

East Sussex Claimant Statistics - February 2023

Total number claiming Universal Credit (UC) any conditionality - **46,258**

Total claiming UC any conditionality as % of the working-age population -**14.5%**

Number of claimants of UC searching for work or Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) - **11,340**

UC/JSA searching for work % of the working-age population - **3.6%**

Source: East Sussex in Figures (ESiF)

DWP Universal Credit “searching for work”/Job Seekers Allowance for East Sussex

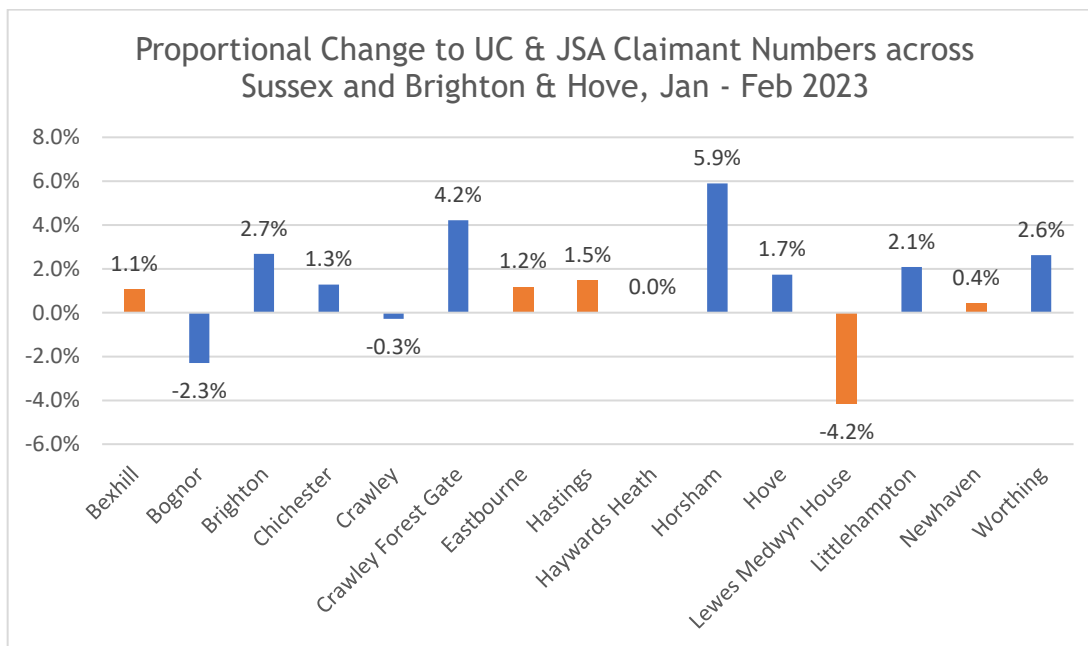
Note: Figures are provisional each month until the next set of figures are published, and data cross-referenced.

UC Intensive + JSA	January 2023	February 2023	% Change
	All ages		
Bexhill	940	950	1.1%
Bognor	1,520	1,485	-2.3%
Brighton	5,415	5,560	2.7%
Chichester	1,955	1,980	1.3%
Crawley	1,780	1,775	-0.3%
Crawley Forest Gate	1,900	1,980	4.2%
Eastbourne	3,810	3,855	1.2%
Hastings	4,045	4,105	1.5%
Haywards Heath	1,070	1,070	0.0%
Horsham	1,525	1,615	5.9%
Hove	2,605	2,650	1.7%
Lewes Medwyn House	840	805	-4.2%
Littlehampton	1,200	1,225	2.1%
Newhaven	1,180	1,185	0.4%
Worthing	3,050	3,130	2.6%
Sussex	32,835	33,370	1.6%

Source: *ONS/Nomis as of 21 March 2023 (DWP Surrey & Sussex)*

The table above shows the number of adults who were looking for work and receiving benefits registered at job centres in Sussex and Brighton & Hove in both January and February 2023.

Out of the 15 job centre sites included in the research, 12 recorded higher numbers of claimants in the last month. There was a slight overall increase in countywide claimants in February, with 535 more claimants recorded than in the previous month.



