

## A focus on Surrey

UK Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' Housing costs (CPIH) is **4.2%** as of January 2024

compared to 8.8% in 2023

**4.4% decline** in the total number of Surrey businesses (local units) between 2021 and 2023

(2023)



Food inflation falls to 7% but average shopping basket of food costs c. **25% more** than in April 2022

(13th Feb 2024)



The lowest paid 10% of Surrey residents in full-time employment have a median hourly wage of £12.10 (the *real* living wage is £12.00)

(2023)



This report looks at how the Cost of Living Crisis may affect Surrey by bringing together a variety of publicly available local and national statistics, as well as locally produced information on local Warm Welcome sites and from Citizens Advice.

This document is available on the [Surrey-i website \(so click here to see if there is a more recent version\)](#).

**9.7%** increase in the no. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in state-funded Surrey schools

(2021/22 & 2022/23)



**3 in every 10** pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSMs) in state-funded Surrey schools do NOT take up FSM

(2022/23)



Just under **1 in 10** Surrey children aged 15 and under are in absolute low income households

(2021/22)



**8% more** Surrey residents on Universal Credit and looking for work in January 2024 compared to previous year



### Summary points:

- **Inflation stabilising around 4%.**
- **Household finances continue to be difficult.**
- **The lowest 10% of Surrey's full-time workers and part-time workers may be at risk of falling below the real living wage.**
- **Energy price cap to decrease by £238 from 1<sup>st</sup> of April.**
- **Sharp increase in landlord repossessions.**
- **More business enterprise failures than start-ups.**
- **4% fewer local business units since 2021.**
- **Unemployment and homelessness activity still low, though show signs of increasing.**
- **Crime up 6%, shoplifting by 55%.**

**7.3%** of Surrey households are estimated to be in fuel poverty

(2021)



**12%** of Surrey households are NOT connected to the gas network

(2021)



**5.3%** of Surrey households have electric prepayment meters which have higher costs

(2017)



Approximately **1%** of Surrey domestic households lack central heating

(2021)



The latest **national** mortgage rate is **5.03%** for fixed and **5.57%** for variable mortgages

(December 2023)



National private rental prices **increased by 6.0%** in January compared to last year

(January 2024)



**55%** increase in shoplifting

(Apr-Jun 2023 compared to previous year)



Fuel prices still **historically high**, and increasing again.



# Inflation – stabilising, but most prices remain HIGHER than in past

## National interest rate – 5.2% (maintained)

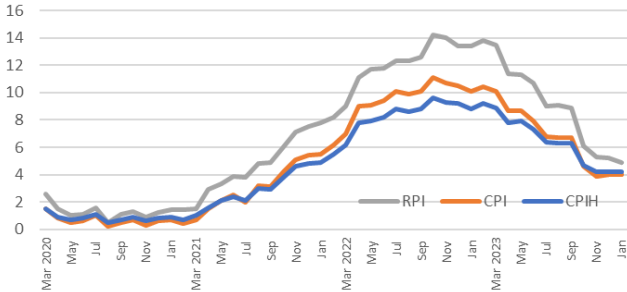
The Bank of England aims to keep prices/ inflation low and stable, which is why interest rates have been increased as an attempt to stabilise inflation. Interest rates are the charges needed to pay on loans and mortgages, alongside the amount of money made from their savings. The idea is to encourage less spending by raising prices.

While this may help the national economy in the long-run, at the individual and household level, people will be struggling to maintain their previous standard of living with these soaring prices.

## Inflation

Inflation has a large impact on household finances as it measures change in the price of goods and services in the UK. Inflation essentially represents rising prices. Rates have bottomed out in the past few months.

UK inflation rates



## January 2024

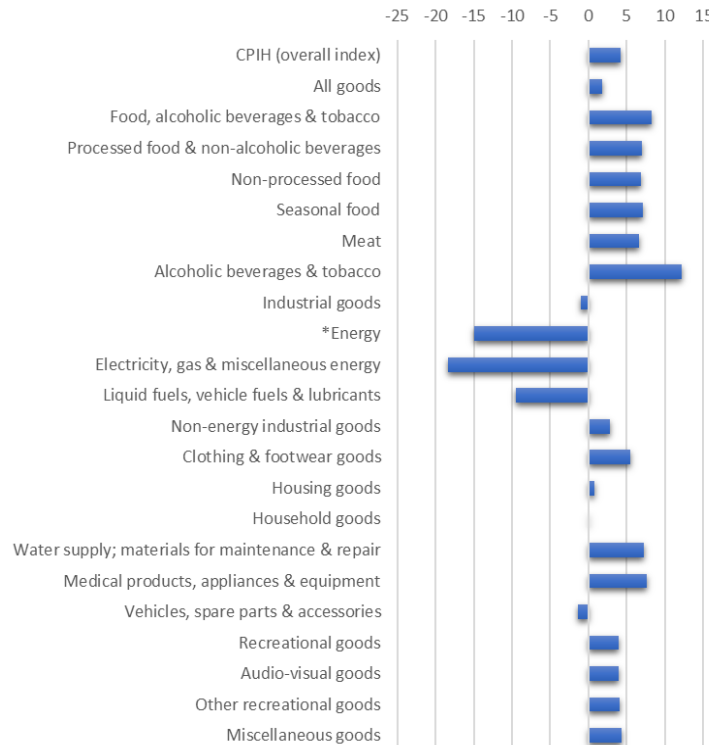
**RPI: 4.9 %**  
**CPI: 4.0 %**  
**CPIH: 4.2 %**

## Household expenditure

Inflation rates for individual components of goods and services are unequal.

Energy wholesale costs overall are now reducing compared to a year ago, particularly electricity and gas, though also liquid fuels. This will not immediately impact on the price of household energy bills.

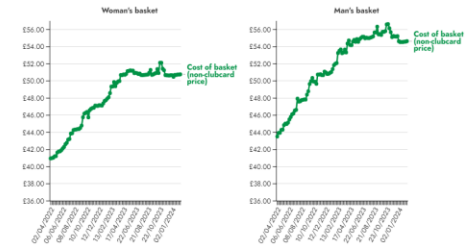
## CPIH subcomponents January 2024



## Food prices

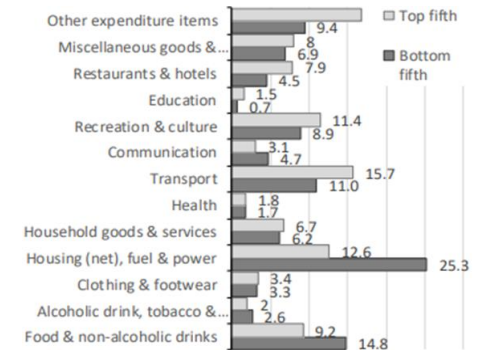
Food and other weekly household shopping items remain capricious but on average are no longer rising steeply.

**£50.77** Tesco basket without Clubcard **£54.64**  
 13 Feb 2024  
 Women's average basket  Men's average basket  
 Previous month = £50.70 Previous month = £54.54  
 Previous year = £49.34 Previous year = £53.26



## Differential household spending

Lower income homes continue to spend a larger proportion of total household expenditure on essential services such as housing, fuel and power. Homes in the lowest fifth of incomes spend more than a quarter of all outgoings on housing, fuel and power.



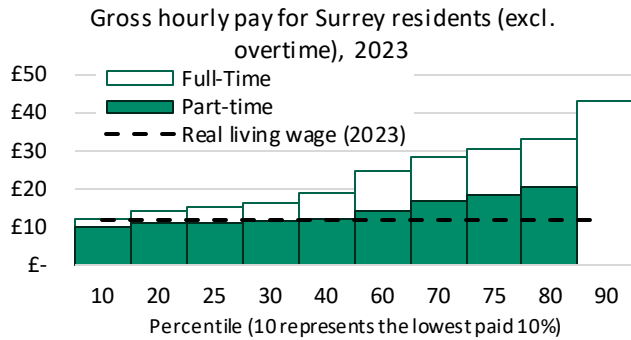
# Poverty and income – low unemployment

## Wages in Surrey

The Resolution Foundation independently calculates the minimum wage required to access necessary goods and services for everyday needs. The 2023 non-London real living wage is £12.00 per hour. Although Surrey residents have **higher than average wages** than England, the lowest ten per cent of Surrey residents in full-time employment have a median hourly wage of less than £12.10.

**£21.41**  
median  
hourly pay  
(full-time)

**£12.59**  
median  
hourly pay  
(part-time)

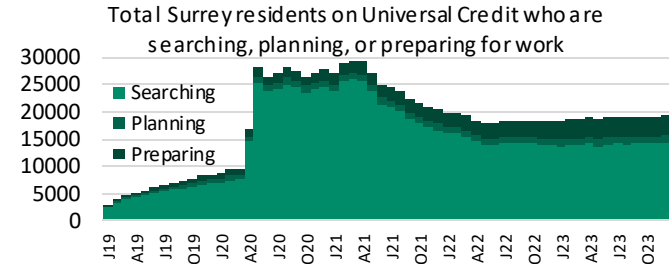


While weekly wages have rapidly increased over the past two years, soaring inflation rates mean that residents may not *feel* the benefit of rising wages but are rather worse off than previous years. While the median weekly full-time wage of Surrey residents has increased between October 2021 and 2023 by £75, after adjustment for average inflation rates, the median weekly wage has decreased by £32 (an estimated decline of around -4%). Surrey residents with the lowest 10% of wages have received, on average, a 2 per cent increase in wages after inflation, but those in the top 10 per cent of earnings have experienced a pay decrease of 7 per cent after inflation. Therefore, Surrey residents are largely just breaking even or suffering from lower actual wages than previous years.

