# Economic update – January 2023

Key points

- Data is now available for some of the Labour market variables from the 2021 Census, and more detailed information is being released over the course of this year and next. The ONS have made some interesting Census Maps to compare different areas.

- Important note: Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topic.

- In 2021 254,750 adults in East Sussex were economically active (55.9% of all residents aged 16 and over) of whom 241,710 were in employment (53.0% of all adults). This compares with 60.9% of adults in England who were economically active and 57.4% nationally who were in employment.

- The county had a higher proportion of people who were self-employed, with 12.5% of adults compared to 9.6% nationally.

- In 2021 the largest sector in the county in terms of employment was Human health and social work, which employed 17.6% of people, up from 15.5% in 2011, whereas the proportion working in Wholesale, retail and motors, which was the largest sector in 2011, fell from 16.0% in 2011 to 14.3% in 2021.

- There are now 11,300 people (December 2022) receiving benefits because they are unemployed (JSA or Universal Credit (UC) searching for work) up 0.5% from 11,245 in November 2022, but 17.4% lower than in December 2021. Numbers are still 24% higher than in March 2020. 46,567 are now receiving UC (any conditionality), 35,760 of whom are not included in the unemployed Claimant Count above (i.e. not 'Searching for work') in December 2022.

- The economy of East Sussex generated £9.4 billion in 2020, or £16,730 per head (UK £29,063 per head). Total GVA declined by 1.7% between 2019 and 2020, lower than the 3.8% fall in the UK as a whole, but in 2020 was 13.1% higher than in 2015.

- While pay rates in East Sussex are rising at a similar rate to national wages, median monthly earnings in November 2022, at £2,032 in the county, remain considerably lower than national average (UK=£2,186). (see page 9).

Labour market & skills

Claimant rates in East Sussex by district, December 2019-2022
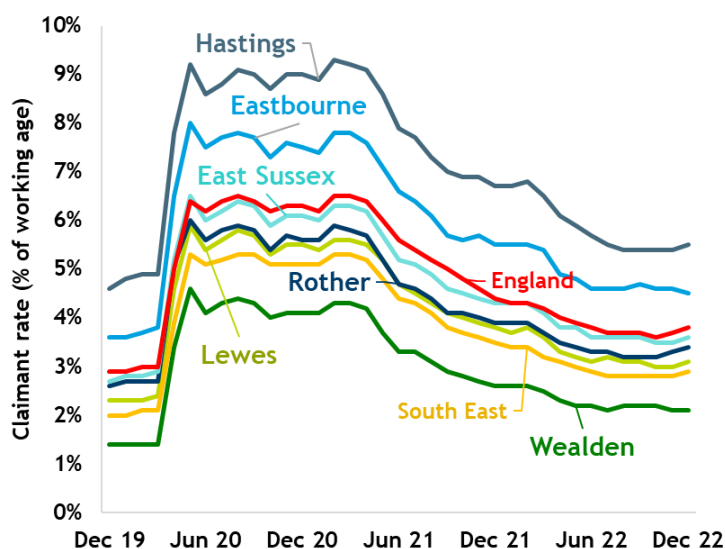
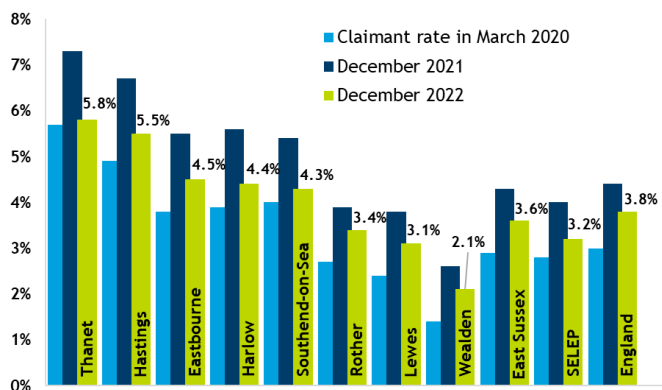**11,300** Unemployed JSA and UC claimants in East Sussex, December 2022

3.6% of the working age population Lower than England (3.8%)

up ⬆ **0.5%** since November 2022 and
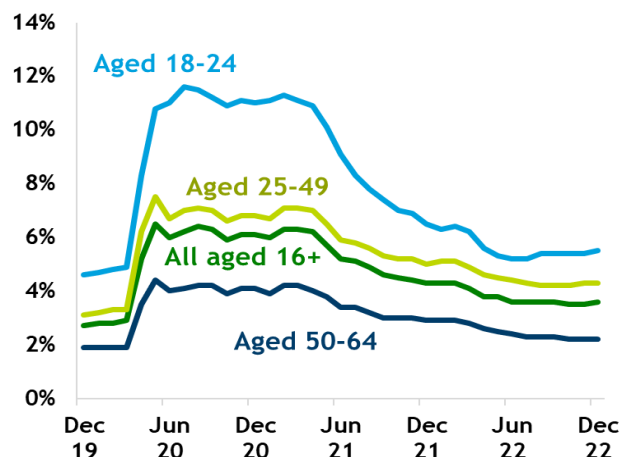
Down ⬇ **17.4%** since December 2021

But still **24%** higher than in March 2020 [See note 1]

Labour market & skills

Claimant, top 5 districts in SELEP, East Sussex and districts, March 2020, December 2021 and December 2022

Legend:
- Claimant rate in March 2020
- December 2021
- December 2022

Labelled values (December 2022): Thanet 5.8%, Hastings 5.5%, Eastbourne 4.5%, Harlow 4.4%, Southend-on-Sea 4.3%, Rother 3.4%, Lewes 3.1%, Wealden 2.1%, East Sussex 3.6%, SELEP 3.2%, England 3.8%

Youth unemployment has been declining faster than other age groups

Number of UC/JSA claimants aged 18-24 in East Sussex

March 2020: 1,810
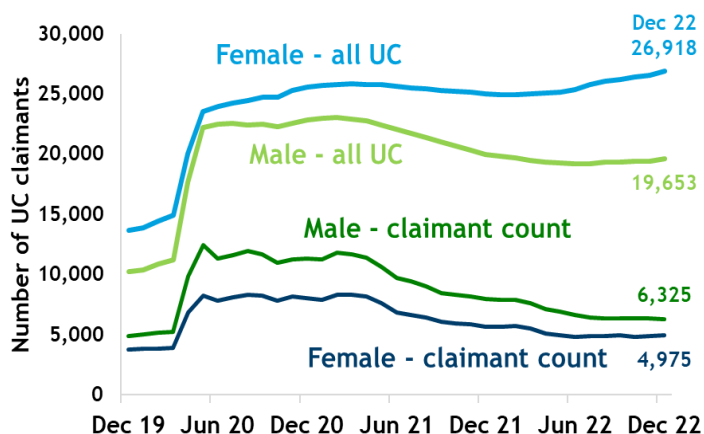**December 2021: 2,345**
December 2022: 1,955

5.5% of people aged 18-24 in East Sussex claiming UC/JSA in December 2022 (4.9% in March 2020)

Only **8.0%** more than in March 2020
Lower than 24% rise for all aged 16-64
But UP by 20 (1.0%) in month to December 2022 (Females up 3.4%, Males down 0.4%)

Hastings: **8.3%** of young people claiming UC/JSA, including **10.6%** of young males, but 4.4% fewer young people claiming in December 2022 than in March 2020

## Male and female claimants of Universal Credit and UC/JSA unemployed claimant count, December 2019-2022, East Sussex

Dec 22 values: Female - all UC 26,918; Male - all UC 19,653; Male - claimant count 6,325; Female - claimant count 4,975

Claimant rates in East Sussex, all working age and broad age groups, December 2019-2022

Labelled lines: Aged 18-24, Aged 25-49, All aged 16+, Aged 50-64

- Claimant counts rose in Hastings (up 40/1.5%), Rother (+35) and Lewes (+20), but fell in Eastbourne (-40) and were stable in Wealden in the month to December 2022.

- At 5.5%, Hastings has the second highest claimant rate in SELEP and SE region after Thanet in Kent (5.8%) (see chart top right).

- Largest percentage increase in claimants since March 2020 in Wealden (+50%) and Lewes (+29%). But Wealden has seen the largest decline since December 2021 with numbers down 19%.