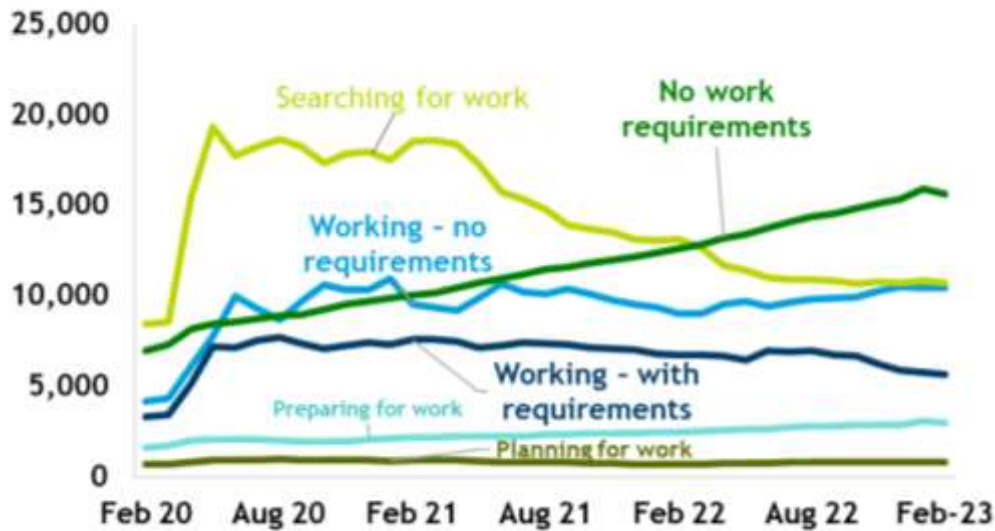
Source: DWP Surrey and Sussex

The graph above shows the percentage changes in claimant numbers in different areas of Sussex and Brighton & Hove between December 2022 and January 2023 (East Sussex regions displayed as orange).

West Sussex and Brighton & Hove recorded moderate to significant number of increases compared to the previous month. In particular, Horsham recorded an increase of 5.9%, particularly significant given that in 2.5% fewer claimants were recorded in January than the previous month.

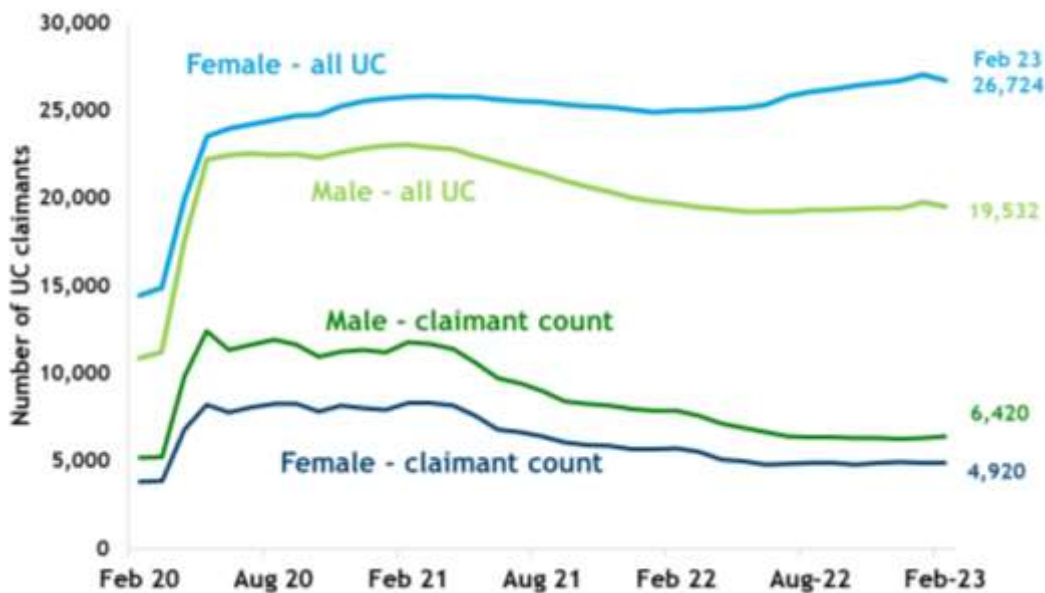
East Sussex claimant numbers were more stable overall, with only minor changes recorded in most areas. A stand out area was Lewes, where 4.2% fewer claimants were recorded in February, continuing the downward trend from the previous month.

