

Labour Market Information Bulletin

November/December 2021 Edition

East Sussex Claimant Count

Total Claimants - In October 2021, the East Sussex claimant count for Universal Credit (UC) and Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) combined was 14,560. This position is 4,290 lower than recorded in October 2020.

Claimants as a % of working age population - The number of UC and JCA claimants in East Sussex represents 4.6% of the working age population in October 2021. The national average for claimants is 4.9% of the working age population in October 2021.

Current claimant count v pre-pandemic position -The October 2021 East Sussex UC and JSA claimant figure is 59% higher than the pre pandemic position recorded in March 2020. The national claimant figure at October 2021 is 63% higher than that recorded in March 2020.

Claimant Count Trend – August 2021, September 2021 and October 2021 have shown consecutive decreases in the East Sussex and National claimant count. However, please note that this data reflects the position prior to the Omicron variant emerging.

Universal Credit/Job Seeker's Allowance claimants aged 18-24 – Nationally, 459,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in August-October 2021, a decrease of 66,000 from the previous quarter and a decrease of 144,000 from the year before. By historical standards, unemployment levels for young people remain low. For context, it is worth noting that the total population aged 16-24 has been declining in recent years; in the year to August-October 2021, it decreased by 44,000.

East Sussex 18-24 claimant volume data is extracted below:

- March 2020: 1,810 (Pre-pandemic benchmark)
- October 2020: 3,890 (Prior year position)
- October 2021: 2,590 (Current year position)

7.2% of all claimants were aged 18-24 in East Sussex in October 2021. This represents a 2.3% rise since the pre-pandemic position in March 2020.

East Sussex Salary Statistics

The majority of live vacancies in East Sussex are listed for IT and Accounting & Finance.

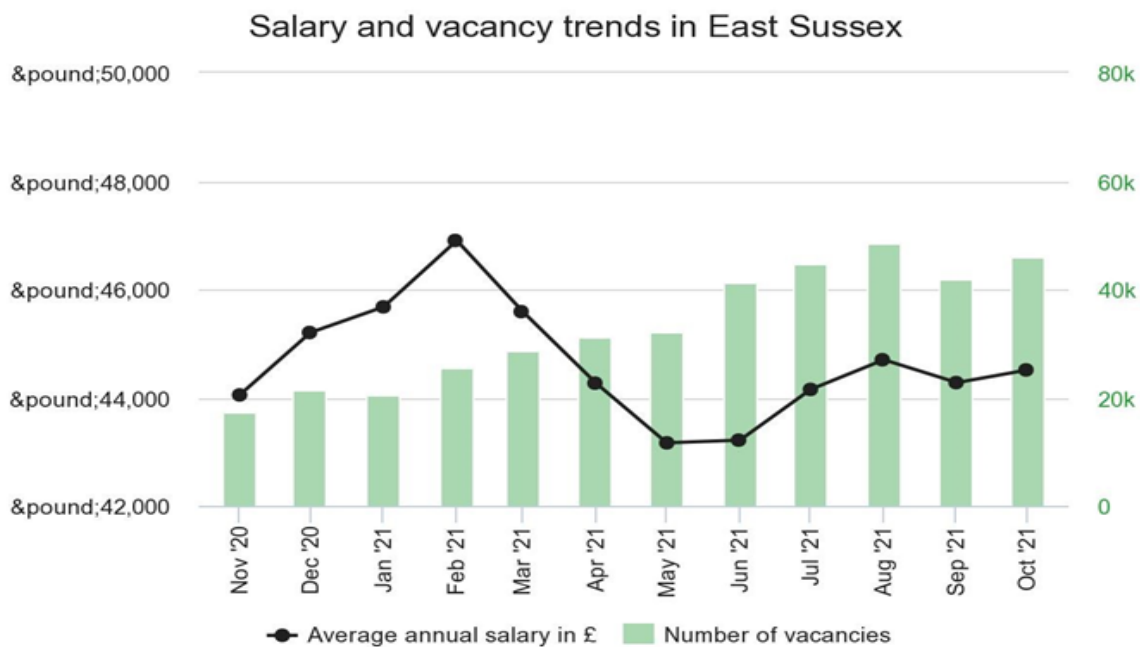
As of October 2021, there are 48,393 live job ads in East Sussex. Nationally, there were 1,355,769 live vacancies in October 2021. This was the highest live vacancy count since records began.

The average salary per hour for current live job vacancies in East Sussex £12.85 per hour.

Companies with the highest number of vacancies in East Sussex are East Sussex County Council, Client Server, and Barchester Healthcare.