Claimant rates East Sussex, SELEP and comparators, December 2019-2022

Legend: East Sussex, SELEP, England, Greater Essex, Greater Kent
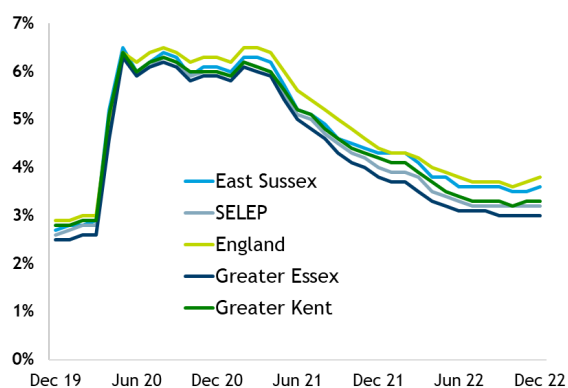
- While the number of male unemployed UC/JSA claimants is higher than the number of female claimants (see dark blue - male and green - female lines, labelled 'Claimant count', left), the number of female claimants in all UC conditionality groups (light blue line) is much higher than the number of males (light green line) claiming (see chart left), and numbers are increasing faster than males in December 2022.
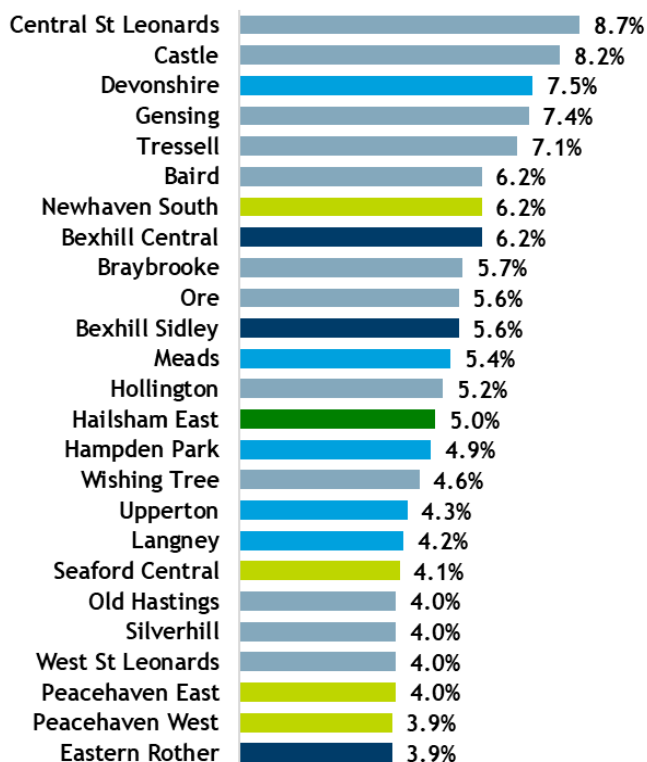
Labour market & skills 👥

Map showing claimant rate in December 2022 by (post 2019) ward in East Sussex

Claimant rate December 2022
- up to 1.7%
- 1.8-2.5%
- 2.6-3.7%
- 3.8-4.6% (England average 3.8%)
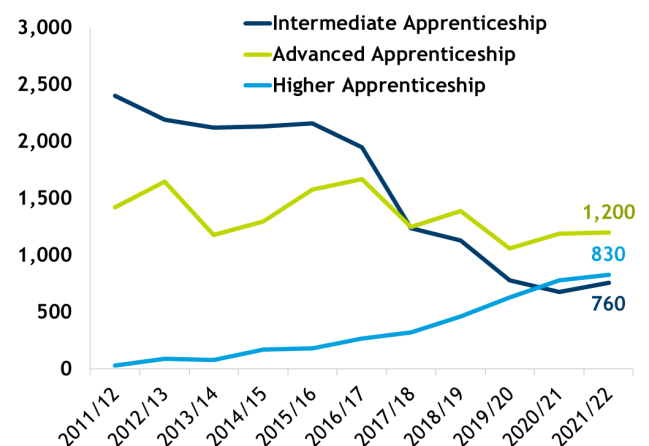- 4.7-6.2%
- 6.3% or more
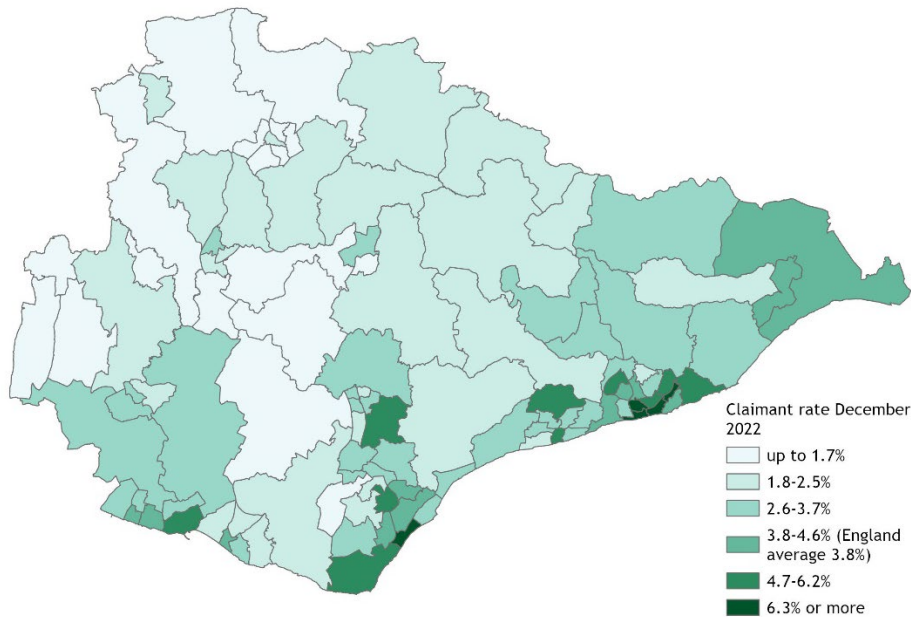
- Wards: 27 post 2019 wards (see map above) have rates above or at the England average (3.8%), with the highest rates in Central St Leonards (8.7%), Castle (8.2%) and Gensing (7.4%) in Hastings, and Devonshire (7.5%) in Eastbourne.

- But largest percentage rises since the start of the pandemic have been in rural and less deprived wards with previously negligible numbers of claimants. 56 (post 2019) wards now have rates below what the East Sussex rate was in March 2020 (2.9%).

- 43 (post 2019) wards saw an increase in claimant numbers in the month to December 2022, while 31 wards saw a decline.

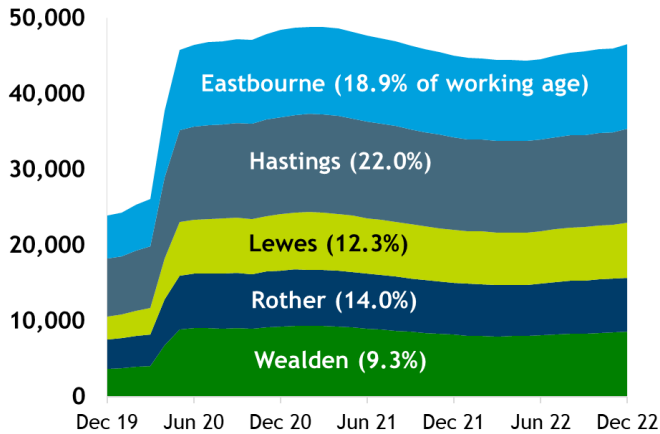## Claimant rate in December 2022, (post 2019) wards above the national average (3.8%)

Ward	Rate
Central St Leonards	8.7%
Castle	8.2%
Devonshire	7.5%
Gensing	7.4%
Tressell	7.1%
Baird	6.2%
Newhaven South	6.2%
Bexhill Central	6.2%
Braybrooke	5.7%
Ore	5.6%
Bexhill Sidley	5.6%
Meads	5.4%
Hollington	5.2%
Hailsham East	5.0%
Hampden Park	4.9%
Wishing Tree	4.6%
Upperton	4.3%
Langney	4.2%
Seaford Central	4.1%
Old Hastings	4.0%
Silverhill	4.0%
West St Leonards	4.0%
Peacehaven East	4.0%
Peacehaven West	3.9%
Eastern Rother	3.9%