All UC claimant rates in East Sussex by conditionality to February 2023



There has been a slight fall in those on UC with “no work requirements” (also known as economically inactive). This is likely to be due to more people now coming into the requirement to look for work due to changing rules and reducing NHS waiting lists.

UC claimant rates in East Sussex by sex to February 2023



Numbers remain steady. Those claiming UC due to their earnings level remains much higher than those who are not working.

Graphs: Courtesy of ESIF

East Sussex Vacancy Statistics

Vacancies (unique job postings) by District (data taken on 17/03/23):

- Eastbourne - 3,199
- Wealden - 2,773
- Lewes - 2,989
- Hastings - 2,259
- Rother - 1,050

Top 5 Posted Job Titles in East Sussex (Last 30 days as of 17/03/23)

- Care Workers
- Nurses
- Teaching Assistants
- Administrators
- Catering Assistants
- Cleaning Operatives

Skills demand in East Sussex

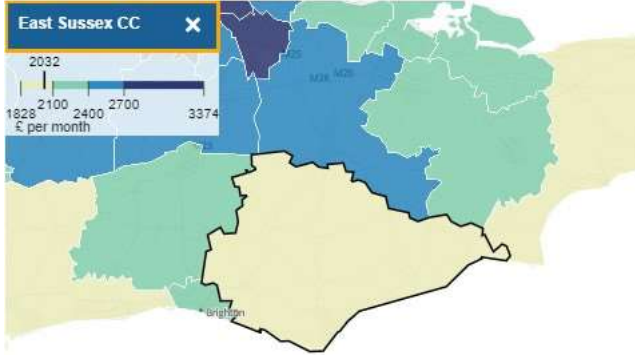
The graph represents the most common skills that have appeared in job postings and workforce profiles in East Sussex within the last thirty days as of (17/03/23).



Source: Lightcast

Monthly Median Pay in East Sussex

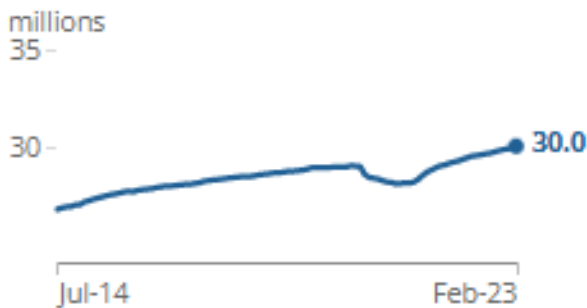
Monthly median pay in East Sussex was recorded as £2,032 per month using the HM Revenue and Customs Pay As You Earn Real Time Information.



National Employment Picture

The amount of payrolled employees nationally increased by 98,000 on January’s figures up to 30 million payrolled employees nationally in in February 2023.

There has also been an increase in employment from November 2022 to January 2023 compared with the previous three-month period.



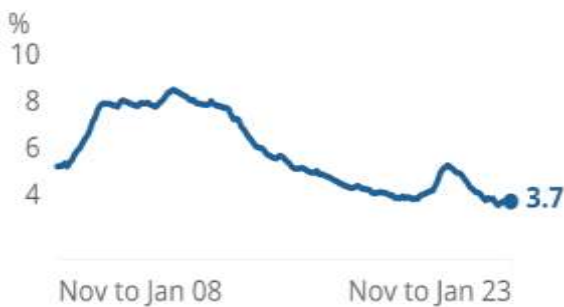
Between December 2022 and February 2023, the number of vacancies decreased by 51,000 from the last quarter to 1,124,000.



