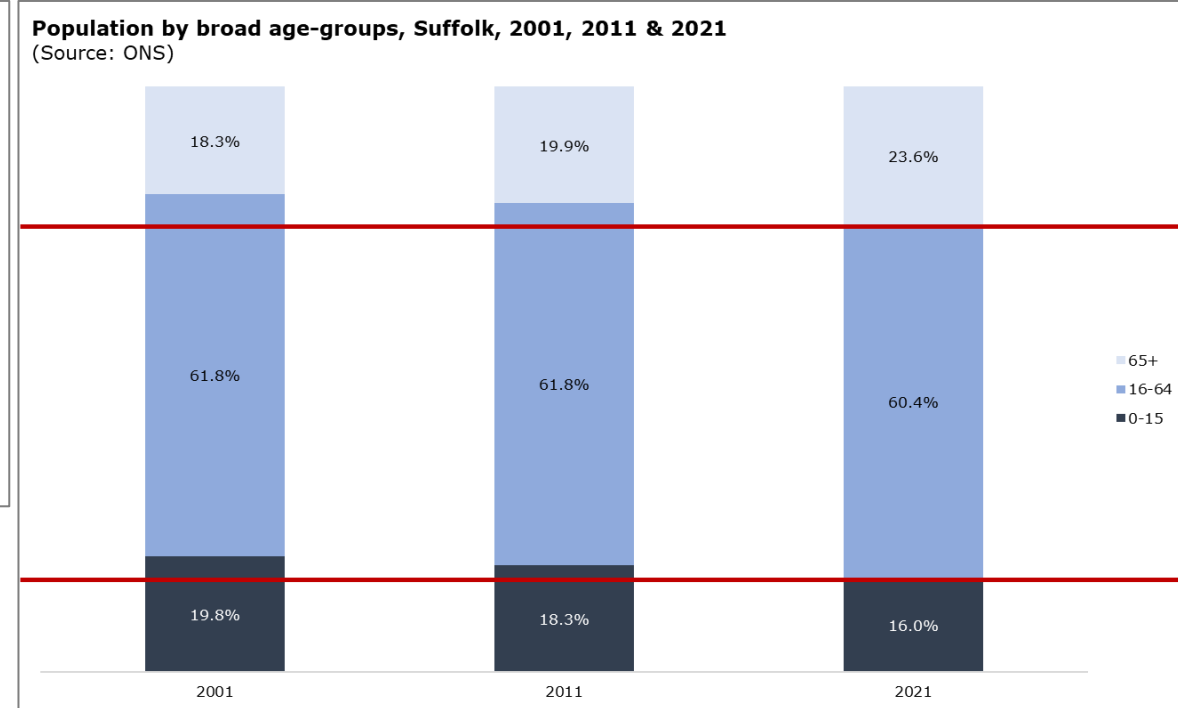
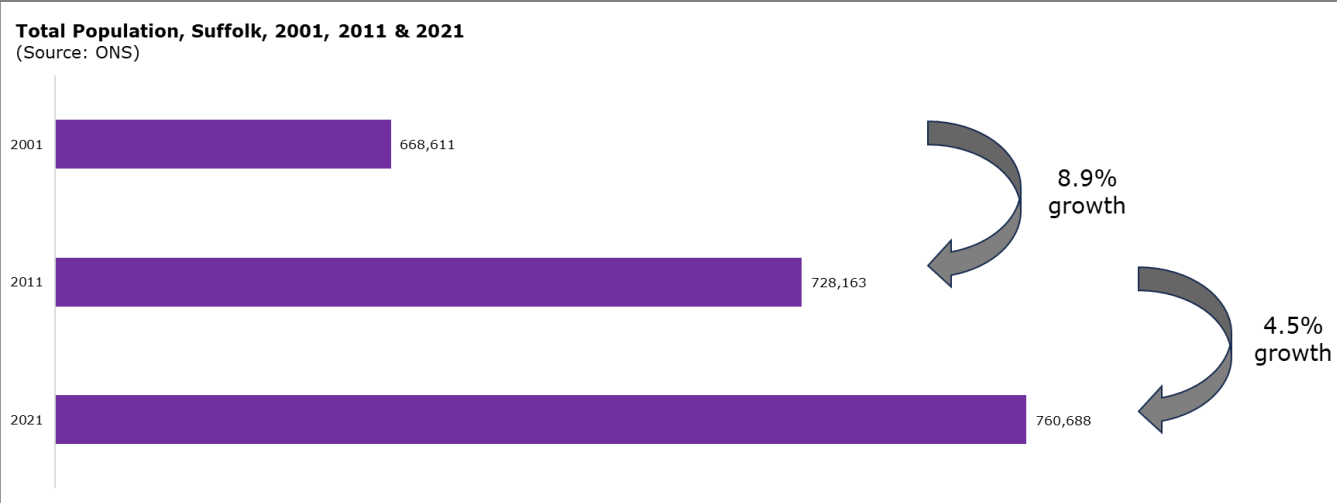


SUFFOLK ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

22ND SEPTEMBER 2023

STEVE PARSONS, SODA ANALYST & RESEARCHER

We have a growing and ageing population: 24% are now aged 64 and over (vs. 18% across England), while 60% are aged 16-64 (63% nationally). This has implications on **where Suffolk's workers of tomorrow are going to come from.**

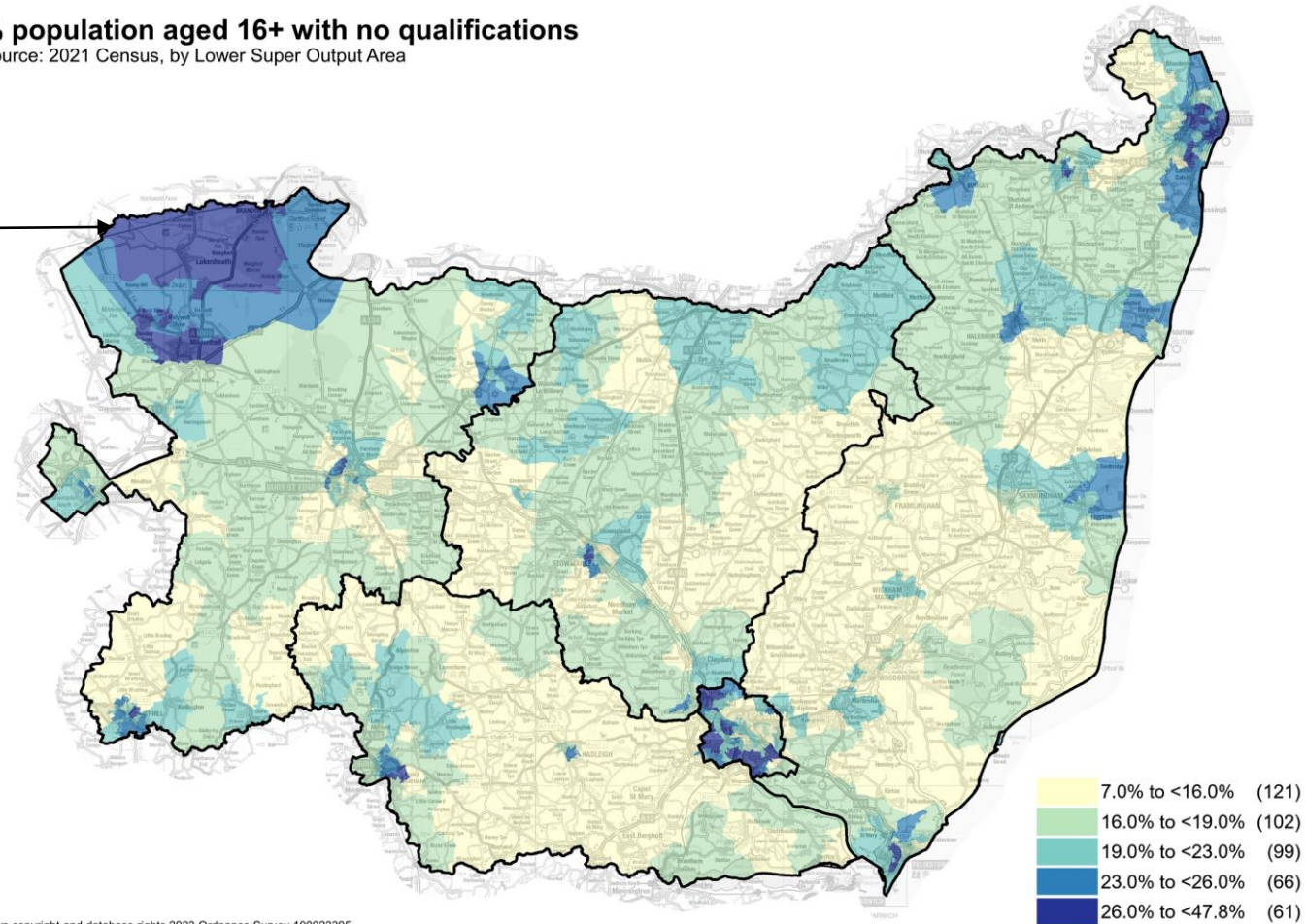


In 2021, Suffolk's 16-64 population over-indexed against the national average on having no qualifications (19.7% vs. 18.1%) and under-indexed on the highest qualification (28.1% vs. 33.9%). Across Suffolk's LSOAs the range is between 7% and 47.8% on no qualifications. **We need to think about what skills Suffolk's workers of tomorrow will need.**