Apprenticeships

East Sussex apprenticeship starts, 2011-2022

- Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Advanced Apprenticeship
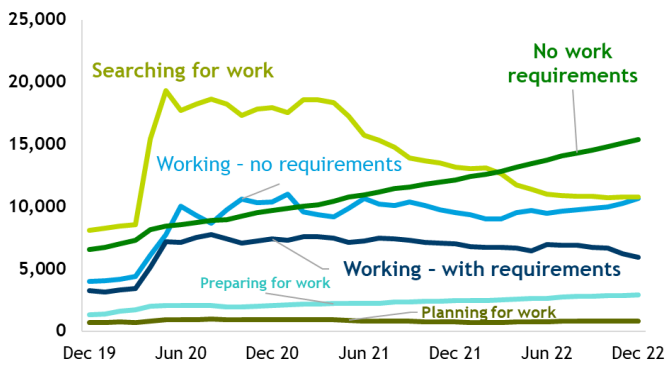- Higher Apprenticeship

1,200
830
760

There were 13,720 apprenticeship starts in East Sussex between 2017 and 2022. Apprenticeship starts in East Sussex in 2021/22 were up 5% on the previous year. Intermediate level apprenticeship starts in 2021/22 rose by 12% [see note 3].
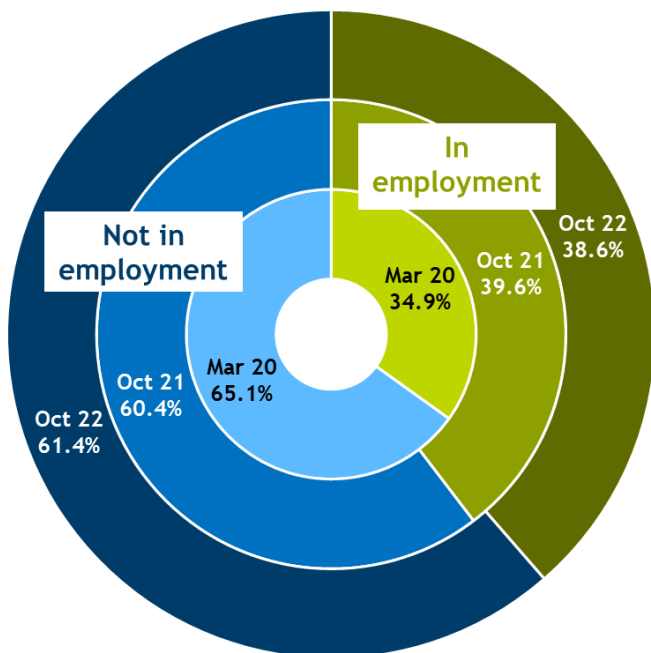
Labour market & skills 👥

Universal Credit claimants by district, December 2019-2022 (inc % working age claiming in December 2022)

Area chart with legend:
- Eastbourne (18.9% of working age)
- Hastings (22.0%)
- Lewes (12.3%)
- Rother (14.0%)
- Wealden (9.3%)

Y-axis: 0 to 50,000. X-axis: Dec 19, Jun 20, Dec 20, Jun 21, Dec 21, Jun 22, Dec 22

Universal Credit claimants by conditionality - December 2019-2022

Line chart with labels:
- Searching for work
- No work requirements
- Working – no requirements
- Preparing for work
- Working – with requirements
- Planning for work

Y-axis: 0 to 25,000. X-axis: Dec 19, Jun 20, Dec 20, Jun 21, Dec 21, Jun 22, Dec 22

Employment indicator of Universal Credit claimants in East Sussex – March 2020, July 2021 and July 2022

Doughnut chart:
- In employment: Mar 20 34.9%, Oct 21 39.6%, Oct 22 38.6%
- Not in employment: Mar 20 65.1%, Oct 21 60.4%, Oct 22 61.4%

In East Sussex in December 2022 there were:

UC

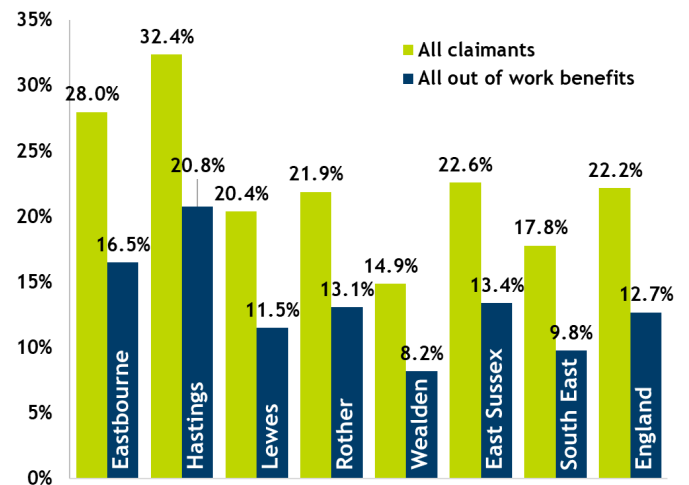**46,567** people claiming UC (14.6% of working age people)

Up **533** since November 2022

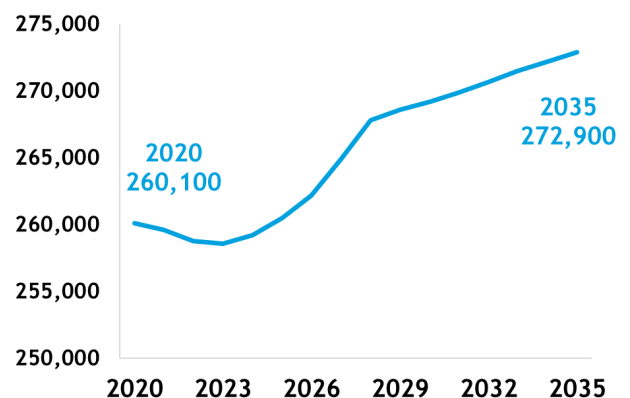Up **1,498** (3.3%) since December 2021 and up **20,400** since March 2020

In October 2022, **39%** of all UC claimants were in employment, up from 35% in March 2020

43% Female claimants were in employment in October 2022 [see note 4]

Percentage of working age people claiming any DWP benefit and Out-of-work benefits in February 2022, districts, East Sussex and comparators [see note 6]

Bar chart with legend:
- All claimants
- All out of work benefits

District	All claimants	All out of work benefits
Eastbourne	28.0%	16.5%
Hastings	32.4%	20.8%
Lewes	20.4%	11.5%
Rother	21.9%	13.1%
Wealden	14.9%	8.2%
East Sussex	22.6%	13.4%
South East	17.8%	9.8%
England	22.2%	12.7%

Workforce projections for East Sussex (dwelling-led) – projected number of economically active people aged 16-74 [see note 17]

Line chart. Y-axis: 250,000 to 275,000. X-axis: 2020, 2023, 2026, 2029, 2032, 2035.
- 2020 260,100
- 2035 272,900

Labour market

census 2021

Census 2021 results are now available [see note 5]

Data is now available for some of the Labour market variables from the 2021 Census, and more detailed information is being released over the course of this year and next

It is important to note that the 2021 Census took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topic.

Note that the economically active population included people who were on furlough at the time of Census 2021, who were considered to be temporarily away from work. In East Sussex, HMRC data estimated that 32,100 employees were enrolled on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme at 31 March 2021, while 17,000 self-employed people made a claim to the fourth grant of the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (30 April 2021).

Economic activity rates in 2021- percentage of all people aged 16+
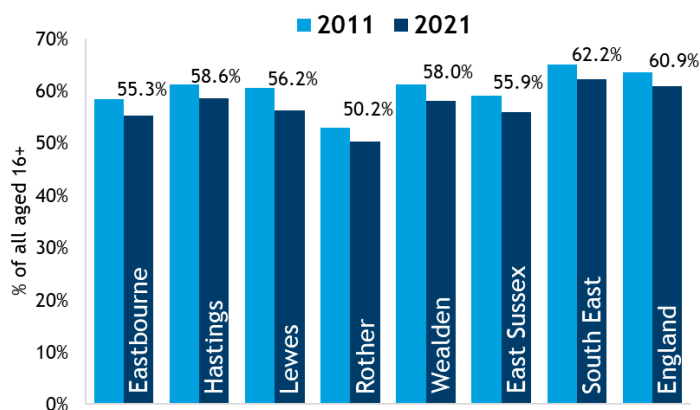
## Employees and self-employed in 2021

Economic activity and inactivity

- Economic activity rates have fallen in all districts and regionally and nationally since 2011, and economic activity rates are lower across the county than the national average.

- 2021 there were 254,750 people in East Sussex who were economically active (55.9% of all adults aged 16+) of whom 241,710 were in employment (53.0% of all adults aged 16+). This compares with 60.9% of adults in England who were economically active and 57.4% nationally who were in employment. Economic activity rates in the county were lower than the national average in all districts.

- Rother has the lowest economic activity rate in the county with only half of all people (50.2%) aged 16 and over being economically active.