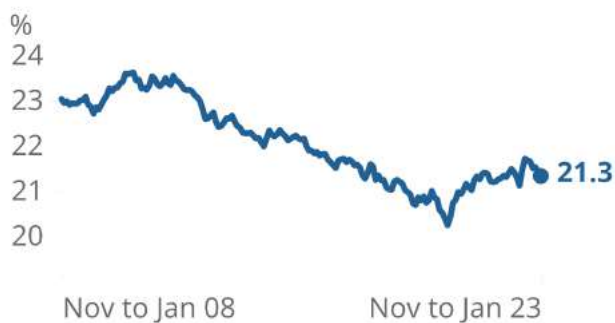
Average weekly earnings for total pay (bonuses included) nationally was £630 and regular pay was £589.



The unemployment rate is at 3.7% (over 1.2 million people) of the working age population for November to January.



Economic inactivity for the same period is 21.3% (over 8.8 million people). The rate is 27.2% for those aged 50-64. Many cite delays in treatment and operations preventing them from returning to work.



Note: The Labour Force Survey percentages are estimates over the quarter, and do not always add up to 100%.

Graphs: ONS

Job Postings Nationally (17/03/23)

- London - 371,769
- South East - 333,354
- North West - 250,877
- South West - 192,884

Source: *lightcast*

Sector Focus - Finance

Overview of the UK Finance Sector

The UK finance sector is a vital part of the country's economy, contributing £173.6 billion, 8.3% of total economic output, and 7% of the country's GDP ([House of Commons, 2022](#)).

Despite facing significant challenges such as increased regulation, technological disruption, and Brexit, the sector continues to attract investment and talent from around the world.

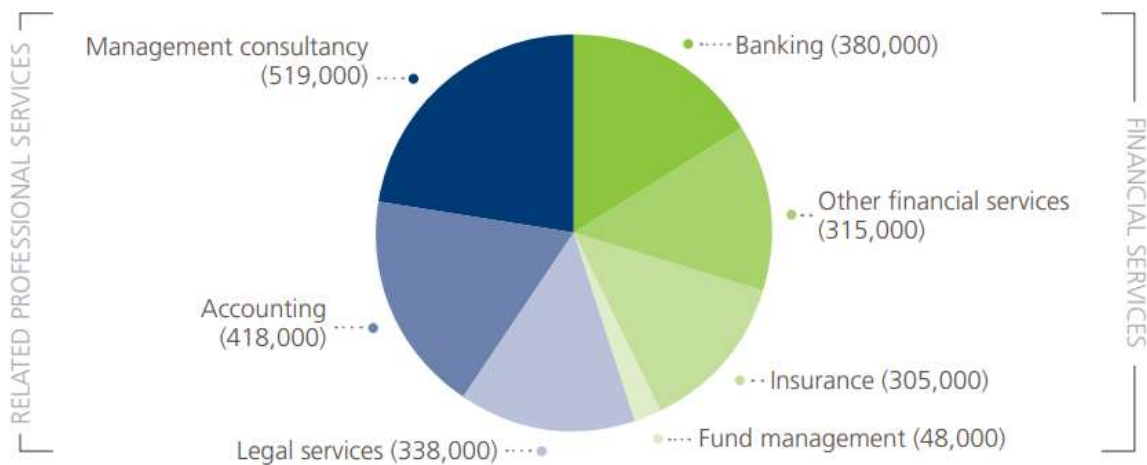
Labour Market Information in the UK Finance Sector

With over 2.3 million professionals employed in financial and related professional services in 2020, the finance sector is one of the most competitive and high-paying industries in the UK ([TheCityUK, 2020](#)). The average annual salary in the sector is around £40,000, significantly higher than the national average.

The sector is primarily concentrated in London and the South East, where around 47% of all finance and insurance jobs are located. Other major finance hubs in the UK include Edinburgh, Manchester, and Birmingham. ([HM Treasury, 2022](#))

The finance sector encompasses a range of sub-sectors, including banking, insurance, investment management, and others (for example, financial planning). Related professional services include accounting, management consultancy and legal services.