* Note – this area includes USVF personnel; many of whom have answered 'no qualifications' instead of 'qualifications achieved outside of England/Wales, equivalent not stated or unknown'

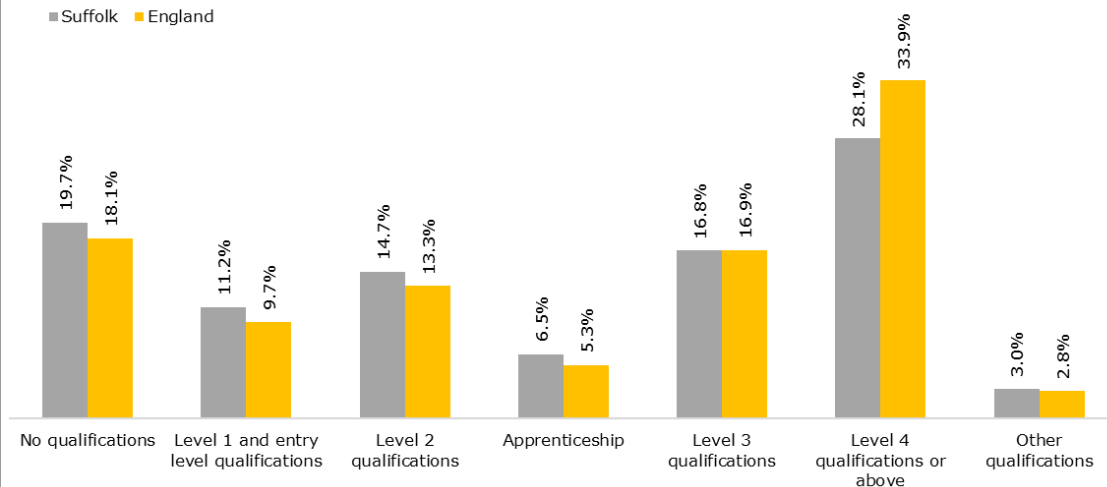
% population aged 16+ with no qualifications

Source: 2021 Census, by Lower Super Output Area



% of 16-64s by level of qualification, Suffolk vs. England, 2021

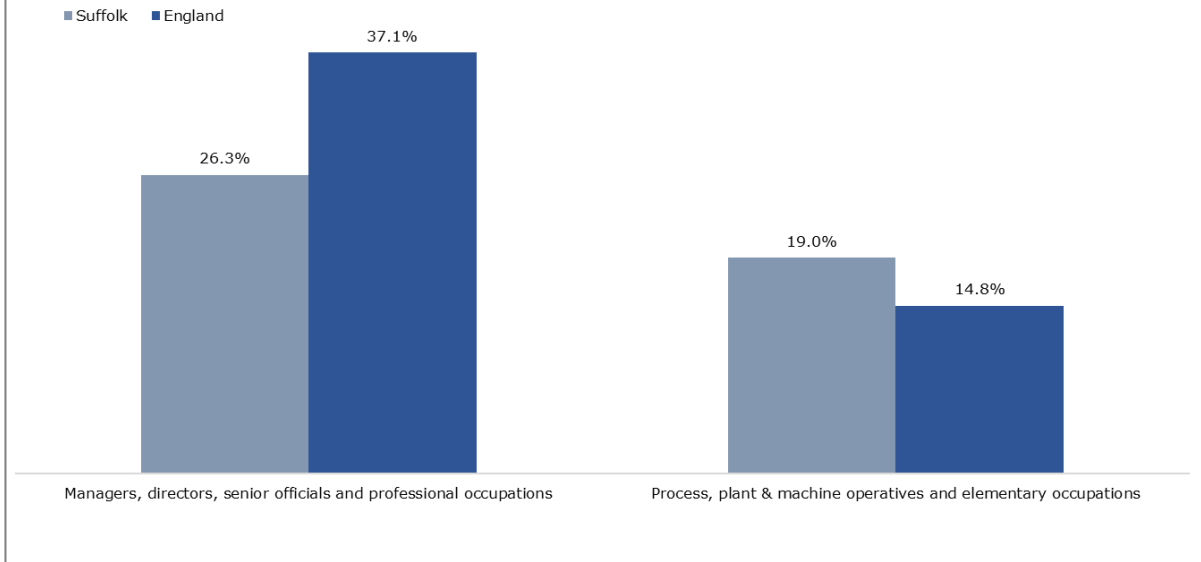
(Source: ONS, Census 2021)



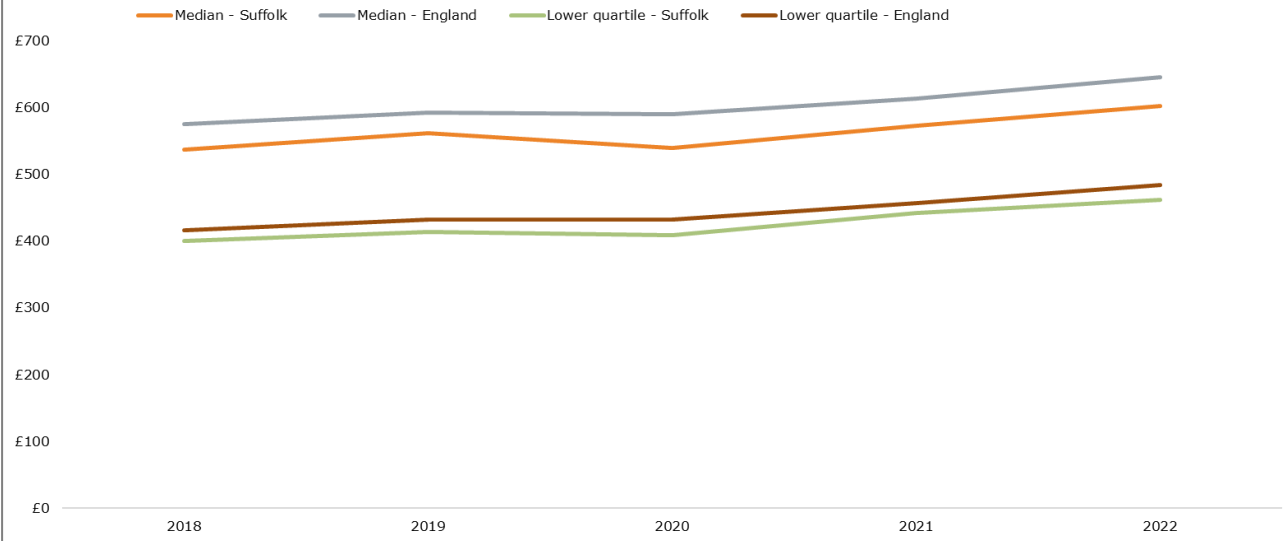
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In 2022, Suffolk had below average proportions of 16-64s working in the highest paid occupations, i.e., managers, directors & senior officials and professional occupations, and above average levels of people in lower paid occupations, i.e., process, plant & machine operatives and elementary occupations.

