

**East Sussex Claimant Statistics -**

Total number claiming Universal Credit (UC) any conditionality - 49,974 (Apr) and 51,419 (May)

Total claiming UC any conditionality as % of the working-age population -15.9% (Apr) and 16.4% (May)

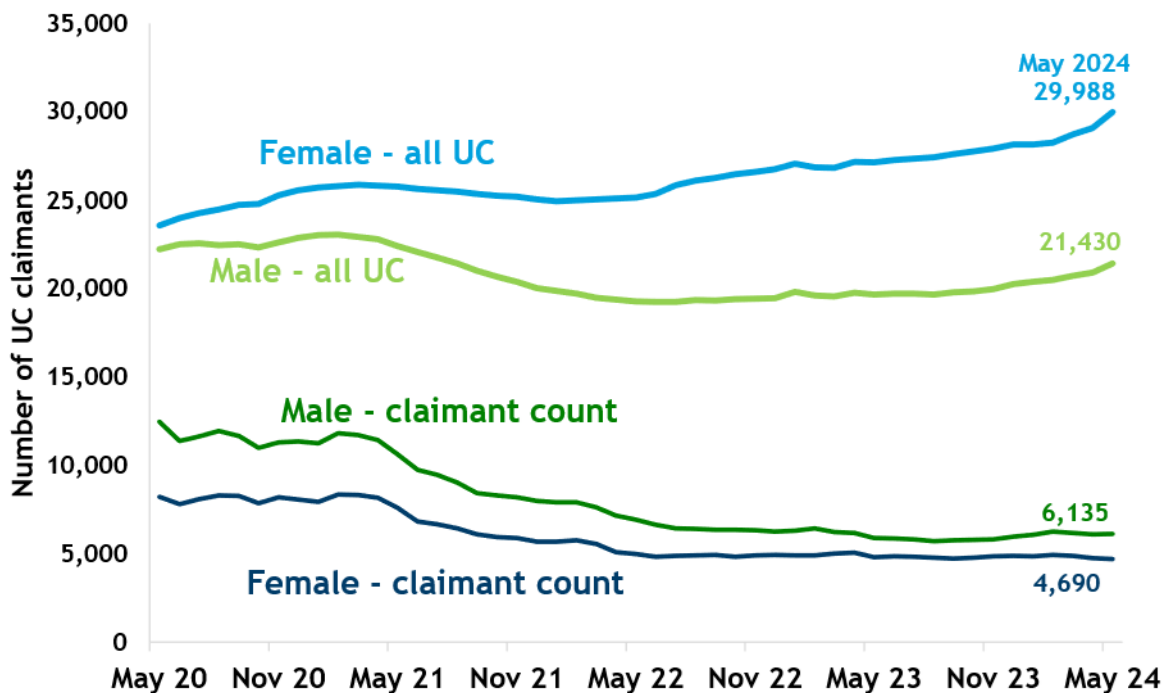
Number of claimants of UC searching for work/Job Seekers Allowance -10,840 (Apr) and 10,825 (May)

UC/JSA searching for work % of the working-age population - 3.5% (Apr) and 3.5% (May)

Source: East Sussex in Figures (ESiF)

**All UC claimant rates living in East Sussex by conditionality and sex to**

**May 2024**



Graphs: Courtesy of ESIF

## East Sussex Vacancy Statistics

Vacancies (unique job postings) by District for March 2024 - May 2024

- Lewes: 5,183
- Eastbourne: 4,941
- Wealden: 4,543
- Hastings: 3,306
- Rother: 1,859

## Top 5 Posted Job Titles in East Sussex March 2024 - May 2024

- Support Workers
- Care Assistants
- Health Care Assistants
- Cleaners
- Teaching Assistants