Source: TheCityUK calculations based on data from Nomis and the Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey



TheCityUK, 2020 (thecityuk.com)

Financial services

Banking

According to data from TheCityUK, the largest sub-sector within financial services in the UK is banking, which employed approximately 380,000 people in 2018. The banking and finance sub-sector offers various job roles: from entry-level positions such as customer service representatives and administrative assistants to more advanced roles such as financial analysts, investment managers, and business development managers. These roles usually require a related degree, such as finance or accounting and additional certifications like the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.

Insurance

The insurance sector is another major employer, providing around 305,000 jobs in 2018. Within the insurance sub-sector, there are a range of roles available, including underwriters, claims specialists and risk managers.

Investment management

The investment management sub-sector is also an essential part of the finance sector, employing approximately 48,000 people in the UK in 2018. Roles in this sub-sector include fund managers, investment analysts, and research specialists.

Related professional services

Accounting

Accounting services play a crucial role in the finance sector, providing support to companies and financial institutions in areas such as financial reporting, tax compliance,

and audit services. The sub-sector employed around 418,000 people in the UK in 2018. Roles within the accounting sub-sector include certified public accountants (CPAs), chartered accountants, auditors and financial accountants. Most roles in accounting require a relevant degree and professional certification, such as the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation.

Management consultancy

The management consultancy sub-sector provides consulting services to financial institutions, including strategy development, operational improvement and risk management. The sub-sector employed approximately 519,000 people in the UK in 2018. Roles within the management consultancy sub-sector include management consultants, business analysts, and project managers. These roles may require a relevant degree, such as business or finance, and additional professional certification, such as the Project Management Professional (PMP) designation.

Legal services

The legal services sub-sector employed around 338,000 people in the UK in 2018. Roles within the legal services sub-sector include solicitors, barristers, and legal advisors. Most roles in the legal services sub-sector require a law degree and professional certification, such as the Solicitor Regulation Authority (SRA) qualification.

Finance Sector in East Sussex County

East Sussex is home to a growing finance sector, with a range of companies operating in the area. Some of the major employers in the county include American Express, Legal & General, and Hastings Direct.

According to data from Nomis, around 4,500 people were employed in the finance and insurance sector in East Sussex in 2021. Financial jobs make up around 2.4% of all jobs in the county, which is slightly below the national average of 3.6%. However, the sector has been growing in recent years, with the number of jobs increasing by around 2% per year between 2015 and 2020. ([Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk))

According to ONS, the average annual salary in the finance and insurance sector in East Sussex is around £40,000, which is broadly in line with the national average. However, there is significant variation in salaries within the sector, depending on the specific role and level of seniority.

Jobs and Careers in Finance

Here are some of the key jobs in the finance sector, ranging from entry-level to advanced roles:

Entry-level:

- Customer Service Representative
- Investment Banking Analyst
- Financial Planner
- Risk Analyst
- Accountant

Advanced:

- Portfolio manager
- Investment banker
- Chief Financial Officer
- Financial Director
- Hedge Fund Manager

And many more that can be found at the National Careers website - [Business and finance | Explore careers \(nationalcareers.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

Education and Training for the Sector

- Business Level Two
- Mathematics A level
- Business Studies A level
- Skills for Business Level Two Diploma
- Accounting T level
- Economics A level

...more information on these courses can be found via these links:

- [Search | East Sussex College \(escg.ac.uk\)](https://www.escg.ac.uk)

[Bexhill 6th Form College - A Levels, BTEC National Diplomas and International Baccalaureate, 6th Form for Students in Hastings, Eastbourne, Battle and Bexhill \(bexhillcollege.ac.uk\)](https://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk)

Many courses at Plumpton include a financial management element, such as [Crop Technician \(Organic Crop Production\) Apprenticeship - Level 3 - Plumpton College](#) which includes calculating profit margins.

The Skills Toolkit also has a variety of free online learning for those interested in a career in finance, these include:

- Introduction to Bookkeeping
- Organisational financial management: an introduction
- Become a Financial Analyst

And more, click here to find out more information - [The Skills Toolkit | National Careers Service](#)

Don't forget [Multiply](#) - offering numeracy support for adults.