% of 16-64s by occupation groups, Suffolk vs. England, 2022
(Source: ONS, APS)

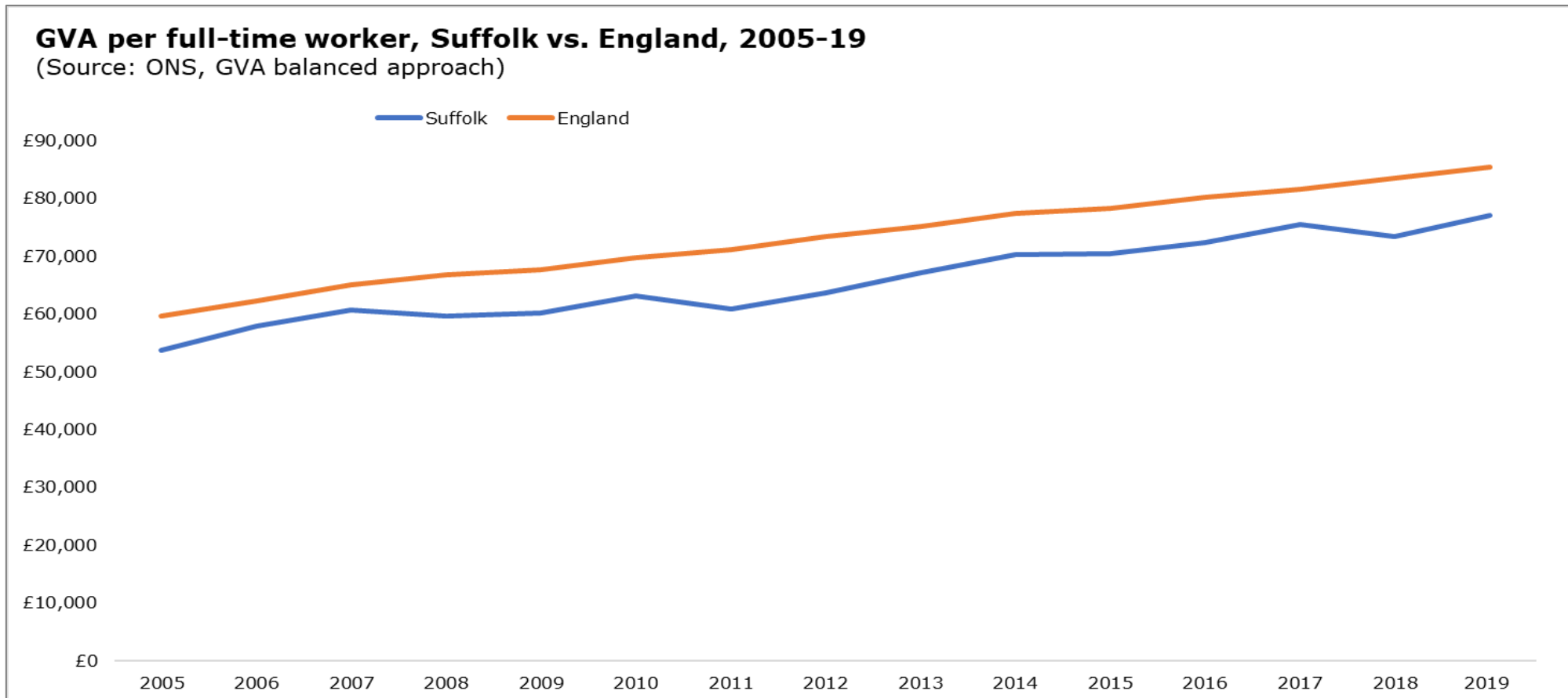


Median and lower quartile gross weekly pay, Suffolk vs. England, 2018 - 2022
(Source: ONS)

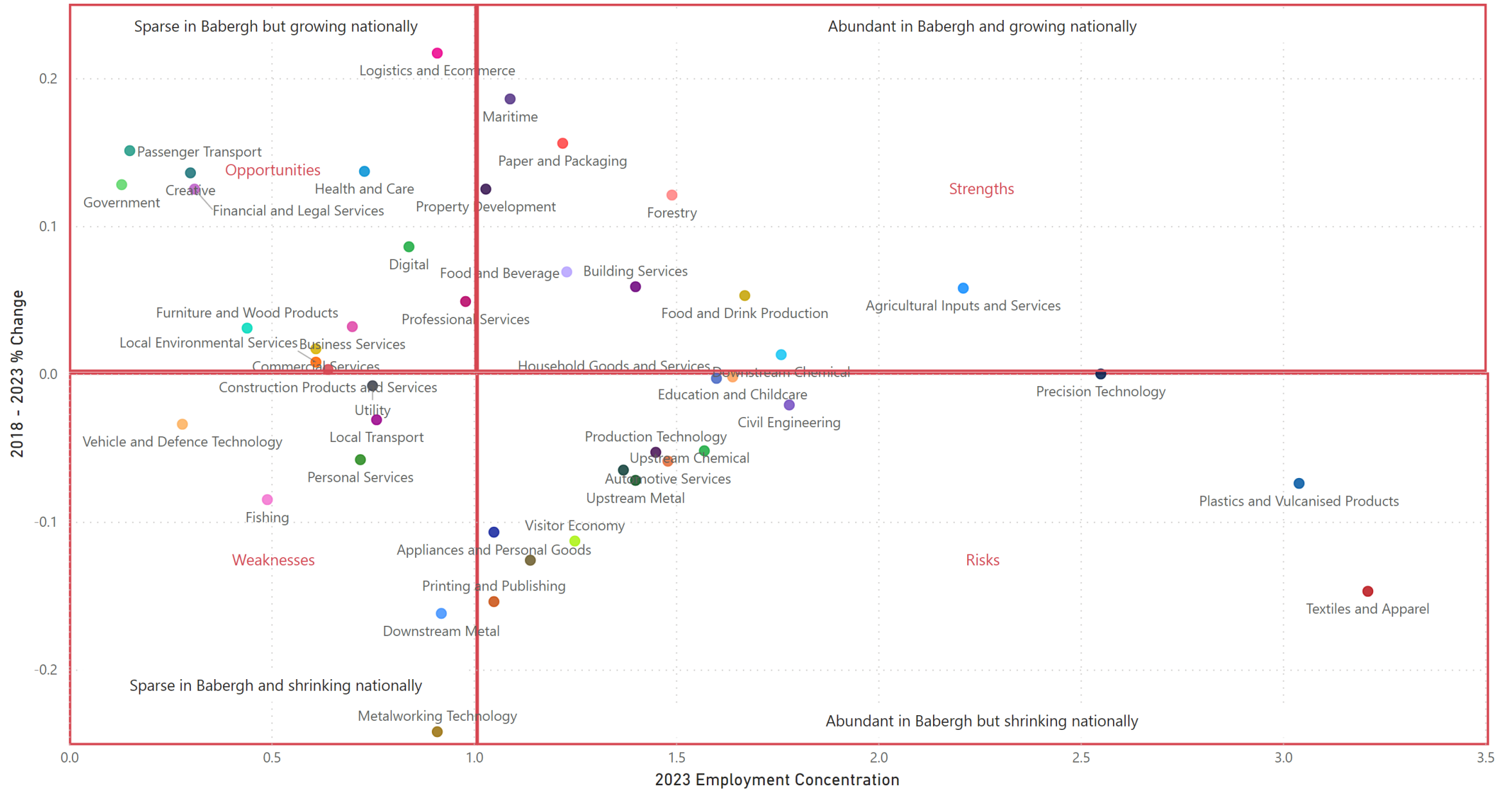


This translates into a below average earnings profile across Suffolk. In 2022 median gross weekly pay in Suffolk was £43 lower than the England average. While the lower quartile (LQ) gross weekly pay in Suffolk also continues to lag the national average (£462 vs. £484).

This also means that productivity (Gross Value Added, GVA) per full-time worker is below the England average. This productivity gap is estimated to reach £3.2bn in 20 years' time, driven by continued lower than average wages.