Employees and self-employment

- A higher proportion of adults are self-employed than the national average, and rates are rising, compared to a national decrease (see chart above).

- 65.2% of employed adults (aged 16+) in the county were working full-time (more than 31 hours per week) (70.2% in England) in 2021, compared to 67.1% in 2011 (70.8% in England in 2011). Fewer people in the county were working very long hours (more than 48 hours per week) - 11.2% of people in 2021, compared to 14.0% in 2011.

- A higher percentage of part-time workers (34.8%) in the county compared to the national average (29.8%).
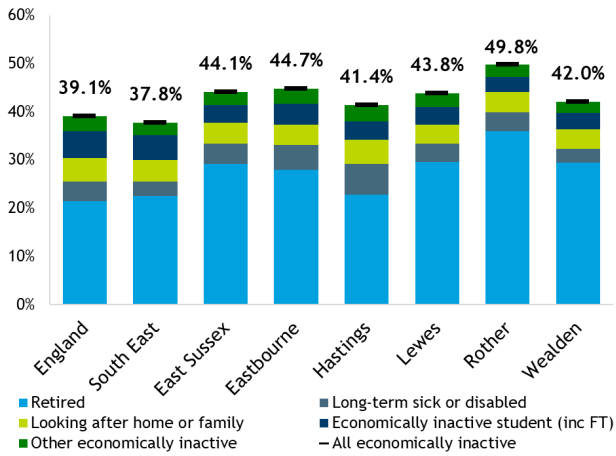
Hours worked in 2021
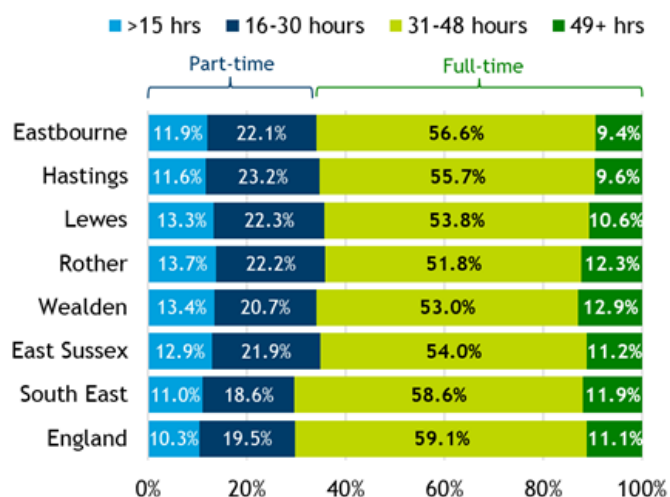
Labour market

Economic inactivity

Economically inactive in 2021 by type

Legend:
- Retired
- Long-term sick or disabled
- Looking after home or family
- Economically inactive student (inc FT)
- Other economically inactive
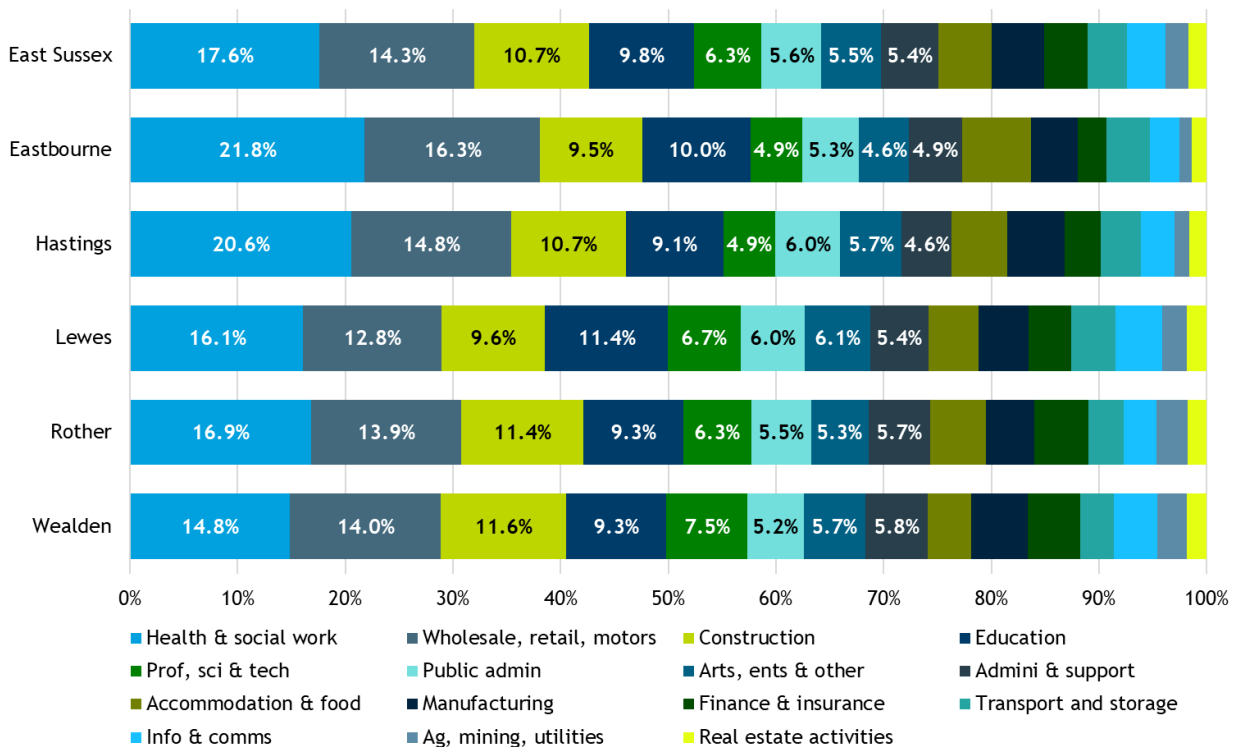- All economically inactive

- In 2021, 44.1% of the county's adult population were Economically inactive, compared to 39.1% in England. This is up from 40.9% in 2011 (England 36.4%), but part of this increase may reflect the aging of the population.
- In Rother, half of all adults were Economically inactive (49.8%, fourth highest of all districts/UAs in England), but in Hastings only 41.4% were.
- While 4.2% of adults in the county were inactive because they were long-term sick or disabled, similar to the national average (4.1%), in Hastings 6.4% were inactive for this reason (joint 21st highest district/UA in England and highest in the SELEP), compared to just 2.8% in Wealden.

Industry of employment

- Employment in Health and social care, and Wholesale, retail and motors dominates in the county.
- The structure of the labour force has changed since 2011. In 2021 the largest sector in the county in terms of employment was Human Health and Social work, which employed 17.6% of people, up from 15.5% in 2011, whereas the proportion working in Wholesale, retail and motors, which was the largest sector in 2011, fell from 16.0% in 2011 to 14.3% in 2021. Once again, the pandemic maybe a factor in these changes.
- Eastbourne had the highest percentage of employed adults working in the Human Health and Social work sector (21.8%) of all districts/UAs in the country. It also has the highest proportion (3.5%) of people working in the Residential care sub-sector/
- Hastings (2.2%) and Lewes (1.9%) had the highest proportion of people working in the Creative, arts and entertainment activities sub-sector outside of the London boroughs and Brighton and Hove.

