West Sussex Economic Strategy 2025-2035

Evidence Report

November 2024

Contents

1. Introduction

This data report has been developed as the evidence base that supports the new West Sussex Economic Strategy (2025-2035). It is based on the four themes:

- Our Place
- Our People
- Our Economy and
- Our Businesses.

All the data to inform this report is in the public domain. It is, therefore, easily updatable. It can be used to measure the progress of economic strategy and its action plan against the interventions that are agreed between the county's partners.

Datasets are updated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and other government departments on a regular basis. As a general rule, the data within this report are shown for 2018 as the baseline, along with the latest available data at the time work commenced on the strategy (August 2024). In most cases this is 2023, but there are instances where the latest available data is 2022 or in some cases, 2021.

Where possible, data are shown for West Sussex, benchmarked to the South East region and England. Data for the county's districts and boroughs is also presented in the report. For some datasets, such as the Annual Population Survey (APS) and the Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE), confidence intervals can be wide, particularly at district & borough level. In these cases, care should be taken when interpreting the data.

The value of the data when with attempting to assess the position of the county's economy, is in their totality and when they are used in combination qualitative data and local intelligence.

West Sussex County Council's Performance and Insight team produce monthly Economic Snapshots. These include data and insights that are specific to West Sussex as well as tracking national data to provide economic context.

2. Our Place

Summary

West Sussex covers an area of 769 square miles. Around half of it lies within the South Downs National Park and there are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the county. It is the second most wooded county in England, and it has around 50 miles of coastline.

The county has seven districts and boroughs – Adur, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Mid Sussex, and Worthing. The largest of these is Chichester (304 square miles) and the smallest is Worthing (13 square miles).

The county's main trunk roads are the A/M23 and the A24, which stretch south to north, and the A27, which runs east to west near to the coast. There are 38 railway stations, the busiest of which is Gatwick Airport, which accounts for over a third of all the entries and exits.

West Sussex has 6.3 million sq. metres of commercial floorspace, over half of which is industrial floorspace. There was 110,000 sq. metres less commercial floorspace in the county in 2023 than there had been in 2018.

In 2022, West Sussex consumed 3,204.7 GWh of electricity. This is 161.4 GWh less than in 2018. The county has renewable electricity capacity of 702.2 MW, with Rampion Windfarm (400 MW) accounting for over half of this. There were 603 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in West Sussex in April 2024. This is 357 more than there had been four years earlier.

2.1 Area and Location

West Sussex is located on the south coast of England. It covers an area of 769 square miles – around 10% of the South East region (excluding London). It is bordered by Hampshire, Surrey, Brighton & Hove, and East Sussex. It has seven districts & boroughs – Arun, Adur, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Mid Sussex, and Worthing. Around half (50%) of the county is in the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and it also has Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Chichester, is the largest of the county's district and boroughs, covering an area of around 304 square miles. This is followed by Horsham (205 square miles) and Mid Sussex (205 square miles). Crawley (17 square miles), Adur (16 square miles) and Worthing (13 square miles) are the smallest geographical areas.

Table 1: Area (Square miles) of West Sussex and its districts & boroughs

	Sq. miles	%
West Sussex	**769**	**100%**
Adur	16	2%
Arun	85	11%
Chichester	304	40%
Crawley	17	2%
Horsham	205	27%
Mid Sussex	129	17%
Worthing	13	2%

West Sussex has around 50 miles of coastline, stretching from Thorney Island in the west to Shoreham-by-Sea in the east. Around one fifth (19%) of West Sussex is covered by woodland, making it England's second most wooded county. Its main trunk roads are the A/M23 and A24, which stretch from south to north in towards London in the eastern end of the county; and the A27, which runs from east to west nearer to the coast.

2.2 Railway Station Usage

Between April 2022 and March 2023, nearly 44 million passengers entered and exited West Sussex's 38 railway stations. There were 11 railway stations that had more than 1 million entries and exits in 2023/23. Gatwick Airport (16.51 million) accounted for 37.6% of all entries and exits at West Sussex railway stations. The next busiest railway station was Haywards Heath (3.39 million entries and exits). There were 12.0 million fewer entries and exits in 2022/23 than there had been in 2018/19.

Table 2: Entries and exits in West Sussex's busiest railway stations (2018/19 – 2022/23)

	Apr 2018 to Mar 2019		April 2022- March 2023		Change 2018/19-2022/23	
	Count	**Share (%)**	**Count**	**Share (%)**	**Count**	**Percent**
TOTAL	**55,898,916**	**100.0%**	**43,896,038**	**100.0%**	**-12,002,878**	**-21.5%**
Gatwick Airport	21,225,246	38.0%	16,507,980	37.6%	-4,717,266	-22.2%
Haywards Heath	4,382,064	7.8%	3,394,840	7.7%	-987,224	-22.5%
Three Bridges	3,223,574	5.8%	2,791,886	6.4%	-431,688	-13.4%
Chichester	2,977,098	5.3%	2,434,584	5.5%	-542,514	-18.2%
Horsham	2,872,046	5.1%	2,093,682	4.8%	-778,364	-27.1%
Worthing	2,395,498	4.3%	1,891,412	4.3%	-504,086	-21.0%
Burgess Hill	1,838,748	3.3%	1,467,092	3.3%	-371,656	-20.2%
Crawley	1,747,126	3.1%	1,160,750	2.6%	-586,376	-33.6%
Shoreham-By-Sea	1,316,990	2.4%	1,101,476	2.5%	-215,514	-16.4%
Bognor Regis	1,094,562	2.0%	1,025,024	2.3%	-69,538	-6.4%

Hassocks	1,364,668	2.4%	1,019,776	2.3%	-344,892	-25.3%

Source: Table 1415a: Time series of passenger entries and exits by station (annual), Great Britain, April 1997 to March 2023; Office of Rail & Road

2.3 Commercial Floorspace[1]

In 2023, West Sussex had 6.3 million sq. metres of commercial floorspace. Over half (54%) of this was industrial floorspace, a fifth (21%) was retail floorspace; 14% was office floorspace and 12% was other floorspace.

Crawley (1.32 million sq. metres) has the largest amount of commercial floorspace, followed by Horsham (1.03 million sq. metres); and Adur (440 sq. metres) has the smallest amount of commercial floorspace. Worthing (33%) has the largest proportion of retail floorspace; Crawley (22%) has the largest proportion of office floorspace; and Adur (65%) has the largest proportion of industrial floorspace.

Table 3: Commercial Floorspace (sq. metres) by type in West Sussex and its districts & boroughs 2023

	All (‘000sq.m)	Retail ('000sq.m)	Office ('000sq.m)	Industrial ('000sq.m)	Other ('000sq.m)
West Sussex	**6,286**	**1,298**	**849**	**3,396**	**742**
Adur	440	88	32	288	33
Arun	928	234	51	537	106
Chichester	966	206	99	516	145
Crawley	1,317	204	293	699	120
Horsham	1,031	169	138	571	153
Mid Sussex	960	187	144	510	119
Worthing	643	209	92	274	67

Source: Non-Domestic Rating (NDR) Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency; 2023

There was -111,000 sq.m (-1.7%) less commercial floorspace in the county in 2023, compared with 2018. This was due to a 45,000 sq.m reduction in retail floorspace and 122,000 sq.m reduction in office floorspace. The amount of industrial floorspace increased by +55,000 sq.m.

Between 2018 and 2023, Worthing lost the most commercial floorspace (-80,000 sq.m), followed by Crawley (-61,000 sq.m). In Mid Sussex (+42,000 sq.m) and Horsham (+14,000 sq.m), the amount of commercial floorspace increased between 2018 and 2023.

[1] This includes all vacant and occupied commercial floorspace

Table 4: Change in quantum of commercial floorspace (sq. metres) 2018-2023 in West Sussex and its districts & boroughs

	All (sq.m)	Retail (sq.m)	Office (sq.m)	Industrial (sq.m)	Other (sq.m)
West Sussex	**-111,000**	**-45,000**	**-122,000**	**55 ,000**	**1,000**
Adur	-15,000	0	4,000	-16,000	-1,000
Arun	-6,000	-4,000	-2,000	-5,000	5,000
Chichester	-7,000	-1,000	-4 ,000	-4,000	0
Crawley	-61,000	-22,000	-59,000	19,000	1,000
Horsham	14,000	0	-14,000	25,000	4,000
Mid Sussex	42,000	-1,000	-18,000	62,000	-1,000
Worthing	-80,000	-18	-29 ,000	-28,000	-6,000

Source: Non-Domestic Rating (NDR) Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency; 2023

2.4 Electricity consumption

In 2022, West Sussex consumed 3,366 GWh of electricity. Between 2018 and 2022, electricity consumption in West Sussex fell by (-8.5%). This is slower rate of reduction in electricity consumption in the South East region (-7.8%), but a faster reduction than in England (-9.6%) over the period.

Table 5: Electricity Consumption (GWh) in West Sussex, the South East region and England 2018-2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
West Sussex	3,366	3,079	-286	-8.5%
South East	37,472	34,533	-2,939	-7.8%
England	234,375	211,894	-22,481	-9.6%

Source: Subnational electricity consumption, Great Britain; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; 2022

In 2022, mean electricity consumption per meter[2] in West Sussex was 7,151 kWh. This is lower than in the South East (7,883) and in England (7,872). Between 2018 and 2022, electricity consumption per meter fell by 967kWh (-11.9%). This is a slightly larger percentage reduction than in the South East, but a slightly smaller percentage reduction than in England (-12.5%)

[2] Note: this includes domestic and non-domestic consumption. In England domestic consumption accounts for around 36% of all consumption.

Table 6: Electricity Consumption per meter (kWh) in West Sussex, the South East region and England 2018-2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
West Sussex	8,118	7,151	-967	-11.9%
South East	8,881	7,883	-998	-11.2%
England	8,999	7,872	-1126	-12.5%

Source: Subnational electricity consumption, Great Britain; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; 2022

In 2022, Crawley (576.7 GWh) consumed the most electricity per meter followed by Chichester (558.9 GWh). Adur (212.2 GWh) and Worthing (305.1 GWh) consumed the least.

Between 2018 and 2022, electricity consumption fell in all of the county's districts and boroughs. It fell the most in Worthing (-16%), followed by Crawley (-11%).

Table 7: Electricity Consumption (GWh) in West Sussex Districts & Boroughs 2018-2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
Adur	227.3	212.2	-15.1	-6.6%
Arun	498.1	450.5	-47.6	-9.6%
Chichester	583.2	558.9	-24.4	-4.2%
Crawley	648.0	576.7	-71.3	-11.0%
Horsham	536.1	495.7	-40.5	-7.5%
Mid Sussex	509.8	480.2	-29.6	-5.8%
Worthing	363.1	305.1	-58.0	-16.0%

Source: Subnational electricity consumption, Great Britain; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; 2022

In 2022, mean electricity consumption per meter[3] was highest in Crawley (11,577 kWh). This is mainly due to the high non-domestic usage, compared with other districts & boroughs. Arun (5,438 kWh) and Worthing (5,516 kWh) had the lowest mean electricity per meter.

Between 2018 and 2022, Worthing (-17.3%) and Crawley (-14.1%) had the largest reductions in mean electricity usage per meter. The smallest reductions were in Adur (-7.8%) and Chichester (-7.9%).

Table 8: Electricity Consumption per meter (kWh) in West Sussex, the South East region and England 2018-2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
Adur	7,484	6,903	-581	-7.8%

[3] Note: this includes domestic and non-domestic consumption. In England domestic consumption accounts for around 36% of all consumption.

Arun	6,211	5,438	-773	-12.4%
Chichester	9,050	8,331	-719	-7.9%
Crawley	13,472	11,577	-1,895	-14.1%
Horsham	7,881	6,977	-904	-11.5%
Mid Sussex	7,385	6,511	-874	-11.8%
Worthing	6,673	5,516	-1,158	-17.3%

Source: Subnational electricity consumption, Great Britain; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; 2022

2.5 Renewable Electricity Capacity

In 2023, West Sussex had the capacity to produce 702.2 megawatts of renewable energy. Much of this is accounted for by the Rampion Windfarm (attributable to Worthing), which can produce 400 MW of renewable energy.

Apart from Worthing, Chichester (80.2 MW), Horsham (80.2 MW) and Arun (75.8MW) have the greatest renewable energy capacity. Between 2018 and 2023 renewable energy capacity in the county increased by 53.0 MW (+8.2%). The biggest increases were in Mid Sussex (+13.7 MW) and Horsham (+11.7 MW), and the largest percentage increases were in Mid Sussex (+68.5%) and Crawley (+61.3%).