Vacancies by Area:

- In Wealden there are currently 9,336 unique job vacancies.
- In Eastbourne there are currently 4,830 unique job vacancies.
- In Lewes there are currently 4,573 unique job vacancies.
- In Hastings there are currently 3,749 unique job vacancies.
- In Rother there are currently 2,632 unique job vacancies.



East Sussex Business Unit Occupancy Rates

Business Unit occupancy can be a useful barometer for identifying growth trends in certain sectors.

Health and Social Care, Wholesale, Retail and Motors occupy the largest number of business units in East Sussex.

The fastest growing sectors in East Sussex based on increasing levels of occupancy in 2021 are Transport, Storage and Accommodation, Food and Construction.

Sector Focus - Construction

In 2025, the construction industry in the South East will require circa 333,000 people in its workforce to meet forecast regional demand. Meeting this total will require 17,000 more roles to become active in the sector from the 2020 pre-pandemic level. This increase will be largely driven by private housing and infrastructure development.

The construction sector is struggling to recruit both nationally and in the South East. This is also felt in East Sussex where there is a recognised shortage of skilled construction professionals, tradespeople and management level professionals.

The table below outlines the job roles in the sector that are forecast to be required by 2025 v the 2020 position.

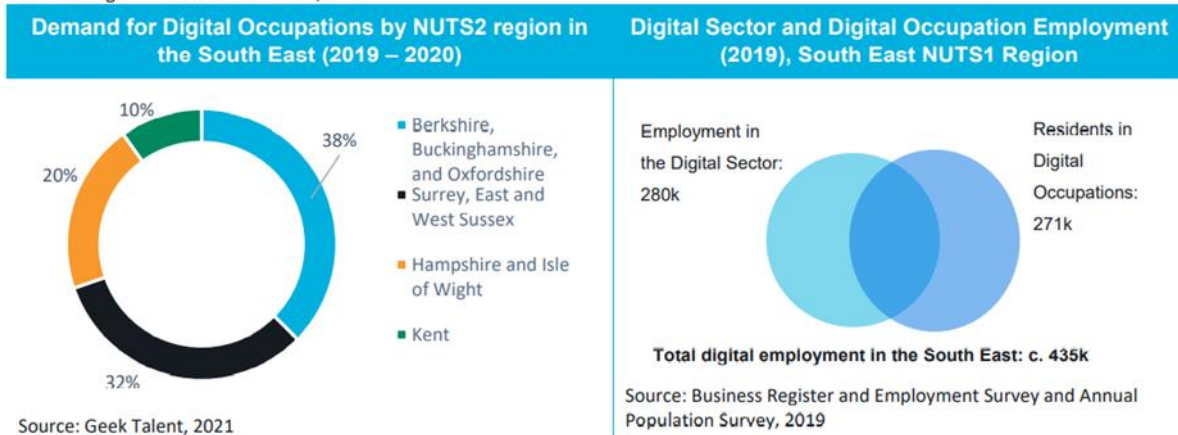
TOTAL WORKFORCE BY OCCUPATION - SOUTH EAST	Actual	Estimate	Forecast	
	2020	2021	2022	2025
Senior, executive and business process managers	29,400	29,800	29,800	30,300
Construction Project Managers	8,600	8,700	8,700	8,900
Other construction process managers	27,200	27,700	27,800	28,600
Non-construction professional, technical, IT and other office-based staff	60,500	62,200	62,900	64,200
Construction Trades Supervisors	5,100	5,300	5,400	5,700
Wood trades and interior fit-out	32,100	32,600	32,800	33,800
Bricklayers	8,000	8,500	8,600	9,100
Building envelope specialists	15,400	16,000	16,200	17,200
Painters and decorators	16,000	16,100	16,100	16,400
Plasterers	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,300
Roofers	8,300	8,300	8,300	8,200
Floorers	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
Glaziers	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200
Specialist building operatives nec*	6,200	6,100	6,000	5,900
Scaffolders	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,400
Plant operatives	4,300	4,600	5,000	4,800
Plant mechanics/fitters	5,300	5,400	5,500	5,600
Steel erectors/structural fabrication	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,600
Labourers nec*	20,600	21,300	21,700	22,400
Electrical trades and installation	20,700	21,200	21,400	22,400
Plumbing and HVAC Trades	23,600	23,600	23,500	23,500
Logistics	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,700
Civil engineering operatives nec*	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,000
Non construction operatives	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,100
Total (SIC 41-43)	316,000	322,600	325,300	333,000

Sector Focus - Creative, Digital, and Media

The national, regional and local labour market demand for skilled staff in the creative, digital and media sector has increased significantly in recent years and is expected to maintain that trend.