Percentage of people working in different industrial sectors in 2021

Legend:
- Health & social work
- Wholesale, retail, motors
- Construction
- Education
- Prof, sci & tech
- Public admin
- Arts, ents & other
- Admini & support
- Accommodation & food
- Manufacturing
- Finance & insurance
- Transport and storage
- Info & comms
- Ag, mining, utilities
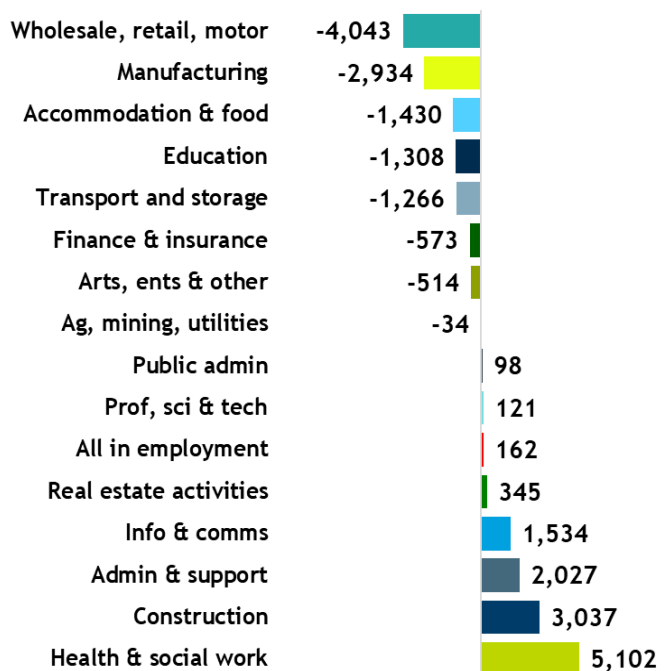- Real estate activities
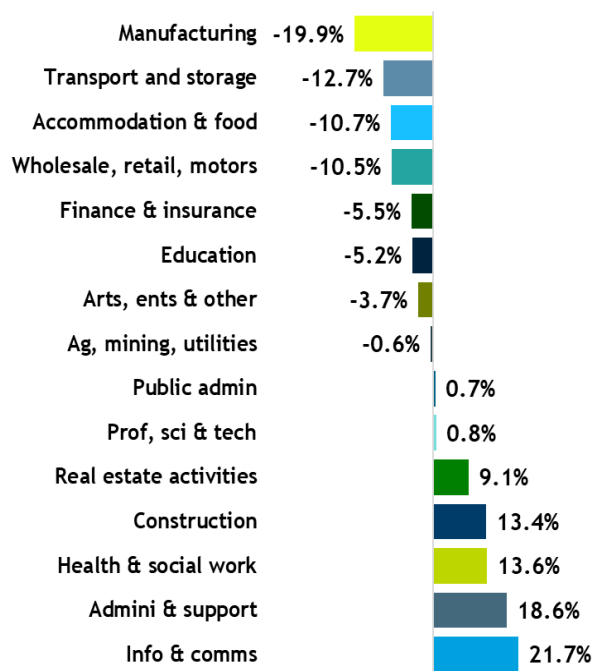
Labour market

Industry of employment – change since 2011

- The sector that grew the most in East Sussex was Information and Communication, where the number of people employed grew by 21.7% between 2011 and 2021, although this sector still only represents 3.6% of overall employment (up from 2.9% in 2011) (see charts below and previous page).

- The biggest fall was seen in the Manufacturing sector where the number employed declined by 19.9% over the 10 years (a steeper decline than in England where numbers fell by 14.3%).

- 4.9% were employed in Manufacturing in 2021, compared to 6.1% in 2011. The fall in manufacturing was greatest in Lewes, where 25.4% fewer people were employed in manufacturing in 2021 than in 2011.

Actual change in industry of employment in East Sussex, 2011-2021

Sector	Change
Wholesale, retail, motor	-4,043
Manufacturing	-2,934
Accommodation & food	-1,430
Education	-1,308
Transport and storage	-1,266
Finance & insurance	-573
Arts, ents & other	-514
Ag, mining, utilities	-34
Public admin	98
Prof, sci & tech	121
All in employment	162
Real estate activities	345
Info & comms	1,534
Admin & support	2,027
Construction	3,037
Health & social work	5,102

Percentage change in industry of employment 2011-2021

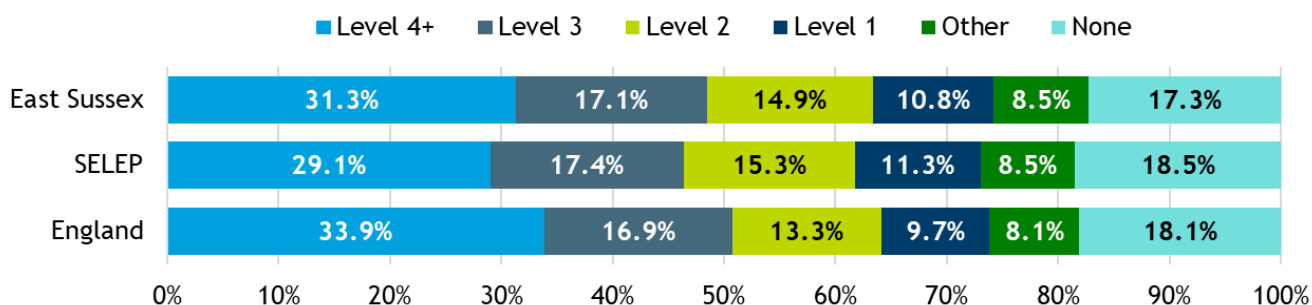| Sector	% change
Manufacturing	-19.9%
Transport and storage	-12.7%
Accommodation & food	-10.7%
Wholesale, retail, motors	-10.5%
Finance & insurance	-5.5%
Education	-5.2%
Arts, ents & other	-3.7%
Ag, mining, utilities	-0.6%
Public admin	0.7%
Prof, sci & tech	0.8%
Real estate activities	9.1%
Construction	13.4%
Health & social work	13.6%
Admini & support	18.6%
Info & comms	21.7%

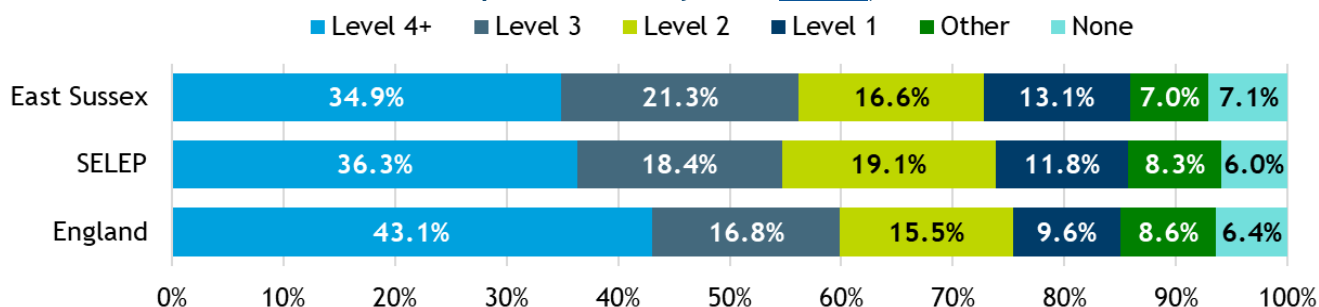## Small area data on industry sectors from Census 2021

- At small area level (MSOA) some sectors are much larger in some parts of the county than in the country as a whole.

- Employment in the Residential Care sub-sector is much higher in parts of East Sussex than the rest of the country. The MSOA Eastbourne 010 (Pier) had the highest percentage of people in this sub-sector of all MSOAs in the country at 6.0%, with four MSOAs in the county being among the highest 20 MSOAs nationally for employment in Residential Care.

- Hastings 011 (Central St Leonards) had 5.5% of people employed in the Creative, Arts and Entertainment sector, the highest proportion of any MSOA in the country outside London.

- In broad industry sections, more than a quarter of adults in Eastbourne 010 (Pier) and Eastbourne 008 (Upperton) were working in the Human Health and Social Work sector.

Skills

census 2021

- In 2021, a lower proportion of all adults and working-age (aged 16-64) people in the county had level 4 qualifications than nationally.
- A slightly lower proportion of all adults had no qualifications compared to England. However higher proportion of working-age people in East Sussex have no qualifications.

Qualifications of the adult population (highest qualification), Census 2021 [see note 5]

Legend: ■ Level 4+ ■ Level 3 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 1 ■ Other ■ None

Area	Level 4+	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Other	None
East Sussex	31.3%	17.1%	14.9%	10.8%	8.5%	17.3%
SELEP	29.1%	17.4%	15.3%	11.3%	8.5%	18.5%
England	33.9%	16.9%	13.3%	9.7%	8.1%	18.1%

Qualifications of the working-age population (highest qualification), December 2021 (from Annual Population Survey - see note 7)

Legend: ■ Level 4+ ■ Level 3 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 1 ■ Other ■ None

Area	Level 4+	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Other	None
East Sussex	34.9%	21.3%	16.6%	13.1%	7.0%	7.1%
SELEP	36.3%	18.4%	19.1%	11.8%	8.3%	6.0%
England	43.1%	16.8%	15.5%	9.6%	8.6%	6.4%

Census key points

- The overall number of schoolchildren and full-time students aged five years and over has decreased since 2011, when it was 88,250. While the proportion of students as a percentage of the total population aged 5 and over has remained largely static in England (20.4% in 2021 vs 20.5% in 2021), in East Sussex, it has fallen from 17.7% in 2011 to 16.8% in 2021.