Table 9: Renewable Energy Capacity in West Sussex and its districts & boroughs (2018-2023)

	2018	2023	2018-2023 Change	
	MW	MW	MW	%
West Sussex	**649.2**	**702.2**	**+53.0**	**+8.2%**
Adur	8.2	10.7	+2.5	+30.8%
Arun	67.6	75.8	+8.2	+12.1%
Chichester	74.4	83.5	+9.1	+12.2%
Crawley	6.2	10.0	+3.8	+61.3%
Horsham	68.5	80.2	+11.7	+17.1%
Mid Sussex	20.1	33.8	+13.7	+68.5%
Worthing	404.2	408.1	+3.9	+1.0%

Source: Renewable electricity by local authority 2014-2023; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2024

2.6 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points

In April 2024, West Sussex had 457 publicly available electric charging points. This is 68.1 per 100,00 residents. This compares with 77.4 per 100,000 residents in the South East region and 91.1 per 100,000 residents in England. Crawley (105.4 per 100,000 residents) has the highest density of EV charging points, followed by Mid Sussex (102.0).

Mid Sussex (125) also has the highest number of EV charging points. Arun (24.8) has the lowest density of and the fewest EV charging points (42).

Between April 2020 and April 2024, the number of EV publicly available charging points increased by +457. This is an increase of 313% over the period – faster than in the South East region (+195%) and England (+244%).

The number of EV charging points increased in all districts and boroughs in West Sussex, with the biggest increase being in Mid Sussex (+134) and Crawley (+95).

Table 10: EV Charging Points in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs; the South East region and England; April 2020- April 2024

	April 2020	**April 2024**	**April 2020-April 2024 Change**	
	Count	**Count**	**Count**	**%**
West Sussex	146	603	+457	+313%
Adur	4	52	+48	+1200%
Arun	16	41	+25	+156%
Chichester	42	72	+30	+71%
Crawley	30	125	+95	+317%
Horsham	21	75	+54	+257%
Mid Sussex	22	156	+134	+609%
Worthing	11	82	+71	+645%
South East	2,437	7,198	+4,761	+195%
England	14,979	51,506	+36,527	+244%

Source: Electric Vehicle Public Charging Infrastructure Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024

3. Our People

Summary

West Sussex has a resident population of over 900,000, including 533,000 working age residents. Its population increased by just under 35,000 (+4.0%) between 2018 and 2023. The county's population is already older than the South East and England averages. Between 2025 and 2035, the county's population is projected to increase by a further 40,000. The increase in the number of post-working age residents (+50,000) is projected to be offset by a reduction in its pre-working age population.

Just under a quarter of a million (238,000) of the county's population holds an RQF 4+ qualification[4]. This is around one third of its 16+ adult residents. However, there are over 300,000 adult residents who do not hold a qualification at RQF Level 3 or above.

Over 500,000 of the county's residents are in work. Although the number increased between 2018 and 2023, the employment rate fell, because of the increase in the number of working age people in the county. Average earnings in much of the county are low by South East region standards. This is particularly the case for people who work in the county. The only district & borough in West Sussex where workplace earnings exceed resident earnings is Crawley. The median house price to workplace earnings affordability ratio is higher in West Sussex (11.23) than in the South East (10.39) and England (8.18).

The most widespread forms of deprivation in the county relate to education and health & disability. These exist in all parts of West Sussex. A high proportion of Universal Credit claimants are already in employment and whilst claimant count unemployment is low by England standards, it increased by +188% between 2018 and 2024.

3.1 Population

In 2023, West Sussex was home to a resident population of just under 900,850. This is 9.5% of the South East region's population and 1.6% of the population in England. Arun, 168,000, has the largest of population, followed by Mid Sussex (157,900). Adur (64,700) has the fewest residents, followed by Worthing (112,250) and Crawley (120,550).

There were 533,150 working age (16-64 years old) residents. This is 9.00% of working age residents in the South East region and 1.47% of those in England. Mid Sussex (94,500) has the largest number of working age residents in West Sussex, followed by Arun (94,000). Adur (37,500) has the fewest, followed by Worthing (68,100) and Chichester (73,100).

[4] Description of Regulated Qualifications Framework

West Sussex has 209,000 post-working age (65 years old and over) residents. This is 11.15% of those in the South East region, and 1.94% of England's post working age residents. Arun has the largest number of post-working age residents (48,400), followed by Chichester (35,100) and Horsham (35,100). Adur (15,500) has the fewest, followed by Crawley (16,400).

West Sussex has 158,750 pre-working age (0-15 years old) residents. This is 9.00% of pre-working age residents in the South East region and 1.49% of those in England. Mid Sussex (30,550) has the largest number of pre-working age residents in West Sussex, followed by Horsham (26,750), Crawley (25,900) and Arun (25,600). Adur (11,600) has the fewest, Worthing (18,500) and Chichester (19,800).

Table 11: 2023 Population by age[5] in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region & England

	Total	**Aged 0 – 15 (pre-working age)**	**Aged 16 – 64 (working age)**	**Aged 65 and over (post-working age)**
West Sussex	**900,850**	**158,750**	**533,150**	**209,000**
Adur	64,700	11,600	37,600	15,500
Arun	168,000	25,600	94,000	48,400
Chichester	128,000	19,800	73,100	35,100
Crawley	120,550	25,900	78,250	16,400
Horsham	149,450	26,750	87,650	35,100
Mid Sussex	157,900	30,550	94,500	32,850
Worthing	112,250	18,500	68,150	25,600
South East	9,482,500	1,762,100	5,846,300	1,874,100
England	57,690,300	10,648,350	36,258,900	10,783,100

Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates; ONS; 2023

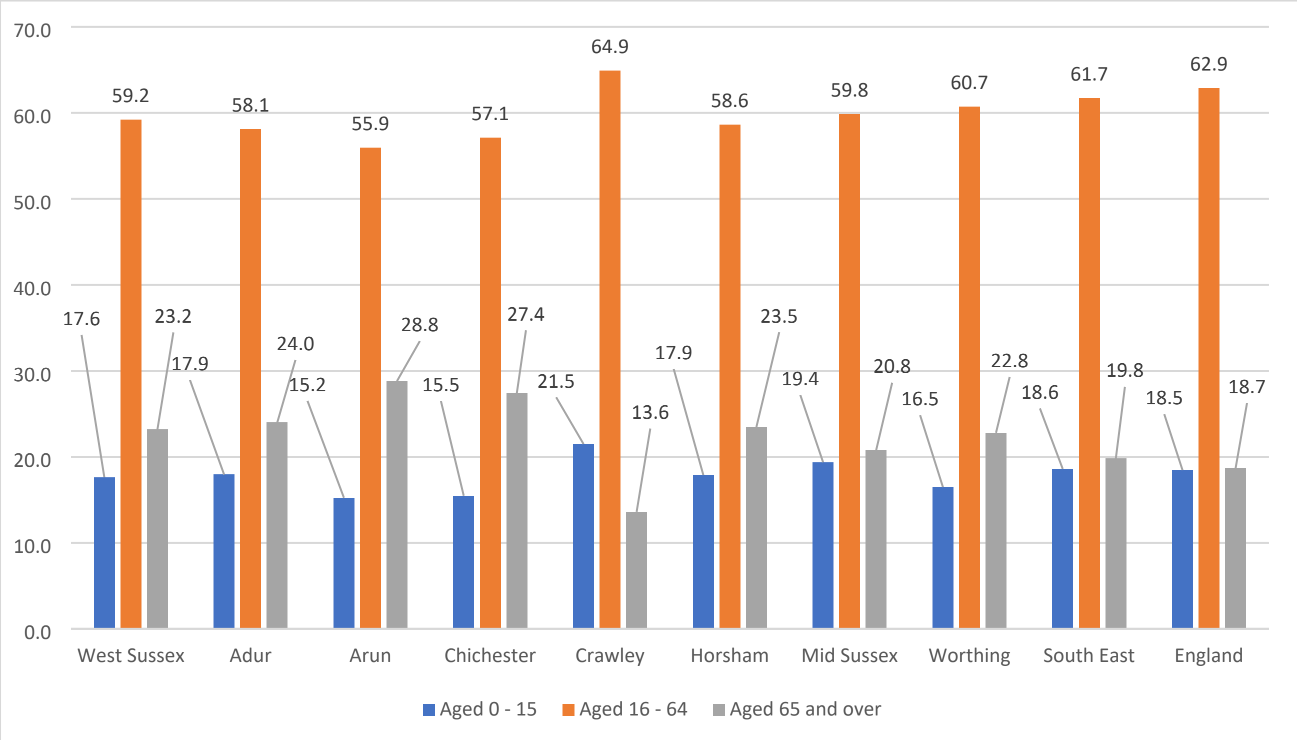
West Sussex (59.2%) has a lower proportion of working age residents than the South East region (61.7%) and England (62.9%). It also has a lower proportion of pre-working age residents (17.6%), compared with the South East region (18.6%) and England (18.7%).

This means that its age structure is disproportionately weighted towards post-working age residents. In West Sussex 23.2% of residents are aged 65+ years, compared with 19.8% in the South East region, and 18.7% in England.

Within West Sussex, Crawley (64.9%) has the largest proportion of working age residents, followed by Worthing (60.7%). Arun (55.9%) has the smallest proportion, followed by Chichester (57.1%).

[5] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 50

Figure 1: Share of population by age in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England (2023)



Source: Mid -Year Population Estimates; ONS; 2023

3.2 Population Change 2018-2023[6]

Between 2018 and 2023, the population of West Sussex increased by +34,650. This is 10.43% of the increase in the South East region's population and 1.96% of the increase in the population of England over the period.

The working age population increased by +16,540, which is 47.5% of the total increase. The post-working age population increased by +14,300, 41.2% of the total increase. The pre-working age population increased by +11.3% of the total increase.

Mid Sussex (+8,900) had the largest population increase, followed by Horsham (+7,950). Adur had the smallest population increase (+500) followed by Worthing (+1,950).

Mid Sussex (+4,700) also had the largest increase in working age residents, followed by Horsham (+3,450). In Adur (-100), the working age population remained more or less static between 2018 and 2023. The largest increase in post-working age residents was in Horsham (+3,400), followed by Chichester (+2,800), Arun (+2,600) and Mid Sussex (+2,450).

[6] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 50

Table 12: Change in population by age 2018-2023 in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	Total	Aged 0 – 15 (pre-working age)	Aged 16 – 64 (working age)	Aged 65 and over (post-working age)
West Sussex	+34,650	+3,950	+16,450	+14,300
Adur	+500	0	-100	+500
Arun	+5,400	+100	+2,600	+2,600
Chichester	+5,800	+300	+2,800	+2,800
Crawley	+4,050	+1,200	+1,550	+1,300
Horsham	+7,950	+1,250	+3,450	+3,400
Mid Sussex	+8,900	+1,750	+4,700	+2,450
Worthing	+1,950	-600	+1,450	+1,100
South East	+332,300	+42,000	+161,900	+128,300
England	+1,765,800	+98,250	+967,200	+700,300