## Unemployment

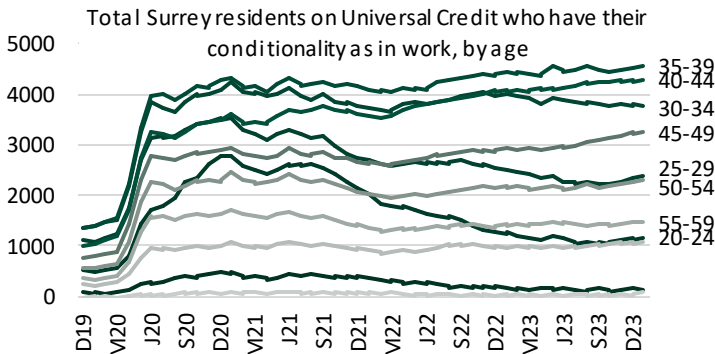
In Surrey, 1.5 per cent of the working age population is unemployed compared to 3.9 per cent for England ([Annual Pop. Survey, Oct 2022- Sept 2023](#)). The number of Surrey residents on Universal Credit (UC) and searching, planning, or preparing for work has slowly increased since February 2023 was 19,687 in January 2024 ([DWP, February 2023](#)).

[Surrey-i page link](#)



## Low income and Universal Credit

Being in work and on Universal Credit (UC) *can* represent being on a low income that cannot support an individual or household without additional funds. Unlike for the unemployed, there have been varying trends of in work UC recipients by age. In work Surrey residents aged 30 to 44 on UC have the highest and most rapidly growing numbers. In contrast, the number of working residents on UC aged 20 to 24 rapidly declined after mid-2021 but this is now starting to plateau or slightly grow again.



## Children in Poverty

In 2021/22, 8.6 per cent of Surrey children aged 15 or under lived in absolute low-income households (19,901 children) and this is likely to have risen due to the rising Cost of Living Crisis ([DWP, 2021/22](#)). Just under 8 in every 10 of these Surrey children were in employed families and likely to be on low income rather than relying solely on something like Universal Credit.

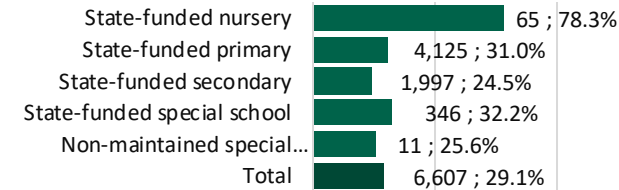
[Surrey-i page link](#)

## Free School Meals (FSMs)

In 2022/23, 13.9 per cent of pupils in state-funded Surrey schools are known to be *eligible* for free school meals (an annual increase of 2,004 children from the 2021/22 figure of 12.8%). Only 9.8 per cent of pupils are known to *take* free school meals. As shown below, just under 3 in every 10 pupils who are known to be eligible do not take up their free school meals in Surrey, representing 6,607 children. As the Cost of Living Crisis continues, these missing eligible families should be supported to claim free school meals for their children.

[Surrey-i page link](#)

Percentage of pupils eligible for FSMs in Surrey state-funded schools who **did not** claim FSMs, 2022/23



Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, DfE, 2022/23

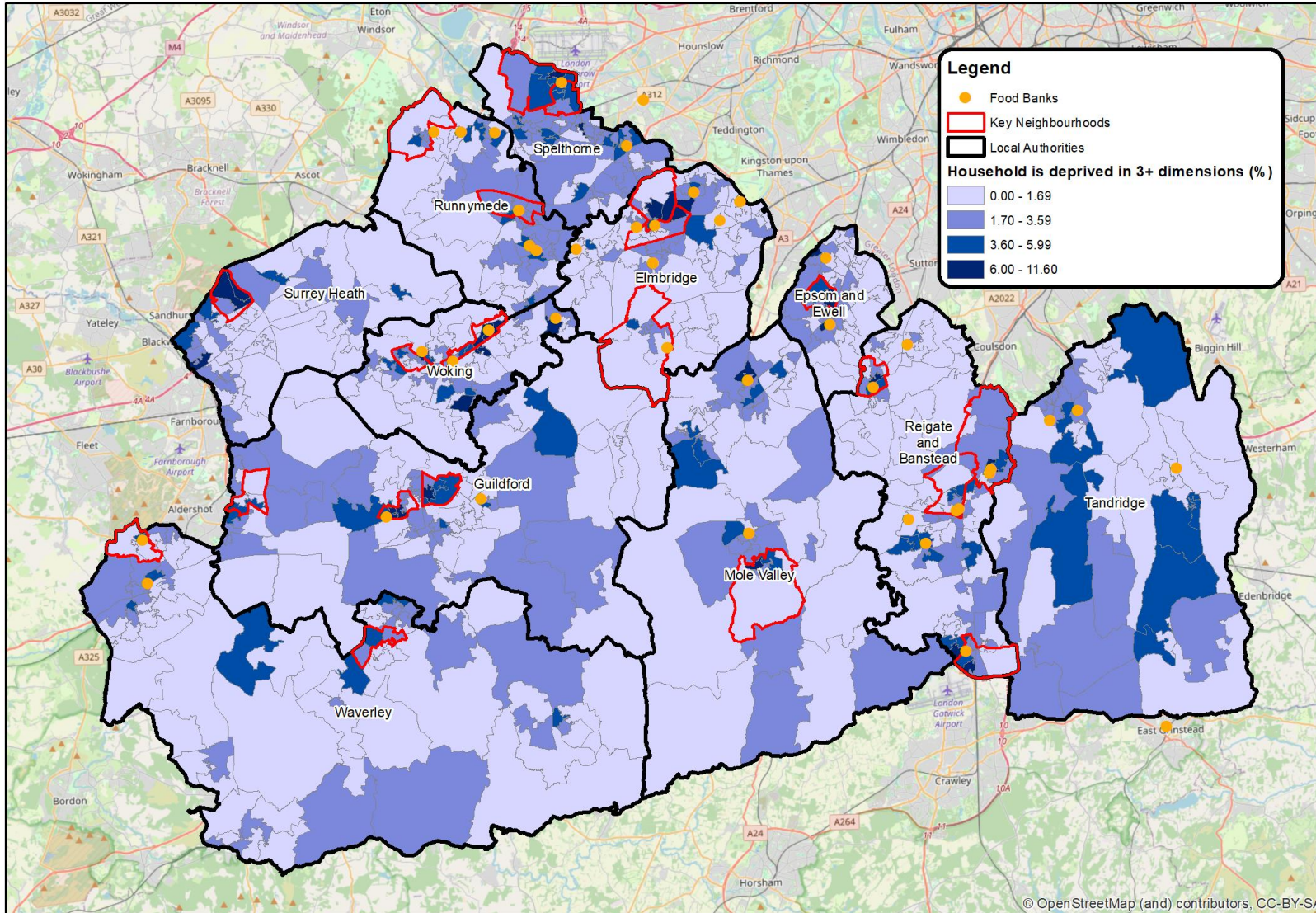
## Pensioners in Poverty

In August 2023, 14,139 Surrey residents aged 65 and over were on Pension Credit which can represent levels of poverty in older residents ([DWP, May 2023](#)). Just under 90 per cent of these residents do not have a partner in residence and so may face additional financial pressures.

[Surrey-i page link](#)

# Deprivation versus access to Food Bank delivery points

**Neighbourhoods with greatest proportion of households affected by multiple disadvantage** (deprived in at least 3 of the 4 dimensions of deprivation in the 2021 Census (employment, education, health and disability, and housing overcrowding))



Place type	Number
Food banks	51
Key Neighbourhoods	21

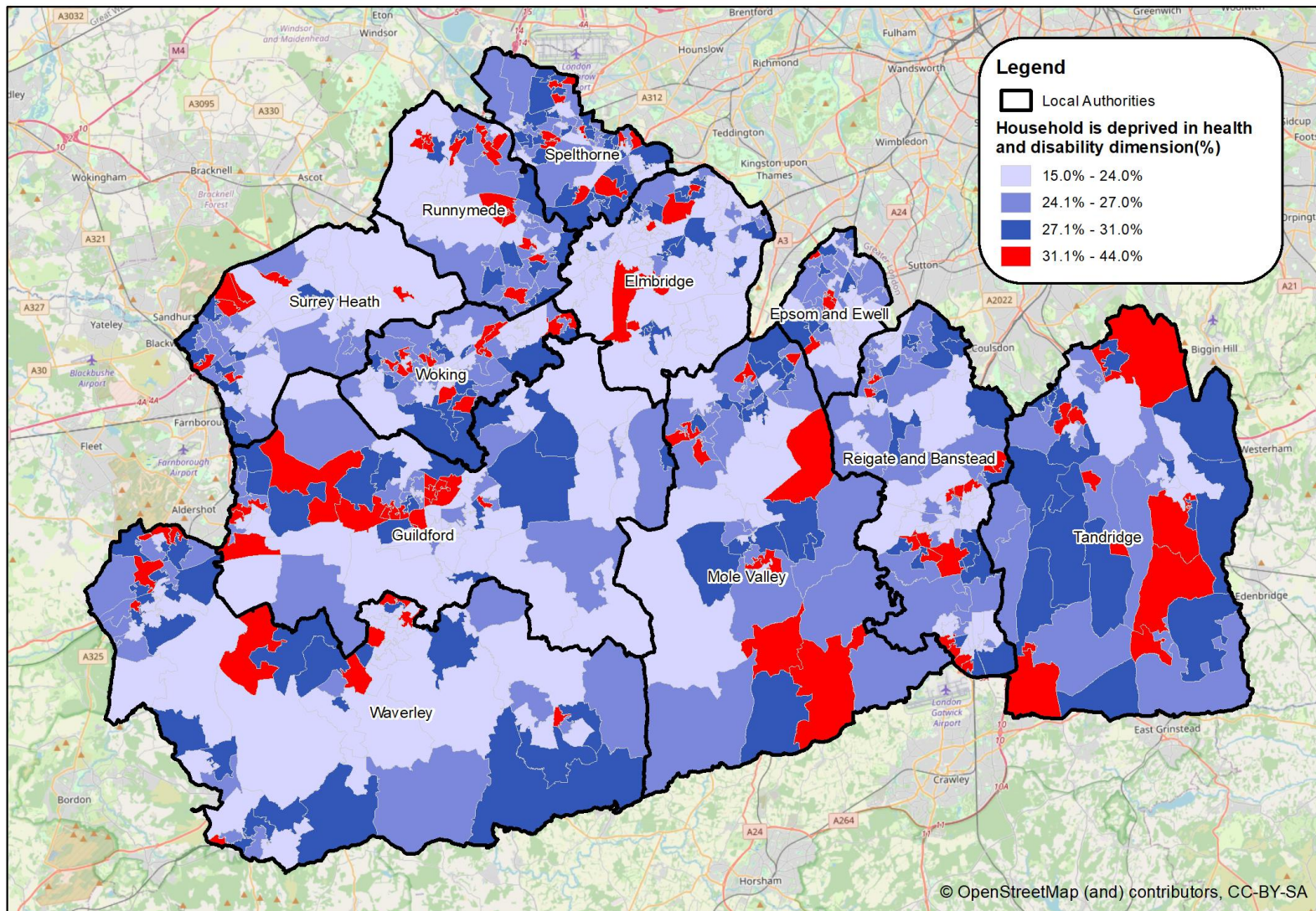
This map shows a recent assessment of areas with the greatest deprivation amongst households, as assessed through the Census 2021.