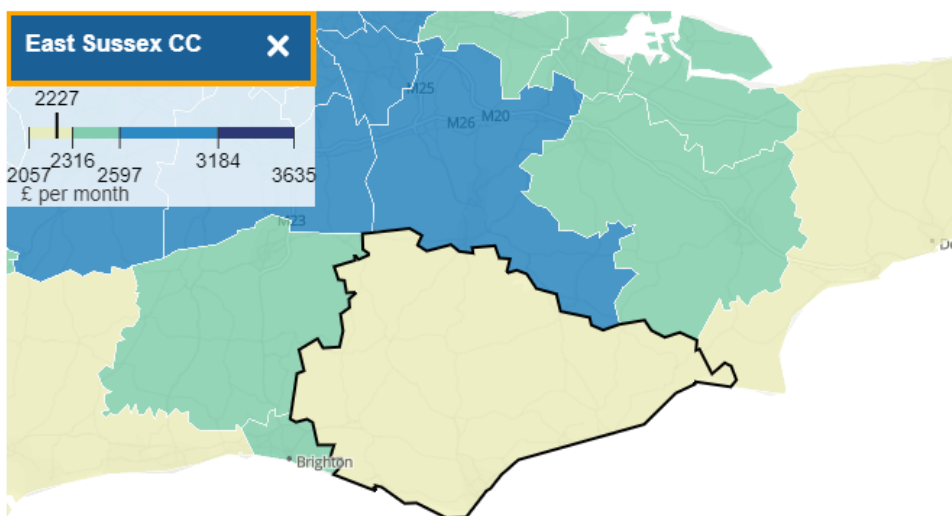
Source: [Lightcast](#)

## Monthly Median Pay in East Sussex

Monthly median pay in East Sussex:

£2,227 per month using the HM Revenue and Customs Pay As You Earn Real Time Information in May 2024.

Median pay, seasonally adjusted, UK, NUTS3 level, May 2024



Source: [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

**National Employment Picture**

Figure 1: The estimated number of vacancies decreased on the quarter to 904,000

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, March to May 2005 to March to May 2024

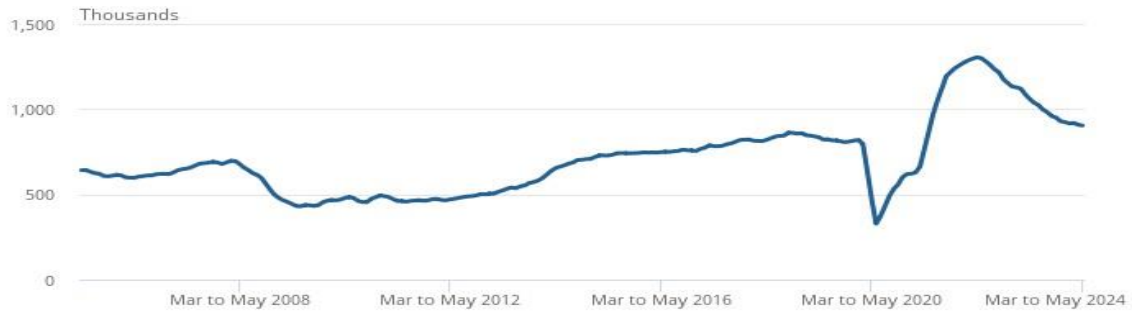
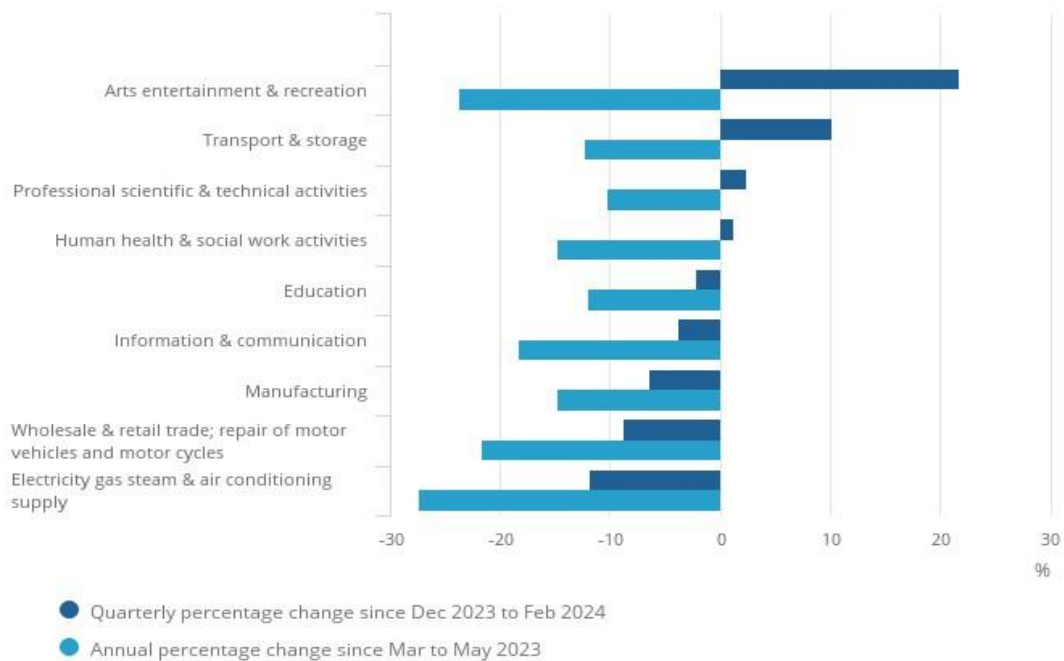