Source: Population Estimates; ONS; 2018 & 2023

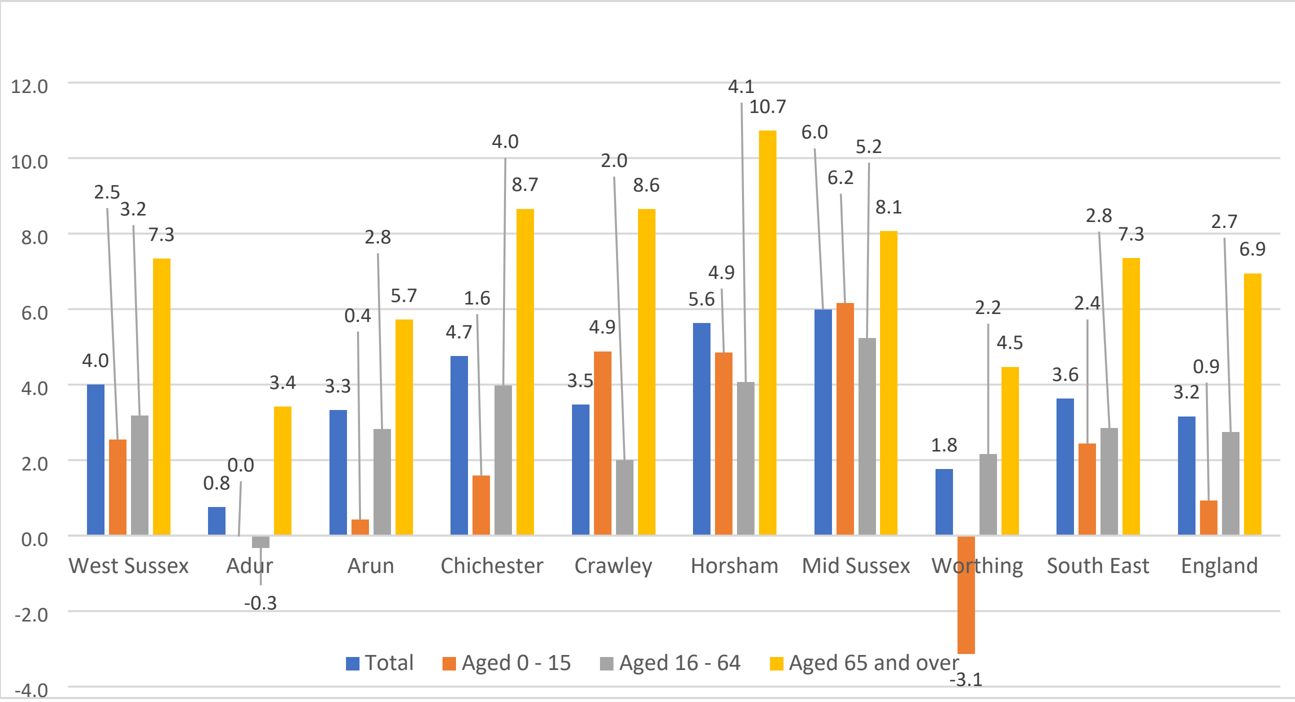
Between 2018 and 2023, the West Sussex population increased by +4.0%. This was a larger increase than in the South East region (+3.6%) and England (+3.2%).

The post-working age population increased by +7.3%. This is the same rate of increase as in the South East region (+7.3%), but a larger increase than in England (+6.9%). The working age population increased by +3.2% in West Sussex, compared with +2.8% in the South East region and 2.7% in England. The pre-working age population increased by +2.5% between 2018 and 2023. This is a similar rate of increase as in the South East region (+2.4%) and a larger rate of increase than in England (0.9%).

Mid Sussex (6.0%) had the largest population increase within West Sussex, followed by Horsham (+5.6%). The smallest rate of increase was in Adur (-0.8%), followed by Worthing (+1.8%). The working age population also increased fastest in Mid Sussex (+5.2%), followed by Horsham (+4.1%) and Chichester (+4.0%). There was a modest fall in Adur’s (-0.5%) working age population. The post-working age population increased fastest in Horsham (+10.7%), followed by Chichester (+8.7%), Crawley (+8.6%) and Mid Sussex (+8.1%). Adur (+3.4%), Worthing (+4.5%) and Arun (+5.7%) saw proportionately more modest post-working age population increases.

The pre-working age population increased fastest in Mid Sussex (+6.2%), followed by Crawley (+4.9%). There was reduction in the pre-working age population in Worthing (-3.1%) and no increase in the pre-working age population in Adur (0.0%).

Figure 2: Change in population 2018-2023 by age in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England



Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates; ONS; 2018-2023

3.3 Population Projections (2025-2035)

In 2035, West Sussex is projected to have a resident population of 943,550. This is 9.70% of the South East region population and 1.57% of England's population. There are projected to be 522,100 working age residents, 271,300 post-working age residents, and 150,150 pre-working age residents.

Arun (181,000) is projected to remain the most populous district or borough in West Sussex, followed by Horsham (162,950) and Mid Sussex (162,600). Arun (63,100) is projected to have far more post-working age residents than any other district or borough in West Sussex.

Table 13: Projected 2035 population by age in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	Total	**Aged 0 – 15 (pre-working age)**	**Aged 16 – 64 (working age)**	**Aged 65 and over (post-working age)**
West Sussex	943,550	150,150	522,100	271,300
Adur	67,150	10,800	37,550	18,800
Arun	181,000	25,000	92,900	63,100
Chichester	133,100	19,250	67,900	45,950
Crawley	117,400	21,550	74,450	21,450
Horsham	162,950	26,650	89,050	47,300
Mid Sussex	162,600	28,700	92,350	41,550

Worthing	119,300	18,200	67,900	33,200
South East	9,725,150	1,639,3300	5,688,750	2,397,050
England	60,183,900	10,292,000	36,076,400	13,815,500

Source: Population Projections (2018 base); ONS

West Sussex's population is projected to increase by +43,100 between 2025 and 2035. The post-working age population (+50,200) is projected to exceed the overall increase in the county's population. This is because there is projected to be a reduction of -8,150 in pre-working age residents over the period. There is projected to be only a modest increase in the working age population over the period (+1,050).

West Sussex is projected to account for 15.16% of the increase in the South East region's population and 2.03% of England's population between 2025 and 2035. There is projected to be a deduction in the South East's working age population over the period.

Arun (+11,150) and Horsham (+10,550) are projected to see the largest increase in residents and Adur (+1,750) is projected to have the smallest increase. Horsham (+1,000) and Arun (+800) is the only district or borough where projections suggest a significant increase in working age residents. In Chichester, the number of working age residents is projected to decline by -1,250.

All the county's districts & boroughs are projected to see an increase in the number of post-working age residents, with the largest number projected to be Arun (+11,750) and Horsham (+9,750). All the county's districts & boroughs are projected to have fewer pre-working age residents. The largest reduction is projected to be in Crawley (-2,600) and the smallest in Horsham (-200).

Table 14: Change in resident population by age between 2025 and 2035 in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East and England

	Total	**Aged 0 – 15 (pre-working age)**	**Aged 16 – 64 (working age)**	**Aged 65 and over (post-working age)**
West Sussex	+43,100	-8,150	+1,050	+50,200
Adur	+1,750	-800	-250	+2,800
Arun	+11,150	-1,400	+800	+11,750
Chichester	+6,450	-850	-1,250	+8,500
Crawley	+2,050	-2,600	+450	+4,150
Horsham	+10,550	-200	+1,000	+9,750
Mid Sussex	+6,150	-1,300	+250	+7,200
Worthing	+5,050	-1,000	0	+6,050
South East	+284,250	-110,300	-18,150	+412,750
England	+2,123,700	-506,900	+264,450	+2,366,150

Source: Population Projections (2018 base); ONS

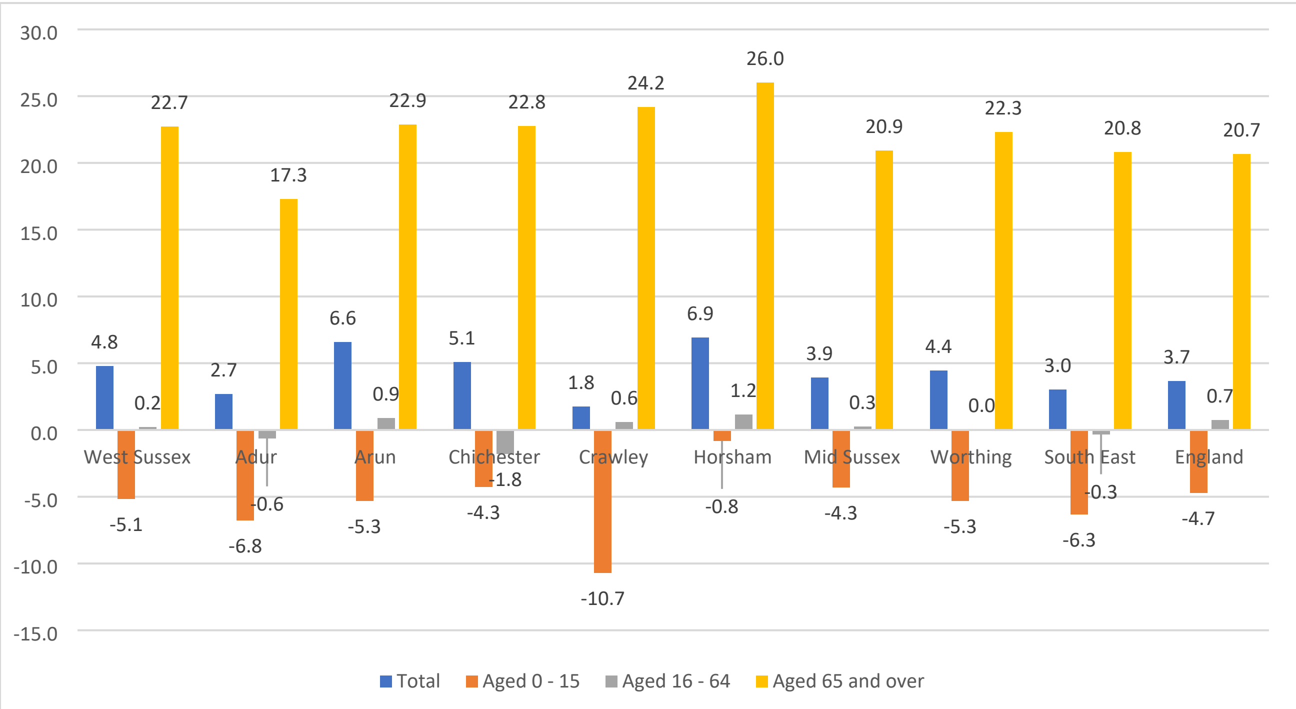
Between 2025 and 2035, West Sussex's population is projected to increase by 4.8%. This is a faster rate of increase than in the South East region (+3.7%) and England (+2.7%) over the period. The post-working age population in West Sussex is projected to increase by +22.7%. Proportionately, this is a faster increase than in the South East region (+20.8%) and England (20.7%). The working age population is projected to increase by +0.2%. This compares with a reduction of -0.3% in the South East region, and an increase of 0.7% in England. West Sussex's pre-working age population is projected to decline by -5.1% over the period, compared with reductions of -6.3% in the South East region and -4.78% in England.

Horsham (+6.9%) and Arun (+6.6%) are projected to have the largest percentage increase in their populations, whilst the smallest percentage increases are projected to be in Crawley (+1.8%) and Adur (+2.7%). Percentage increases in working age residents are modest in all the county's districts & boroughs.

The main issue for the all the county's districts & boroughs is the projected increase in post-working age residents. The largest percentage increase is projected to be in Horsham (+26.0%), followed by Crawley (+24.2%). Only in Adur (+17.3%) is the increase in post-working age residents projected to be below 20%.

All districts & boroughs are projected have fewer 0-15 year old residents in 2035 than in 2025. Proportionately, the most significant reduction is projected to be in Crawley (-10.7%), followed by Adur
(-6.8%).

Figure 3: Proportionate change in population by age 2025-2035 in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England



Source: Population Projections (2018 base); ONS

3.4 Qualifications

Nearly a quarter of a million (238,000) of West Sussex's 16-64[7] residents hold a Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF)[8] at Level 4 or above. This is a third (32.7%) of the county's working age population, but below the proportion of higher qualified residents in the South East region (35.8%) and England (33.9%).

Over 300,000 (41.5%) of West Sussex's residents does not hold a qualification at RQF Level 3 – the level that is often considered the minimum to progress successfully through the labour market. West Sussex has a higher proportion of lower qualified residents than the South East region (39.1%) and a similar proportion as England (41.1%).

Within West Sussex, Mid Sussex (47,700) has the highest number of higher qualified residents, followed by Horsham (44,600) and Chichester (39,000). These three districts & boroughs also had the highest percentage of adult residents with higher level qualifications.

Arun (65,500) has the largest number of lower qualified residents - much larger number than the other districts and boroughs in West Sussex. However, Crawley (47.4%) has the highest percentage of lower qualified residents, followed by Arun (46.6%) and Adur (42.0%).