- 31.3% of residents aged 16 years and over (142,840 people) had NVQ Level 4 or above qualifications (for example, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree and post-graduate qualifications). This is slightly lower than the English national average (33.9%). It is worth bearing in mind that East Sussex has a higher proportion of over 65s than England as a whole (26.1% of the East Sussex population is aged 65 and above vs 18.4% in England overall).

- In 2021, 17.3% of the population aged 16 and over (78,950 people) reported having no qualifications. This is lower than the English national average of 18.1%.

- Apprenticeships were the highest qualification for 5.6% of people (25,590).

- Within East Sussex, the district with the highest percentage of the population with Level 4 or above qualifications was Lewes with 34.8% (28,980) and the lowest percentage was Hastings, with 28.6% (21,360).

- Comparisons between 2011 and 2021 data for highest level of qualifications are not possible due to changes in how the questions were asked.

Wages and employment £

- Comparatively low workplace pay (from ASHE) in the county (£579 pw), which increased significantly in 2021 and 2022 –see note 10 for more information about how the pandemic affected earnings data (see chart bottom right).
- Employment rates (employees as a percentage of working age people aged 16-64) are lower in the districts and boroughs of East Sussex than the national and regional averages and are lowest in Hastings and Rother (see chart bottom left).
- At 215,835, the number of employees in November 2022 is now considerably higher than the previous peak seen in July 2019 (see chart top right).
- Median monthly earnings at £2,032 in the county (November 2022) are also considerably lower than national (UK=£2,186) and regional (£2,313) averages (see chart middle left).
- This can be explained because wage levels in the dominant sectors for employment in the county: Health; Wholesale, retail and motors; and Accommodation and Food are all below the national average wage and are lowest in the Accommodation and Food sector (excl. Household sector - see chart right).
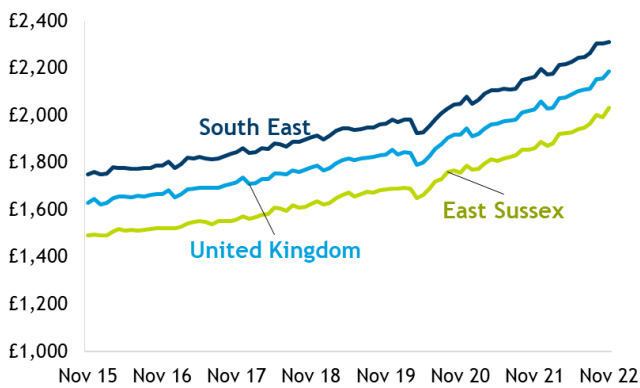
Total number of employees (PAYE RTI) November 2015-November 2022, East Sussex [see note 9]
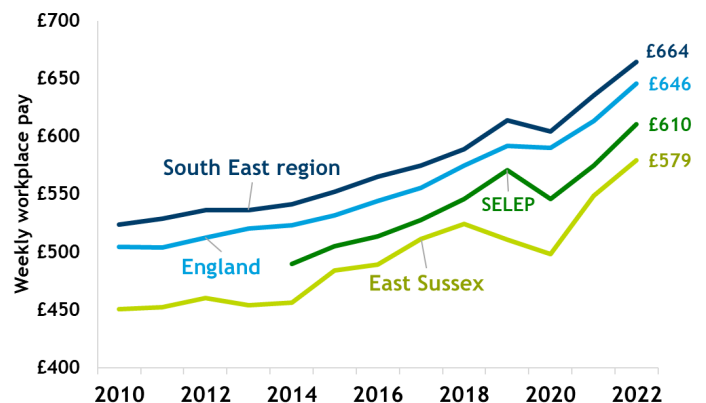

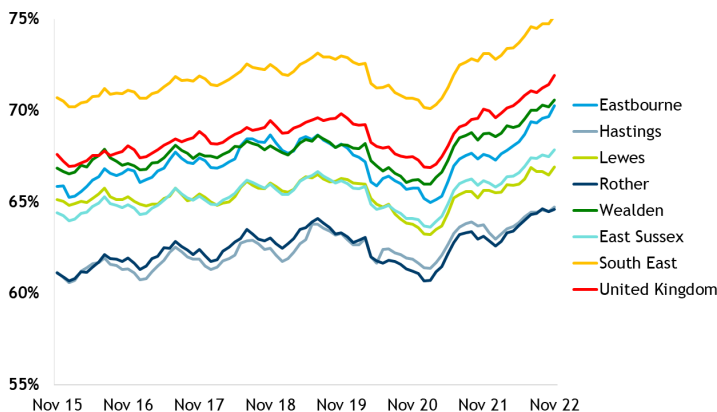## Median pay by industry (PAYE RTI), UK, July 2022
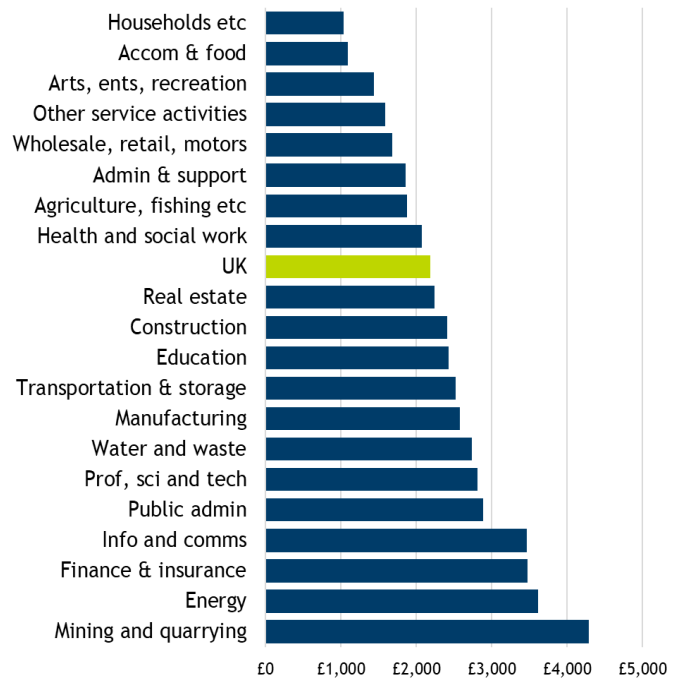
Median monthly earnings from PAYE Real Time Information (RTI), November 2015-2022

Employment rate from PAYE RTI (employees per working age), November 2015-2022

Workplace-based median full-time weekly earnings, 2010-2022 [from ASHE - see note 10]
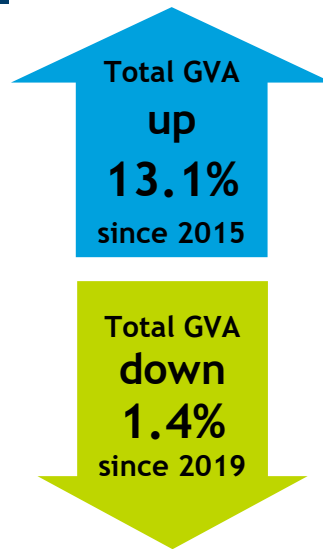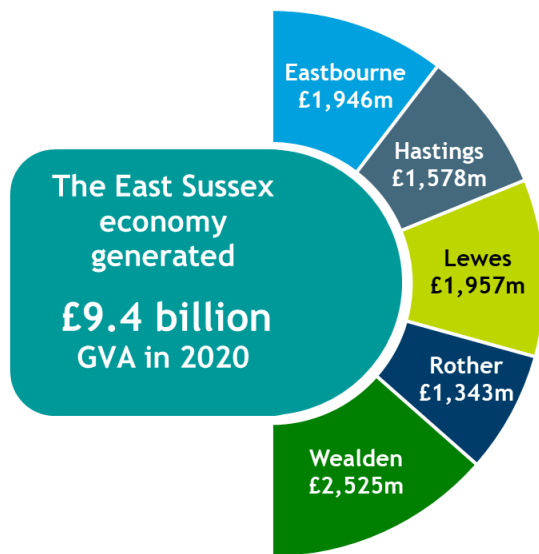
Gross Value Added 📈

- GVA per head grew by 23.0% in the county since between 2010 and 2020, slightly lower than growth of 25.6% in the UK as a whole and 24.5% in the SE region [see note 11].
- GVA per head in the county fell from £17,016 in 2019 to £16,730 in 2020, In 2020 it was just 57.9% of the UK figure of £29,063. The decline of 1.7% was smaller than the national fall.
- While Real estate is the largest sector in the county at 26% of GVA, if we take out 'Owner-occupied imputed rental' (OOIR – [see note 12]), which reflects property prices in an area, Health, Wholesale, retail and motors, and Manufacturing are the largest sectors.