The national demand for jobs in digital roles was 42% higher in June 2021 than it was in June 2019. The DWP “Find a Job” tool indicates that there were 168 live jobs in the digital sector in East Sussex in October 2021.

Source: Regional Gross Value Added, ONS



National Employment Picture

As of the close of October 2021, 160,000 more people have entered employment in the calendar month since the close of September 2021.

The extended furlough scheme was closed in September 2021. Anecdotal narrative from businesses suggests that there are lower than expected post furlough redundancies **but please note, the impact of redundancies will not yet be reflected in the statistics of this LMI report covering October 2021 data.**

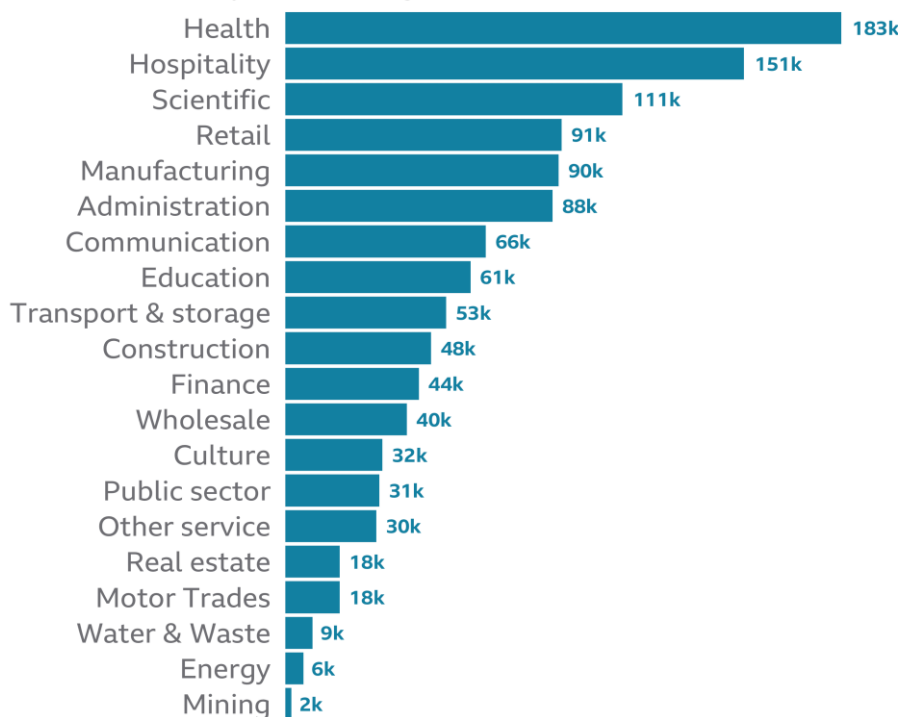
London is the only region to see a decrease in employment levels compared to pre-pandemic figures. Total hours worked remains below pre-pandemic levels reflecting more part-time working, zero hours contracts and some remaining restrictions limiting employment activity.

Vacancy levels remain high nationally (1.7m), consistently above the pre-pandemic figures for January-March 2020 with some sectors reporting record levels of demand.

The two largest areas of demand nationally are Health & Social Care and Hospitality. Both are key sectors for the East Sussex economy.

Who's hiring?

Job vacancies by sector, Aug to Oct 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics



Kickstart Scheme

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to employers to create jobs for 16- to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.

For employers who have had a successful application, the funding covers:

- 100% of the National Minimum Wage (or the National Living Wage depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- associated employer National Insurance contributions
- minimum automatic enrolment pension contributions

Employers can spread Kickstart job start dates up until 31 March 2022.

The DWP identified a £1.9bn budget for Kickstart, of which the Department expects to spend £1.26 billion.

As of 1 November 2021, 96,700 Kickstart placements had been filled nationally.

In East Sussex there are currently 468 Kickstart vacancies across the county.

A National Audit Office (NAO) report on the value for money of Kickstart has concluded that the positive impact of Kickstart on young people cannot be fully

evaluated for some years until more is known about the training, jobs, and career development of those who have used the scheme.

National Living Wage Changes

The National Living Wage (NLW) will rise to £9.50 from 1 April 2022. This represents an increase of 59 pence or 6.6 per cent (Social Mobility Commission).

The Low Pay Commission’s recommendations set the minimum wage back on track to reach the Government’s target of two-thirds of median earnings by 2024 (Social Mobility Commission).