Table 15: Number and percentage of 16+ residents with higher and lower level qualifications in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	RQF Level 4+[9]		RQF Below Level 3[10]	
	Count	**Percent**	**Count**	**Percent**
West Sussex	238,000	32.7%	301,500	41.5%
Adur	14,800	27.9%	24,350	46.0%
Arun	36,850	26.4%	65,000	46.6%
Chichester	39,000	37.2%	39,150	37.4%
Crawley	25,750	27.5%	44,350	47.4%
Horsham	44,600	37.0%	45,300	37.5%
Mid Sussex	47,700	38.7%	44,450	36.1%
Worthing	29,300	31.7%	38,900	42.1%
South East	2,702,050	35.8%	2,948,150	39.1%
England	15,606,450	33.9%	18,900,100	41.1%

Source: ONS, Census 2021[11]

[7] The age profile of the population can impact on qualification levels – generally, younger people have higher level qualifications than older people, although this may not fairly reflect skills levels
[8] Regulated Qualification Framework
[9] RQF level 4+ includes certHEs/dipHEs; higher apprenticeships, higher national certificates/diplomas, foundation degrees, degree apprenticeships, ordinary degrees, degrees with honours, graduate diplomas, master's degrees, postgraduate certificates/diplomas, postgraduate certificates in education, PhDs/DPhils, level 4-7 NVQs, Level 4-8 diplomas, awards and certificates
[10] Below level 3 includes no qualifications, awards, certificates & diplomas, ESOL essential skills & functional skills, at entry level to level 2, NVQs level 1 & 2, CSE grade 1; GCSE grades 1-9 or A*-G,'O' level grades A, B or C. It excludes people who hold apprenticeship or other qualifications
[11] The Annual Population Survey provides more up to date data on qualification levels, but the confidence levels at district/borough level are too wide for the data to be reliable.

3.5 Apprenticeship Achievements

In 2023/24, there were 2,350 apprenticeship achievements in West Sussex. This is 8.8% of all the achievements in the South East region and 1.3% of the achievements in England. There were +570 more achievements in the county 2023/24 than there had been in 2018/19. The rate of increase was faster in West Sussex (+32.0%) than in the South East (+28.5%) and England (+21.3%).

Table 16: Apprenticeship Achievements in West Sussex, the South East and England 2018/19 - 2023/24

	2018/19	2023/24	2018/19-2023/24 Change	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
West Sussex	1,780	2,350	+570	+32.0%
South East	20,890	26,850	+5,960	+28.5%
England	146,900	178,220	+31,320	+21.3%

Source: Explore Education Statistics Service; Department for Education; 2018/19-2023/24

In 2023/24, the most apprenticeship achievements in Mid Sussex (460) and Arun (400) and the fewest were in Adur (160) and Chichester (260).

Between 2018/19 and 2023/24 Mid Sussex had the largest increase in apprenticeship achievements (+200) followed by Crawley (+120). The smallest increase was in Adur (+20), followed by Worthing (+30).

Table 17: Apprenticeship Achievements in West Sussex, the South East and England 2018/19 - 2023/24

	2018/19	2023/24	2018/19-2023/24 Change	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
Adur	140	160	+20	+14.3%
Arun	340	400	+60	+17.6%
Chichester	210	260	+50	+23.8%
Crawley	240	360	+120	+50.0%
Horsham	290	380	+90	+31.0%
Mid Sussex	260	460	+200	+76.9%
Worthing	300	330	+30	+10.0%

Source: Explore Education Statistics Service; Department for Education; 2018/19-2023/24

3.6 Employment and Economic Activity

In 2023, there were 509,700 West Sussex residents in work. This is 9.06% of all the South East region's working residents and 1.45% of England's working residents. In 2023, the number of employed residents in West Sussex was 8,300 (+1.7%) more than in 2018. This compares with an increase of 1.2% in both the South East and England.

The biggest increase in employment was amongst Chichester residents (+4,600). There were also increases in Adur (+2,800), Horsham (+2,000), Arun (+1,600) and Mid Sussex (+800). There were fewer residents in work in Worthing (-1,600) and Crawley (-1,900). The largest percentage increase in residents employment was in Adur (+7.5%), followed by Chichester (+6.9%).

Table 18: Residents in employment 2018 and 2023 in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	2018	2023	2018-2023 Change (Count)	2018-2023 Change (%)
West Sussex	501,400	509,700	+8,300	+1.7%
Adur	37,500	40,300	+2,800	+7.5%
Arun	86,000	87,600	+1,600	+1.9%
Chichester	66,200	70,800	+4,600	+6.9%
Crawley	72,700	70,800	-1,900	-2.6%
Horsham	80,600	82,600	+2,000	+2.5%
Mid Sussex	91,500	92,300	+800	+0.9%
Worthing	66,900	65,300	-1,600	-2.4%
South East	5,559,000	5,628,200	+69,200	+1.2%
England	34,728,600	35,135,400	+406,800	+1.2%

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS; 2024[12]

In 2023, West Sussex had an economic activity rate of 80.3% and an employment rate of 77.5%. Both the economic activity rate and the employment rate in the county were lower in 2023 than they had been in 2018, 82.0% and 79.5%, respectively. This is the same pattern as in England and the South East region. In 2018 county's economic activity rate and employment rate were higher than in the South East (80.8% and 78.0%), but by 2023 both had fallen below the regional rates (81.7% and 79.3%). Although West Sussex has continued to have a higher economic activity rate and employment rate than in England, the difference has narrowed in recent years.

In 2023, Worthing (82.3%) had the highest economic activity (88.4%) and employment (82.3%) rates, followed by Arun (87.0% and 81.2%). Chichester had the lowest economic activity (67.8%) and employment (65.5%) rates.

Table 19: Economic activity and employment rates – 2018 and 2023 in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	Employment rate – aged 16-64

[12] The confidence levels of the Annual Population Survey (APS) at district/borough level are wide (for example 10.1% in Adur), so these data should be treated with caution.

	2018	2023	2018	2023
West Sussex	82.0%	80.3%	79.5%	77.5%
Adur	81.7%	77.6%	80.1%	77.6%
Arun	76.9%	87.0%	75.5%	81.2%
Chichester	85.3%	67.8%	82.1%	65.5%
Crawley	80.3%	78.6%	72.8%	78.6%
Horsham	78.8%	79.9%	76.0%	78.0%
Mid Sussex	85.5%	80.6%	84.7%	78.7%
Worthing	86.2%	88.4%	86.2%	82.3%
South East	80.8%	81.7%	78.0%	79.3%
England	78.7%	79.0%	75.4%	76.0%

Source: Annual Population Survey 2018 and 2023; ONS

3.7 Employment by Occupation

Just under half 47.6% of West Sussex's working residents are employed in 'higher'[13] level occupations. This is a lower proportion than in the South East region (50.4%), but higher than the proportion in England (46.5%). Mid Sussex (55.8%), Horsham (54.6%) and Chichester (51.4%) have the highest proportion of working residents in these occupations. Crawley (37.3%) and Arun (39.4%) have the lowest proportion.

Intermediate[14] level occupations account for 43.3% of the county's working residents' jobs. This compares with 40.9% in the South East region and 43.2% in England. Crawley (49.3%) and Arun (49.1%) have the highest proportion of working residents employed in these occupations; Mid Sussex (37.3%), Horsham (38.5%) and Chichester (39.8%) have the smallest proportion of working residents employed in intermediate level occupations.

Fewer than one in ten (9.2%) of West Sussex's working residents are employed in elementary occupations. This compares with 8.8% in the South East region and 10.5% in England. Crawley (13.3%) has the highest proportion of working residents employed in Elementary occupations, followed by Arun (11.4%). Mid Sussex (6.9%) and Horsham (6.9%) have the smallest proportion of working residents employed in elementary occupations.

Table 20: Employed residents by occupation (%) in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East and England

	West Sussex	Adur	Arun	Chichester	Crawley	Horsham	Mid Sussex	Worthing	South East	England
Managers, directors & senior officials	14.6%	12.5%	13.3%	17.0%	10.1%	17.6%	17.2%	12.5%	14.9%	12.9%
Professionals	18.9%	17.9%	14.4%	19.9%	14.9%	21.1%	22.9%	20.0%	21.2%	20.3%

[13] These are Managers, directors & senior officials; professionals; and associate professional & technical occupations.

[14] These are Administrative & secretarial; skilled trades; caring, leisure & other service occupations; sales & customer service occupations; and process, plant & machine operatives.

Associate professional/technical	14.1%	14.1%	11.7%	14.5%	12.3%	15.9%	15.7%	14.2%	14.3%	13.3%
Administrative and secretarial	9.3%	9.5%	9.3%	8.0%	9.8%	9.5%	9.4%	9.9%	9.4%	9.3%
Skilled trades	10.6%	12.8%	12.6%	11.6%	9.0%	9.8%	9.0%	10.5%	10.0%	10.2%
Caring, leisure & other service	10.3%	10.4%	11.7%	9.3%	11.6%	8.8%	9.0%	11.5%	9.1%	9.3%
Sales and customer service	7.3%	8.1%	8.0%	6.5%	9.5%	6.3%	6.0%	7.5%	6.8%	7.5%
Process, plant & machine operatives	5.8%	6.1%	7.5%	4.4%	9.4%	4.1%	3.9%	5.4%	5.6%	6.9%
Elementary	9.2%	8.6%	11.4%	8.8%	13.3%	6.9%	6.9%	8.5%	8.8%	10.5%

Source: Census 2021; ONS

3.8 Earnings

The median annual earnings for full-time workers who live in West Sussex were £35,502. This is +£5,452 (+18.1%) more than in 2018[15]. Median earnings for West Sussex's working residents are below those of working residents in the South East (£37,454) and similar to those of working residents (£35,100). However, between 2018 and 2023, they increased at a slightly faster rate than in the South East region (+16.1%) and England (+17.6%).

Full-time working residents in Mid Sussex have the highest median earnings (£40,611), followed by full-time working residents in Horsham (£37,313). The lowest median earnings were earned by full-time workers living in Arun (£30,031), Adur (£32,997) and Worthing (£33,541).

Between 2018 and 2023, median earnings increased fastest for Adur residents (+23.3%) and the slowest in Arun (+7.6%). In monetary terms, median earnings for full-time workers increased more amongst Crawley residents (+£6,319) and Adur (+£6,226).

Table 21: Median earnings for full-time workers (2018-2023) living in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	2018	2023	2018-2023 Change (£)	2018-2023 Change (%)
West Sussex	£30,050	£35,502	+£5,452	+18.1%
Adur	£26,771	£32,997	+£6,226	+23.3%
Arun	£27,914	£30,031	+£2,117	+7.6%
Chichester	£31,356	£35,598	+£4,242	+13.5%
Crawley	£28,066	£34,385	+£6,319	+22.5%

[15] Note: Changes in earnings are based on current prices, so they do not take into account inflation effects. The ASHE data has wide confidence levels so all earnings data should be interpreted with caution.

Horsham	£34,111	£37,313	+£3,202	+9.4%
Mid Sussex	£36,107	£40,611	+£4,504	+12.5%
Worthing	£28,578	£33,541	+£4,963	+17.4%
South East	£32,251	£37,454	+£5,203	+16.1%
England	£29,849	£35,100	+£5,251	+17.6%

Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (resident analysis); ONS; 2018 & 2023

In 2023, median earnings for full-time workers who are employed in West Sussex were £34,274. This is +£5,598 more than they were in 2018. However, they are still below median earnings for full-time workers employed in the South East region (£36,560) and England (£35,106).

Median earnings for full-time workers employed in West Sussex increased by 19.5% between 2018 and 2023. This is a faster rate of increase than in the South East region (+18.5%) and England (+17.6%).

Median earnings for full-time workers are highest for people employed in Crawley (£38,731), followed by Mid Sussex (£36,210). They are lowest for full-time workers employed in Arun (£29,942).

Median earnings for full-time workers increased the most in Adur (+£7,181), followed by Mid Sussex (+£7,028) between 2018 and 2023. They increased the least in Chichester (+£2,988). The biggest percentage increase was in Adur (+27.8%) and Arun (+27.3%). The smallest percentage increase was in Chichester (+10.4%)

Table 22 Median earnings for full-time workers (2018-2023) working in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	2018	2023	2018-2023 Change (£)	2018-2023 Change (%)
West Sussex	£28,676	£34,274	+£5,598	+19.5%
Adur	£25,826	£33,007	+£7,181	+27.8%
Arun	£23,517	£29,942	+£6,425	+27.3%
Chichester	£28,829	£31,817	+£2,988	+10.4%
Crawley	£32,444	£38,731	+£6,287	+19.4%
Horsham	£27,396	£32,993	+£5,597	+20.4%
Mid Sussex	£29,182	£36,210	+£7,028	+24.1%
Worthing	£25,140	£31,410	+£6,270	+24.9%
South East	£30,849	£36,560	+£5,711	+18.5%
England	£29,856	£35,106	+£5,250	+17.6%

Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (workplace analysis); ONS; 2018 & 2023

Median annual earnings for full-time workers who are employed in West Sussex were -£1,228 (-3.5%) below those of full-time workers who live in West Sussex. This is a similar pattern in the South East region (-2.4%). Within West Sussex, the biggest differences between workplace and residents' earnings are in Horsham (-11.6%), Mid Sussex (-10.8%) and Chichester (-10.6%). Crawley (+12.6%) is the only district & borough in West Sussex where median workplace earnings are higher those of residents.

