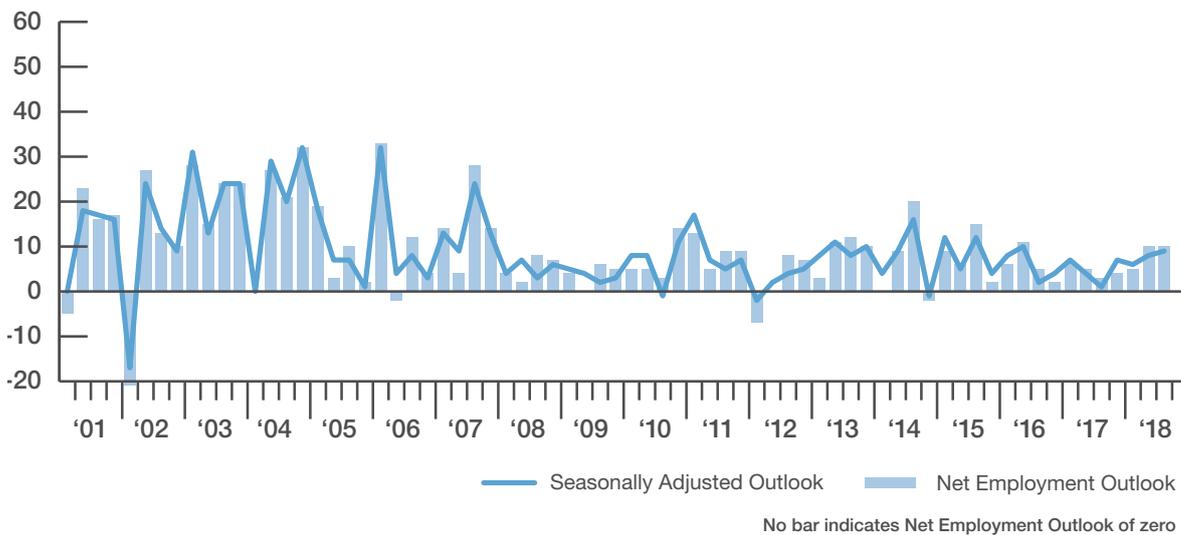




Manpower®

Employers remain modestly optimistic

At +9%, hiring intentions in the South West have risen slightly when compared to three months ago. Despite concerns about the national economy, this quarter's Outlook indicates that employers remain modestly optimistic about the prospects for job creation.



Q3 2018

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**, £48 below the national average.

Hiring Outlook

For the third quarter of 2018, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in the South West is **+9%**. The region's Outlook is above the national average (+4%).

Employment

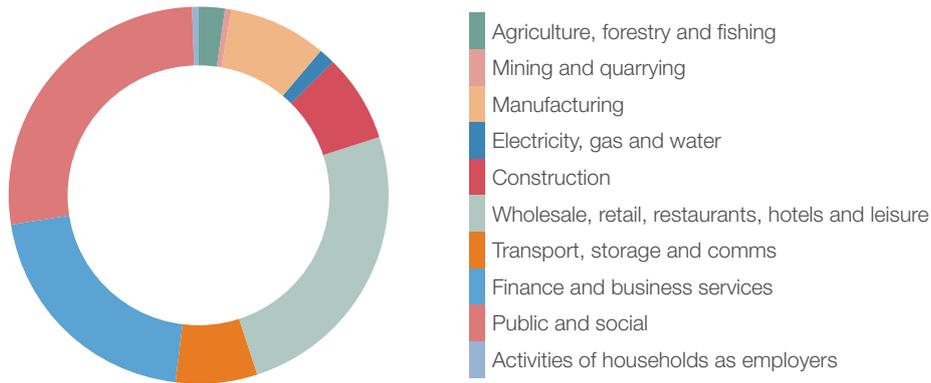
The rate of employment in the South West is above the national average and this quarter stands at **79.3%**. The South West has the highest rate of employment in the UK.

Unemployment

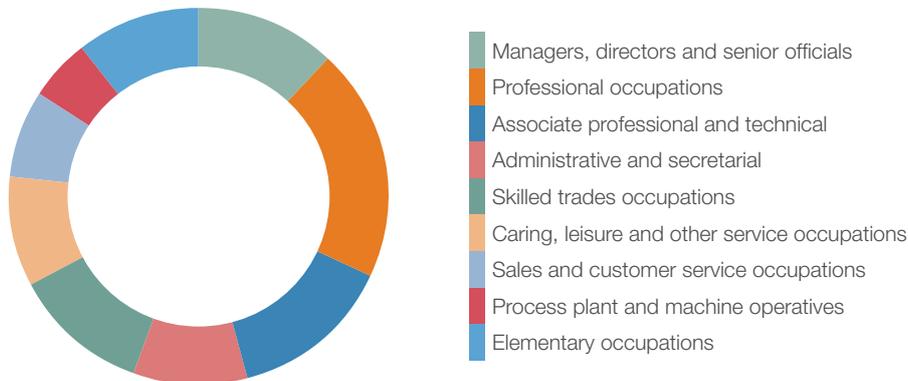
At **3.5%**, the unemployment rate continues to be markedly lower than the national average. The South West has the third-lowest unemployment rate in the country.

2018
Q3

WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



Market overview

As employers continue to adopt a “wait and see” approach to Brexit, across the region, we are seeing growth in the number of opportunities advertised and particularly for roles in the Engineering; Health; and Driving and Logistics sectors. Yet across the region, skills shortages persist.

An exodus of European workers from the UK has exacerbated an already tight labour market. This is proving problematic for employers. Job-seekers with in-demand skills are well aware of their own value and the opportunities available. While the importance of work-life balance is rising, this quarter, pay has stood out as a dominant factor. Many are rejecting jobs that pay the minimum wage or offer uncompetitive salaries. For this reason, we would advise employers to regularly re-evaluate the pay on offer so as not to lose out on skilled candidates.