The Key Neighbourhood wards for prioritisation under the Health and Wellbeing Strategy are identified in red. Food bank delivery points are also shown as orange/yellow dots.

Certain neighbourhoods of higher than average Census Deprivation are clearly at a distance from nearest Food Bank.

Consideration could be given to accessibility issues.

## Neighbourhoods with greatest prevalence of homes affected by disability and poor health (Census 2021)

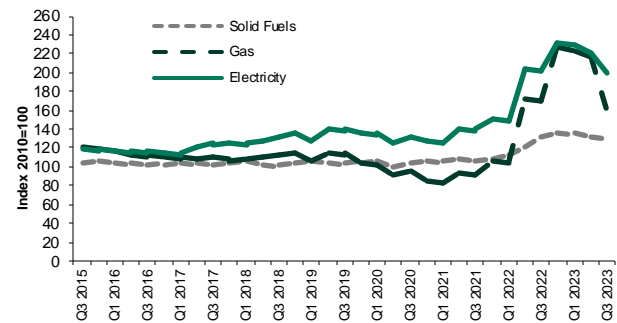


This map shows a recent assessment of areas with the greatest health and disability deprivation using Census 2021 figures. Households are classified as deprived in the health and disability dimension if **any person** in the household reported being disabled or in bad general health (which includes those who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illness).

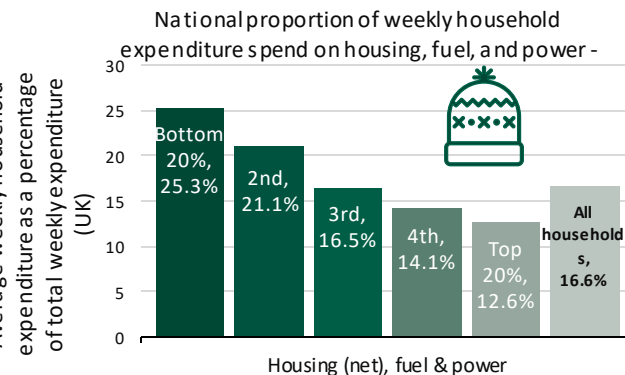
The map divides the number of LSOAs in Surrey into quartiles (4 groups equally distributed). Using this classification, LSOAs painted in red correspond to the highest quartile (25% most deprived) as they have the **greatest proportion of households affected by health and disability deprivation**.

## Fuel prices

Fuel price indices in the domestic sector (in real terms) recorded a large price increase for both electricity (+56%) and gas (+116%) between the first quarter (Q1) in 2022 and the fourth quarter (Q4) in 2022. Comparing the most recent domestic price data available for July to September 2023 (Q3) with the same period in 2022, fuel prices are 5% higher. Even though there is a reversing trend as prices begin to decrease, they remain above the reference line (100).



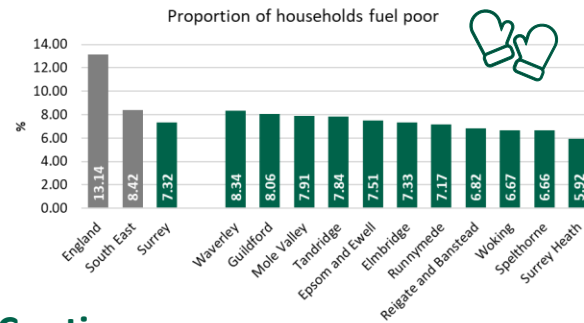
The average household in the UK spends an average of £25.70 per week on electricity, gas, and other fuels. Expenditure on housing, fuel, and power each week affects poorer households disproportionately more (25.3%) compared to more affluent ones (12.6%).



## Fuel poverty

[Surrey-i page link](#)

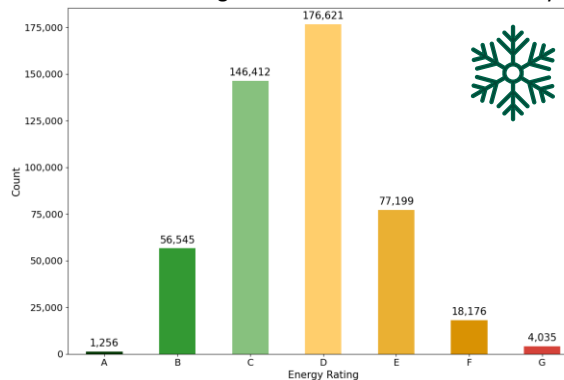
The latest Fuel Poverty data from 2021 estimates that **7.3% of households (34,000) are fuel poor** in Surrey. While this percentage is lower than the averages for both England (13.1%) and the South East (8.4%), the picture across the district and boroughs shows pockets with higher levels of fuel poverty as indicated in the map on the next slide.



## EPC ratings

Of the 480,244 Energy Performance Certificates issued in Surrey between January 2008 and December 2023, 22,211 households have F-G ratings. This represents 4.62% of the total number of certificates accounting for approximately 0.62%. EPC potential figures estimate that this could potentially be reduced to fewer than 3,000 households.

EPC current rating in domestic households in Surrey



## Not on the gas network

[Surrey-i page link](#)

There were approximately 12% or 60,000, domestic households which were not connected to the gas grid in Surrey in 2022. While this rate is below the averages for both South East and England at 15%, there are LSOAs in Surrey where up to 94% of properties are not connected to the gas grid.

## Prepayment meters

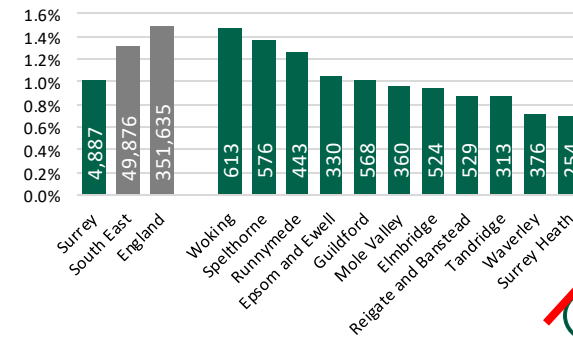
According to the 2019 Electric prepayment meter statistics (figures from 2017) from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, there are approximately 25,000 prepaid electricity meters in Surrey which generate a median consumption of 3,200 kwh (Kilowatts per hour).

[Surrey-i page link](#)

## Central Heating

While the proportion of Surrey households without central heating is lower than the national and regional averages (1% compared to 1.5% and 1.3%), just under five thousand Surrey households lack central heating and may therefore be affected differently by rising fuel costs.