Figure 2: In March to May 2024 quarterly growth varied across industry sectors

March to May 2024 three-month average vacancies in the UK, quarterly percentage growth from December 2023 to February 2024 and annual percentage growth from March to May 2023



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

## **Focus on - Early Years funding reforms**

Entitlements to free childcare hours are changing, with the new entitlements being introduced in phases:

- from April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week.
- from September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week.
- from September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week.

This change in entitlement is likely to put pressure on Early Years childcare providers, where nationally there is already a struggle with recruitment and retention in the sector. The Department for Education has taken the following actions to address the issues:

- Regulatory framework changes to staff:child ratios and changing qualification requirements for practitioners. Including the removal of the requirement for some practitioners, beneath manager, to have a level 2 maths qualification.
- [National recruitment campaign](#).
- [Financial incentives for new and returning staff](#) (Piloting in 20 local authorities from April to December 2024).
- Early Years Skills Bootcamps.
- Wider investment in training as part of early years education recovery programme.

## **East Sussex Initiatives**

An Early Years working group has been established and is coordinated by Skills East Sussex officers in the Employability and Skills team to look at initiatives to address the skills and employment gaps in the sector. Several key stakeholders are part of the group including the East Sussex County Council Early Years Education team, local course providers, and the DWP. Initiatives being considered:

- Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP)
- A sector spotlight aimed at both job seekers and school and college leavers.
- Discussions with early years providers to gather information on requirements, needs and barriers faced with skills and employability at a local level.
- Myth busting around Universal Credit entitlement.
- Careers campaign initiatives to inspire the impending and next generation of employees.

**Skills East Sussex** coordinates and supports large number of activities through its [sector task groups](#) and beyond. The Sector Task groups include businesses, education providers, job centres and others committed to addressing skills and employability challenges across the county.

## Education and Training News

**Adult Skills Fund (ASF)** -September 2024 will see start of the Adult Skills Fund (ASF) replacing the current Adult Education Budget (AEB) The ASF aims to empower adult learners in non-devolved areas by equipping them with skills that lead to meaningful, sustained, and relevant employment. It also supports progression to further learning that aligns with these employment outcomes. Additionally, the ASF offers tailored learning provisions to achieve broader objectives. These include improving health and wellbeing, equipping parents and carers to better support their children's education, and fostering stronger, more resilient communities.

**Local libraries** - Did you know you can learn new skills at your local library in East Sussex? Whether you need to brush up on your IT skills or work on your maths and English - the library has a range of courses and support to help you develop and achieve your goals! Learn more about what your local library has to offer

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/YourLocalLibrary>

## **And Finally!**

Multiply, the funded government scheme that aims to boost numeracy skills in work and daily life, is set to end in March 2025. Whether you need help in managing your bills and budgeting, or to help your kids with their maths homework, good numeracy skills may unlock opportunities to help you achieve more in your life and can lead to better job prospects, and higher wages or prepare you for further study. If you're aged 19+ and do not already have a GCSE at grade C (or equivalent) in maths, Multiply is available to you. Check out the courses available [Multiply - Free Maths Courses - Skills & Learning](https://careerseastsussex.co.uk) ([careerseastsussex.co.uk](https://careerseastsussex.co.uk)) or email [multiply@sussexcommunity.org.uk](mailto:multiply@sussexcommunity.org.uk)

**Build your confidence with free courses and qualifications**

**SKILLS FOR LIFE MULTIPLY**

### **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**

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 uncategoryed reason for being economically inactive, or those who have not given a reason for being economically inactive.