- There is much variation at district level, especially when OOIR is not included. For example, Health and Social work make up 24% of the GVA of Eastbourne compared to 10% in Wealden.
- The Health and Social Care sector grew most strongly in the year 2019-20, by 15%, which reflects the importance of the sector in the pandemic. Education (up 6%) and Admin and support services (up 5%) also saw larger rises, while the Arts and entertainment sector fell by 24% and Accommodation and food services fell by 36%, again reflecting the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic and restrictions.

The East Sussex economy generated £9.4 billion GVA in 2020

Eastbourne £1,946m
Hastings £1,578m
Lewes £1,957m
Rother £1,343m
Wealden £2,525m

Total GVA **up 13.1%** since 2015

Total GVA **down 1.4%** since 2019

2020: £/🕐 GVA per hour: £29.41
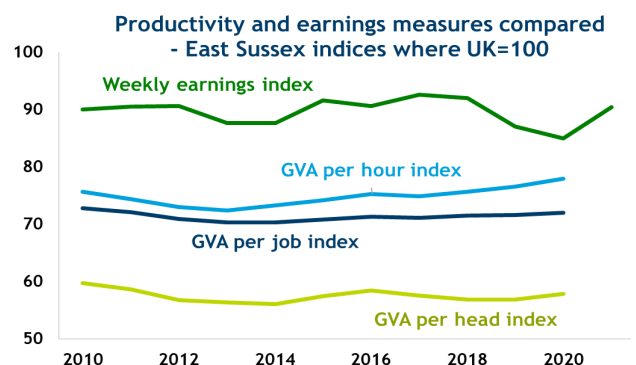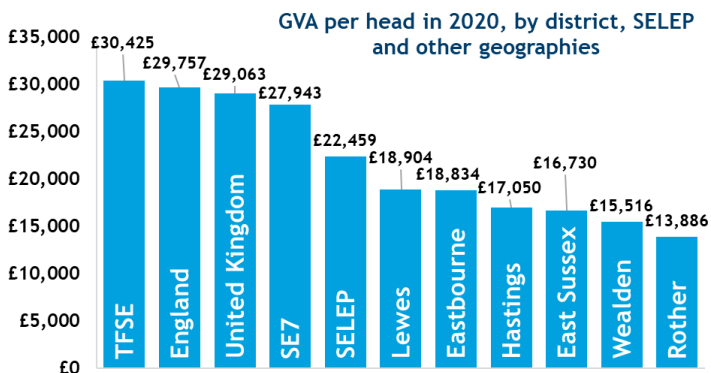**78.0%** of UK average [note 13]

2020: £/👤 GVA per head: £16,730
57.9% of UK average

4 sectors account for more than half of total GVA in East Sussex (2020):

🏠 Real Estate - including owner occupiers imputed rental (26%) (OOIR accounts for 21%)

➕ Health (12%)

🛒 Wholesale, retail & motors (10%)

🏭 Manufacturing (9%)

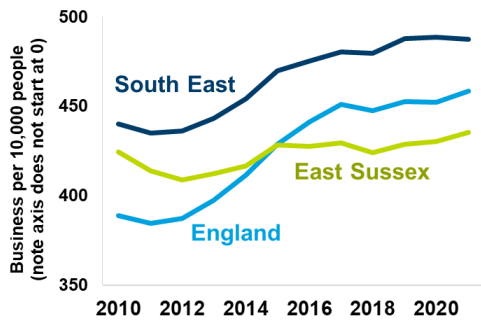**If we exclude OOIR [see note 12], different sectors make a higher than average contribution to GVA in the districts:**

Eastbourne: Health and Social work (23.5%), Wholesale, retail etc. (15.7%), Education (11.3%)
Hastings: Health (20.3%), Manufacturing (17.7%)
Lewes: Public admin (19.5%); Health (10.7%)
Rother: Education (13.9%); Health (12.9%)
Wealden: Construction (15.2%); Wholesale, retail etc (14.4%); Manufacturing (13.5%)
Health and social work saw the largest rise over 2010-20 (£314m), followed by Wholesale and retail (£264m), Real Estate (excl. OOIR) (£251m), and Manufacturing (£219m).

GVA per head in 2020, by district, SELEP and other geographies

Geography	GVA per head
TFSE	£30,425
England	£29,757
United Kingdom	£29,063
SE7	£27,943
SELEP	£22,459
Lewes	£18,904
Eastbourne	£18,834
Hastings	£17,050
East Sussex	£16,730
Wealden	£15,516
Rother	£13,886

Productivity and earnings measures compared - East Sussex indices where UK=100

Weekly earnings index
GVA per hour index
GVA per job index
GVA per head index

2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020

Businesses

Active businesses per 10,000 population [see note 15]

South East
East Sussex
England

Business per 10,000 people (note axis does not start at 0)

500
450
400
350

2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020

Fastest growing sectors in the county (2017-2022)
(in terms of number of business units)

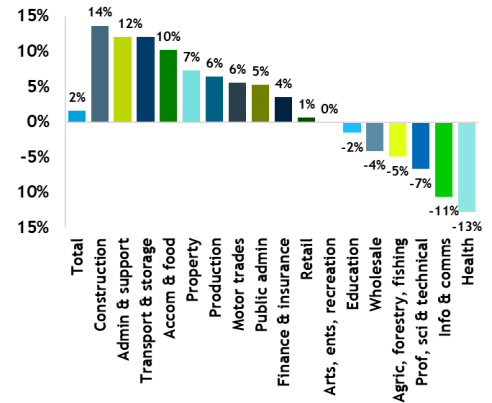Construction - up 14%
Lower than national rise (England up 18%)

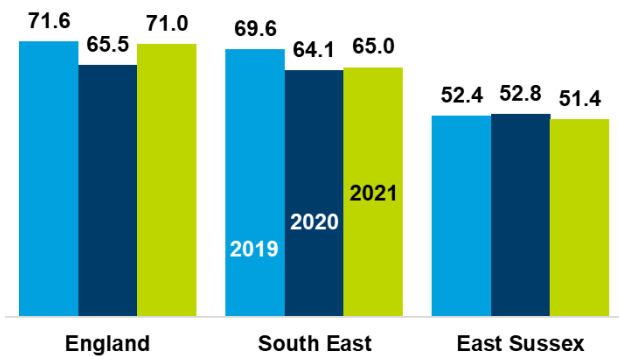Business administration and support services - up 12% (England up 0.5%)

Transport and Storage - up 12% (England up 22%)

East Sussex has fewer businesses per head than average for the region and growth is slowing

24,335 active businesses in East Sussex in 2021 up from **24,055** in 2020

Active businesses Up 4% since 2016, and **up 1.2%** since 2020

86.7% of business units in the county have fewer than 10 employees (2022) (National figure 85.1%)
74.1% have fewer than 5. East Sussex has relatively few medium and large businesses (50+ employees) [see note 16]

Change in number of business units by sector in East Sussex, 2017-2022

15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%

2% 14% 12% 10% 7% 6% 6% 5% 4% 1% 0% -2% -4% -5% -7% -11% -13%

Total, Construction, Admin & support, Transport & storage, Accom & food, Property, Production, Motor trades, Public admin, Finance & insurance, Retail, Arts, ents, recreation, Education, Wholesale, Agric, forestry, fishing, Prof, sci & technical, Info & comms, Health

New business registration rates, 2019-21

England: 71.6 (2019), 65.5 (2020), 71.0 (2021)
South East: 69.6 (2019), 64.1 (2020), 65.0 (2021)
East Sussex: 52.4 (2019), 52.8 (2020), 51.4 (2021)

Business births and deaths in East Sussex 2005-21

Business starts
Business closures

3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0

2005 2009 2013 2017 2021
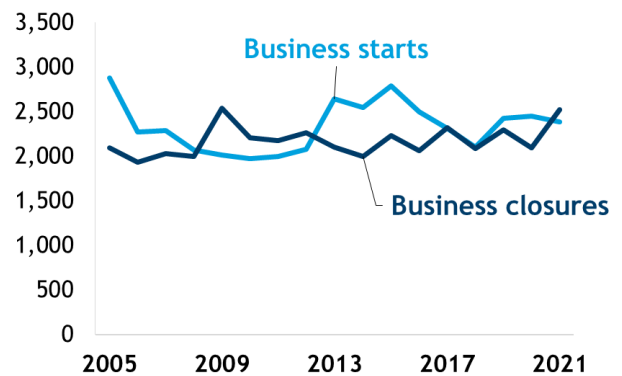
45.0% of businesses in East Sussex started in 2016 survived their first five years
5 year business survival rates for the county are higher than the England average (38.0%)