Surrey households with no central heating, 2021 Census

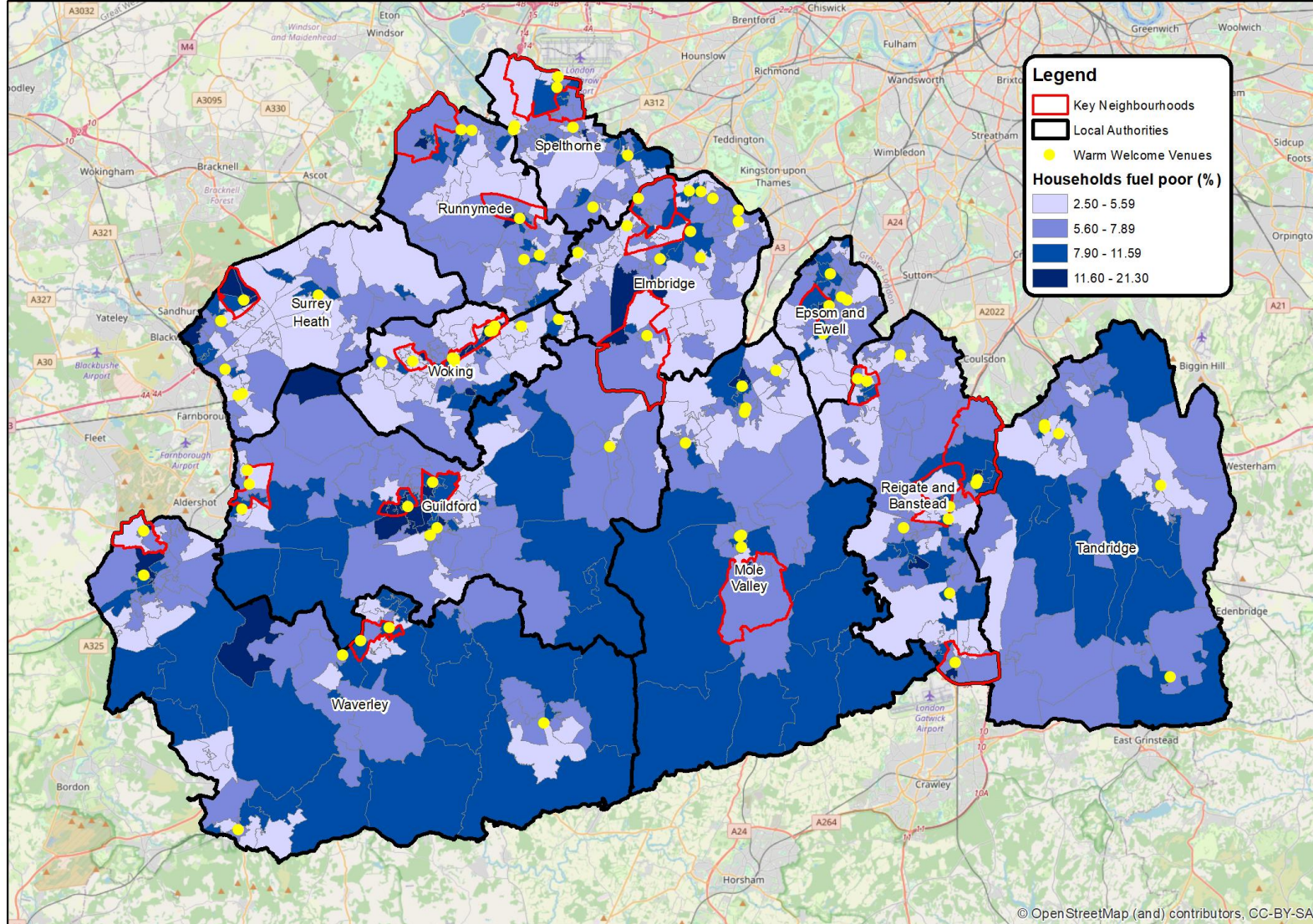


**Energy price cap set to decrease by £238 from 1<sup>st</sup> April. (Ofgem, 2024)**

# Fuel poverty map

## Neighbourhoods with greatest proportion of homes affected by fuel poverty (low income, high fuel cost, high energy consumption and poor efficiency)

[Surrey-i page link](#)



Place type	Number
Key Neighbourhoods	21
Warm Welcome Venues (inc. libraries)	86 mapped

This map depicts areas with highest fuel poverty across the county.

The location of Warm Welcome Hubs and the Key Neighbourhood areas of highest concern for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy are also shown.

Areas of greatest fuel poverty tend to be small, densely populated urban housing. There are also large swathes of rural areas across the south of the county that have relatively high proportion of fuel poor homes.

Warm Welcome Hubs tend to be located in urban locations.

# Warm Welcome venues

Warm Welcome venues are safe spaces where residents can keep warm, enjoy a hot drink, interact with other residents and get energy advice. WWVs across Surrey can be found in a variety of community spaces including community and church halls, libraries, and leisure centres.

## November counts

There were 4,610 visits to the 37 Warm Welcome venues recorded (uptake from 40 venues) in November 2023. The largest proportion of visits was recorded in Woking with 30.4% (1,403 visits), Elmbridge with 22.5% (1,035 visits), and Epsom and Ewell with 14.5% (669 visits).

## December counts

In December 2023 there were 4,845 visits to the 41 Warm Welcome venues (uptake from 43 venues) in Surrey, +23 more compared to November. The largest concentration of visits was recorded in Mole Valley with 882, followed by Elmbridge with 822, and Surrey Heath with 776.

Between November and December there was an increase in the number of venues in operation, from 37 in November to 41 in December. Please note this list of venues does not include libraries as they record their attendance differently. The full list of venues can be found [here](#).

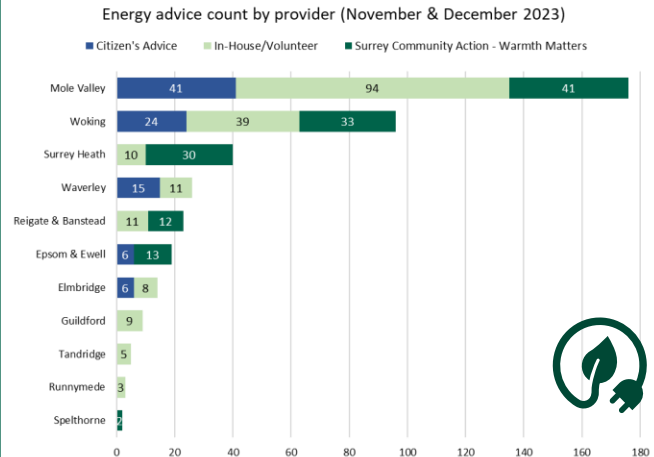
It's worth noting that not all people using WWVs might necessarily live in the area they visit, and could also come from other parts of Surrey or even outside of the county.

## Hot meals

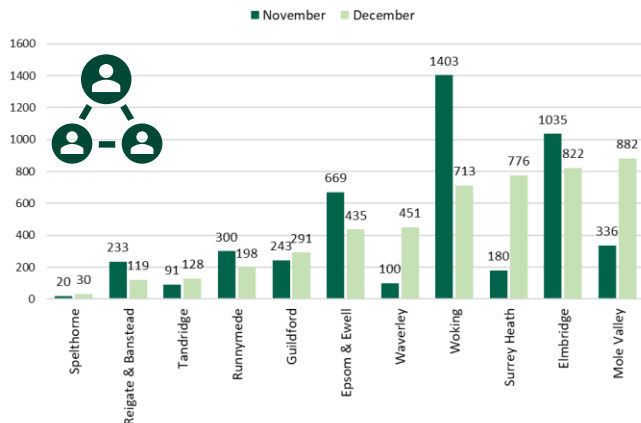
Some venues in Surrey offer hot meals to their visitors, although this is not a mandatory requirement. The latest figures show that approximately 20 venues located in 9 Districts/Boroughs offered hot meals to their visitors. For the combined period November/December 2023, there was an estimate of 4,465 hot meals offered, 2,297 in November, and 2,168 in December. There are no existing records of hot meals provided in any venue within either Reigate & Banstead, or Spelthorne. Both districts also recorded the lowest attendance.

## Energy advice

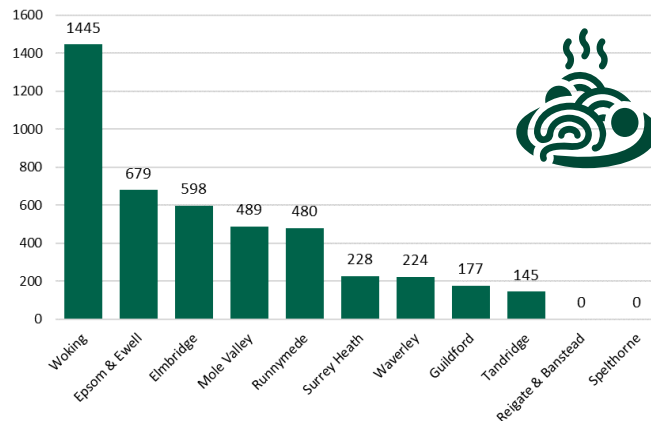
Energy advice is also part of the services that the Warm Welcome venues staff offer to residents. Many residents struggle to pay their bills and keep their homes warm and often have to choose between keeping warm and eating. There were 413 instances of energy advice given in the 2-month period November/December, 223 in November and 190 in December.



Visitor counts (November & December 2023)



Hot meals count by District and Borough (Nov-Dec 2023)



## Library cup counts

Libraries track their footfall via 'cup count' and figures are provided separately from Warm Welcome Venues.

For the 2-month period November-December 2023 there were 7,523 visitor counts (4,146 in November and 3,377 in December). The data comes from 52 locations across Surrey County.

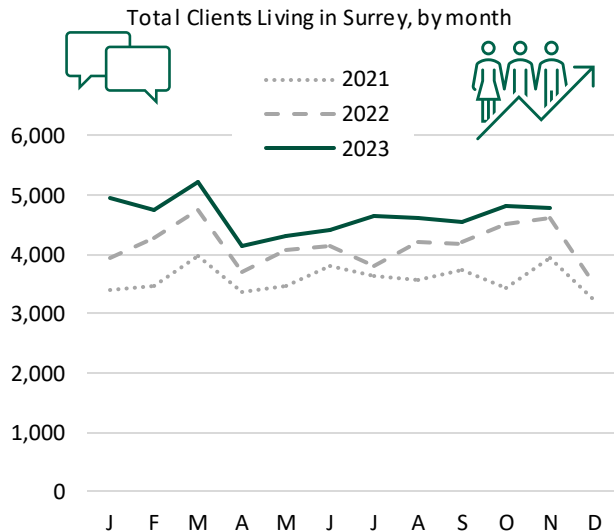




Citizens Advice is a network of charities across the country who aim to help people with their problems by providing free advice. There are physical Citizens Advice centres across Surrey alongside online advice and a free helpline. Advice is offered on a wide range of issues including benefits, work, debt, money, housing, family, law, immigration, and health.

As shown below, the number of clients identified as living in Surrey who were supported has increased year-on-year over the past three years for every month. Charities like Citizens Advice face rising client numbers alongside large cuts to funding and resources.

Clients approach Citizens Advice with an average of around 3 issues each. Interactions with clients require time and resources as they may not approach with a simple problem and the complexity of issues is continuing even as client numbers increase.



## Cost of Living Related Issues

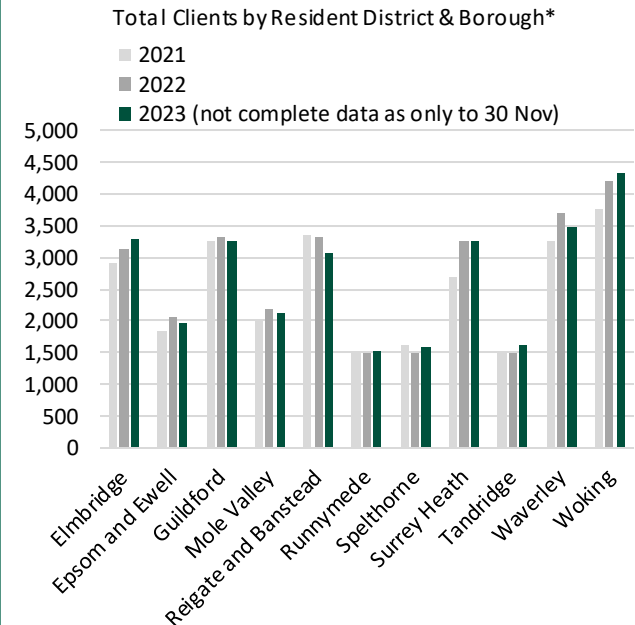
A selection of issues have been presented below as they have experienced growing numbers of clients over the past year and may be relevant when considering the rising cost of living.

