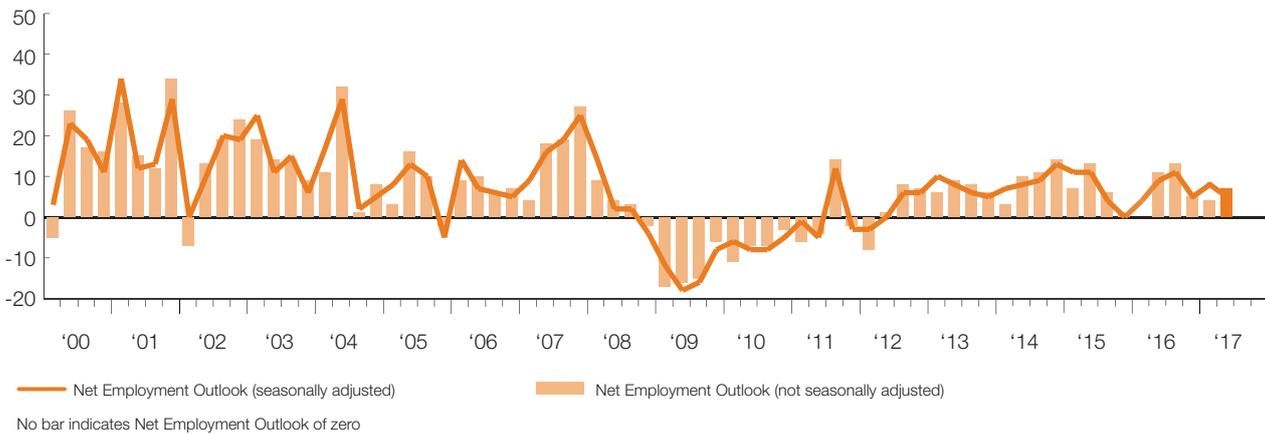


# Employers are cautiously optimistic

Hiring intentions in the West Midlands have experienced a slight decrease and now stand in line with the national average. With an Employment Outlook of +5%, the second quarter of 2017 sees employers cautiously optimistic about job creation.



Q2 2017

## West Midlands employment snapshot

### Average weekly pay

The West Midlands is the fifth lowest-paid region in the UK, with an average weekly wage of **£536**. This is some £49 below the national average.

### Hiring Outlook

For the second quarter of 2017, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in the West Midlands is **+5%** and in line with the national average.

### Employment

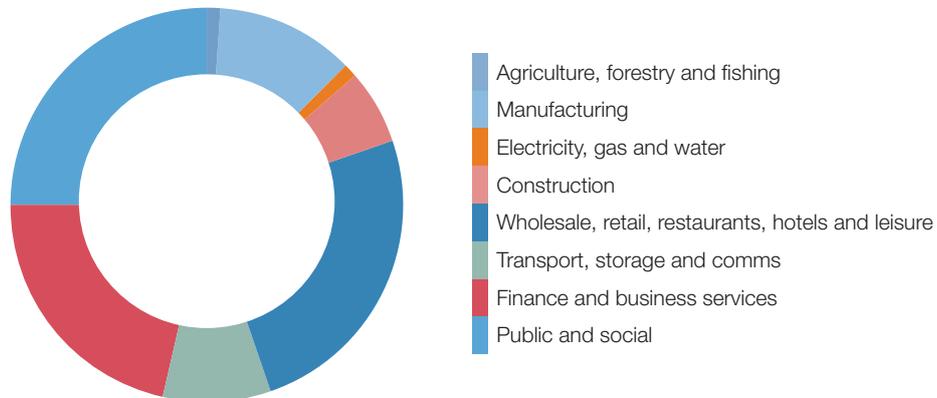
The rate of employment in the West Midlands is below the national average and stands at **72.2%**. Yet the region has seen a slight increase (0.9%) when compared to the same period last year.

### Unemployment

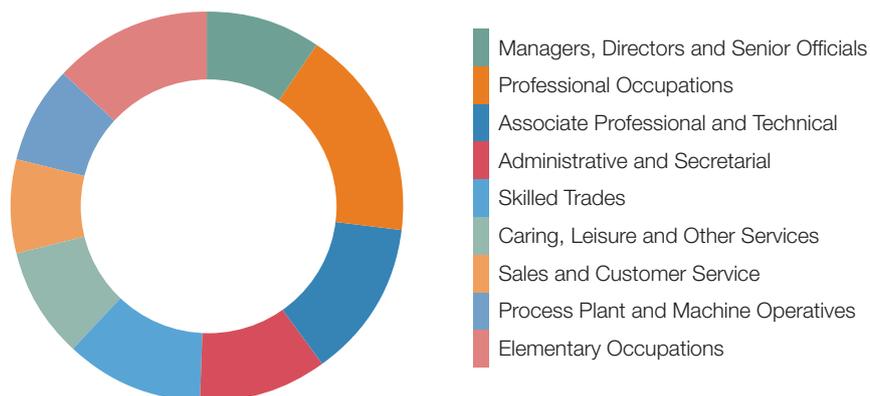
At **5.9%**, the unemployment rate is above the national average and is the second highest in the UK. Unemployment in the West Midlands has risen slightly (0.4%) when compared to the same period last year.

2017  
Q2

## WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



## WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



### Market overview

Despite the cautious Outlook, hiring demand has remained buoyant, particularly in the business support, manufacturing, and supply chain sectors, and especially in financial services where there has been a huge surge in roles. Yet, with hiring managers keen to attract, test and retain long-term talent, there has been a significant rise in 'temp to perm' positions and this trend has been seen across multiple sectors in the region.

Nevertheless, employers are still grappling with an acute skills shortage. In this candidate-led market, employers are competing for individuals who often have several opportunities to pick from. As a result, we are advising organisations who wish to stand out to re-evaluate their pay and benefits packages and review how they publicly present themselves as employers of choice.