	Rate from April 2022	Current rate (April 2021 to March 2022)	Increase
National Living Wage	£9.50	£8.91	6.6%
21-22 Year Old Rate	£9.18	£8.36	9.8%
18-20 Year Old Rate	£6.83	£6.56	4.1%
16-17 Year Old Rate	£4.81	£4.62	4.1%
Apprentice Rate	£4.81	£4.30	11.9%
Accommodation Offset	£8.70	£8.36	4.1%

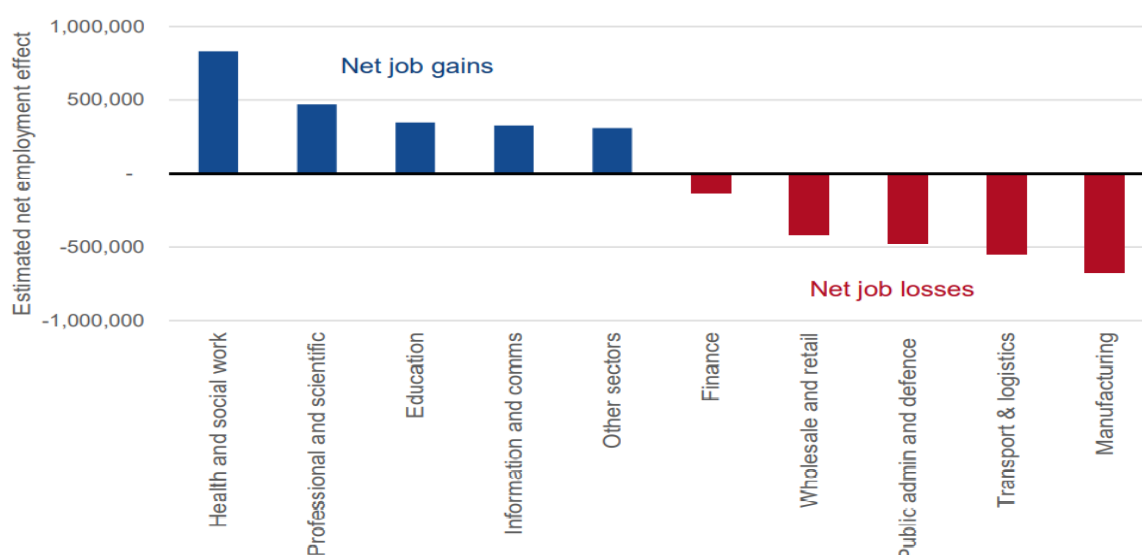
Impact of Artificial Intelligence on employment

The technical capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies such as robots, drones and autonomous vehicles have progressed substantially in the last decade.

New applications of AI are transforming whole sectors of the economy via increased productivity and innovation.

AI is expected to have a significant impact across all UK regions including the south-east with an expected GDP contribution of at least as much as contributing to 10.3% GDP in 2030. If you would like to find out more about the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the economy, click on this link and read the PWC report [The economic impact of artificial intelligence on the UK economy \(pwc.co.uk\)](https://www.pwc.co.uk/ai-economic-impact)

Figure 1: Estimated net employment effects of AI on selected industries over 20 years (SIC 1)



Source: PwC analysis of OECD PIAAC and ONS APS data

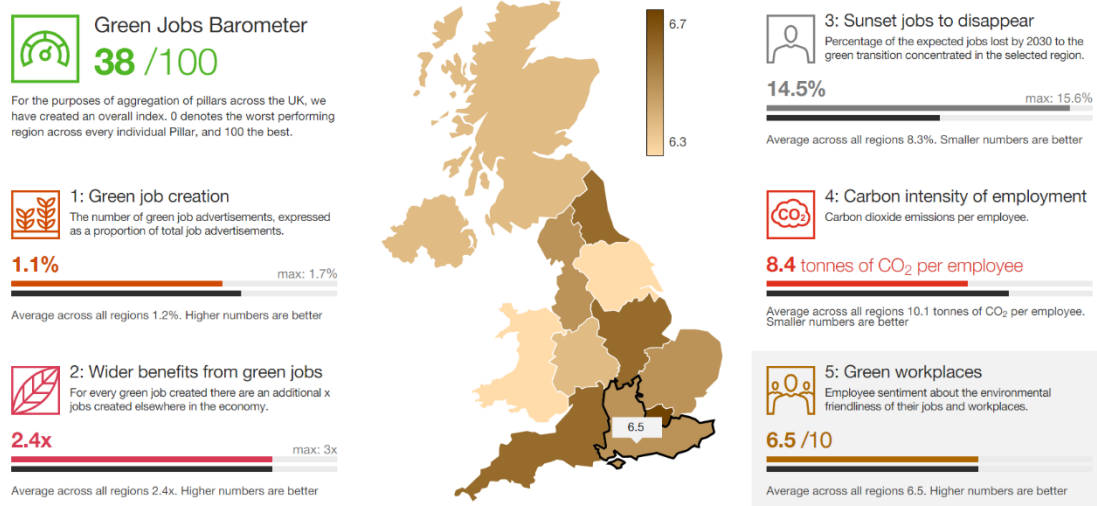
News from COP

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. The president of the conference was UK cabinet minister Alok Sharma.