Babergh Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



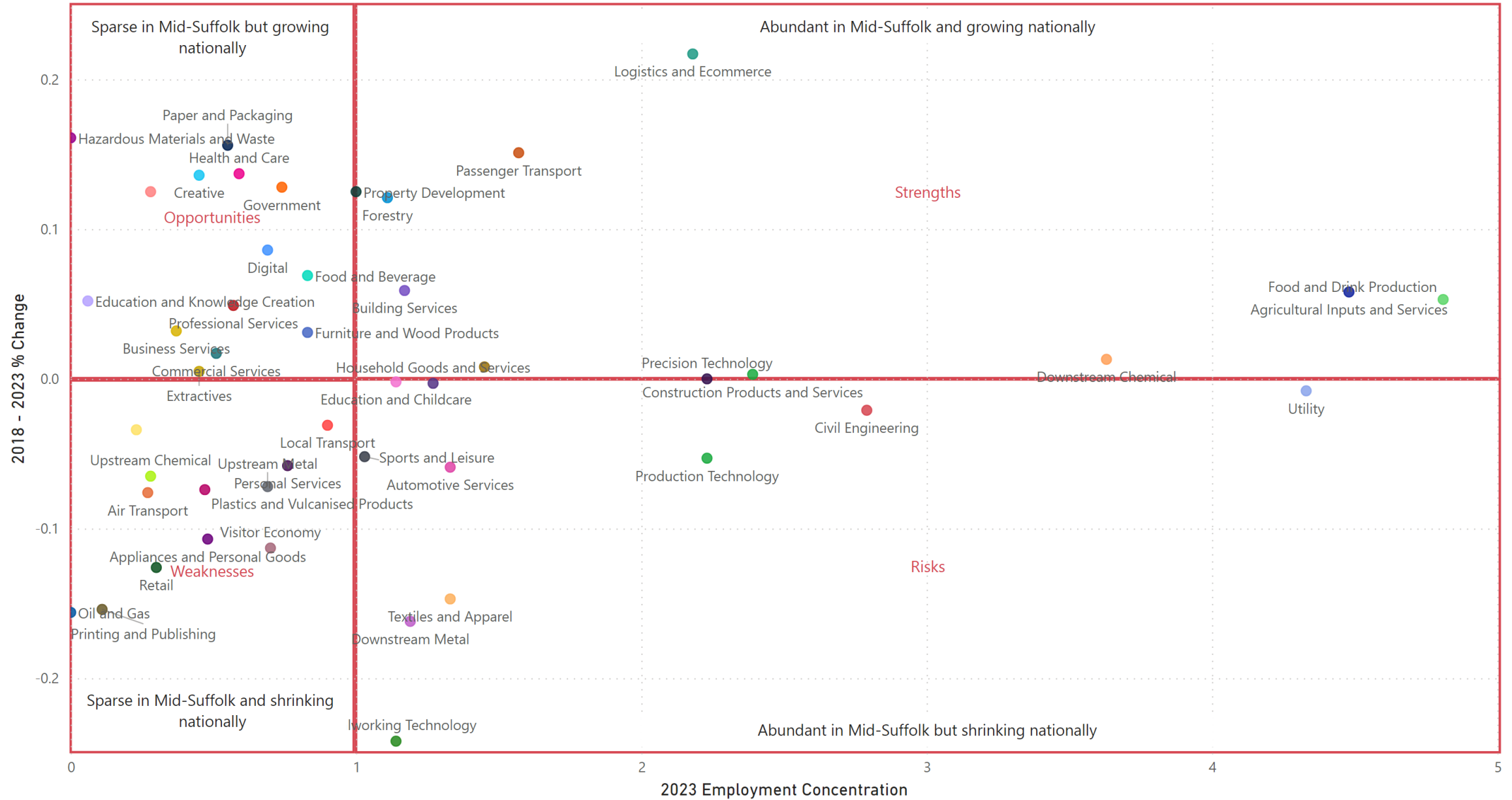
East Suffolk Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



Ipswich Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



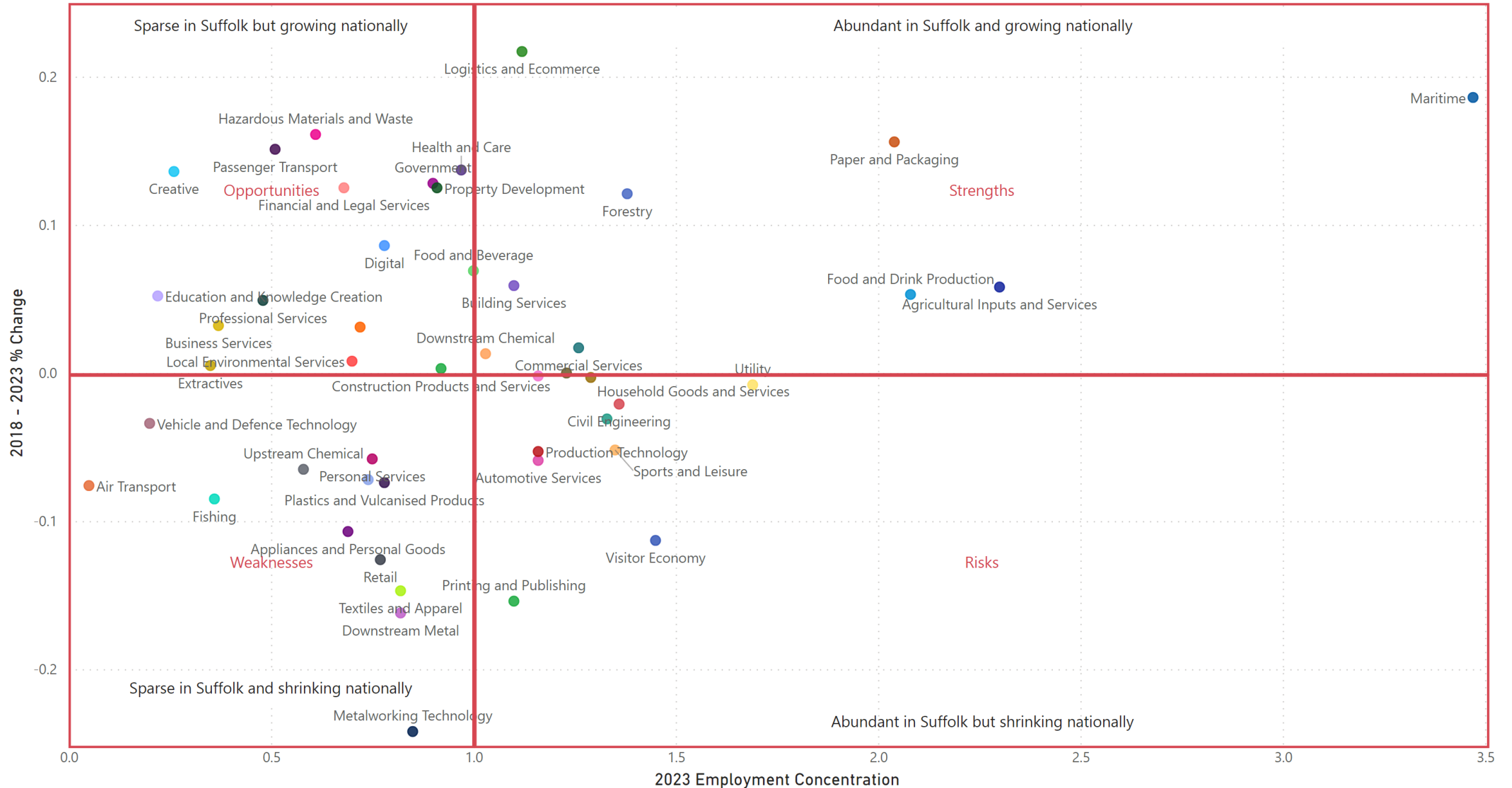
Mid-Suffolk Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



West Suffolk Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



Suffolk Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



The early half of 2022 saw high levels of job postings, similar to pre-pandemic years. As the cost-of-living crisis deepened in the summer and autumn months, we saw a dip in postings. However, the sustained growth in job postings since September 2022 points toward the continued strength of the economy coming out of the pandemic.

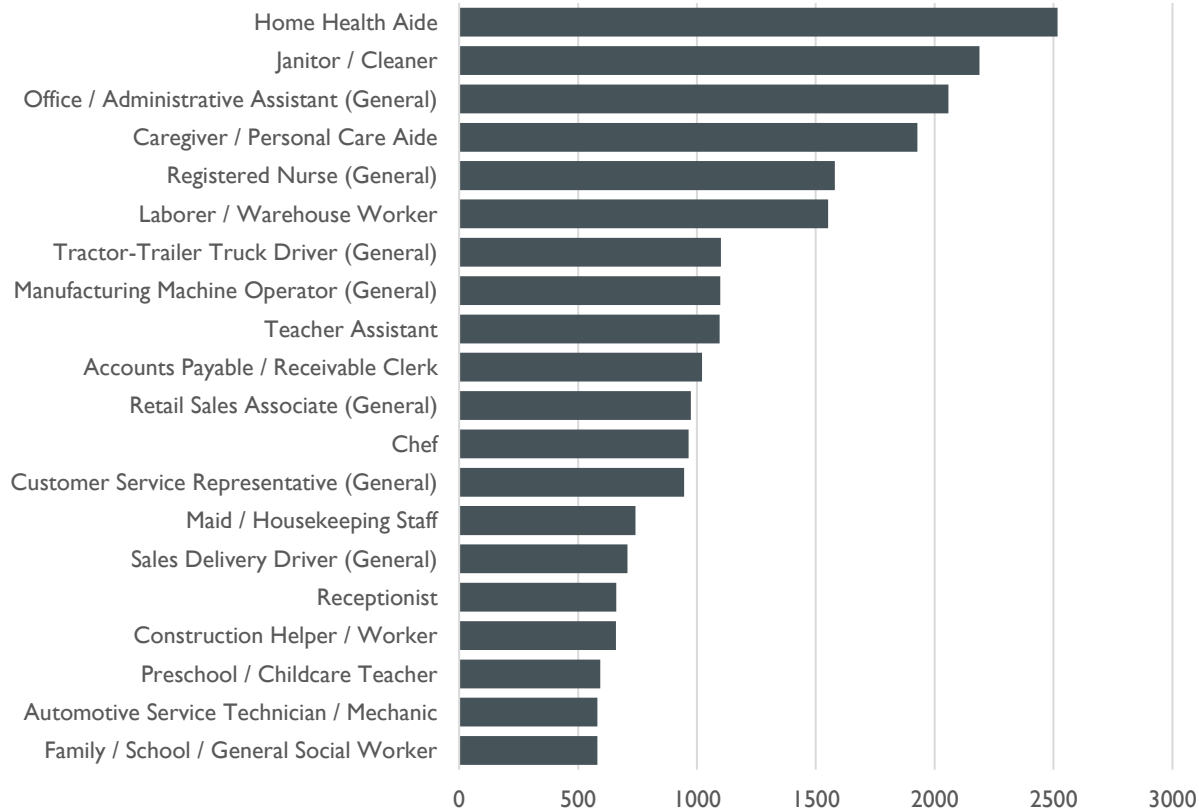
Monthly Job Postings, Suffolk, 2018 - 2023