The number of Surrey residents who discussed food banks is consistently high at over two thousand residents (with an increase of 20 per cent over the last year). Compared to the previous year, the number of clients with fuel issues rose by 83 per cent and more residents have discussed not being able to pay their council tax (78% increase). There has also been a 14 per cent rise in the number of clients discussing threatened homelessness and a 35 per cent increase in clients discussing actual homelessness.

	Previous year (Dec 21 – Nov 22)	Dec 22 – Nov 23	Yearly change	% Change
<b>Fuel (gas, electricity, oil, coal etc.)</b>	507	926	419	83%
<b>Council tax arrears</b>	162	289	127	78%
Bank & building society overdrafts	14	21	7	50%
Mortgage & secured loan arrears	40	60	20	50%
Rent arrears - housing associations	64	92	28	44%
Other telecoms debt (landline, broadband, bundle, TV)	5	7	2	40%
Magistrates Courts - fines & compensation order arrears	28	39	11	39%
<b>Actual homelessness</b>	202	273	71	35%
Catalogue & mail order debts	6	8	2	33%
Arrears of income tax, SEISS, CJRS, VAT or NI contributions	8	10	2	25%
Localised social welfare	755	916	161	21%
<b>Food Banks</b>	2,072	2,478	406	20%
Unpaid parking penalty & congestion charges	72	83	11	15%
<b>Threatened homelessness</b>	597	680	83	14%

## Districts and Boroughs

Postcodes of clients are recorded (when provided by the client) so we can view client trends by districts and boroughs. Woking has consistently had the highest number of clients out of the Surrey districts, while Runnymede and Tandridge have much lower client numbers. Funding varies between districts and boroughs, and this can determine the number of clients helped in each area. For example, the lower total clients in Runnymede and Spelthorne coincide with lower levels of CA funding in these areas. Therefore, lower client numbers may not represent less resident need in these areas but less funding and access. Although the below total numbers of clients for 2023 are incomplete, the total clients are still higher for the first 11 months of 2023 for Elmbridge, Spelthorne and Woking than for the whole of the previous year.

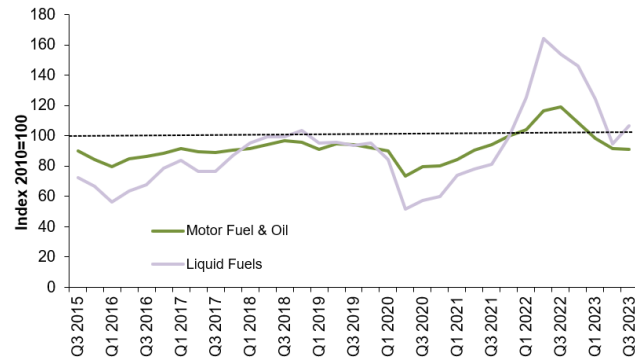


# Transport: petrol and diesel costs volatile; train fares set to increase

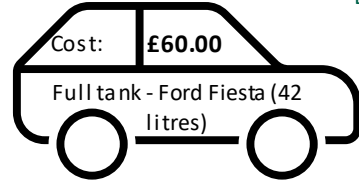
[Surrey-i page link](#)

## Cost of motor fuel

Cost of motor fuels and oil increased sharply from 2020 but has now fallen back to lower than 2010 equivalents.



National average price at the pump, 4 December 2023 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero)



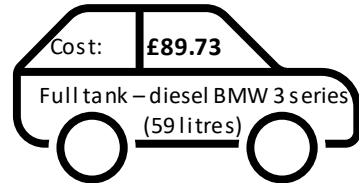
£62.10 one year ago

**£20**

now buys:

**14.0 litres of petrol**  
(13.5 one year ago).

**13.2 litres of diesel**  
(11.8 one year ago)



£99.89 one year ago

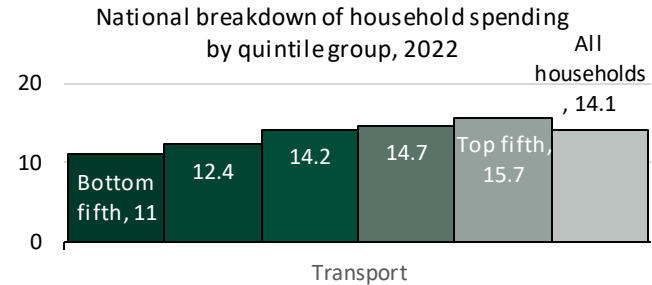
## Car use in Surrey

Surrey has **high car use** compared to the rest of the country.

As of the 2021 Census, Surrey had a higher proportion of households with car or van access (87%) than the national and regional averages (83% and 77% respectively).

Surrey households are also more likely to have multiple vehicles, with a higher number of cars and vans per household.

Many drivers are experiencing significant rises in personal insurance cover.



## Other transport use in Surrey

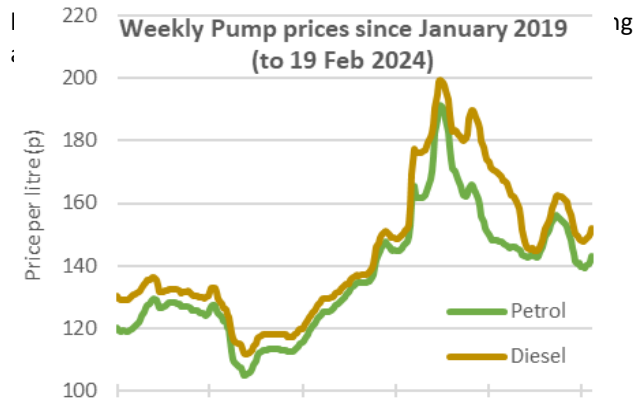
As a rural county, bus and train journeys are an essential part of life for many residents.

Train fares increased by 5.9% in 2022, 5.7% in 2023, and are expected to increase by 8% next year – although this increase has been delayed until March.

Surrey has extended the £2 bus ticket price cap.

## Average weekly fuel prices

Prices paid at the pump by motorists increased sharply from mid-2020 to a peak in July 2022. Prices then fell to July 2023 before rising again. Prices generally fall since



In reality, local prices will generally be higher than these national averages, with pump prices in the South East of England generally a few pence more per litre.

(RAC Fuel Watch, November 2023)

Used car costs have increased alongside longer wait times for newer cars due to a continuing backlog in production caused originally by the pandemic.

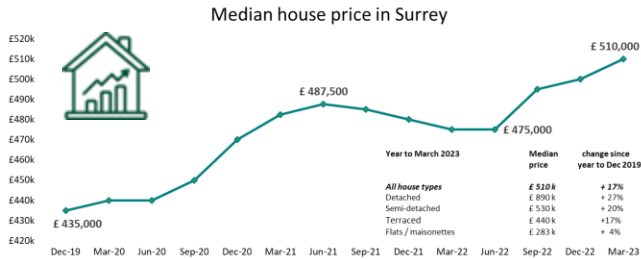
Organisations, including Surrey County Council, are increasingly encouraging workers to return to work.

# Housing: affordability of housing still problematic

[Surrey-i page link](#)

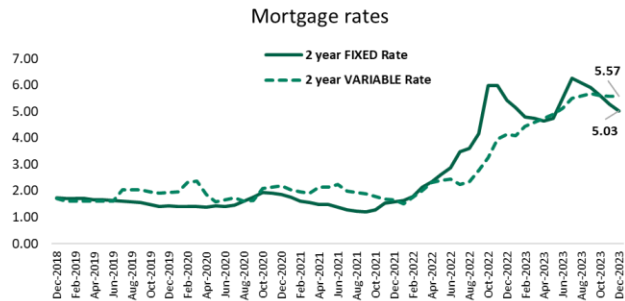
## House prices

The median house prices in Surrey have increased by **7.4%** in March 2023 compared to the previous year and by **17% compared to December 2019**. Between December 2019 and March 2023, the largest price increase was recorded in *detached* houses, with an average increase of 27%, followed by *semi-detached* houses at +20%.



## Mortgage rates

Mortgage rates for lenders have generally been increasing since January 2022, and by the end of December, stood at an average of 5.03% for fixed rates, and 5.57% for variable rates. Fixed rates have seen a percentage point decrease of 0.40 in December while variable rates saw a 1.43 percentage point increase, compared to December last year. Increases to lender rates will impact on existing borrowers as well deter prospective borrowers.

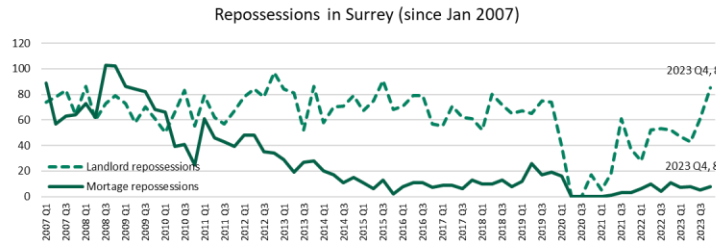


## Affordability ratio

The average [affordability ratio in Surrey is 15.5](#), representing the multiple of annual earnings required to afford a home. Surrey features some of the highest price-to-salary ratios across the South East region, with some properties exceeding 20 times annual earnings. The most unaffordable local authorities in Surrey – and the South East - are Elmbridge with a ratio of 20.04 times annual earnings, closely followed by Epsom and Ewell at 20.00 times.