PWC (Price Waterhouse Coopers consulting and accountancy) launched a Green Jobs Barometer on 29th November 2021 in response to the event. This found 1.2% of jobs advertised to July 2021 were in the green sector.

Although appearing to be a small percentage of total jobs advertised, the total number of jobs was in excess of 124,000.

It is noteworthy that each job directly linked to the green energy sector is said to generate a further 6 jobs.



(Source: Green Jobs Barometer - PwC UK)

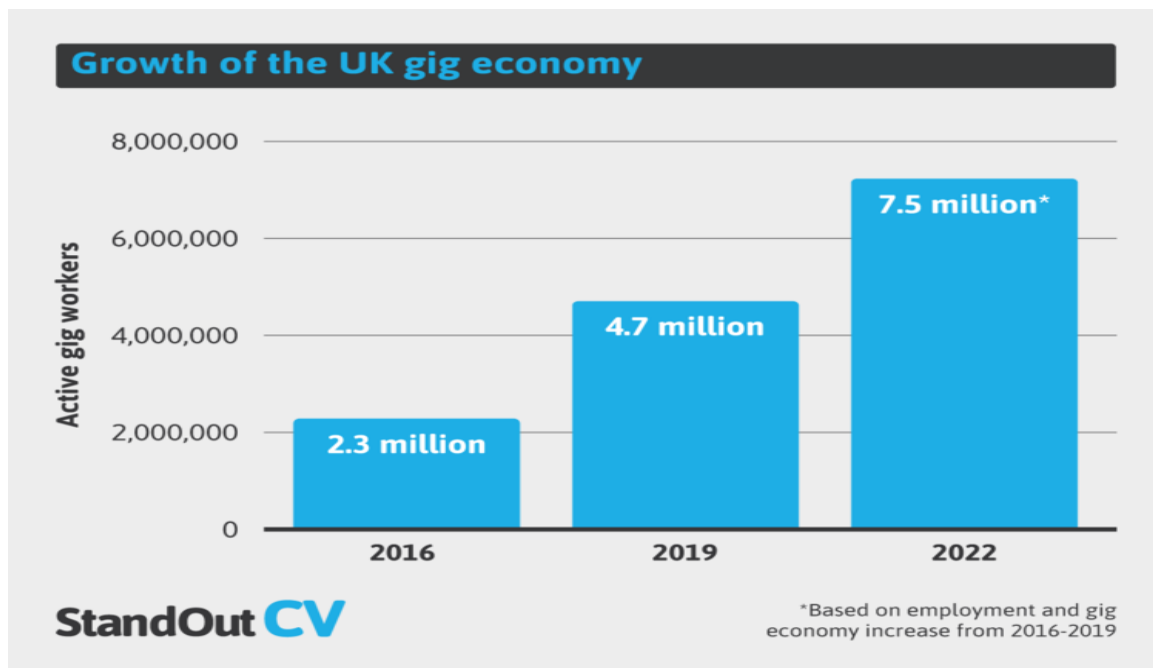
The Growing Gig Economy

The Gig economy is a growing portion of the working population in which short-term flexible workers are paid on the completion of tasks instead of being paid for time that they work. Gig economy workforce is expected to reach 7.5M in 2022.

New research found number of adults using online platforms to find work trebled in five years

In 2021 three in 20 adults found work through online platforms at least once a week in 2021- up from one in 20 in 2016.

Such growth was driven by the rapid expansion of driving and delivery work.



Education and Training News Highlights

The removal of central funding for **BTEC** and other technical/general qualifications has been deferred from 2023 to 2024. The government states this allows an extra year to work on T-Levels. The T-Level entry requirement for Maths and English is to be removed to encourage take up.

Useful Resources

- LMI For All - [Explore LMI data – LMI For All](#)
- Careers Hub - [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](https://careerseastsussex.co.uk)
- Advice for Young People making choices [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](https://careerseastsussex.co.uk)
- Advice for helping a child making choices - [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](https://careerseastsussex.co.uk)
- Local Employment Sectors - [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](https://careerseastsussex.co.uk)