(Source: Lightcast, Job Posting Analytics)

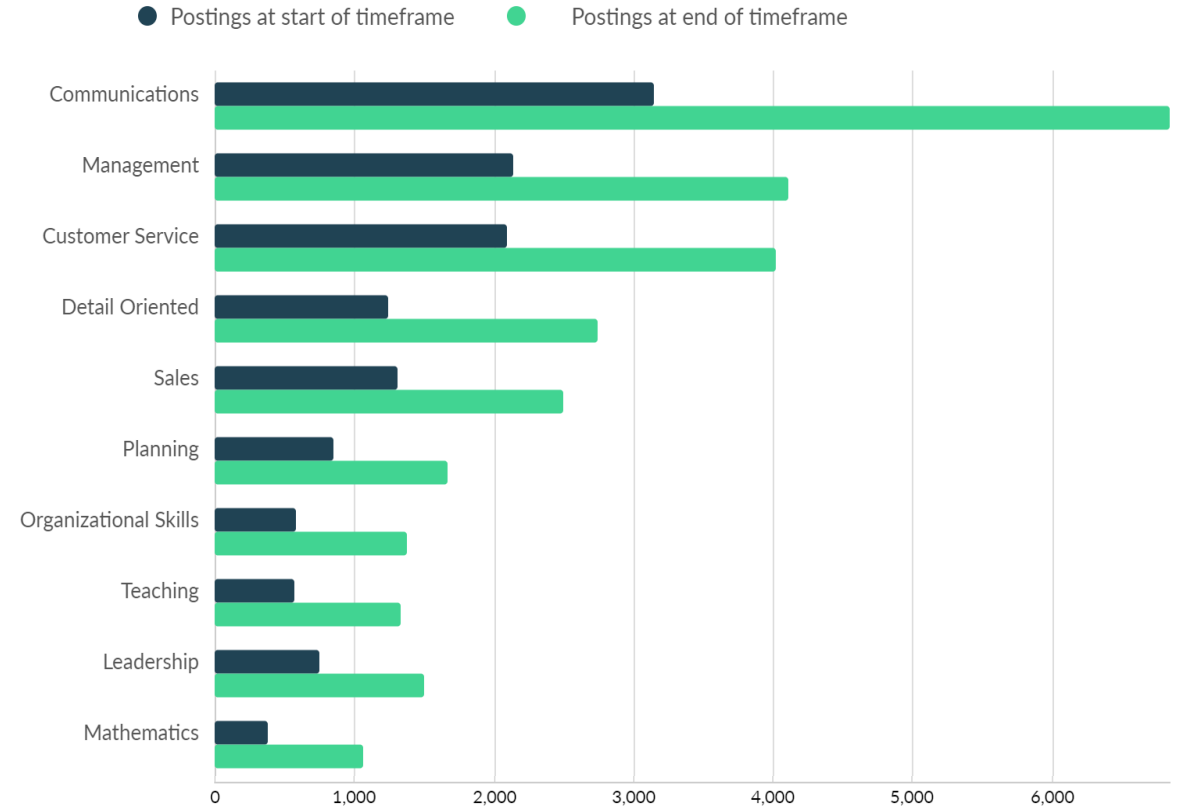


From 2022 into 2023, there has been a sustained demand in job postings for people in the care and health sectors. There has also been an increased demand for people working in the low-skilled manual jobs. Most of the top skills listed in job postings are common or 'soft' skills, with specialized skills being less frequently requested.

Unique Job Postings by Occupation, Suffolk, Sep 22 – Aug 23
 (Source: Lightcast, Job Posting Analytics)



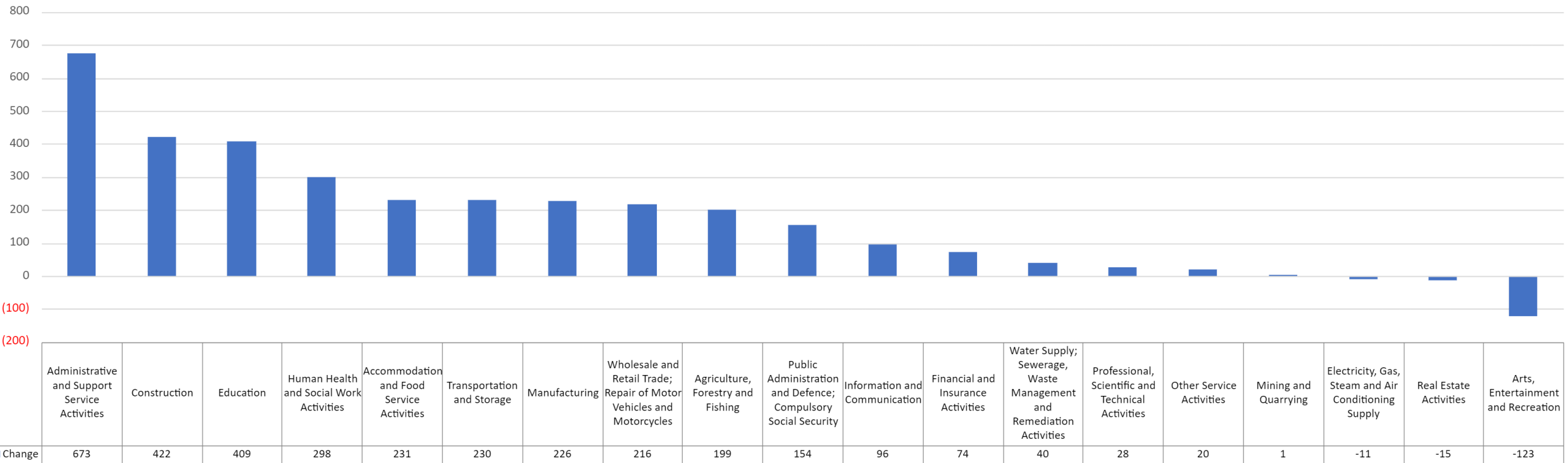
Top skills sought in job postings, Suffolk, Sep 22 – Aug 23
 (Source: Lightcast, Hot and Cold Skills by Job Postings)



Between 2022 and 2023, there has been a sustained growth in the Administrative, Construction and Education sectors. There has been a reduction in job postings among the Real Estate, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sectors with housing market volatility, and the Cost-of-Living Crisis putting increased pressures on household budgets.