Table 23: Difference between median workplace and median residents' earnings for full-time workers in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	£	%
West Sussex	-£1,228	-3.5%
Adur	+£10	+0.0%
Arun	-£89	-0.3%
Chichester	-£3,781	-10.6%
Crawley	+£4,346	+12.6%
Horsham	-£4,320	-11.6%
Mid Sussex	-£4,401	-10.8%
Worthing	-£2,131	-6.4%
South East	-£894	-2.4%
England	+£6	+0.0%

Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE); ONS; 2023

3.9 Housing Affordability

In 2023, the median house price in West Sussex was 11.23 times median annual earnings for full-time workers. This makes housing in West Sussex less affordable than in the South East (10.39) and England (8.18). There was a small increase (+0.16) in the median housing affordability ratio between 2018 and 2023 in West Sussex.

In 2023, the median affordability ratio was highest in Chichester (13.67) and Horsham (13.64) and lowest in Crawley (8.92). Crawley is the only district or borough in West Sussex, where the median affordability ratio is below that of the South East region.

Table 24: Housing affordability in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs; the South East region and England 2018 and 2023

	2018	2023	2018-2023 Change
West Sussex	11.07	11.23	+0.16
Adur	11.85	11.36	-0.49
Arun	11.84	11.69	-0.15
Chichester	12.66	13.67	+1.01
Crawley	9.09	8.92	-0.17
Horsham	13.45	13.64	+0.19
Mid Sussex	12.34	11.88	-0.46
Worthing	11.54	11.29	-0.25
South East	10.13	10.39	+0.26

England	7.70	8.18	+0.48

Source: Information on the ratio of house price to workplace-based earnings; ONS; 2024

3.10 Deprivation

The most widespread dimensions of deprivation in West Sussex relate to education and health & disability. There are over 41,000 households in the county with education deprivation and over 65,000 with health & disability deprivation. This represents 11.0% and 17.4% of all households in the county, respectively. Many (21,700) of these are the same households.

The largest number of households with education deprivation is in Arun (9,700). Arun also has the largest number of households with health & disability deprivation. However, both education deprivation and health & disability deprivation are spread across the districts & boroughs in the county.

Table 25: Households in West Sussex and its districts & boroughs with education and health & disability deprivation

	Education		Health & Disability	
	Count	**%**	**Count**	**%**
West Sussex	41,150	11.0%	65,450	17.4%
Adur	3,400	12.2%	5,100	18.5%
Arun	9,700	13.3%	13,400	18.5%
Chichester	5,850	10.8%	9,900	18.3%
Crawley	5,050	11.1%	6,850	15.0%
Horsham	6,050	9.7%	10,300	16.5%
Mid Sussex	5,800	9.2%	11,100	17.5%
Worthing	5,300	10.7%	8,800	17.8%

Source: Census 2021; ONS

3.11 Universal Credit

In May 2024, there were 67,400 working age people in West Sussex receiving Universal Credit. This is 12.7% of the county’s 16-64 year old population. The proportion of Universal Credit claimants is lower in West Sussex than it is in the South East region (16.3%) and England (12.9%).

Of the 67,400 Universal Credit claimants, 30,050 (44.5%) are in work. This is a higher proportion than in the South East (41.0%) and England (38.4%).

Arun (14,400) and Crawley (13,500) have the largest number of Universal Credit claimants in the county. They both also have the highest proportion of working age residents claiming Universal Credit – 15.5% in Arun and 17.3% in Crawley. All the county’s districts and boroughs have a higher proportion of In-Work Universal Credit claimants than the South East region and England.

Table 26: Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	Total	% of all 16-64 year olds	In Work (count)	Not In Work (count)	% In Work
West Sussex	67,400	12.7%	30,050	37,376	44.5%
Adur	4,900	13.0%	2,050	2,815	42.4%
Arun	14,400	15.5%	6,300	8,095	43.7%
Chichester	9,000	12.5%	3,850	5,160	42.7%
Crawley	13,500	17.3%	5,950	7,510	44.3%
Horsham	8,100	9.2%	3,750	4,313	46.6%
Mid Sussex	8,550	9.2%	4,100	4,480	47.6%
Worthing	9,000	13.3%	4,000	5,003	44.6%
South East	746,350	16.3%	305,650	440,681	41.0%
England	5,869,100	12.9%	2,254,650	3,614,445	38.4%

Source: Department for Work & Pensions; May 2024

There were +4,000 (+6.3%) more Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex in May 2024 than there had been in May 2021. This is a slower rate of increase than in the South East region (+10.1%) and England (+13.5%). The biggest increases were in Chichester (+15.7%) and Arun (+14.4%). Both Crawley (-1.8%) and Arun (-2.6%) had a slight reduction in the number of Universal Credit claimants over the period.

Table 27 Change in Universal Credit Claimants in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	Change May 2021-May 2024	
	Count	%
West Sussex	+4,000	+6.3%
Adur	-150	-2.6%
Arun	+1,800	+14.4%
Chichester	+1,200	+15.7%
Crawley	-250	-1.8%
Horsham	+400	+5.4%
Mid Sussex	+750	+9.5%
Worthing	+150	+1.8%
South East	+68,750	+10.1%
England	+698,511	+13.5%

Source: Department for Work & Pensions; May 2021 and May 2024

3.12 Claimant Count Unemployment

In September 2024, there were 16,190 claimant count unemployed residents. This is 3.1% of the 16-64 year old resident population. This compares with 3.3% in the South East region and 4.4% in England. Claimant count unemployment is spread across the county's districts & boroughs. The largest number of claimants is in Crawley (2,320). This is 4.5% of its 16-64 year old population – the highest claimant count rate in the county.

The number of claimant count unemployed residents increased by 10,570 between September 2018 and September 2024. This is an increase of +188%, compared with an increase of +142% in the South East region and +108% in England. All districts & boroughs in the county have seen large increases in claimant count unemployment since September 2018. The largest percentage increases have been in Mid Sussex (+256%), Chichester (+248%), Crawley (+202%) and Arun (+200%).

Table 28: Claimant count unemployment in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs; the South East region and England, September 2018 to September 2024

	Sept. 2018	Sept. 2018	Sept. 2024	Change Sept 2018-2024		
	Count	**%**	**Count**	**%**	**Count**	**%**
West Sussex	5,620	1.1%	16,190	3.1%	+10,570	+188%
Adur	530	1.4%	1,045	2.8%	+515	+97%
Arun	1,150	1.3%	3,445	3.7%	+2,295	+200%
Chichester	690	1.0%	2,400	3.4%	+1,710	+248%
Crawley	1,150	1.6%	3,470	4.5%	+2,320	+202%
Horsham	675	0.8%	1,830	2.1%	+1,155	+171%
Mid Sussex	530	0.6%	1,885	2.0%	+1,355	+256%
Worthing	895	1.4%	2,115	3.1%	+1,220	+136%
South East	77,355	1.4%	187,540	3.3%	+110,185	+142%
England	751,880	2.1%	1,567,825	4.4%	+815,945	+109%

Source: ONS Claimant Count

4. Our Economy

Summary

In 2022, the West Sussex economy was worth £27 billion. This is around 8% of South East region’s economy. It increased by +£3.42 billion (+17.7%) in current prices between 2018 and 2022. The biggest contributor to the county’s economy is the real estate sector (£4.69 billion). However, most (£3.58 billion) of this ‘owner occupiers’ imputed rental[16]. This is more of a reflection of the levels of home ownership and the high cost of housing, rather than a reflection of the productive economy.

Manufacturing (13%) makes a greater contribution to the West Sussex economy than to the national economy (9.1%). Other big economic contributors are wholesale & retail (£2.58 billion}, human health & social work (£2.20 billion) and transport & storage (£1.99 billion).

GVA per hour worked (£39.69) in West Sussex is lower than in the South East region (£44.30) and England (£40.30).

4.1 Gross Value Added (GVA)[17]

In 2022, the West Sussex economy was worth £26.73 billion. This is 7.95% of the South East region’s economy and 1.38% of England’s economy. The county’s economy increased by £3.42 billion (current prices) between 2018 and 2022. This is an increase of 14.7%. The rate of increase was slower in West Sussex than it was in the South East region (+19.8%) and England (+17.6%)

Table 29: GVA at current prices for West Sussex, the South East region and England 2018-2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022 Change	
	£m	£m	£m	%
West Sussex	£23,310	£26,727	+£3,417	+14.7%
South East	£280,535	£336,218	+£55,683	+19.8%
England	£1,650,168	£1,940,267	+£290,099	+17.6%

Source: Regional Gross Value Added by Industry; ONS; 2024

In 2022, Crawley (£6.02 billion) had the largest economy in West Sussex, followed by Worthing (£4.88 billion). Adur’s economy (£1.27 billion) was the county’s smallest economy.

[16] Owner-occupiers’ imputed rental is defined by the ONS as is 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.

[17] GVA data are shown in current prices, so they do not take into account inflation. The real term increases are likely to be substantially less than shown in these tables

Between 2018 and 2022, Worthing's economy (+£25.0%) grew the fastest, based on current prices, followed by Arun (+21.2%) and Mid Sussex (+20.5%). Crawley's economy grew only modestly (+2.2%), almost certainly due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the period.

Table 30: GVA at current prices for the districts & boroughs in West Sussex 2018-2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022 Change	
	£m	£m	£m	%
Adur	£1,092	£1,274	+£182	+16.7%
Arun	£2,336	£2,832	+£496	+21.2%
Chichester	£3,401	£3,940	+£539	+15.8%
Crawley	£5,894	£6,021	+£127	+2.2%
Horsham	£3,390	£3,813	+£423	+12.5%
Mid Sussex	£3,295	£3,969	+£674	+20.5%
Worthing	£3,902	£4,878	+£976	+25.0%

Source: Regional Gross Value Added by Industry; ONS; 2024

4.2 GVA by Sector

In 2022, real estate (£4.69 billion) contributed the most to the West Sussex economy. However, £3.58 billion of this is accounted for by owner occupiers' imputed rental. Arguably, this is not part of the county's productive economy, but reflects the high housing costs in West Sussex. Of the remaining sectors, manufacturing contributed £3.48 billion (13.0%). Manufacturing (13.0%) contributed more, as a percentage, to the West Sussex economy than it does to England's economy (9.1%). Wholesale & retail contributed £2.58 billion to the county's economy and human health & social work contributes £2.20 billion. These are the main GVA contributors to the West Sussex economy.

However, the sectors that contribute disproportionately more to the West Sussex economy than they do to the England are economy are transport & storage (LQ 2.1), accommodation & food service (LQ 1.4), real estate (LQ 1.4)[18], and manufacturing (LQ 1.4).

Between 2018 and 2022, the finance & insurance sector increased its GVA contribution by +£915 million (+240.7%). There were also increases in GVA in professional, scientific & technical activities (+51.6%); accommodation & food service; (+36.7%); construction (+28.7%); human health & social work (+23.1%); and wholesale & retail (+20.1%). The GVA contribution was lower in 2022 than in 2018 in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (-13.5%); manufacturing (-11.9%); other services (-4.2%); and information & communication (-3.4%).

[18] Location Quotient (LQ). If an industry's share of GVA is the same as its share of national GVA in England, the LQ value is equal to 1. If a location has an LQ of greater than 1 for a particular industry, it means it has a higher local share of GVA in that particular industry than the national share.

