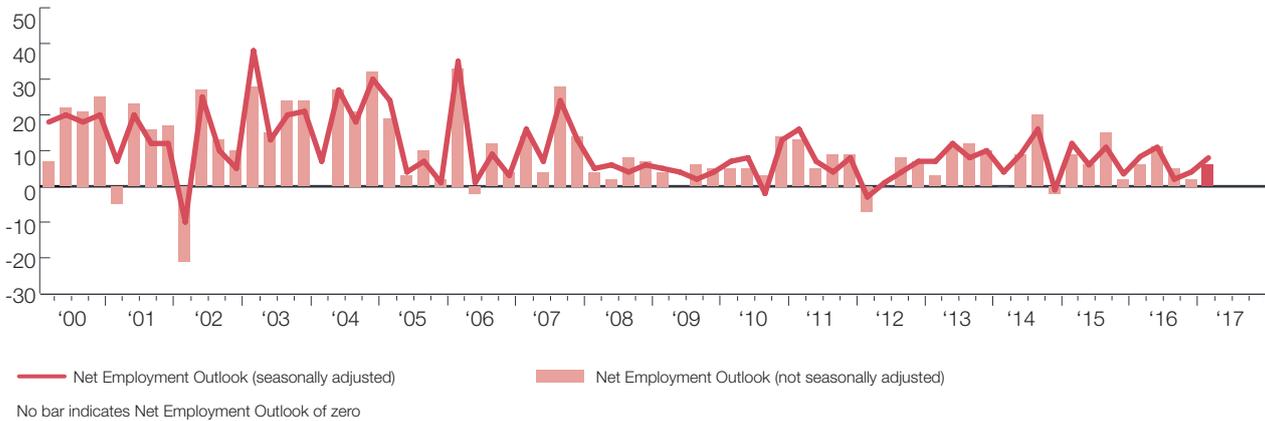


# Employers are cautiously optimistic

At +8%, hiring intentions in the South West for the first quarter of 2017 have improved modestly when compared to three months earlier. The Outlook is now the same as it was at the beginning of 2016, showing that employers are (again) cautiously optimistic about hiring and job creation.



Q1 2017

## South West employment snapshot

### Average weekly pay

The South West is the fifth best-paid region in the UK. The average weekly wage is **£548**, £43 below the national average.

### Hiring Outlook

For the first quarter of 2017, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in the South West is **+8%**. This is just above the national average (+7%).

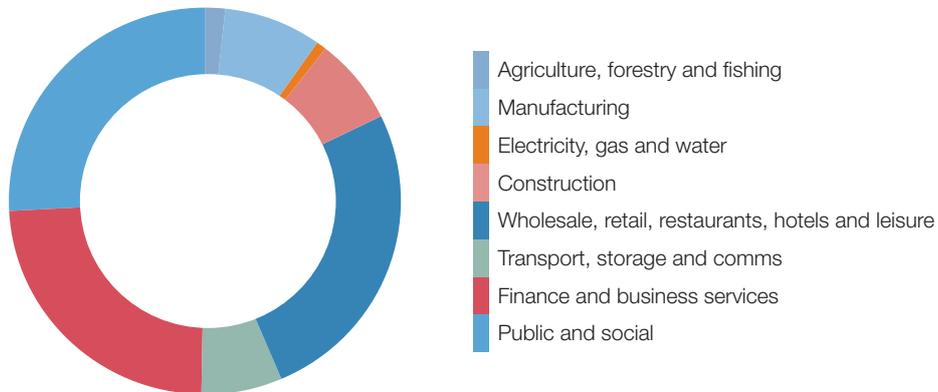
### Employment

The rate of employment in the South West is above the national average and stands at **77.0%**. The South West has the fifth-highest rate of employment in the UK.

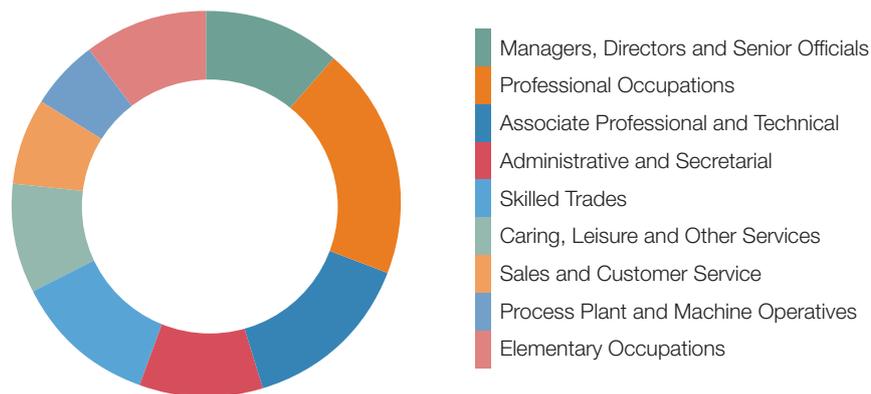
### Unemployment

At **3.9%**, the unemployment rate continues to be markedly lower than the national average, with the South West having the second-lowest unemployment rate in the country.

## WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



## WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



### Market overview

Businesses have shrugged off the EU referendum and as a result, the recruitment market has remained steady. Bristol has seen a rise in active candidates looking for work, with many being offered multiple interviews. Meanwhile, in Exeter and Plymouth, we're seeing increased demand for candidates in the construction and manufacturing sectors respectively.

However, in a market characterised by skills shortages, employers are finding they have fewer candidates to choose from. With job seekers increasingly picky about whom they choose to work for, and with a general desire by temporary workers to have the security of permanent work, some employers are struggling. To counter this, employers are increasingly seeking advice on talent attraction, particularly around pay and benefits. At the same time, we are also advising many to speed up the interview process so that they don't miss out on top talent.