1-Year Change in Job Postings, Suffolk, 2022-2023

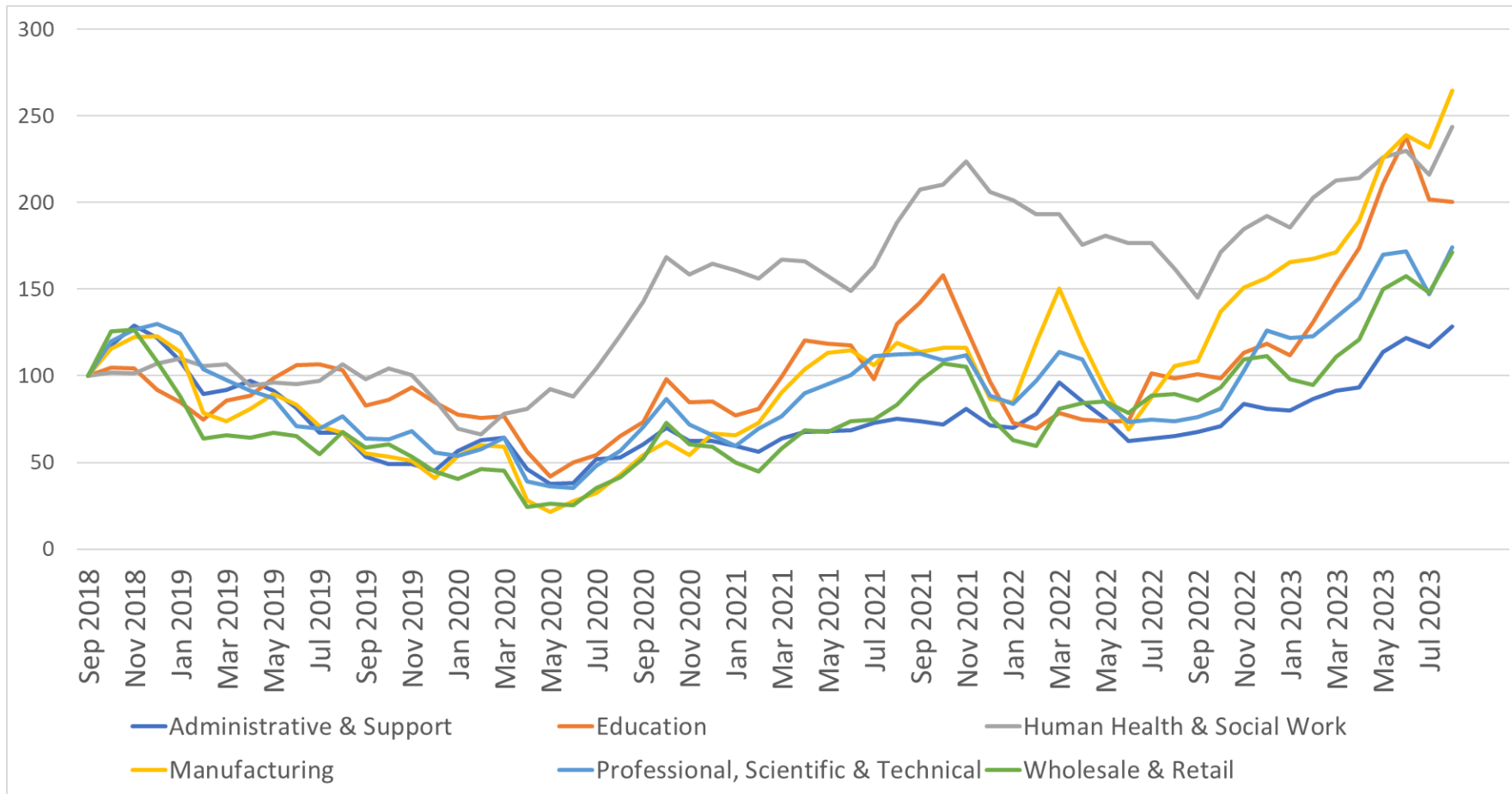
(Source: Lightcast, Job Posting Analytics)



Looking back to September 2018, we can see that the dip in job postings during the COVID-19 pandemic continued an already downward trend. By March 2021 most major sectors had returned to levels above those in September 2018, with all major sectors seeing higher job posting levels by May 2023.

Percentage Change in Job Postings, Suffolk, Sep 2018 – Aug 2023

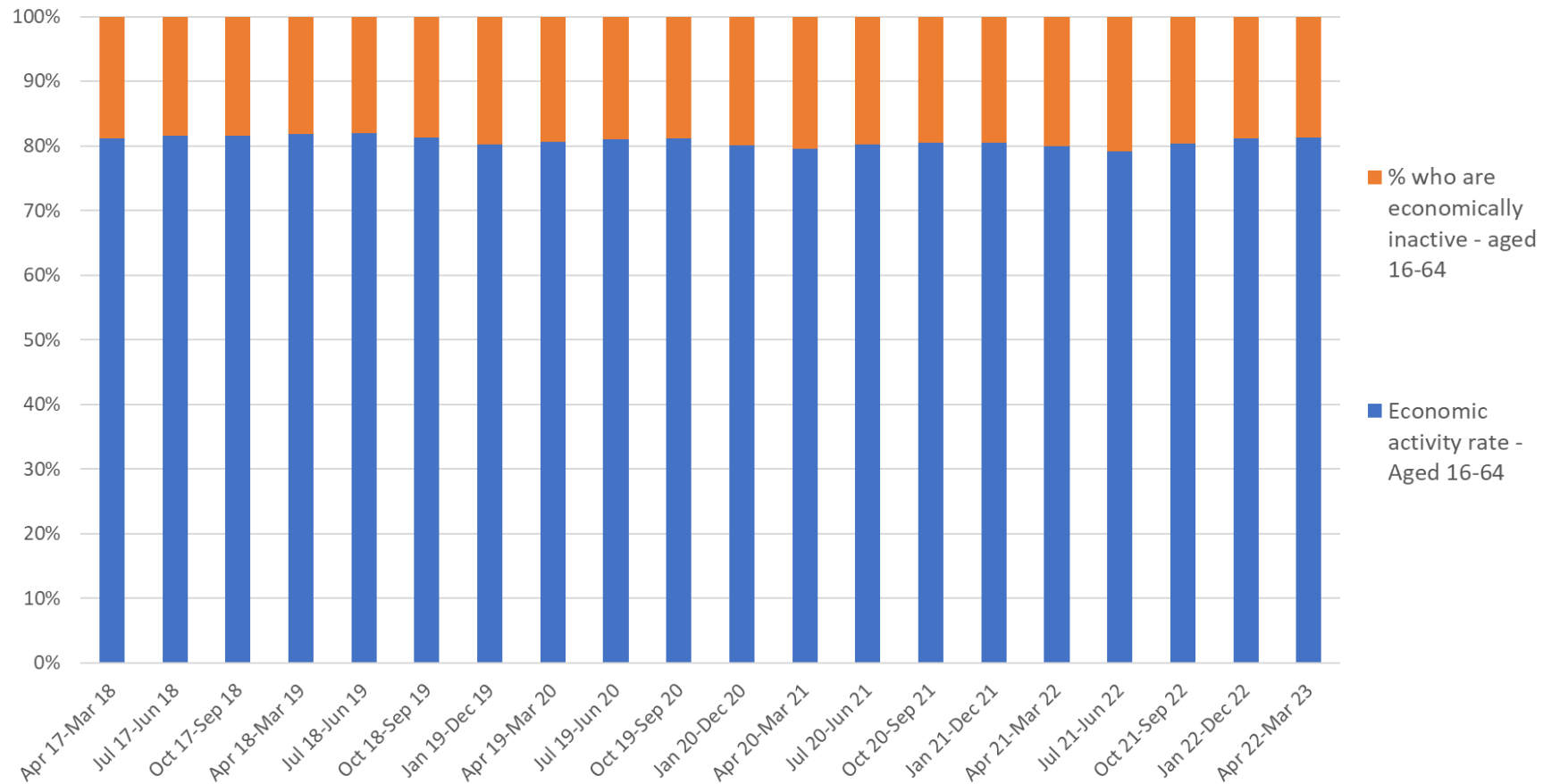
(Source: Lightcast, Job Posting Analytics)



Based on latest official statistics, 356,900 (81.3%) of Suffolk's 16-64s were economically active, while 82,300 (18.7%) were inactive. This means a marginal increase in those active and decrease in those inactive.

