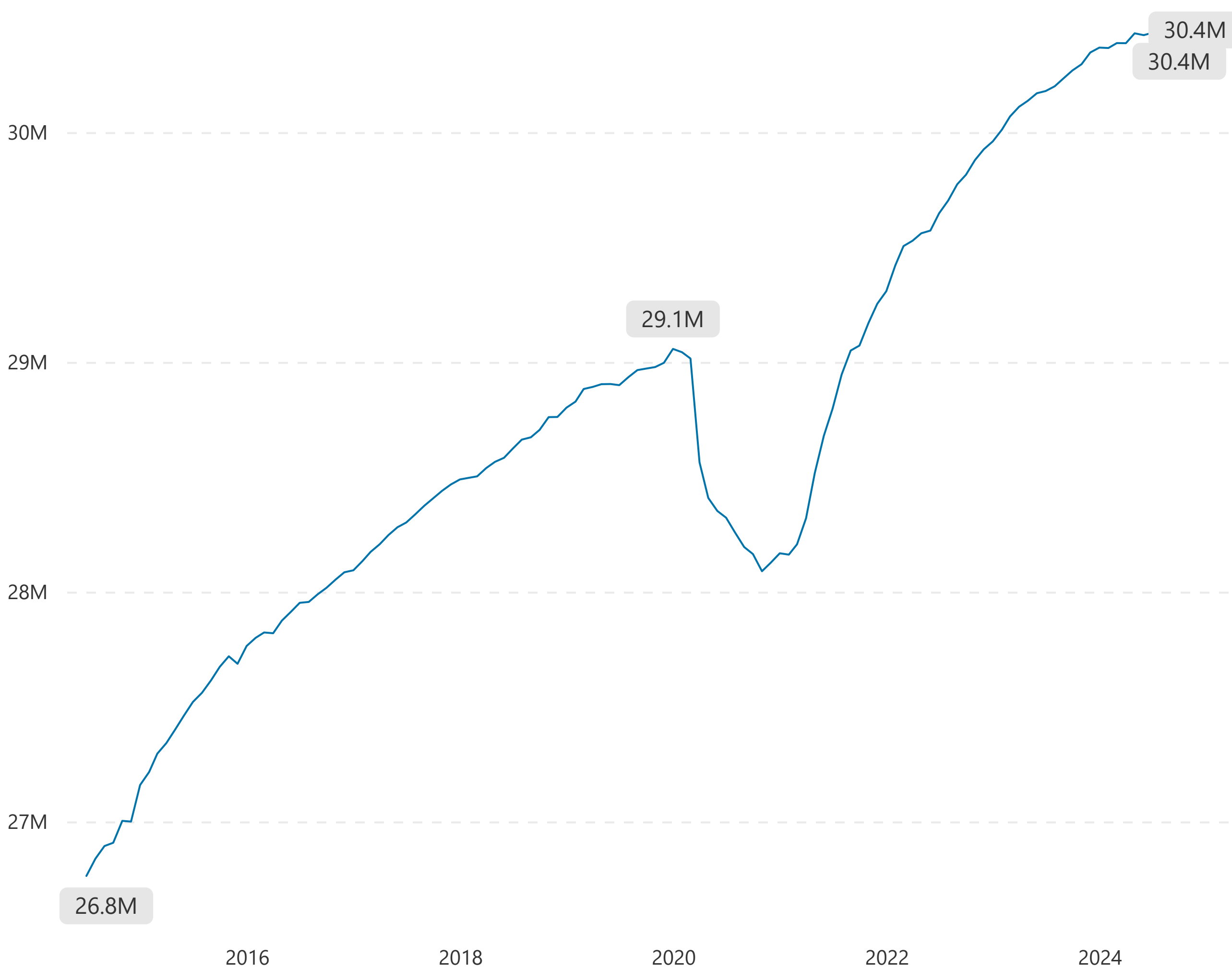
- Services grew by 0.1% in January 2025
- Production fell by 0.9% in January 2025
- Constructions fell by 0.2% in January 2025

Source: ONS, GDP Monthly Estimate

Released: 14 March 2025

Labour Market

Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



Summary of Labour Market (UK).

Overall:

- Early estimates for February 2025 indicate that the number of payrolled employees increased slightly with a rise of 0.2% or 67,000.
- The change in employees was highest in the health and social work sector with 92,000 employees.
- The accommodation and food service activities sector saw the highest fall with 64,000 employees.
- Payrolled employment slightly increased by 21,000 (0.1%) employees in February 2025.
- UK payrolled employee growth for January 2025 compared with December 2024 has been revised from an increase of 21,000 reported in the last bulletin to an increase of 9,000.
- Early estimates for February 2025 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 5.0% compared with February 2024.
- Annual growth in median pay in February 2025 was highest in the accommodation and food service activities sector, with an increase of 9.3%, and lowest in the finance and insurance sector, with an increase of 2.1%.