## Repossessions

Repossession activity in Surrey for the period October to December 2023 (Q4) shows that there were 8 mortgage repossessions, and 85 landlord repossessions. This represents an increase of 3 and 24 repossessions respectively compared to figures from Q3. Compared to the last quarter (Q4) of 2022, the number of landlord repossessions has increased by 63% (+33) and it is now **the highest since 2015**.



## Homelessness

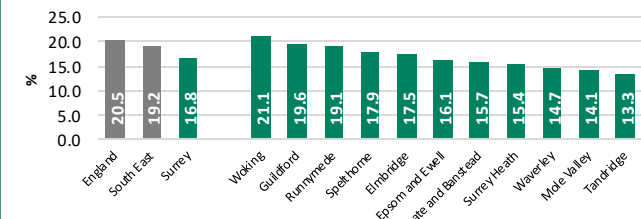
The latest available statutory homelessness data for the period from April to June recorded that 892 households received initial assessments of homelessness. Of the households assessed during this period, 97% (871) were owed a duty: 520 were owed a prevention duty, and 351 were owed a relief duty. For every 1,000 households in Surrey, 1.08 households are assessed as *threatened with homelessness* and 0.73 are assessed as *already homeless*.

## Private rental

Private rental prices in the UK increased by 6.2% in the 12 months leading up to January 2024, marking the largest increase since January 2016. Regional figures indicate that the annual rent inflation in the South East was 6.0% for the same period.

Census 2021 figures estimate that 28.2% of households in Surrey are rented in some form. Of this, private rented households constitute the second largest category, accounting for 16.8%. This can vary across local authorities.

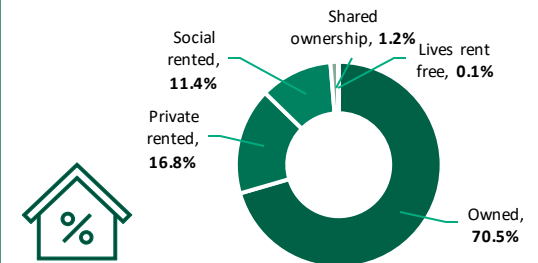
Private rented households



## Social housing

Census 2021 Tenure figures indicate that 11.4% of households in Surrey, amounting to 55,055, are classified as *Social rented*. This is lower than both the national (17.1%) and regional (13.6%) averages. Within this category, 39.6% (21,791) are *Council or Local Authority rented*, and 60.4% (33,264) fall under *Other social rented*.

Census 2021 - Household tenure in Surrey



# Business: 4% reduction in local business units

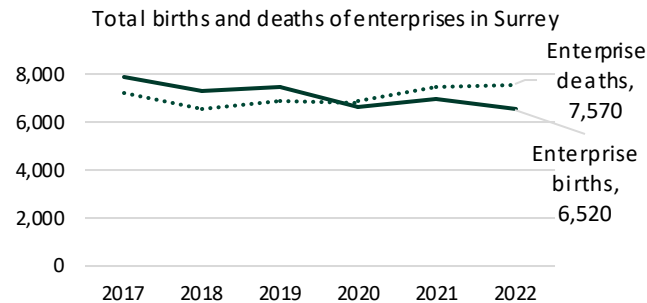
The Cost of Living Crisis is also likely to affect residents through businesses. Many of these statistics are slow to be released and so may not yet fully represent the adverse effects of the crisis on the Surrey economy.



## Enterprises

As of 2022, Surrey has 68,170 active enterprises. An enterprise is a business which is often located at the main operating site or the head office. While small businesses may regularly have the head office and the operations at the same address, larger businesses (e.g., a retail chain with several hundred shops across the UK) may have a head office in London or another large city alongside various operational units (local units or sites) around the country.

The latest data shows that after 2020, there have been more deaths than births of enterprises in the county. This is through an increase in the number of deaths and a decline in the number of new births.



Surrey enterprises have had a slightly better survival rate than the England average. For example, 43.9 per cent of 2017 enterprises have survived five years in Surrey compared to 39.4 per cent in England. Around 95 per cent of Surrey enterprises born between 2017 and 2019 survived a year, but this fell to 93.1 per cent for those born in 2020 and 94.3 per cent born in 2021.

## Local units

Enterprises can include multiple local units in different locations to the site of the enterprise head office. Local units represents the businesses local to Surrey.

There are 4 per cent fewer local units in Surrey as of 2023 compared to 2021, representing 3,195 businesses across the county. Two of the three sectors with the most local units in Surrey also experienced the greatest losses between 2021 and 2023. The information and communication sector had the largest percentage decline in their total Surrey enterprises at nearly a quarter lost (-17%, -1,350) between 2021 and 2023, followed by the professional, scientific, and technical sector (-11%, -1,640).

Change in the number of Surrey local units between 2021 and 2023, by sector



	2023 total	Change from 2021	% change from 2021
Information & communication	6,605	-1,350	-17%
Professional, scientific & technical	13,700	-1,640	-11%
Retail	5,285	-490	-8%
Manufacturing	2,180	-125	-5%
Wholesale	2,395	-110	-4%
Transport & storage (inc postal)	2,055	-70	-3%
Financial & insurance	2,245	-75	-3%
Business administration & support services	6,845	-225	-3%
Motor trades	1,710	-45	-3%
Education	1,640	-10	-1%
Public administration & defence	260	0	0%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	850	10	1%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	4,830	75	2%
Health	3,275	130	4%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	370	15	4%
Accommodation & food services	3,565	150	4%
Construction	9,245	395	4%
Property	2,895	175	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,940</b>	<b>-3,195</b>	<b>-4%</b>

Overall, there are 4.4 per cent fewer local units (i.e., businesses) in Surrey in 2023 compared to 2021.

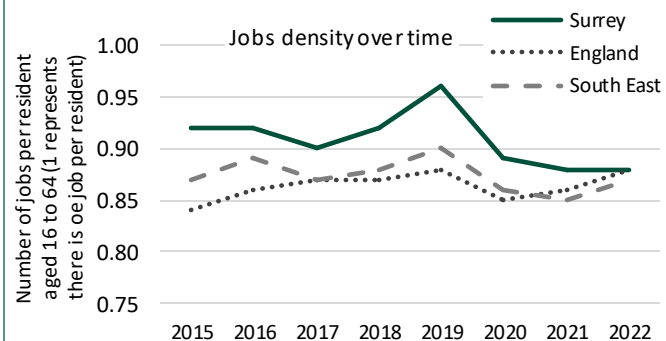
The total number of smaller sized businesses have declined the most. In March, there were over three thousand fewer Surrey business with the smallest number of employees (0 to 4 employees) in 2023 compared to 2021 (representing a change of -5.9%).

Change in total Surrey local units between 2021 and 2023, by number of employees

	2023 total	Change from 2021	% change from 2021
0 to 4	52,985	-3,305	-5.9%
5 to 9	7,940	30	0.4%
10 to 19	4,395	-80	-1.8%
20 to 49	2,905	135	4.9%
50 to 99	990	40	4.2%
100 to 249	510	-15	-2.9%
250 to 499	150	10	7.1%
500 to 999	50	0	0.0%
1000+	20	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,940</b>	<b>-3,195</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>

## Jobs density

Businesses have also been hit by the Cost of Living Crisis from rising fuel and transport costs to higher costs of goods and other services. More businesses have died alongside ongoing businesses being under strain and less likely to employ new staff. The latest jobs density data is from 2022. Jobs density is now the same/similar across Surrey (0.88 jobs per resident), the South East (0.87), and England (0.87). Jobs density in Surrey is lower than pre-2020 levels which peaked at 0.96 in 2019 and 0.92 in 2018.



# Crime: 6% up overall, shoplifting up 55%, drug trafficking up 68%



Latest public data on crime by detailed offence runs to the end of **JUNE 2023**.

In this period, overall crime ("all recorded offences" was up slightly (by 6%) compared to the same quarter one year previous ly.

Possession of weapons offences, theft offences, Violence against the person, sexual offences, and drug offences, all showed increases on the corresponding period of the previous year.

Other offence groups were down – notably robbery, and public order offences at 12% and 10% lower.

Offence Group	2020				2021				2022				2023			Latest Qtr vs year ago	
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	DoT	Difference	%
Criminal damage and arson	2,319	1,941	2,251	1,912	1,683	2,053	1,850	2,034	1,931	1,829	1,793	1,811	1,864	1,757	▼	-72	-4%
Drug offences	795	959	791	997	840	730	508	680	560	552	705	516	605	602	▲	50	9%
Miscellaneous crimes	438	379	439	366	376	421	348	312	383	421	394	447	422	399	▼	-22	-5%
Possession of weapons offences	146	182	180	149	128	136	144	145	155	150	145	152	156	212	▲	62	41%
Public order offences	1,828	2,260	2,606	1,810	1,743	2,501	2,603	2,056	2,441	2,364	1,855	1,933	2,200	2,136	▼	-228	-10%
Robbery	96	120	115	98	92	98	105	90	111	113	128	118	117	99	▼	-14	-12%
Sexual offences	507	442	622	513	502	643	671	691	755	606	580	607	592	650	▲	44	7%
Theft offences	6,530	4,027	5,268	4,820	4,321	4,704	4,825	5,421	5,489	5,226	5,830	5,877	5,480	5,923	▲	697	13%
Violence against the person	6,030	5,904	6,888	5,752	5,428	7,003	6,803	6,471	6,874	6,692	6,988	6,733	7,025	7,177	▲	485	7%
<b>All recorded offences</b>	<b>18,689</b>	<b>16,214</b>	<b>19,160</b>	<b>16,417</b>	<b>15,113</b>	<b>18,289</b>	<b>17,857</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>18,699</b>	<b>17,953</b>	<b>18,418</b>	<b>18,194</b>	<b>18,461</b>	<b>18,955</b>	▲	1002	6%