There are also several education and training opportunities for careers in finance available in East Sussex, including:

1. **Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships are a great way to gain practical experience and qualifications in finance. Some local companies in East Sussex that offer finance apprenticeships include Legal & General, Santander and Hastings Direct.
2. **Professional training courses:** There are a number of training courses available for individuals who want to pursue a career in finance. Some local providers in East Sussex include the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), Kaplan Financial, and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).
3. **University and college courses:** University of Brighton, University of Sussex, and East Sussex College Group offer a range of finance-related courses at a variety of levels.
4. **Online courses:** Online courses provide a flexible and convenient way to learn about finance remotely. Some popular online courses include those offered by Coursera, edX, and Udemy.
5. **Professional certifications:** Professional certifications such as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) can help individuals advance their careers in finance. Local training providers can assist with preparation for these exams.

Education and Training News

The [Campaign for Learning](#) published their report, [Driving up Employer Investment in Training](#), subtitled 'pushing the right buttons'.

Report contributors include the CBI, Learning and Work Institute, Universities UK, Chartered Management Institute, LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) Network and many more. Key conclusions are:

- Investment in skills should be seen as part of business capital and research and development (R&D) spending.
- Longer training (benchmarking up to 46 “off the job” training days for apprentices) is needed to boost productivity.
- Investment in skills IS costly. For 2019/20, the estimated cost of wages to apprentices is £5.9bn with the DfE spending £1.9bn that year.
- Advocating that funding for all 16-18-year-old training including apprenticeships should be through general taxation.
- The labour market is dynamic. A fifth to a quarter of the workforce (7-8 million people) change job every year. There needs to be a balance between employer-driven policies (invest in current workers rather than recruit skills from abroad), and individuals training and retraining for career changes and new jobs.

Individuals training is something that may happen more with new loans becoming available. [The Lifelong Loan Entitlement \(LLE\)](#) will give access to around four years’ worth of post-18 education. This is the equivalent of £37,000 today.

The funds can be accessed up to the age of 60. The loans will cover modules and part-time study as well as full-time offers. Previous student loans are taken into account. This means someone who has completed a three-year degree course with a loan will be entitled to borrow funds for a further year’s study. People will also be able to commence additional study at a lower levels than their previously highest attainment (previously not consistently supported). For example, someone with a social work degree (level 6/7) will be able to take out a loan for a Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ), such as a level 4/5 certificate in engineering. Maintenance loans will also be part of the package for part-time courses.

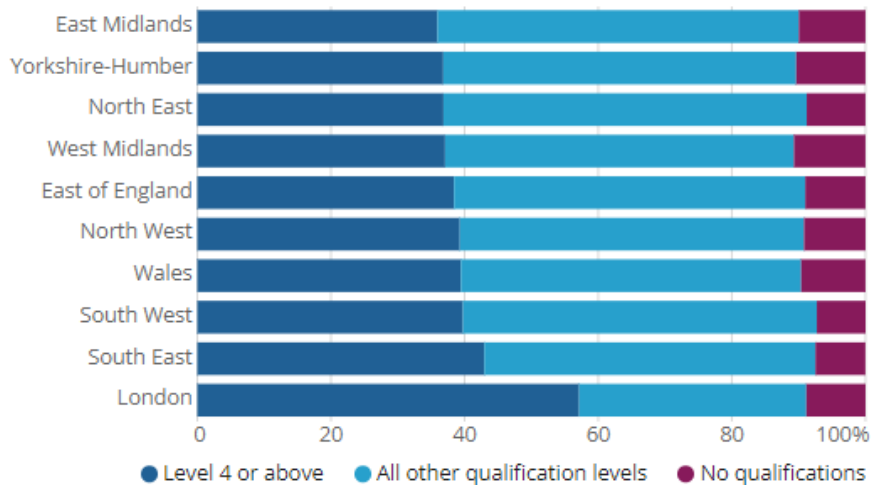
The LLE will replace current Student Finance from 2025/26. Details on loan repayments and thresholds for payment are yet to be confirmed.