Source: ONS, Earning and Employment from Pay As You Earn

Released: 20 March 2025

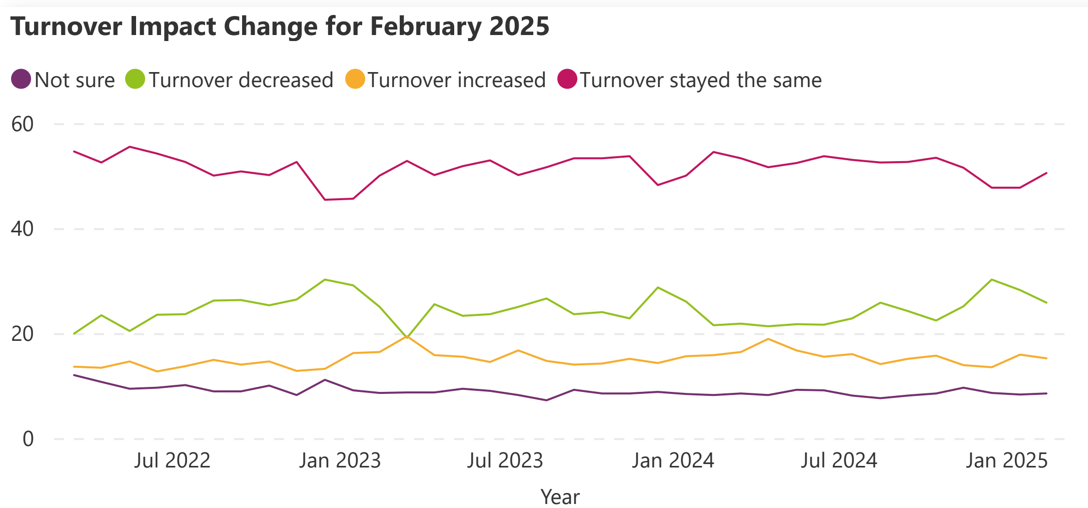
Business Trading

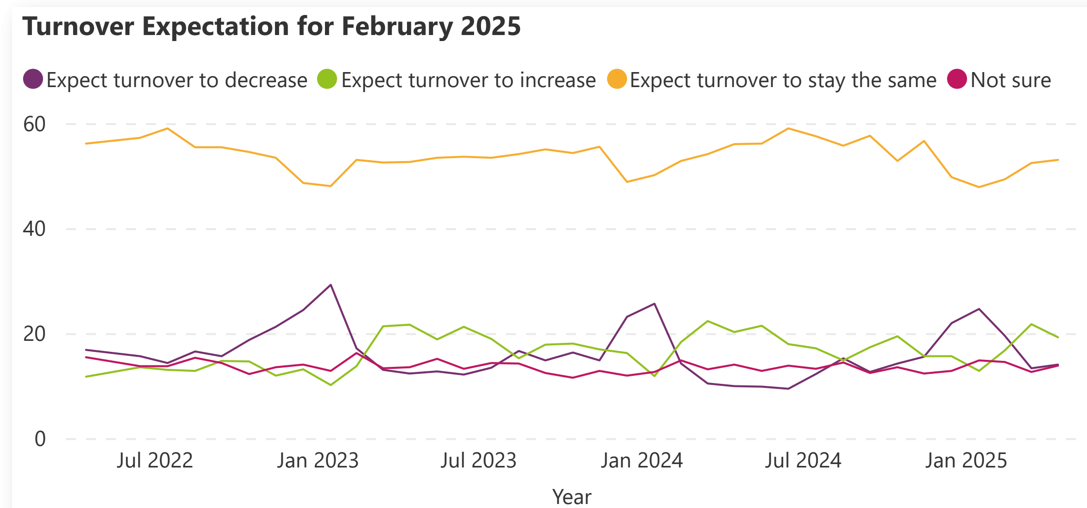
Summary of business insights and impact on the UK economy.

This data is the final results from Wave 126 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) which was live 3 to 16 February.