Economically Active and Inactive, Suffolk

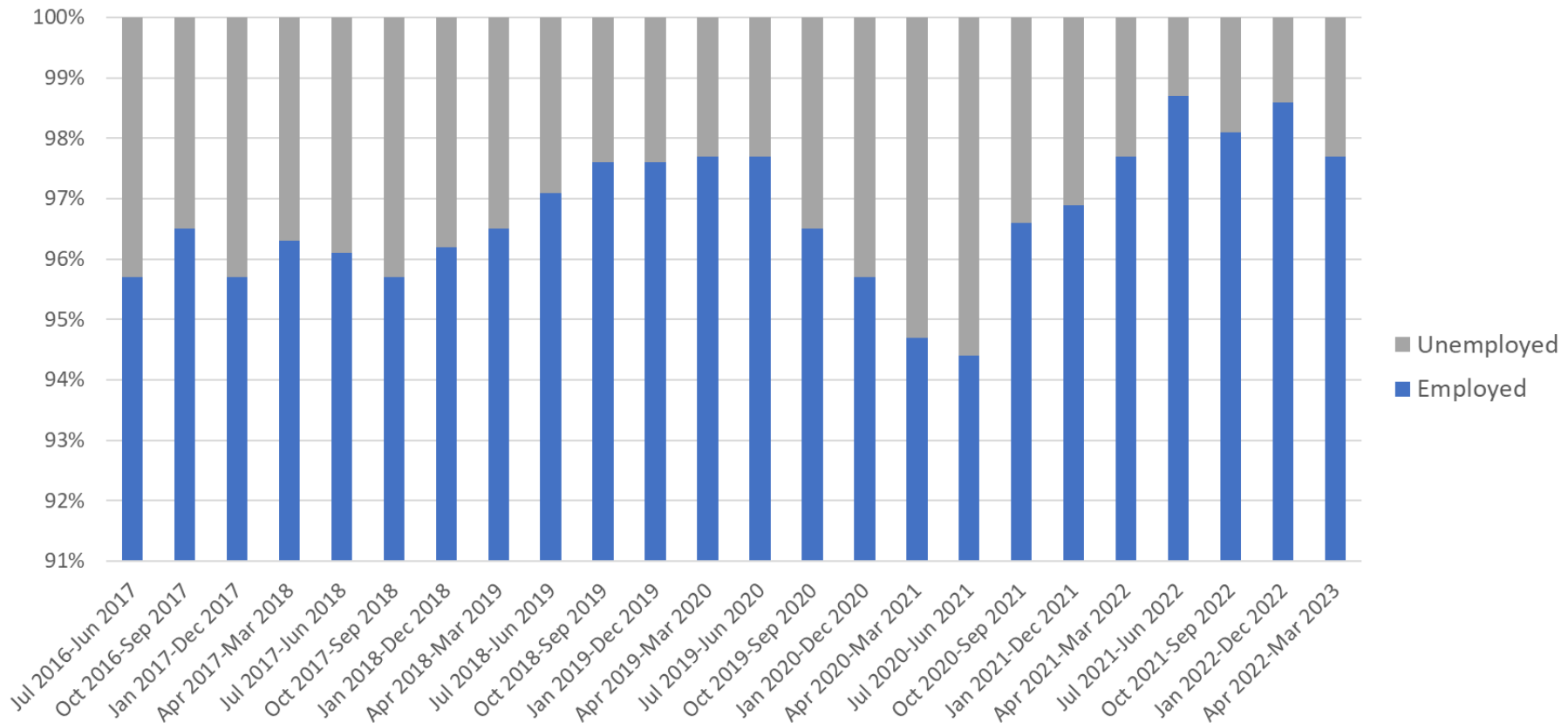
(Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey)



Of those 16-64s that are economically active in Suffolk, 348,800 (98%) were employed and 8,100 (2%) were unemployed.

Breakdown of those who are economically active, employed vs. unemployed in Suffolk

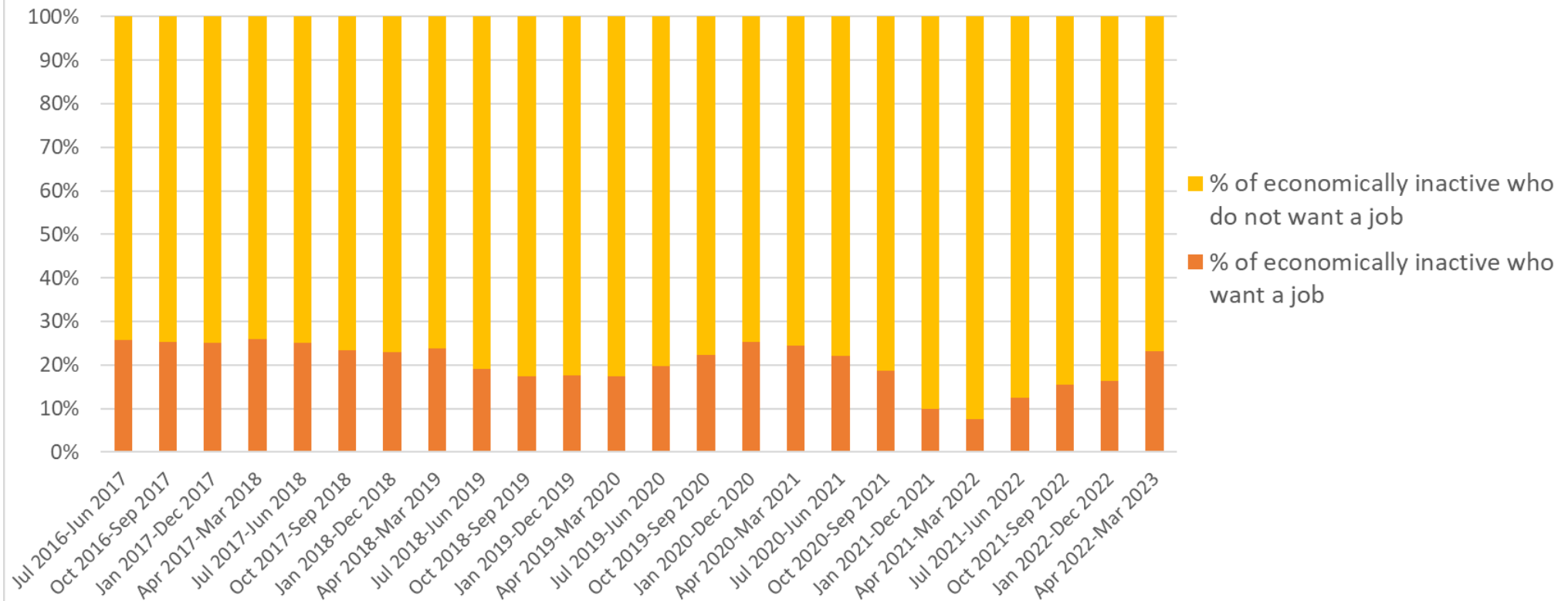
(Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey)



The majority (63,200 or 76.8%) of those 16-64s that are inactive in Suffolk, are not looking for a job. On average, this number is largely in line with pre-COVID levels. However, there are also 19,100 who would like a job.

Breakdown of those who are economically inactive, those who want a job vs those who don't want a job, in Suffolk

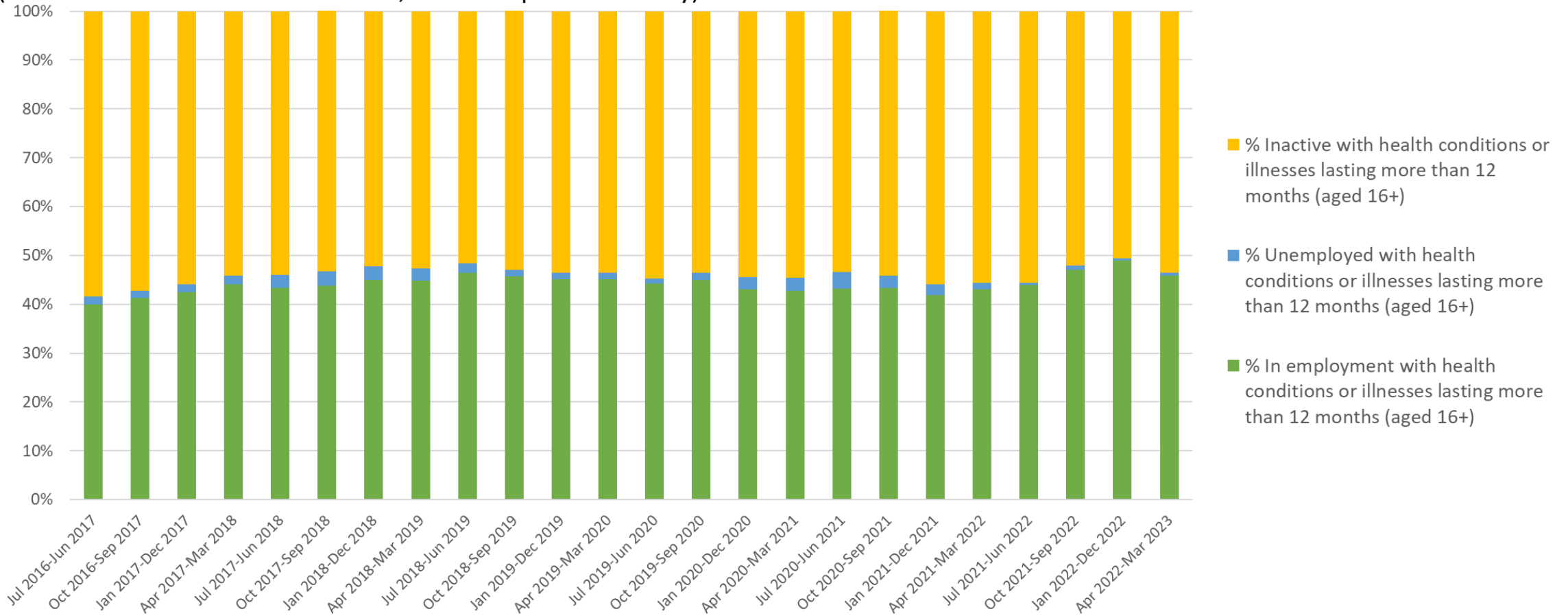
(Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey)



