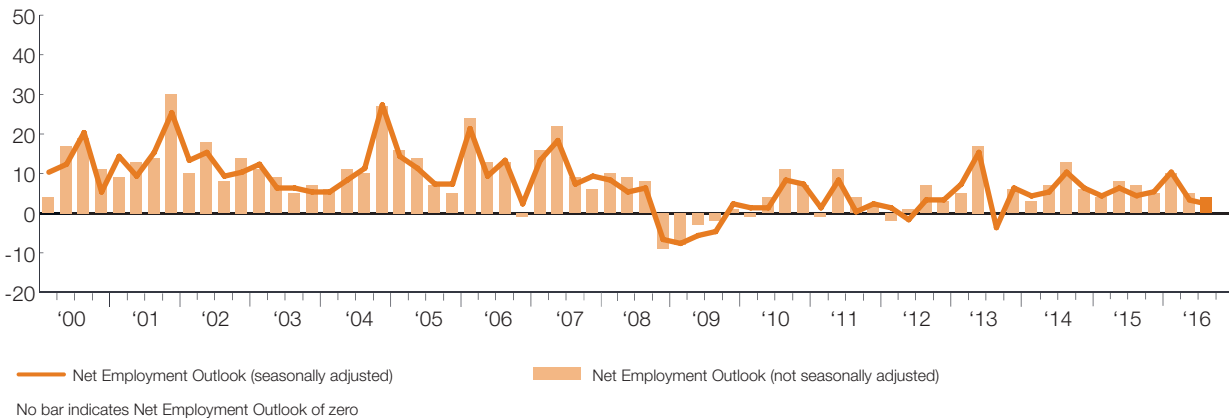


South East cautiously optimistic for job creation

At +3%, the Employment Outlook for the South East has shown a decrease in employer hiring intentions when compared to the first quarter of 2016. As a result, employers appear to be cautiously optimistic about the prospect of job creation in the third quarter of 2016.



Q3 2016

South East employment snapshot

Average weekly pay

The South East is the second-highest paid region in the UK. The average weekly wage is **£644**, some £58 higher than the national average.

Hiring Outlook

For the third quarter of 2016, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in the South East is **+3%**; this is slightly lower than the national average (+5%).

Employment

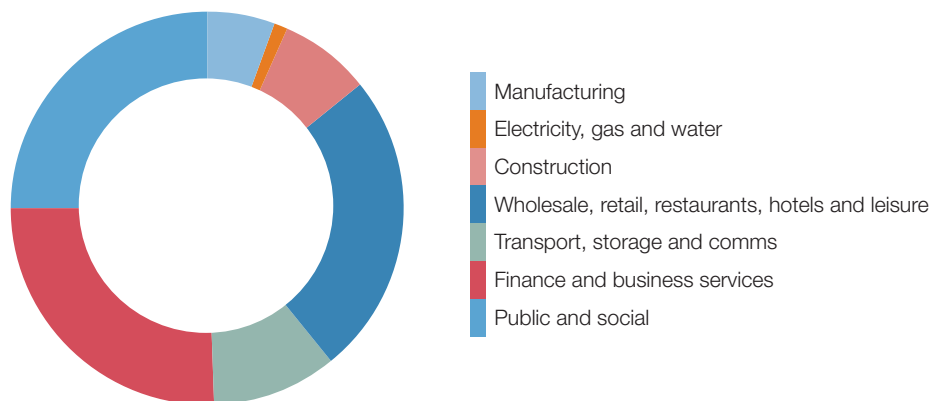
At **78.3%**, the South East rate of employment is higher than both the national average (74.1%) and all other UK regions. The rate has risen some 1.2% since the same period last year.

Unemployment

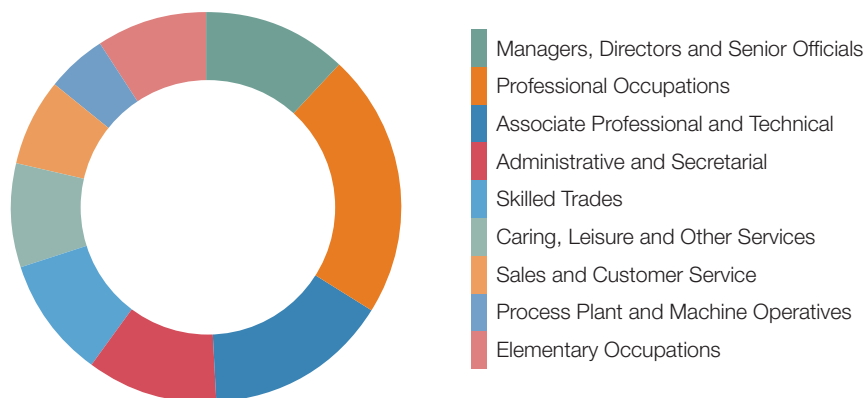
At **3.7%**, the unemployment rate continues to be significantly lower than the national average (5.1%). The South East has the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

2016
Q3

WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



Market overview

Despite a cautious Outlook for the next three months ahead, the past quarter has seen an increase in recruitment activity. While the growth in temporary roles remains sluggish, the number of permanent positions available has risen. Roles with the most employer demand have included those in contact centres and sales. There has also been significant demand for roles in IT, manufacturing and technical engineering.

However, candidate availability is a concern. While talent shortages aren't as severe as elsewhere in the country, there are fewer quality candidates available. Hiring managers should take note: in today's market, candidates have choices and employers should be wary of making a rod for their own back. We are seeing organisations with slow recruitment processes losing their first choice candidates to competitors. To avoid this, employers must speed up.