Table 31: GVA by sector in West Sussex 2018 and 2022; Regional Gross Value Added by Industry

	2018	2022			2018-2022 change	
	£m	£m	%	2022 LQ	£m	%
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	£798	£690	2.6%	0.9	-£108	-13.5%
Manufacturing	£3,952	£3,480	13.0%	1.4	-£472	-11.9%
Construction	£1,292	£1,663	6.2%	1.0	+£371	+28.7%
Wholesale & retail	£2,146	£2,578	9.6%	0.9	+£432	+20.1%
Transport & storage	£1,761	£1,987	7.4%	2.1	+£226	+12.8%
Accommodation and food service activities	£850	£1,162	4.3%	1.4	+£312	+36.7%
Information & communication	£797	£770	2.9%	0.4	-£27	-3.4%
Finance & insurance	£380	£1,295	4.8%	0.5	+£915	+240.8%
Real estate	£4,459	£4,688	17.5%	1.4	+£229	+5.1%
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	£913	£1,384	5.2%	0.6	+£471	+51.6%
Administrative & support service	£1,401	£1,565	5.9%	1.1	+£164	+11.7%
Public administration & defence	£813	£956	3.6%	0.7	+£143	+17.6%
Education	£1,231	£1,460	5.5%	0.9	+£229	+18.6%
Human health & social work	£1,786	£2,199	8.2%	1.1	+£413	+23.1%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	£304	£327	1.2%	0.9	+£23	+7.6%
Other services	£427	£409	1.5%	0.9	-£18	-4.2%

Source: ONS; 2024

Apart from Real Estate the main GVA contributors to each of the county's districts and boroughs in 2022 were:

- **Adur** – wholesale & retail (£156 million); manufacturing (£121 million); education (£112 million); and construction (£105 million).
- **Arun –** wholesale & retail (£341 million); human health & social work (£251 million); accommodation & food service (£228 million); construction (£186 million); and manufacturing (£184 million).
- **Chichester –** manufacturing (£538 million); wholesale & retail (£348 million); human health & social work (£321 million); public administration, defence & social security (£305 million); education (£298 million).
- **Crawley –** transport & storage (£1,515 million); manufacturing (£894 million); administrative & support services (£677 million); wholesale & retail (£592 million); and professional, scientific & technical activities (£368 million).

- **Horsham –** construction (£421 million); wholesale & retail (£408 million); manufacturing (£282 million); and education (£260 million).
- **Mid Sussex –** wholesale & retail (£461 million) ;); professional, scientific & technical activities (£372 million); construction (£325 million); and administrative & support services (£283 million); and
- **Worthing –** finance & insurance (£905 million); human health & social work (£776 million); wholesale & retail (£272 million); and agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (£249 million).

4.3 Productivity

In 2022, GVA per hour worked in West Sussex was £39.69. This is lower than in the South East region (£44.40) and England (£40.90). Between 2018 and 2022. GVA per hour worked in West Sussex increased by +£5.13 (+14.8%). This is a similar rate of increase as in the South East region (+15.0%) and a faster rate of increase than England (+12.3%).

GVA per hour worked is below the South East region and England in all the county's districts and boroughs, except for in Worthing (£55.50). Between 2018 and 2022, GVA per hour worked increased fastest in Mid Sussex (+19.9%) and slowest in Crawley (+7.7%).

Table 32: GVA per hour worked in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England 2018 and 2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022 Change	
	£	£	£	%
West Sussex	**£34.56**	**£39.69**	**+£5.13**	**+14.8%**
Adur	£30.90	£36.30	+£5.40	+17.5%
Arun	£29.30	£33.90	+£4.60	+15.7%
Chichester	£31.40	£35.80	+£4.40	+14.0%
Crawley	£36.50	£39.30	+£2.80	+7.7%
Horsham	£32.50	£38.20	+£5.70	+17.5%
Mid Sussex	£32.20	£38.60	+£6.40	+19.9%
Worthing	£47.40	£55.50	+£8.10	+17.1%
South East	£38.60	£44.40	+£5.80	+15.0%
England	£35.90	£40.30	+£4.40	+12.3%

Source: Current Price (smoothed) GVA (B) per hour worked (£); ITL2 and ITL3 sub-regions; ONS; 2004-2022

4.4 Employment by Sector

In 2022, there were just over 379,000 people employed in businesses in West Sussex. This is 8.86% of employee jobs in the South East region and 1.40% of employee jobs in England. Over a third (38.5%) of employee jobs in the county are in three broad sectors of the economy: Wholesale & retail (15.8%); human health & social work (12.7%); and administrative & supports services (10.0%). This is not significantly different from the employment patterns in the South East region and England. The county's main employment concentrations are in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (LQ 1.5); transport & storage (LQ 1.4) arts, entertainment & leisure (LQ 1.4), although these are not the sectors in which most people in the county are employed.

Table 33: **Employees by sector in West Sussex, the South East region and England**

	West Sussex		South East	England	Location Quotient
	Count	%	%	%	(LQ)[19]
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	10,000	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.5
Manufacturing	27,000	7.1	5.8	7.5	1.0
Construction	17,000	4.5	5.0	4.8	0.9
Wholesale & retail	60,000	15.8	14.9	14.0	1.1
Transport & storage	27,000	7.1	4.8	5.1	1.4
Accommodation & food service	32,000	8.4	7.4	7.9	1.1
Information & communication	13,000	3.4	6.1	4.8	0.7
Finance & insurance	10,000	2.6	2.5	3.3	0.8
Real estate	6,000	1.6	1.7	1.9	0.8
Professional, scientific & technical activities	28,000	7.4	9.6	9.4	0.8
Administrative & support services	38,000	10.0	9.1	9.2	1.1
Public admin. & defence; social security	12,000	3.2	3.5	4.3	0.7
Education	32,000	8.4	9.8	8.5	1.0
Human health & social work	48,000	12.7	12.6	13.2	1.0
Arts, entertainment & recreation	12,000	3.2	3.0	2.3	1.4
Other service	7,000	1.8	2.0	2.0	0.9
Total	379,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.0

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey (BRES); ONS 2022

4.5 Employment Change (2018-2022)

There were 6,000 (-1.6%) fewer employees working in West Sussex in 2022 than there had been in 2018. This compares with an increase of +3.2% in the South East region and +4.6% in England over the period. There were fewer jobs in wholesale & retail (-5,000), transport & storage (-3,000), manufacturing (-2,000), human health & social work (-2,000), education (-1,000) and finance & insurance (-1,000). There were also fewer jobs in retail & wholesale and in manufacturing in the South East region and in England. The greater job losses in West Sussex may be partly due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on transport & storage employment in the county.

[19] If an industry's share of employment is the same as its share of national employment in England, the LQ value is equal to 1. If a location has an LQ of greater than 1 for a particular industry, it means it has a higher local share of employment in that particular industry than the national share.

There were more jobs in other sectors of the economy in 2022 than there had been in 2018. This includes professional, scientific & technical activities (+2,000); arts, entertainment & leisure (+2,000), public administration, defence & social security (+1,000), information & communication (+1,000), agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (+1,000), and accommodation & food service (+1,000).

Table 34: **Change in employment (2018-2022) in West Sussex, the South East region and England**

	West Sussex		South East	England
	Count	%	%	%
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	+1,000	+9.2%	+9.7%	-1.7%
Manufacturing	-2,000	-6.9%	-5.0%	-2.6%
Construction	0	0.0%	+0.5%	+8.2%
Wholesale & retail	-5,000	-7.7%	-5.8%	-4.3%
Transport & storage	-3,000	-10.0%	+5.7%	+8.4%
Accommodation & food service	+1,000	+3.2%	+4.6%	+10.7%
Information & communication	+1,000	+8.3%	+11.1%	+12.6%
Finance & insurance	-1,000	-9.1%	-10.1%	+0.6%
Real estate	0	0.0%	+22.4%	+14.8%
Professional, scientific & technical activities	+2,000	+7.7%	+9.7%	+10.1%
Administrative & support	0	0.0%	+8.9%	+5.6%
Public admin. & defence; social security	+1,000	+9.1%	+15.3%	+13.0%
Education	-1,000	-3.0%	+1.9%	+0.3%
Human health & social work	-2,000	-4.0%	+2.3%	+8.3%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	+2,000	+20.0%	+15.3%	+0.6%
Other services	0	0.0%	-1.1%	+3.6%
Total	-6,000	-1.6%	+3.2%	+4.6%

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey (BRES); ONS; 2018 and 2023

1.6 Employment Concentrations

Compared with England, all the county's districts & boroughs, apart from Crawley, have employment concentrations in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste. There are also employment concentrations in arts, entertainment & recreation in most of the county's districts & boroughs. As well as this, Adur has employment concentrations in manufacturing, construction, and wholesale & retail. Arun has other employment concentrations in accommodation & food service. Chichester has other employment concentrations in manufacturing; real estate; public administration, defence & social security; and education.

Crawley has employment concentrations in transport & storage and administrative & secretarial services. Horsham has other employment concentrations in construction, wholesale & retail; administrative & secretarial services; and other services. Mid Sussex has other employment concentrations in construction, wholesale & retail; education; and other services. Worthing has other concentrations in human health & social work.

Table 35: Employment concentrations (Locations Quotients[20]) in West Sussex districts & boroughs

	Adur	Arun	Chichester	Crawley	Horsham	Mid Sussex	Worthing
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	1.3	2.1	2.5	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.7
Manufacturing	1.4	1.0	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9
Construction	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.2	0.6
Wholesale & retail	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	0.9
Transport & storage	0.7	0.9	0.3	4.1	0.6	0.7	0.4
Accommodation & food service	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8
Information & communication	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.6
Financial & insurance	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.1
Real estate	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.3	1.4	0.8	1.1
Professional, scientific & technical activities	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.6
Administrative & support	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.8
Public admin. & defence; social security	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.1
Education	1.4	0.8	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.9
Human health & social work	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.6	1.0	2.1
Arts, entertainment & recreation	1.6	1.7	1.8	0.5	1.5	1.6	1.1
Other services	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.3	1.6	1.5	1.0

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey (BRRES); ONS; 2022

4.7 Employment in Knowledge Economy Businesses

There are just over 23,000 employees working in "Knowledge Economy" (KE)[21] businesses in West Sussex. This is 5.9% of the county's employment, which is a lower share than in the South East region (8.3%) and England (6.5%). The West Sussex knowledge economy is heavily concentrated on 'medical devices' (30.4%) in West Sussex, compared with the South East region (18.4%) and England (12.7%). There is also a high proportion of KE employment in aerospace & transport (15.2%), compared with the South East region (8.6%), although it is similar to the England average (15.4%).

[20] If an industry's share of employment is the same as its share of national employment in England, the LQ value is equal to 1. If a location has an LQ of greater than 1 for a particular industry, it means it has a higher local share of employment in that particular industry than the national share.

[21] The knowledge economy comprises those industries whose main purpose centres on knowledge or information, from highly technical industries and knowledge intensive services to creative industries. This includes such industries as publishing, scientific research & development, and higher education.

West Sussex's KE employment is under-represented in IT services and software and high tech finance, compared with the South East region and England.

Table 36: Employment in knowledge economy (KE) businesses in West Sussex, the South East region and England

	West Sussex		South East	England
	Count	%	%	%
Knowledge Economy Total	**23,050**	**5.9%**	**8.3%**	**6.5%**
Aerospace & Transport	3,500	15.2%	8.8%	15.4%
Computing & Advanced Electronics	1,250	5.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Creative Content	1,250	5.4%	4.5%	5.7%
High Tech Finance	250	1.1%	2.3%	4.3%
IT Services	5,000	21.7%	35.9%	31.7%
Medical Devices	7,000	30.4%	18.4%	12.1%
Other Technical Consultancy	2,000	8.7%	9.6%	11.0%
Pharma & Biotech	800	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%
Software	2,000	8.7%	14.7%	14.1%

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey (BRES); ONS; 2022

There is employment in Knowledge Economy businesses in all parts of the county. Crawley (5,960) has the largest number of employees working in Knowledge Economy businesses. However, Horsham (7.6%) has the highest proportion of employees working in KE businesses. Chichester has a high proportion of KE employment in aerospace & transport (57.9%). Crawley's KE employment is heavily concentrated in medical devices (58.7%). In Adur, 34.6% of KE employment is in IT services. In Arun, the highest concentration is in aerospace & transport (29.0%). In Horsham Medical Devices (29.4%) and IT Services (29.4%) account for most of the KE employment. In Mid Sussex, the highest concentration of KE employment is in IT services (27.3%). In Worthing, the highest concentration of KE employment is in Pharma & Biotech (22.2%) and Medical Devices (22.2%).

Table 37: Employment in Knowledge Economy (KE) businesses in West Sussex districts & boroughs

	Count	percent
Adur	1,155	5.6%
Arun	1,725	3.4%
Chichester	3,455	5.5%
Crawley	5,960	6.9%
Horsham	4,250	7.6%

Mid Sussex	3,665	6.1%
Worthing	3,150	6.5%

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey (BRES); ONS; 2022

5. Our Businesses

Summary

There are 39,600 business and over 42,600 local business units in West Sussex. The business birth rate (94.6 per 1,000 active businesses) is below that in the South East region and England, but the 3-year business survival rate (62.0%) is higher than both. Nearly half of the county's businesses are in three sectors: wholesale & retail; construction; and professional, scientific & technical activities. The main employment sectors are wholesale & retail; human health & social work; and administrative & secretarial support services.