Overall:

- 26 % of trading business reported their turnover had decreased in February 2025 compared with January 2025.
- 14% of trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to decrease in April 2025.
- In early March 2025, the cost of labour was the most commonly reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses with 10 or more employees at 37%.
- 29% of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in February 2025.
- 56% of trading businesses with 10 or more employees reported labour costs as a reason for considering raising their prices in April 2025.
- In early March 2025, 8% of trading businesses reported that they were currently experiencing worker shortages, which is broadly stable since February 2024; this rises to 18% for businesses with 10 or more employees, which is broadly stable since September 2024.

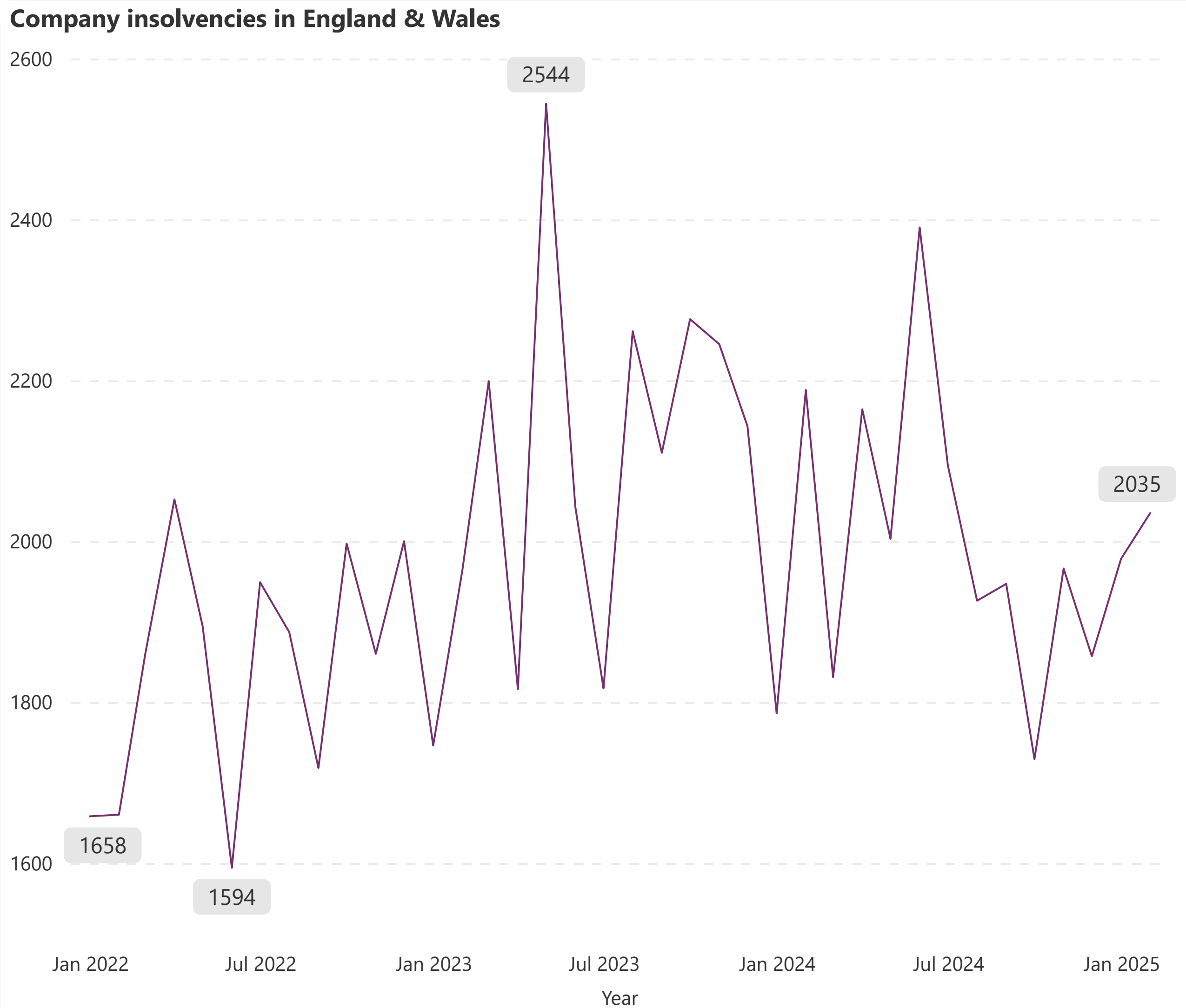




Source: ONS, Business insights and impact on the UK economy

Released: 20 March 2025

Business Closures (Company)