1- and 5-year business survival rates in 2021

■ 1 year survival ■ 5 years survival

Eastbourne: 96.0%, 42.0%
Hastings: 93.0%, 38.9%
Lewes: 96.1%, 46.9%
Rother: 95.5%, 44.8%
Wealden: 94.5%, 48.2%
East Sussex: 95.1%, 45.0%
South East: 90.9%, 43.2%
England: 92.9%, 38.0%
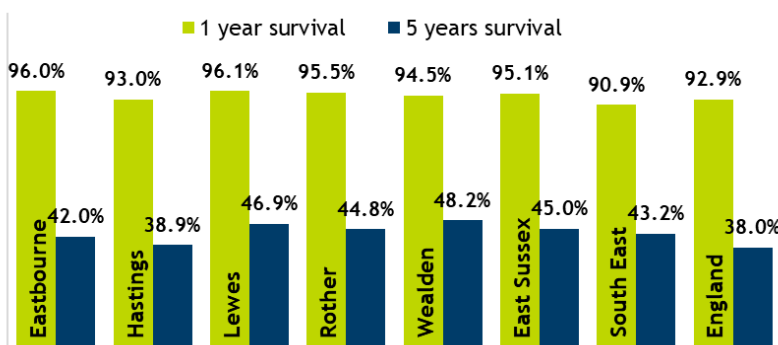
- More business closures (2,520) in 2022 than business starts (2,385).
- Change in business births and deaths – 65 fewer new business starts than in 2020, and 425 more business closures.
- Business births still higher than in 2018.
- Of 2,135 businesses with more than 10 employees, 65 (3.0% were classed as 'high growth' businesses (England 3.9%).

Further information and sources

This publication is produced as an aid to understanding the mechanisms at work in the economy of East Sussex. The sources for all the data are given in this section.

Labour Market and Skills

Note 1 The Claimant Count of people claiming JSA and Universal Credit because they are searching for work is considered to be the most reliable and up to date source for unemployed claimant data. Detailed data is available on ESiF.

Note 2 Following a major boundary review, wards were reviewed for the local elections in May 2018 for Hastings Borough Council and May 2019 for Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes, Rother and Wealden District Councils. The number of wards in the county increased to 108. Some wards have retained the same name but the boundary has changed, including in Hastings, and as claimant rates are based on the working age population and claimant numbers, some areas appear to have different claimant rates using the new ward boundaries. A map comparing the old and new ward boundaries is available in ESiF.

Note 3 Broader participation data for FE and apprenticeships comes from the FE Data Library, on the Gov.UK website, and is published on ESiF.

Note 4 Data is published on ESiF on the number of people and households claiming Universal Credit (UC), and people on Universal Credit by duration of claim. We have also now published data on the number of households on UC who receive a local housing allowance element with their benefit which does not actually cover their rent. Other claimant data can also be found in ESiF and on the DWP's StatXplore website. Note that in January 2023 no data on the employment status of claimants was released for November 2022.

Note 5 Data is now available for some of the Labour market variables from the 2021 Census, and more detailed information is being released over the course of this year and next.

It is important to note that the 2021 Census took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topic.

Some of the 2021 Census data is now available on ESiF: on Economic activity and inactivity, Hours worked, Industry of employment and Qualifications of the adult population. Further data is available from the ONS, including Census maps showing how the districts and small areas in the county compare to the country as a whole.

Note 6 Data for Benefit combinations, including out-of-work benefits is published on ESiF.

Note 7 Qualifications data for working age people is from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is published on ESiF and by the ONS on the Nomis website. Note that sample variability means that some APS data is not very reliable, which may explain the wide variation between years.

Note 8 Note that other data on part-time and full-time working and employment by industry is available from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) but in this edition of the briefing this has been replaced with the more accurate data from the 2021 Census released in December 2022.

Note 9 Following the unprecedented economic crisis provoked by the Coronavirus pandemic, the ONS and HMRC now release administrative data from PAYE records giving the number of employees, median and mean pay down to district level. Data for ITL3 (formerly NUTS3, including East Sussex county) and higher geographies are published monthly, and data for districts is released quarterly and published in ESiF.

Note 10 Earnings data is from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings which is published by ONS and is available on the Nomis website. We have mostly used workplace-based median earnings which gives

earnings for jobs based in the area, but residence-based data is also available, which is the earnings of those living in the area. There were temporary factors that increased the headline growth rate in earnings above the underlying rate over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic. Changes in earnings were sharply affected, so ONS published an interesting blog post discussing how to interpret average earnings data.

Gross value added

Note 11 Gross value added (GVA) data is released annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and GVA per head is calculated using ONS mid-year-estimate data. GVA is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. Estimates are measured at current basic prices, which include the effect of inflation. The GVA data for 2020 was released in June 2022, and data is now also available for district level Gross Domestic Product (see ESiF).

Note 12 Owner-occupiers' imputed rental (OOIR) is part of the GVA data that gives an estimate of the housing services consumed by households who are not actually renting their residence. It can be thought of as the amount that non-renters pay themselves for the housing services that they produce. For the purposes of assessing the county's economic productivity it is sometimes preferable to exclude this from the data. See ONS website for more information.

Note 13 GVA per hour worked data is obtained from the ONS' Sub-regional productivity tables, and East Sussex data is published on ESiF. When assessing regional economic performance, it is recommended that the best measure of productivity is this data, rather than GVA per head or per job. This is particularly important when there are large net commuting flows into or out of an area, as is the case in East Sussex.

Note 14 GVA per head relates the value added by production activity in an area to the resident population of that area, and thus is subject to distortion due to effects of commuting and variations in the age distribution of the population. Small areas, such as local authorities, can be subject to very large distortions and this should be borne in mind when interpreting the statistics as an indicator of relative economic prosperity. GVA per head is thus not the best measure of productivity. GVA per job is also not the best measure of productivity because we have to consider the impact of a higher proportion of part-time jobs.

For further information about GVA, sub-regional productivity, Business Demography and UK BASL data, visit the ONS website.

Businesses

Note 15 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) provide data on active businesses, start-ups and closures in the annual 'Business Demography' series. These national statistics are compatible with EU wide business demography data. 1-5 year survival rates are also included with this data. All new business registration rates are calculated by the Research and Information Team using the latest available mid-year estimate population data from the ONS, and are published on ESiF.

Note 16 The UK Business: Activity, Size and Location (UK BASL) dataset from the ONS uses data from the Inter-departmental Business Register (IDBR) to report the total number of businesses. This is the most up-to-date source for data about business activity at local authority level and gives details of both the number of business enterprises and the number of local units. Data is available by industrial sector, business size (in terms of number of employees), annual turnover and age of business (years of trading). Some of the data is also published as 'UK business counts' in the Nomis website. Data for East Sussex and districts has been published in ESiF.

Business Demography counts differ from those given in UK BASL because the Business Demography methodology takes into account businesses that were active at any time during the reference calendar year, whereas UK BASL numbers are based on a snapshot taken from the IDBR on a specific date at the end of March of the relevant year. As a result, numbers in the Business demography dataset are higher

than those given in UK BASL.

There are a number of other sources of business data available. For more information about business data sources and how the data can be used, see our data note.

Workforce projections

Note 17 The dwelling-led demographic projections are produced by the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Research and Information Team, at county and district levels, using the POPGROUP model and local housing plans supplied by each district. The latest 2020-based ESCC projections are based on the mid-2020 population estimates released by ONS in June 2021 and future house building trajectories provided by each district in Spring 2022. Projections are also produced for the number of households and the number of people in the workforce (that is, economically active people aged 16-74), and this data is published in ESiF. Note that the projections do not currently take into account the latest population data from the 2021 Census. Revised population projections and workforce projections will be produced once rebased population mid-year estimates for 2011-2020 are released by the ONS later this year.

Contact details

The Research and Intelligence Team, Governance Services provides demographic and socio-economic data, intelligence and insight to support East Sussex County Council and other East Sussex Partners. The Team also manages East Sussex in Figures (ESiF), the Local Information System for East Sussex.

For further information about labour market and economic data please contact Lenna Santamaría by email mariahelena.santamaria@eastsussex.gov.uk.

ESiF is a web-based information system that contains detailed, up-to-date and reliable information on a very wide range of topics. It is free and very easy to use and puts individual users in control. ESiF lets you specify exactly what data you want to see (for the places and time periods you are interested in) and how you want to view it (as a table, chart or map).

Visit www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk or e-mail esif@eastsussex.gov.uk for more information.