Business concentrations are clearer at district & borough level, rather than at county level, but at West Sussex level, there are employment concentrations in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste; transport & storage; and arts, entertainment & recreation. There were 6,000 fewer people employed in West Sussex in 2022 than there had been in 2018.

West Sussex has over 3,350 Knowledge Economy (KE) businesses, employing 23,000 people. The county's KE employment is more heavily concentrated in the Medical Devices sector than KE employment in the South East region or England. It also has 125 high growth businesses although this is 40 fewer than before the Covid-19 pandemic.

5.1 Business stocks[22]

In 2022, there were 39,600 active businesses[23] in West Sussex. This is 8.95% of active businesses in the South East region and 1.53% of England's active businesses.

Between 2018 and 2023, the number of active businesses in West Sussex increased by +1,050 (+2.7%). This is a faster rate of increase than in the South East region (+0.9%), but a slower rate of increase than in England (+3.1%) over the period.

Horsham (7,800) and Mid Sussex (7,800) have the largest number of businesses in the county, followed by Arun (6,150). Adur (260) has the fewest businesses. Between 2018 and 2022, Arun (+350) had the biggest increase in the number of active businesses. This was a 6.3% increase on the 2018 stock. Worthing (+250) also had a relatively large increase in active businesses (+5.7%). All of the county's districts & boroughs had at least the same number of businesses in 2022 as they had in 2018.

[22] All numbers have been rounded to the nearest 50 active businesses
[23] Active businesses are the total number of businesses that operated during a given year. It might include businesses that closed during the year, but because they operated at some point during the year, they are included.

Table 38: Count of active businesses in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	2018	2022	2018-2022 Change	
	Count	Count	Count	Percent
West Sussex	38,550	39,600	+1,050	+2.7
Adur	2,500	2,600	+60	+2.4
Arun	5,800	6,150	+350	+6.3
Chichester	6,700	6,900	+200	+3.0
Crawley	3,900	4,000	+100	+2.8
Horsham	7,750	7,800	+50	+0.8
Mid Sussex	7,800	7,800	0	0.0
Worthing	4,150	4,400	+250	+5.7
South East	438,200	442,300	+4,100	+0.9
England	2,503,900	2,581,100	77,200	+3.1

Source: Business Demography; ONS; ONS

5.2 Business Births

In 2022, there were 3,745 business births in West Sussex. This is 8.48% of business births in the South East region and 1.25% of England's business births that year. This represents 94.6 business births per 1,000 active businesses. This is below the business birth rate in the South East (99.8 per 1,000 businesses) and England (116.5 per 1,000 businesses).

Mid Sussex (690), Horsham (655) and Chichester (605) had the largest number of business births in 2022. However, the business birth rate was highest in Crawley (119.0 per 1,000 active businesses) and Worthing (107.4 per 1,000 active businesses).

Table 39: 2022 Business Births in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England

	Business Births	per 1,000 active businesses
West Sussex	3,745	94.6
Adur	260	100.8
Arun	590	96.1
Chichester	605	87.7
Crawley	475	119.0
Horsham	655	83.8
Mid Sussex	690	88.4

Worthing	470	107.4
South East	44,160	99.8
England	300,580	116.5

Source: Business Demography; ONS; 2022

5.3 Business Survival Rates

Nearly two-thirds (62.0%) of businesses that were born in 2018 survived for at least three years. The 3 year business survival rate in West Sussex is higher than in the South East region (60.6%) and in England (57.5%).

Horsham (65.5%) had the highest 3 year business survival rate, followed by Adur (63.8%) and Mid Sussex (62.7%). The lowest business survival rates were in Worthing (57.6%) and Crawley (58.0%).

Table 40: 3-year business survival rates for businesses that were born in 2018 in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs

	3 Year Survival Rates
West Sussex	62.0%
Adur	63.8%
Arun	62.9%
Chichester	61.6%
Crawley	58.0%
Horsham	65.5%
Mid Sussex	62.7%
Worthing	57.6%
South East	60.6%
England	57.5%

Source: The South East region and England; Business Demography; ONS; 2022

5.4 Business units by sector

Just under half of all business units[24] in West Sussex are in three sectors – wholesale & retail (15.8%); professional, scientific & technical (15.2%) and construction (13.9%). The profile of West Sussex's business units is not dissimilar to that in the South East region and England. Proportionately, there are slightly more construction businesses (LQ 1.12) and slightly fewer businesses in transport & storage (LQ 0.79), public administration, defence & social security (LQ 0.88) finance & insurance (LQ 0.89); agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (LQ 0.91), compared with England. However, these sectors may have larger business units, so this does not necessarily reflect their employment or economic contributions to the county.

[24] Business units are those that are known to be live on a single date in March in a given year.

Table 41: Business units by sector and location quotient[25] (LQ) in West Sussex, the South East region, and England (%)

	West Sussex	South East	England	Location Quotient
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	3.7%	3.0%	4.1%	0.90
Manufacturing	4.7%	4.2%	4.6%	1.03
Construction	13.9%	13.6%	12.4%	1.12
Wholesale & retail	15.8%	15.4%	16.4%	0.96
Transport & storage	3.7%	3.7%	4.6%	0.79
Accommodation & food service	6.3%	6.2%	6.9%	0.92
Information & communication	6.6%	8.1%	6.6%	1.00
Finance & insurance	2.1%	2.2%	2.3%	0.89
Real estate	3.8%	3.8%	4.1%	0.92
Professional, scientific & technical activities	15.2%	16.0%	14.3%	1.06
Administrative & support	9.4%	9.1%	8.7%	1.08
Public admin. & defence; social security	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.88
Education	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	0.99
Human health & social work	5.2%	5.0%	5.2%	0.99
Arts, entertainment & recreation	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	1.00
Other service	4.0%	3.8%	3.8%	1.03

Source: UK Business Counts; ONS; 2023

There were 405 (+1.0%) more business units in West Sussex in 2023 than there had been in 2018. This compares with a -0.3% reduction in the South East region and an increase of +1.5% in England over the period. This masks differences between sectors, however. There were more business units in construction (+725), transport & storage (+330), administrative & support services (+255), accommodation & food service (+235), and real estate (+165). There were fewer business units in professional, scientific & technical activities (-615), information & communications (-530), and agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (-125). This broadly follows the pattern in the South East and in England.

Table 42: Change in business units in West Sussex, the South East region and England 2018-2023

	West Sussex		South East	England
	Count	%	%	%
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	-125	-7.3%	-4.7%	-5.4%
Manufacturing	-75	-3.6%	-1.7%	-0.3%
Construction	+725	+14.0%	+13.4%	+14.1%
Wholesale & retail	-15	-0.2%	+0.6%	+3.2%

25

Transport & storage	+330	+26.8%	+16.9%	+14.0%
Accommodation & food service	+235	+9.6%	+9.2%	+12.7%
Information & communication	-530	-15.9%	-18.2%	-14.2%
Finance & insurance	-85	-8.8%	-2.4%	-4.2%
Real estate	+165	+11.4%	+13.1%	+15.9%
Professional, scientific & technical activities	-615	-8.7%	-11.3%	-10.4%
Administrative & support	+255	+6.8%	+3.1%	+1.8%
Public admin. & defence; social security	-10	-3.7%	+15.4%	+1.4%
Education	+40	+4.1%	+1.9%	+4.4%
Human health & social work	+35	+1.6%	0.0%	-0.3%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	+90	+8.1%	+5.0%	+5.8%
Other services	-10	-0.6%	+1.5%	+5.7%
Total	+405	+1.0%	-0.3%	+1.5%

Source: UK Business Counts; ONS; 2023

5.5 Business unit concentrations

Compared with the England average, Adur has a high density of business units in manufacturing (LQ 1.3) and construction (LQ 1.6). Arun has a high density of business units is manufacturing (LQ 1.2) and construction (LQ 1.3). Chichester has a high density of business units in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (LQ1.7); professional, scientific & technical activities (LQ 1.2); and arts, entertainment & leisure (LQ 1.2). Crawley has a high density of business units in transport & storage (LQ 2.2); administrative & secretarial services (LQ 1.3); and public administration, defence & social security (LQ 1.2).

Horsham has a high density of business units in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste (LQ 1.4); and professional, scientific & technical activities (LQ 1.2). Mid Sussex has a high density of business units in construction (LQ 1.2); information & communications (LQ 1.2); finance & insurance (LQ 1.2); and administrative & support services (LQ 1.2). Worthing has a high density of business units in accommodation & food service (LQ 1.2); information & communication (LQ 1.3); human health & social work (LQ 1.5) and other service activities (LQ 1.2).

Table 43: Business unit concentrations (location quotients)[26] in West Sussex districts & boroughs

	Adur	Arun	Chichester	Crawley	Horsham	Mid Sussex	Worthing
Agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water & waste	0.5	0.7	1.7	0.4	1.4	0.8	0.2
Manufacturing	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.9
Construction	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1
Wholesale & retail	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Transport & storage	0.7	0.9	0.5	2.2	0.6	0.5	0.6

[26] If an industry's share of business units is the same as its share of national business units in England, the Location Quotient (LQ) value is equal to 1. If a location has an LQ of greater than 1 for a particular industry, it means it has a higher local share of business units in that particular industry locally than the national share.

Accommodation & food service	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.2
Information & communication	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3
Finance & insurance	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Real estate	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9
Professional, scientific & technical activities	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.0
Administrative & support	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.9
Public admin. & defence; social security	0.5	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.8
Education	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9
Human health & social work	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.5
Arts, entertainment & recreation	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
Other services	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2
Total	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Source: UK Business Counts; ONS; 2023

5.6 Knowledge Economy (KE) businesses

In 2023, there were 3,365 Knowledge Economy (KE) business units in West Sussex. This is 7.9% of all the county's business units, compared with 9.5% in the South East region and 7.9% in England. Nearly half (43.7%) of West Sussex's KE businesses are in IT services. This is a slightly lower proportion than in the South East region (47.6%) and a similar proportion to England (42.5%).

West Sussex has a higher proportion of KE businesses in Computing & Advanced Electronics (LQ 1.6), but the number of businesses is small. It also has a concentration of KE businesses in Medical Devices (LQ 1.2), Aerospace & Transport (LQ 1.1) and Other Technical Consultancy (LQ 1.1). In all districts & boroughs, IT services accounts for the largest number of KE business units. However, there is a particularly large share of KE business units in the Creative Content subsector in Worthing (25.8%)

Table 44: Knowledge Economy (KE) business units in West Sussex, the South East region and England

	West Sussex		South East	England	LQ[27]
	Count	%	%	%	
Knowledge Economy Total	3,365	7.9	9.5	7.9	1.0
Aerospace & Transport	100	3.0	2.4	2.6	1.1
Computing & Advanced Electronics	75	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.6

[27] If an industry's share of business units is the same as its share of national knowledge economy business units in England, the Location Quotient (LQ) value is equal to 1. If a location has an LQ of greater than 1 for a particular industry, it means it has a higher local share of knowledge economy business units in that particular industry locally than the national share.

Creative Content	475	14.1	12.1	13.8	1.0
High Tech Finance	145	4.3	4.7	6.5	0.7
IT Services	1,470	43.7	47.6	42.5	1.0
Medical Devices	165	4.9	4.3	4.0	1.2
Other Technical Consultancy	485	14.4	12.5	13.5	1.1
Pharma & Biotech	20	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.7
Software	430	12.8	14.0	14.7	0.9

Source: UK Business Counts; ONS; 2023

There are Knowledge Economy (KE) business units in all districts & boroughs in West Sussex. The largest number are in Horsham (740) and Mid Sussex (725). However, Worthing (9.6%) has the largest proportion of KE business units, followed by Horsham (8.9%), Mid Sussex (8.9%) and Adur (8.2%).

Table 45: Knowledge Economy (KE) business units in West Sussex districts & boroughs

	Count	Percent
Adur	220	8.2%
Arun	390	6.0%
Chichester	505	6.6%
Crawley	340	7.2%
Horsham	740	8.9%
Mid Sussex	725	8.9%
Worthing	445	9.6%

Source: UK Business Counts; ONS; 2023

5.7 High Growth Businesses

In 2022, West Sussex had 125 ‘high growth’ businesses. These are businesses that have an average annualised growth rate of over 20% per year over a three year period with a minimum starting threshold of ten employees. West Sussex has 7.44% of the South East region’s ‘high growth’ businesses and 1.23% of ‘high growth’ businesses in England.