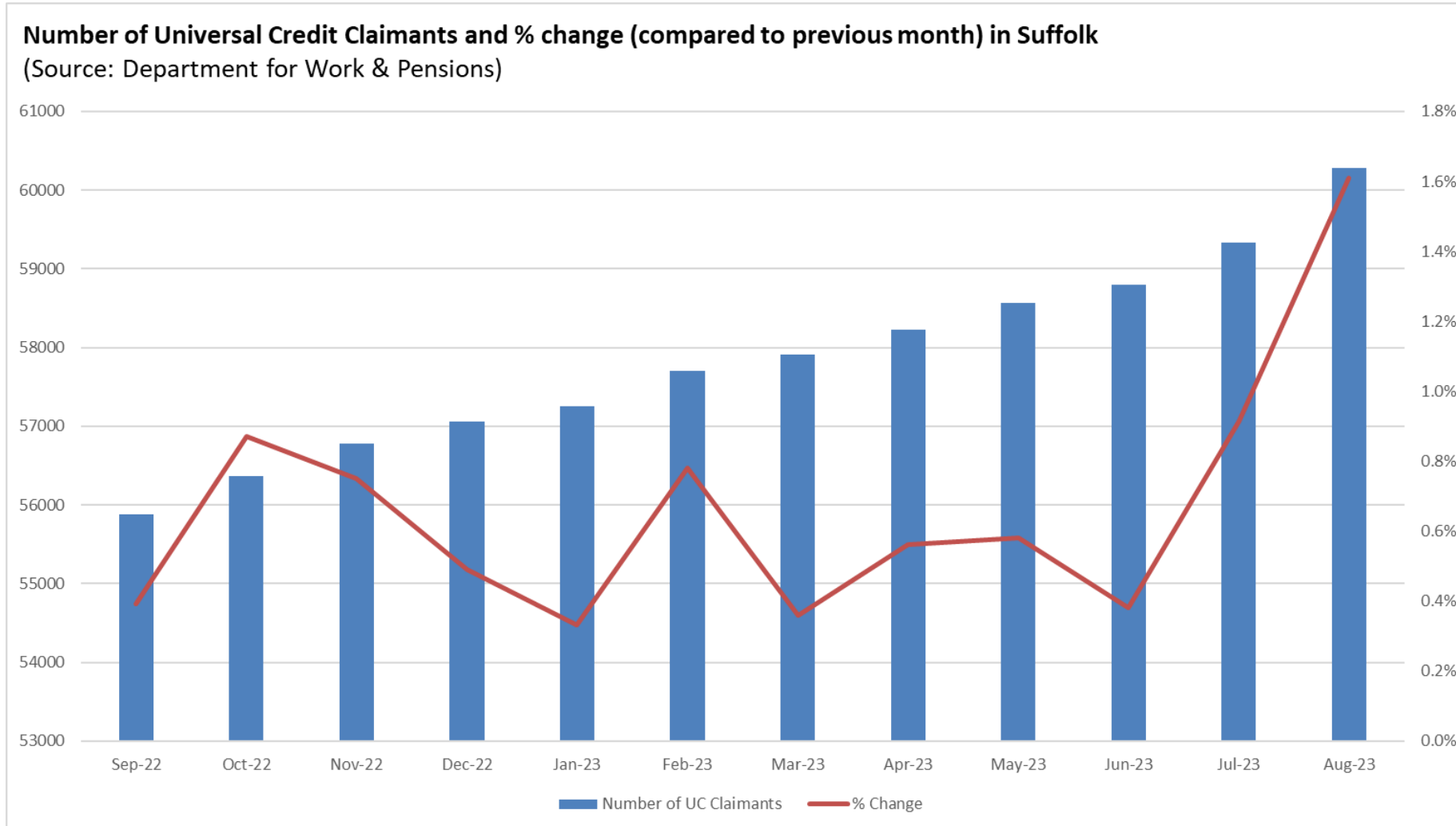
The number of 16+ who are inactive with a health condition or illness lasting more than 12 months increased in the last quarter.

Economic activity by health conditions or illnesses, lasting more than 12 months, in Suffolk

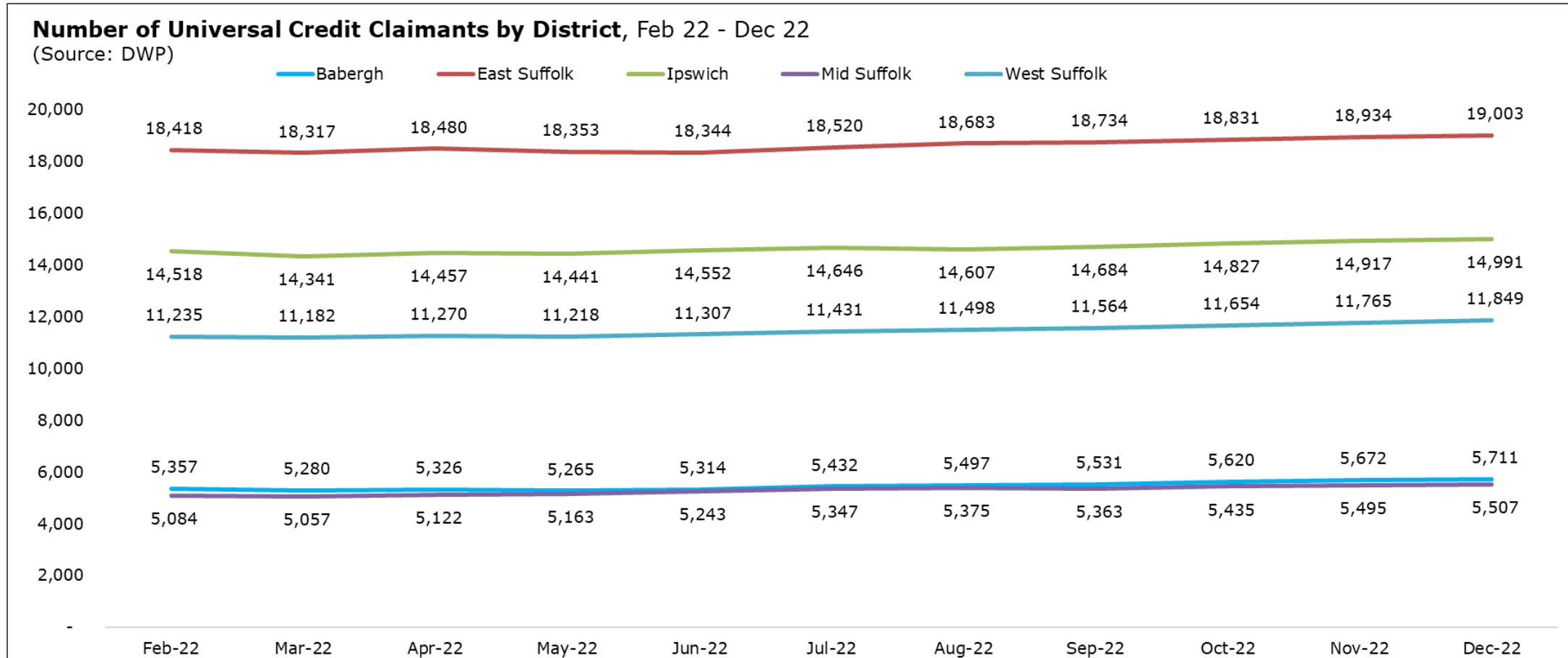
(Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey)



The latest available data on Universal Credit claimants shows that there were 60,285 persons claiming Universal Credit (13.4% of all 16-64s).



East Suffolk and Ipswich continually have the highest number of UC claimants. In all districts and boroughs, the number of claimants is higher than 12 months ago.



In July 2023, 25,481 people claimed Universal Credit in Suffolk despite being in work. In work claimant numbers have increased by 2.9% over past 12 months (compared to 9.6% of unemployed claimants).

Universal Credit claimants split by employment status, Suffolk

(Source: Department for Work & Pensions)