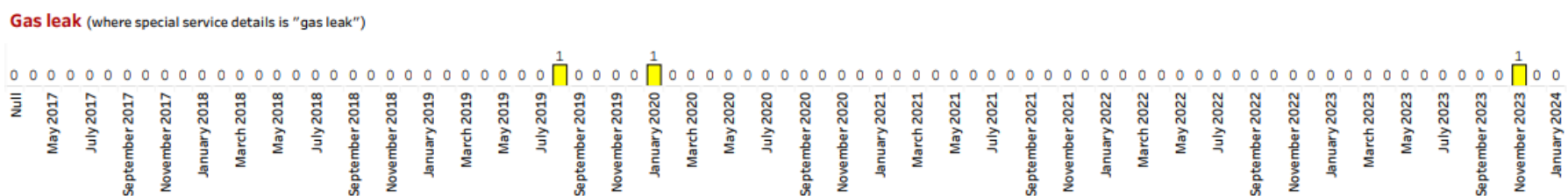
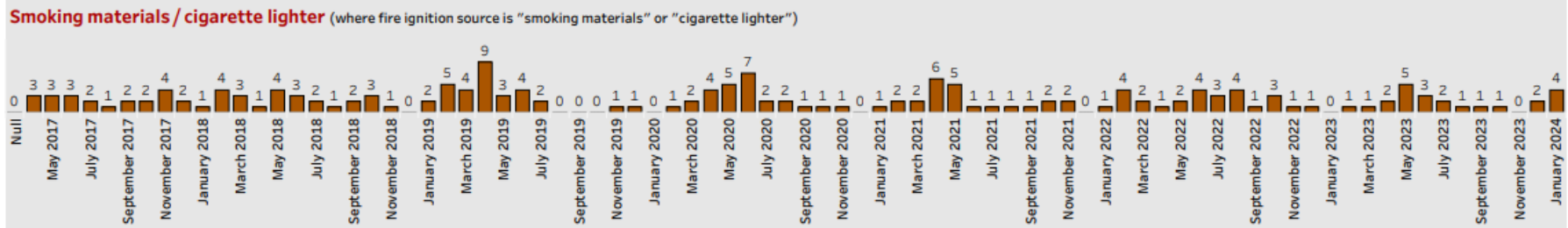
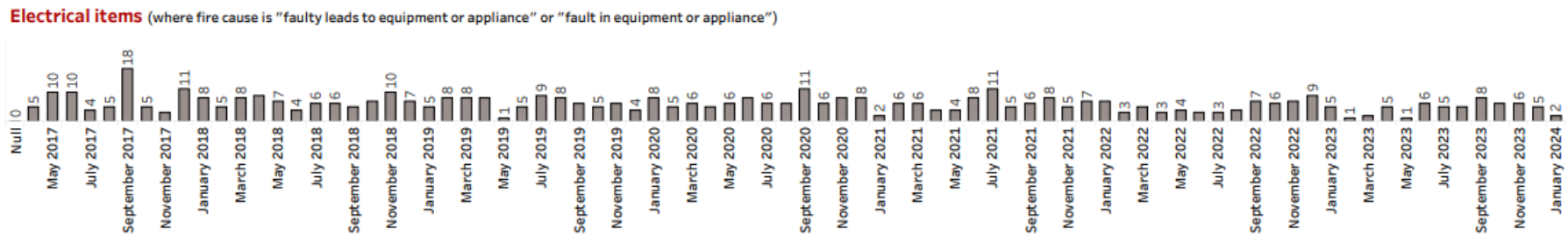
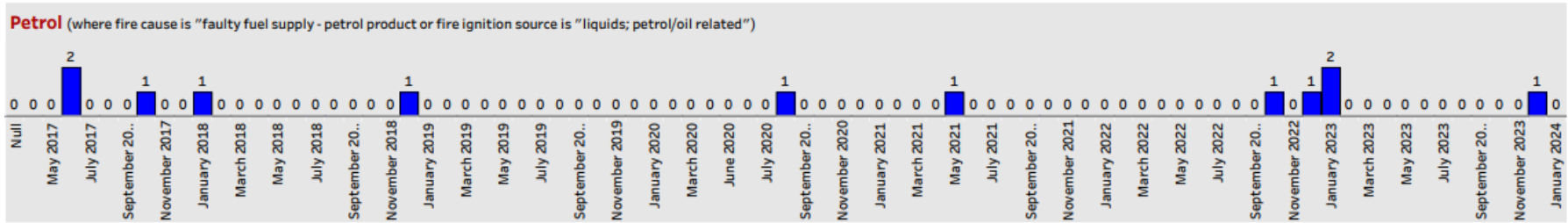
However, different types of offence within these broader groups have seen rises. Notably, shoplifting is up 55%; Assault on police by 73%, drug trafficking up 68%. See table to right:

Offence Description	2020				2021				2022				2023			Latest Qtr vs year ago	
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	DoT	Difference	%
Assault without injury on a constable	114	85	122	81	62	124	98	90	132	95	104	115	148	164	▲	69	73%
Assaults on emergency workers (other than constables)	0	19	21	15	28	29	26	38	20	24	13	25	31	30	▲	6	25%
Blackmail	53	52	68	55	81	88	106	119	138	154	135	172	182	201	▲	47	31%
Controlling and coercive behaviour	0	116	113	91	119	117	88	87	104	137	454	369	240	136	▼	-1	-1%
Harassment	640	680	661	609	751	931	894	689	805	796	724	724	946	1,148	▲	352	44%
Interfering with a motor vehicle	236	159	170	181	184	171	183	208	150	165	237	301	222	316	▲	151	92%
Robbery of business property	10	14	4	10	6	3	9	7	9	10	13	17	16	15	▲	5	50%
Shoplifting	924	594	888	752	682	812	793	775	1,001	889	932	1,160	1,148	1,381	▲	492	55%
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	426	339	335	334	298	326	368	503	429	479	541	516	470	522	▲	43	9%
Threats to kill	194	229	285	221	192	276	293	274	225	286	251	276	304	286	▲	0	0%
Trafficking in controlled drugs	196	197	208	204	200	214	130	141	131	120	153	164	176	202	▲	82	68%

# Fire incidents (1): no significant increase in any incident monitored



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service monitor a range of incidents that might be predicted to increase due to the Cost of Living crisis; for example, where people turn to alternative fuel sources. Thankfully, NONE of the types of incident monitored have shown any significant long-term increase over historic levels.



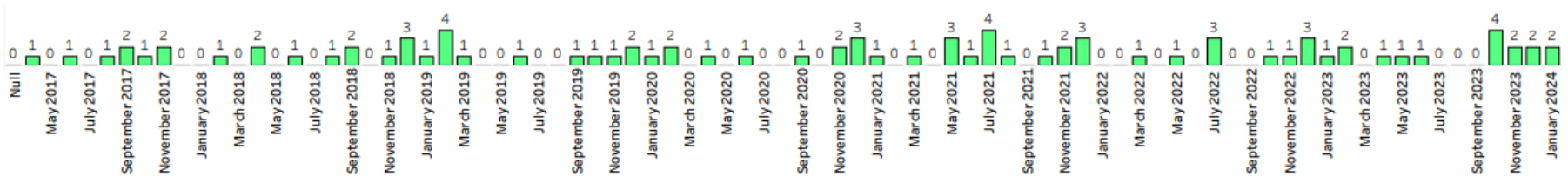
# Fire incidents (2): no significant increase in any incident monitored



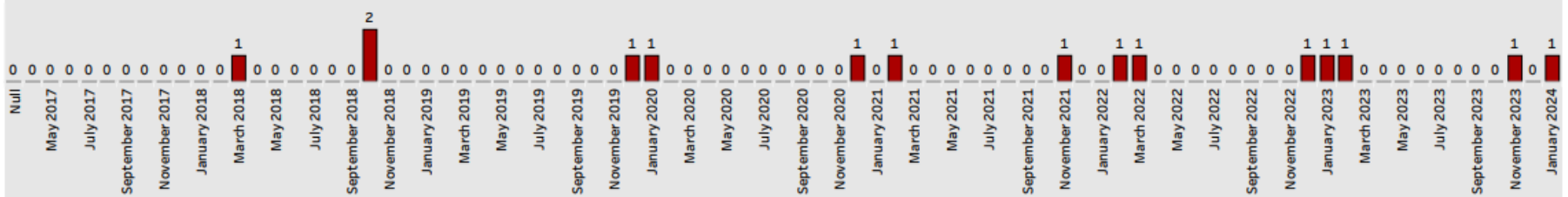
**SURREY  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

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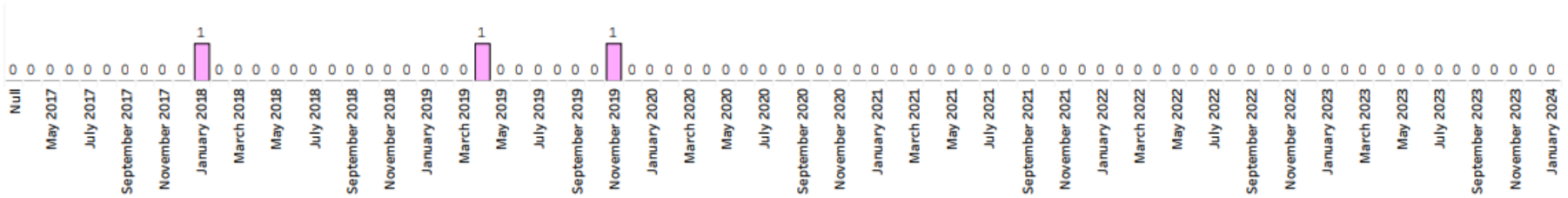
**Candles** (where fire ignition source is "candles")



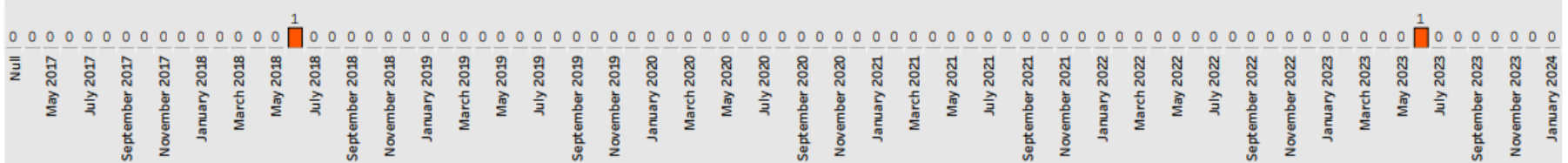
**Chimney** (where fire cause is "chimney fire" or fire ignition source is "chimney")