The number of ‘high growth’ businesses in West Sussex fell by 40 between 2018 and 2022. This is a similar pattern to what occurred in the South East region and England. This may reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on business performance over the period.

High growth businesses in West Sussex are distributed across its districts & boroughs. Crawley (0.5%) has the highest proportion of high growth businesses, but Chichester (25) and Mid Sussex (25) have the largest number.

Table 46: Count of high growth businesses in West Sussex, its districts & boroughs, the South East region, and England; 2018 and 2022

	2018	2022	2018-2022 Change

West Sussex	165	125	-40
Adur	15	5	-10
Arun	20	15	-5
Chichester	20	25	+5
Crawley	40	20	-20
Horsham	25	20	-5
Mid Sussex	30	25	-5
Worthing	15	15	0
South East	2,025	1,680	-345
England	12,185	10,190	-1,995

Source: Business Demography; ONS; 2022

ANNEX I – Local Economic Profiles

Adur

Geography

Area	16 sq. miles (2% of West Sussex total; 53% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Shoreham-by-Sea. Lancing; Southwick, Sompting
Train Stations	Fishersgate, Lancing, Shoreham-by-Sea, Southwick
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Arun, Brighton & Hove, Horsham, Worthing

Population

	2023[28]		Change between 2025-2035[29]	
	Count	Share of West Sussex	Count	Percent Change
Total	64,700	7%	+1,760	+4.8%
0-15 years	11,600	7%	-780	-6.8%
16-64 years	37,600	7%	-240	-0.6%
65+ years	15,500	7%	+2,780	+17.3%

Economy

	Adur	% of West Sussex	
GVA (2022)[30]	£1.27 bn	5%	
Active Businesses (2022)[31]	2,600	7%	
Employees (2022)[32]	21,000	6%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[33]	440	7%	
	Adur	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£36.30	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[34]	0.63	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[35]	£33,007	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[36]	£390,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	11.51	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£78.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	14,800 (28%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[37]	4,900 (13%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Adur	West Sussex	England
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW)[38]	10.7	702.2	
EV Charging Points[39]	52	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[40]	413	500	440

28 Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
29 Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
30 Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
31 Business Demography; ONS; 2022
32 Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
33 Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
34 ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
35 For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
36 All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

37 Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
38 Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2023. (note: the West Sussex figure includes capacity from the Rampion Windfarm, which is allocated to Worthing
39 Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024
40 Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022

Arun

Geography

Area	85 sq. miles (11% of West Sussex total; 18% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Arundel, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton
Train Stations	Angmering, Arundel, Barnham, Bognor Regis, Ford, Littlehampton
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Chichester, Horsham

Population

	2023[41]		**Change between 2025-2035**[42]	
	Count	Share of West Sussex	Count	Percent Change
Total	168,000	19%	+11,170	+6.6%
0-15 years	25,600	16%	-1,400	-5.3%
16-64 years	94,000	18%	+860	+0.9%
65+ years	48,400	23%	+11,740	+22.9%

Economy

	Arun	**% of West Sussex**	
GVA (2022)[43]	£2.83 bn	11%	
Active Businesses (2022)[44]	6,140	16%	
Employees (2022)[45]	49,200	13%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[46]	928	15%	
	Arun	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£33.90	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[47]	0.65	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[48]	£29,942	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[49]	£350,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	12.02	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£77.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	36,900 (26%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[50]	14,400 (16%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Arun	**West Sussex**	**England**
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW)[51]	75.8	702.2	
EV Charging Points[52]	41	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[53]	447	500	440

[41] Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[42] Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
[43] Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
[44] Business Demography; ONS; 2022
[45] Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
[46] Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
[47] ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
[48] For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[49] All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

[50] Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
[51] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2023. (note: the West Sussex figure includes capacity from the Rampion Windfarm, which is allocated to Worthing
[52] Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024
[53] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022

Chichester

Geography

Area	304 sq. miles (40% of West Sussex total; 67% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Chichester, Midhurst, Petworth & Selsey
Train Stations	Bosham, Chichester, Fishbourne, Nutbourne, Southbourne
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Arun, Havant, Waverley, East Hampshire, Horsham

Population

	2023[54]		Change between 2025-2035[55]	
	Count	**Share of West Sussex**	**Count**	**Percent Change**
Total	**128,000**	**14%**	**+6,430**	**+5.1%**
0-15 years	19,800	12%	-860	-1.8%
16-64 years	73,100	14%	-1,240	-4.3%
65+ years	35,100	17%	+6.430	+22.8%

Economy

	Chichester	% of West Sussex	
GVA (2022)[56]	£3.94 bn	15%	
Active Businesses (2022)[57]	6,900	17%	
Employees (2022)[58]	60,700	16%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[59]	966	15%	
	Chichester	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£35.80	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[60]	0.97	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[61]	£31,817	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[62]	£430,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	13.51	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£92.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	39,000 (37%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[63]	9,000 (13%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Chichester	West Sussex	England
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW) [64]	83.5	702.2	
EV Charging Points [65]	72	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[66]	729	500	440

[54] Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[55] Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
[56] Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
[57] Business Demography; ONS; 2022
[58] Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
[59] Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
[60] ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
[61] For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[62] All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

[63] Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
[64] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2023
[65] Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; 2023
[66] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022

Crawley

Geography

Area	17 sq. miles (2% of West Sussex total; 0% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Crawley, Gatwick Airport, Ifield, Three Bridges
Train Stations	Crawley, Gatwick Airport, Ifield, Three Bridges
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Horsham, Mid Sussex, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge

Population

	2023[67]		**Change between 2025-2035**[68]	
	Count	Share of West Sussex	Count	Percent Change
Total	120,500	13%	2,030	1.8%
0-15 years	25,900	16%	-2,580	-10.7%
16-64 years	78,200	15%	+440	+0.6%
65+ years	16,400	8%	+4,170	+24.2%

Economy

	Crawley	**% of West Sussex**	
GVA (2022)[69]	£6.02 bn	23%	
Active Businesses (2022)[70]	3,990	10%	
Employees (2022)[71]	85,100	23%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[72]	1,317	21%	
	Crawley	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£39.30	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[73]	1.19	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[74]	£38,731	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[75]	£340,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	8.91	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£116.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	25,800 (28%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[76]	13,500 (17%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Crawley	**West Sussex**	**England**
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW per 10,000 households) [77]	10.0	702.2	14.7
EV Charging Points [78]	125	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[79]	389	500	440

[67] Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[68] Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
[69] Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
[70] Business Demography; ONS; 2022
[71] Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
[72] Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
[73] ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
[74] For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[75] All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

[76] Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
[77] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2023. (note: the West Sussex figure includes capacity from the Rampion Windfarm, which is allocated to Worthing
[78] Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024
[79] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022

Horsham

Geography

Area	205 sq. miles (27% of West Sussex total; 18% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Horsham, Billingshurst, Henfield, Pulborough, Southwater, Steyning, Storrington
Train Stations	Amberley, Billingshurst, Christ's Hospital, Faygate, Horsham, Littlehaven, Pulborough, Warnham
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Adur, Arun, Brighton & Hove, Chichester, Crawley, Mid Sussex, Mole Valley, Waverley

Population

	2023[80]		Change between 2025- 2035[81]	
	Count	Share of West Sussex	Count	Percent Change
Total	149,500	17%	+10,550	+6.9%
0-15 years	26,700	17%	-220	-0.8%
16-64 years	87,700	16%	+1,020	+1.2%
65+ years	35,100	17%	+9,750	+26.0%

Economy

	Horsham	% of West Sussex	
GVA (2022)[82]	£3.81 bn	14%	
Active Businesses (2022)[83]	7,815	20%	
Employees (2022)[84]	56,000	15%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[85]	1,031	16%	
	Horsham	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£38.20	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[86]	0.83	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[87]	£32,993	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[88]	£440,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	13.64	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£84.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	44,600 (37%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[89]	8,100 (9%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Horsham	West Sussex	England
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW)[90]	80.2	702.2	
EV Charging Points[91]	75	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[92]	562	500	440

[80] Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[81] Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
[82] Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
[83] Business Demography; ONS; 2022
[84] Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
[85] Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
[86] ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
[87] For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[88] All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

[89] Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
[90] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2023. (note: the West Sussex figure includes capacity from the Rampion Windfarm, which is allocated to Worthing
[91] Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024
[92] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022

Mid Sussex

Geography

Area	129 sq. miles (17% of West Sussex total; 11% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Haywards Heath, Lindfield
Train Stations	Balcombe, Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Hassocks. Haywards Heath, Wivelsfield
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Brighton & Hove, Crawley, Horsham, Lewes, Tandridge, Wealden.

Population

	2023[93]		Change between 2025- 2035[94]	
	Count	Share of West Sussex	Count	Percent Change
Total	157,900	18%	+6,130	+6.9%
0-15 years	30,600	19%	-1,280	-0.8%
16-64 years	94,500	18%	+230	+1.2%
65+ years	32,900	16%	+7,190	+26.0%

Economy

	Mid Sussex	% of West Sussex	
GVA (2022)[95]	£3.97 bn	15%	
Active Businesses (2022)[96]	7,805	20%	
Employees (2022)[97]	60,000	16%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[98]	960	15%	
	Mid Sussex	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£38.60	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[99]	0.79	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[100]	£36,210	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[101]	£435,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	12.09	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£94.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	47,700 (39%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[102]	8,600 (9%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Mid Sussex	West Sussex	England
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW) [103]	33.8	702.2	
EV Charging Points per 100,000 population[104]	156	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[105]	582	500	440

[93] Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[94] Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
[95] Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
[96] Business Demography; ONS; 2022
[97] Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
[98] Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
[99] ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
[100] For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
[101] All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

[102] Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
[103] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022. (note: the West Sussex figure includes capacity from the Rampion Windfarm, which is allocated to Worthing
[104] Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024
[105] Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022

Worthing

Geography

Area	12.5sq. miles (2% of West Sussex total; 40% in South Downs National Park)
Main Centres	Worthing, Durrington, Goring-by-Sea
Train Stations	Durrington, East Worthing, Goring-by-Sea, West Worthing, Worthing
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Adur, Arun, Horsham

Population

	2023[106]		**Change between 2025- 2035**[107]	
	Count	Share of West Sussex	Count	Percent Change
Total	112,200	12%	+5,050	+3.7%
0-15 years	18,500	12%	-1,020	-4.7%
16-64 years	68,100	13%	+20	+0.7%
65+ years	25,600	12%	+6,050	+20.7%

Economy

	Worthing	**% of West Sussex**	
GVA (2022)[108]	£4.88 bn	18%	
Active Businesses (2022)[109]	4,375	11%	
Employees (2022)[110]	46,500	12%	
Total Commercial Floorspace ('000 sq. metres)[111]	643	10%	
	Worthing	**West Sussex**	**England**
GVA per hour worked (2022)	£55.50	£39.69	£40.30
Job Density (2022)[112]	0.89	0.88	0.86
Median Workplace Earnings[113]	£31,410	£34,274	£35,106
Median House Price[114]	£360,000	£382,000	£285,000
House price to earnings ratio	11.73	11.38	8.26
Rateable Value (£ per sq. metres)	£91.00	£93.00	£88.00
Adults (16+) Residents with Level 4 Qualifications	29,300 (32%)	238,000 (33%)	15,600,000 (34%)
Working Age Residents in receipt of Universal Credit[115]	9,000 (13%)	67,400 (13%)	5,869,000 (16%)

Energy

	Worthing	**West Sussex**	**England**
Renewable Energy Capacity (MW)[116]	408.1	702.2	
EV Charging Points[117]	82	603	51,506
Photovoltaics per 10,000 households[118]	304	500	440

106 Mid-Year Population Estimates 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
107 Population Projections – 2018 based); ONS via NOMISWEB
108 Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region; ONS; 2024
109 Business Demography; ONS; 2022
110 Business Register & Employment Survey ONS via NOMISWEB; 2022
111 Non-Domestic Rating – Business Floorspace; Valuation Office Agency, 2023
112 ONS via NOMISWEB; 2024
113 For full-time workers; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2023; ONS via NOMISWEB
114 All house types to the year ending March 2023; HPSSA Dataset 9 Median Price Paid for Administrative Geographies; ONS

115 Department for Work & Pensions (2024)
116 Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2022. (note: the West Sussex figure includes capacity from the Rampion Windfarm, which is allocated to Worthing
117 Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics; Department for Transport; April 2024
118 Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; 2023