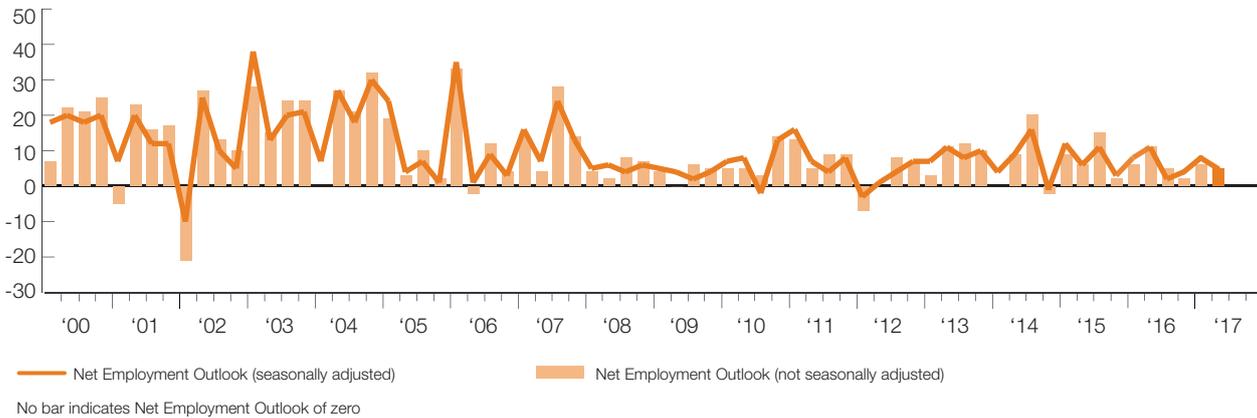


# Employers remain cautiously optimistic

At +5%, hiring intentions in the South West for the second quarter of 2017 have dipped slightly when compared to three months earlier. This Outlook indicates that employers in the region still remain cautiously optimistic about hiring and job creation.



Q2 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 **£562**, £23 below the national average.

### Hiring Outlook

For the second quarter of 2017, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in the South West is **+5%**. The region's Outlook is in line with the national average.

### Employment

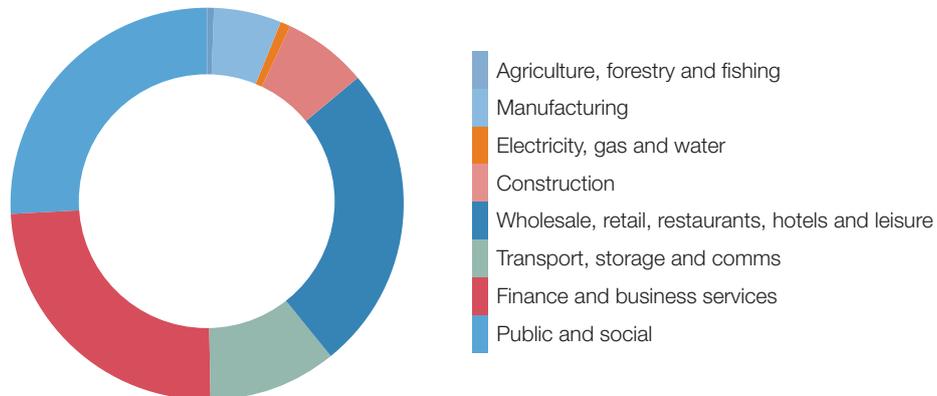
The rate of employment in the South West is above the national average and stands at **77.5%**. The South West has the second highest rate of employment in the UK.

### Unemployment

At **3.6%**, the unemployment rate continues to be markedly lower than the national average. The South West has the second lowest unemployment rate in the country.

2017  
Q2

## WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



## WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



### Market overview

Despite the cautious Outlook, the last three months in the South West has seen a boost in job prospects across a number of sectors, with employers appearing to shrug off Brexit.

We have seen a particular rise in jobs in the manufacturing sector. Demand for temporary assembly, production officers, and end-of-production roles have been especially notable, while operations supervisors, quality engineers, and support specialists have been some of the most hotly contested permanent roles. We have also seen a rise in call centre and administrative jobs, the former being driven by employers like Sitel and John Lewis expanding their operations.

However, in a candidate-led market, skills shortages persist. Part of this phenomenon is employer-driven. Many candidates are citing late decisions from hiring managers post-interview as being instrumental in them choosing other organisations to work for. In this market, employers need to speed up if they want to attract and retain talent.