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

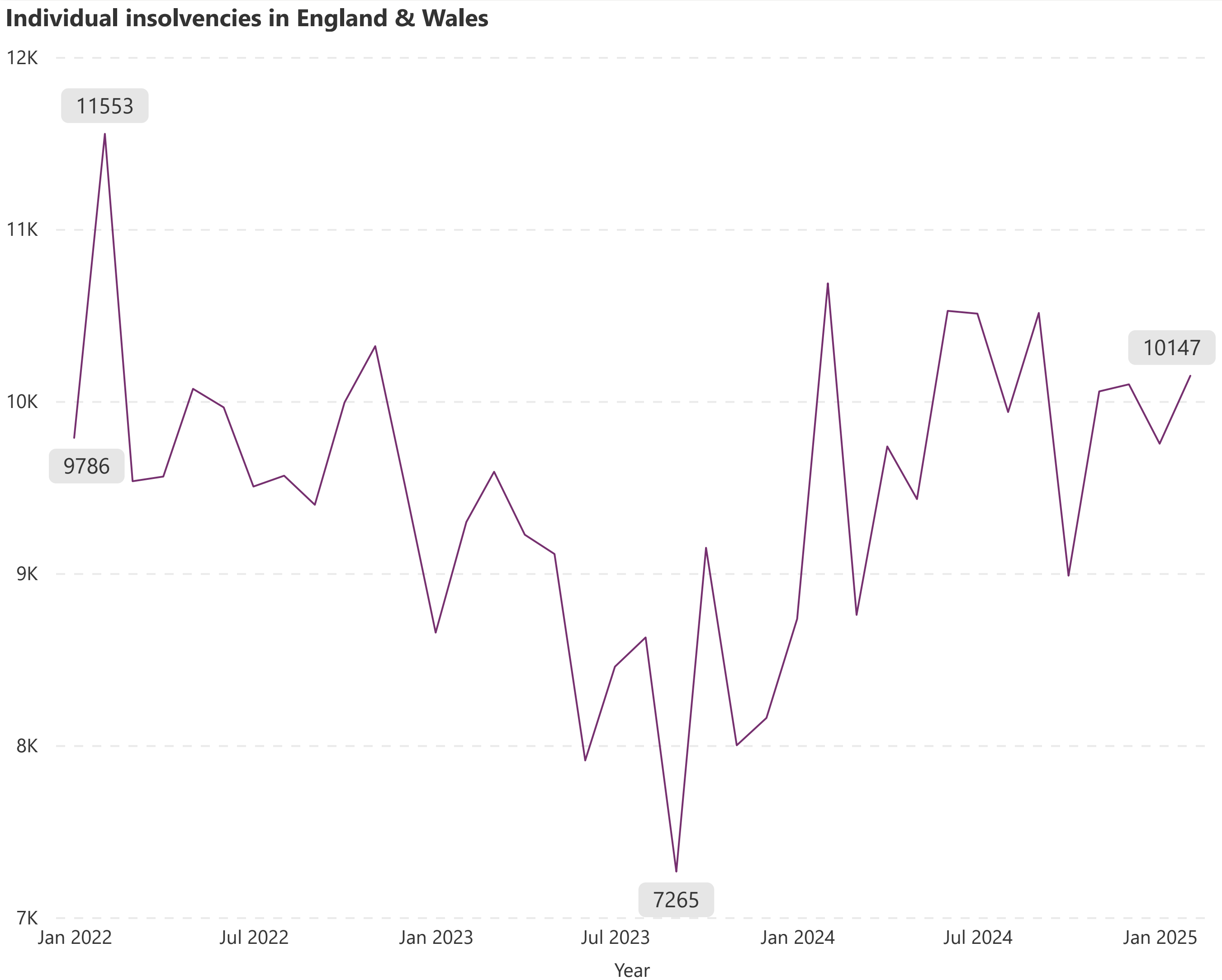
Overall:

- Company insolvencies in England and Wales was 2,035 in February 2025, 3% higher than in January 2025.
- Company insolvencies consisted of 393 compulsory liquidations, 1,520 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 115 administrations and 7 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).

Source: Gov.uk, Monthly Insolvency Statistics (company)

Released: 18 March 2025

Business Closures (Individual)



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

Overall:

- There were 10,147 individual insolvencies in England and Wales.
- Individual insolvencies consisted of 600 bankruptcies, 3,865 debt relief orders (DROs) and 5,682 individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).
- The DRO numbers in February have been at record-high monthly levels since the abolition of the upfront £90 fee in April 2024.
- The number of IVAs registered in February 2025 was similar to the average monthly number seen in 2024.
- Bankruptcy numbers remained at about half of pre-2020 levels and were also 10% lower than in February 2024.

Source: Gov.uk, Monthly Insolvency Statistics (Individual)

Released: 18 February 2025