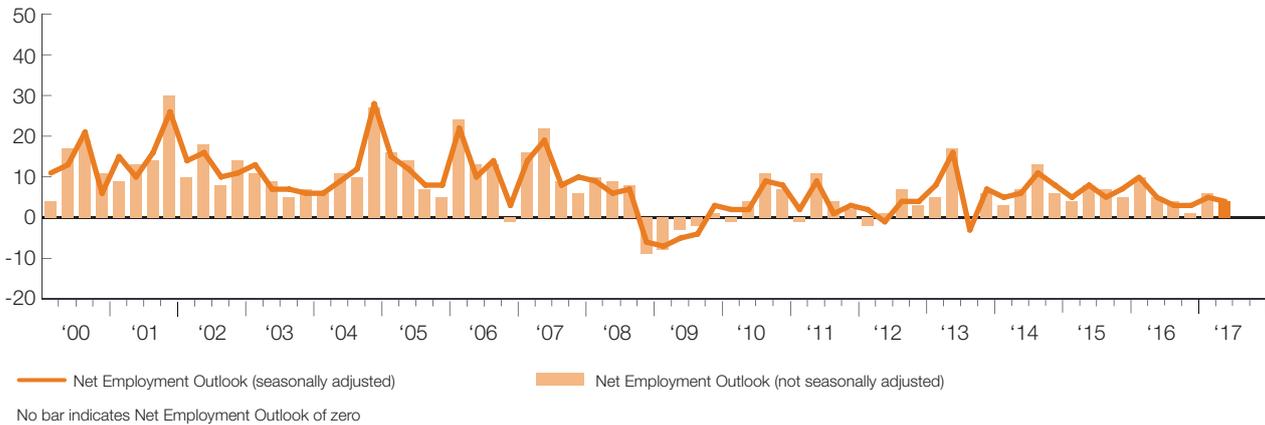


Employers remain cautiously optimistic

At +4%, the Employment Outlook for the South East shows a slight dip in employer hiring intentions when compared to the previous quarter. However, employers still remain cautiously optimistic about the prospect of job creation in the second quarter of 2017.



Q2 2017

South East employment snapshot

Average weekly pay

The South East is the second highest paid region in the UK. The average weekly wage is **£648**, some £63 higher than the national average.

Hiring Outlook

For the second quarter of 2017, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in the South East is **+4%**; this is slightly lower than the national average (+5%).

Employment

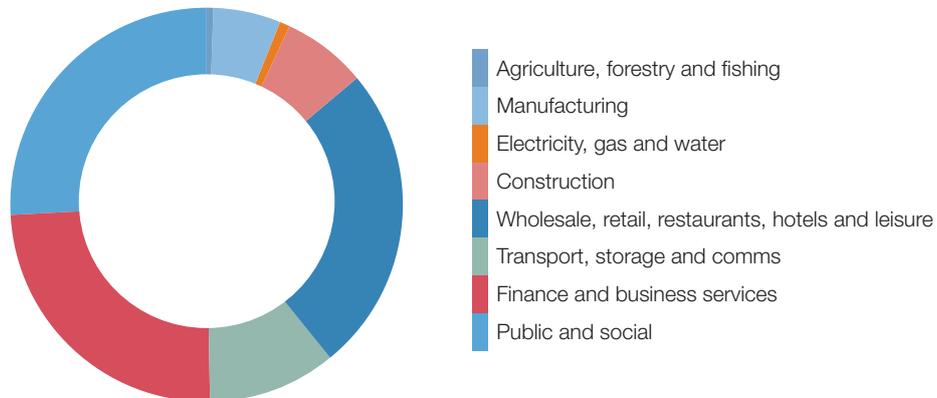
At **78.6%**, the South East rate of employment is higher than both the national average (74.6%) and all other UK regions. The rate has risen some 0.9% since the same period last year.

Unemployment

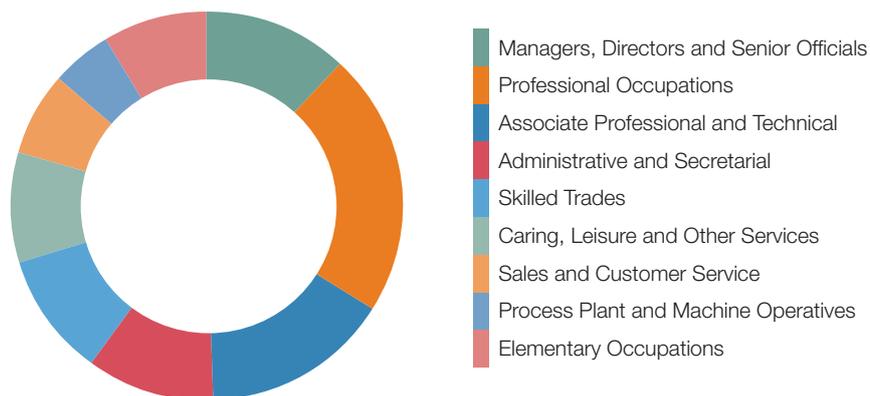
At **3.4%**, the unemployment rate continues to be significantly lower than the national average (4.8%). The South East has the lowest unemployment rate in the country and the rate has fallen 0.5% when compared to the same period last year.

Q2 2017

WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



Market overview

Despite the cautious Outlook, the last quarter in the South East has seen an upswing in employer requirements for permanent roles. Hiring demand has been particularly strong for jobs in the contact centre, logistics, utilities, manufacturing and engineering sectors.

Yet, in a candidate-led market, skills shortages are persisting. Part of this phenomenon has been due to employers becoming more prescriptive in terms of what they want. Many organisations are reluctant to train candidates who don't have the exact skills required. Yet, at the same time, candidates that possess the right experience are reluctant to move roles. And those that do choose to change roles often have several options to choose from. We are increasingly advising clients to consider training and upskilling in order to counter this.