Focus on Census Data on Education Qualifications

4 in 10 workers or job seekers in England and Wales held higher education qualifications.

- The most common highest education qualification level among the labour force in England and Wales was higher education qualifications (33.9%). These include degrees or NVQs Level 4 or above.
- 6 in 10 workers in London held higher education qualifications.

Percentage of economically active population, by highest qualification level, Wales and English regions, 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

London had the highest concentration of resident workers or jobseekers with the highest education qualifications of any region (57%), whilst the East Midlands had the lowest (36%). The regions outside of London had comparably qualified work forces.

The second most common response to the qualification survey across the adult population was none (18.2%).

Interestingly, apprenticeship as highest level of qualification was given by 5.6% of those in Wales, and 5.3% in England. The census has placed apprenticeship halfway on the category list (see below)

- no qualifications: no formal qualifications
- Level 1: one to four GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) and any other GCSEs at other grades, or equivalent qualifications
- Level 2: five or more GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) or equivalent qualifications
- apprenticeships
- Level 3: two or more A Levels or equivalent qualifications
- Level 4 or above: Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree, or post-graduate qualifications
- other qualifications, of unknown level

Figures for the districts and boroughs of East Sussex are shown in the table.

Lower tier authority area	Level 4 or above	None	Apprenticeships
Eastbourne	29.8%	18.4%	5.7%
Hastings	28.6%	20.1%	5.1%
Lewes	34.8%	16.1%	5.4%
Rother	29.9%	18.9%	5.9%
Wealden	32.6%	14.9%	5.8%

Apart from Hastings, each district is above the national average for apprenticeship volumes.

Combined Census 2021 data is not yet available. We therefore cannot say, for example, the average age of those with a degree or those with no qualifications.

To note - the Census report that qualifications held may be over-estimated. This is due to students claiming to hold qualifications not yet completed, and incorrect identification of equivalent qualifications - both UK and non-UK.

And Finally!

Last month, we looked at the **four-day work week trial** and reported on its success. It did not work for all organisations though.

One firm was operating on reduced staffing so opted for one day off a fortnight. They reported staff were ‘exhausted’ after nine ‘extreme’ days. Factoring in leave and absences they ‘struggled to find cover for a rest day’. Having to operate a warehouse and machinery meant minimum numbers needed on site and being available when customers wanted them.

Customer facing firms found extra staff were needed. Gateshead Citizen’s Advice hired the equivalent of three more staff to cover specific opening hours. Monday and Friday being the busiest days meant having to consider other days for that third day off.

<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20230319-four-day-workweek-trial-the-firms-where-it-didnt-work>

Did you know that South Koreans work an average of more than 199 hours more than the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) average? In a plan to

boost productivity even further, the government suggested raising the current 52-hour week limit to 69.

This was met with opposition from unions and the younger workforce amid concerns of potential 80-hour weeks. As well as being bad for health, it was added that it will not help the declining birth rate.

[South Korea Rethinking 69-Hour Work Week After Younger Workers Protest \(businessinsider.com\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/south-korea-rethinking-69-hour-work-week-after-younger-workers-protest)

Further useful LMI and Careers resources

- **LMI For All** - [Explore LMI data - LMI For All](#)
- **Careers Hub** - [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](#)
- **Advice for Young People making choices** [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](#)
- **Advice for helping a child making choices** - [Careers > East Sussex \(careerseastsussex.co.uk\)](#)
- **East Sussex in Figures (ESiF)** - [Welcome to ESiF \(eastsussexinfigures.org.uk\)](#)
- **Office for National Statistics** - [Labour market overview, UK Statistical bulletins - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Government funded training** - [Free courses for jobs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

More links/further reading for this month's topics

[Census - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

[Labour market quality information for Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

[Korea to reconsider proposals to extend workweek at peak season \(koreaherald.com\)](#)

Note on economic inactivity given by the ONS:

1. Other reasons for being economically inactive include those who are waiting for the results of a job application, those who have not yet started looking for work, those who do not need or want employment, those who have given an uncategorised reason for being economically inactive, or those who have not given a reason for being economically inactive.