**Electric Blanket** (where fire ignition source is "electric blanket")



**Patio Heater** (where fire ignition source is "patio equipment")

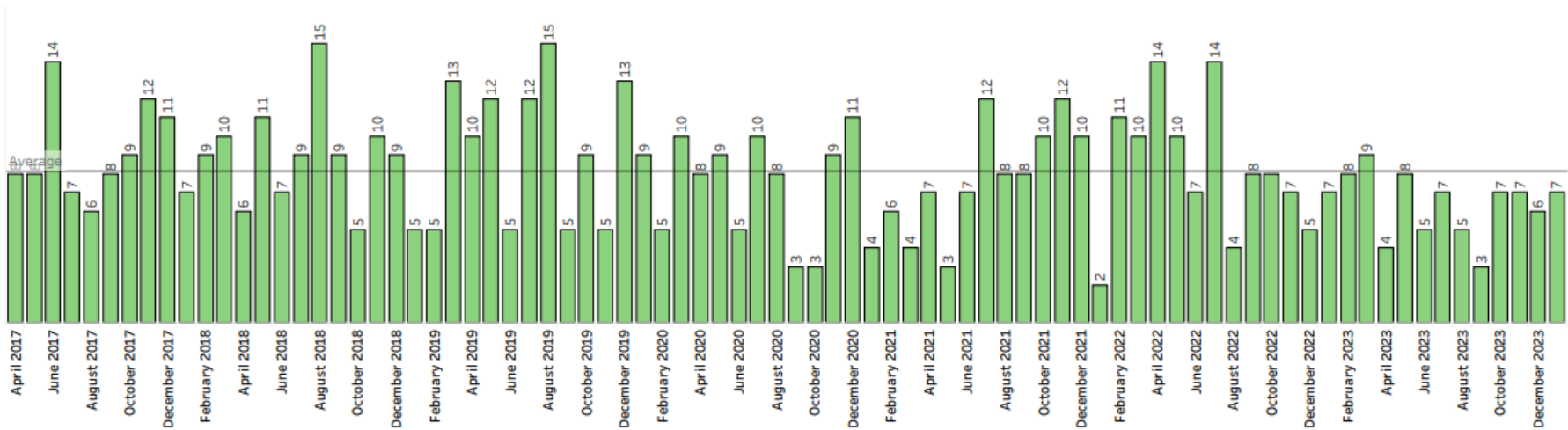


# Fire incidents (3): no significant increase in any incident monitored

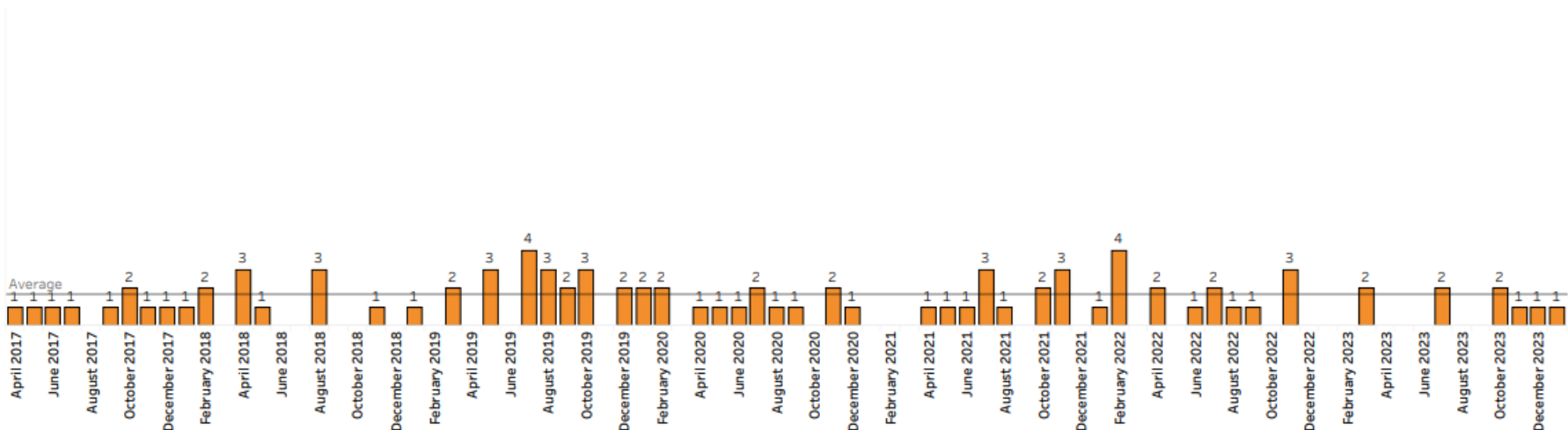


Surrey Fire and Rescue Service monitor a range of incidents that might be predicted to increase due to the Cost of Living crisis: where people turn to alternative fuel sources for example. Thankfully, NONE of the types of incident monitored have shown any significant long-term increase over historic levels.

All commercial/industrial fires



Deliberate commercial/industrial fires





# Sources

Name	Date	Source	Source website	Associated Surrey-i page
Wages (incl. Surrey)	2023 (provisional) (published November 2023)	Office for National Statistics (ONS)	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/earnings-and-hours-worked-place-of-residence-by-local-authority">Earnings and hours worked, place of residence by local authority: ASHE Table 8 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a>	TBC.
Universal Credit (incl. Surrey)	January 2024 (published February 2024)	Department for Work and Pensions	<a href="https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/">https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/vdy6m/low-income-and-unemployment-in-surrey">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/vdy6m/low-income-and-unemployment-in-surrey</a>
Free School Meals (incl. Surrey)	2022/23 (published November 2023)	School Census, ONS	<a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/2nddx/child-poverty-and-disadvantage-in-surrey">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/2nddx/child-poverty-and-disadvantage-in-surrey</a>
Unemployment rate (incl. Surrey)	October 2022 to September 2023	Labour Force Survey (via nomis)	<a href="https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/">Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)</a>	TBC.
Pension Credit (incl. Surrey)	August 2023 (published February 2024)	Department for Work and Pensions	<a href="https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/">https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/23k47/pensioners-in-poverty-pension-credit">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/23k47/pensioners-in-poverty-pension-credit</a>
Children in low-income households (incl. Surrey)	2021/22 (published October 2023)	Department for Work and Pensions	<a href="https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/">https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/2nddx/child-poverty-and-disadvantage-in-surrey">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/2nddx/child-poverty-and-disadvantage-in-surrey</a>
Interest rates (national)	Jan 2001 - Nov 2023 (published November 2023)	Bank of England	<a href="https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/interest-rates">Interest rates and Bank Rate   Bank of England</a>	n.a.
Inflation (national)	October 2023	ONS	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/datasets/consumerpriceinflation">https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/datasets/consumerpriceinflation</a>	n.a.
Family spending in the UK (national)	April 2021 to March 2022 (published May 2023)	ONS	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/bulletins/familyspendingintheuk/april2021tomarch2022">https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/bulletins/familyspendingintheuk/april2021tomarch2022</a>	n.a.
Tesco food prices (national)	26th Feb 2024	The Food Foundation	<a href="https://foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-prices-tracking#trackers">https://foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-prices-tracking#trackers</a>	n.a.
Surrey Key Neighbourhoods	n.a.	Surrey County Council using the IMD	. n.a.	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/key-neighbourhoods/">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/key-neighbourhoods/</a>
Energy Prices: Domestic Prices (national)		Department for Energy Security & Net Zero	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-energy-prices">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-energy-prices</a>	n.a.
Fuel poverty (incl. Surrey)	2023 (published Feb 2023)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/ex21x/fuel-poverty-and-related-statistics">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/ex21x/fuel-poverty-and-related-statistics</a>
Weekly road fuel prices (national)	26th Feb 2024	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/weekly-road-fuel-prices">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/weekly-road-fuel-prices</a>	n.a.

# Sources

Name	Date	Source	Source website	Associated Surrey-i page
RAC Fuel Watch (regional)	November 2023	RAC	<a href="https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/fuel-watch">https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/fuel-watch</a>	n.a
Car or van availability – Census 2021 (incl. Surrey)	March 2021 (published January 2023)	ONS - Census	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS045/editions/2021/versions/4">https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS045/editions/2021/versions/4</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/census-2021/2021-census-car-or-van-availability/">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/census-2021/2021-census-car-or-van-availability/</a>
Statutory homelessness	April-June 2023 (published November 2023)	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/homelessness-statistics">Homelessness statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>	TBC.
Mortgage rates (national)	January 2000 to November 2023 (published November 2023)	Bank of England	<a href="#">Bank of England   Database</a>	TBC.
Mortgage and Landlord Possession statistics	July to September 2023 (published November 2023)	Ministry of Justice	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics</a>	TBC.
House prices	March 2023 (published Sep 2023)	ONS	<a href="#">Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a>	TBC.
Renting	October 2023 (published Nov 2023)	ONS	<a href="#">Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a>	TBC.
Social housing – Census 2021 (incl. Surrey)	March 2021 (published January 2023)	ONS – Census	<a href="#">Tenure - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a>	<a href="https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/census-2021/2021-census-housing/">https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/census-2021/2021-census-housing/</a>
Business demography (survival, births & deaths) (incl. Surrey)	2022 (published November 2023)	ONS	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/businessdemographyreferencetable">https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/businessdemographyreferencetable</a>	TBC.
Business activity, size, and location (incl. Surrey)	March 2023 (published September 2023)	ONS	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation">https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation</a>	TBC.
Job density (incl. Surrey)	2022 (published January 2024)	ONS	<a href="https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/">https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/</a>	TBC.
Citizens Advice	2022/23	Direct from Citizens Advice	n.a	TBC.