

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – September 2010

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in August 2010 was **132,198**. The claimant count was **156 higher than in July 2010** and 24,427 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom increased by 14,988 between July and August 2010 to 1.46 million.

There were **46,800 vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in August 2010, which is 6,000 higher than a year ago**. In August 2010, there were 3 claimants per vacancy – compared to 4 claimants per vacancy in August 2009.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to July 2010 there were **273,000 unemployed people in the region – about 8,000 lower than in the previous three months**. The North West (down 16,000), Yorkshire and Humber (down 12,000) and West Midlands (down 13,000) saw greater falls in unemployment than the South East. Unemployment in London was up 10,000 in the same period. In the UK the total number of people out of work decreased by 8,000 to 2.467 million.

- There were **156,000 men out of work in the region – down 13,000 on the previous three months**. **Female unemployment increased by 5,000** in the three months to June 2010, to 118,000.

In the three months to July the average **unemployment rate was 6.2%, which is now the second lowest of any region following with the South West (6%)**. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region has remained stable at 4.16 million** over the previous three months. Almost all other regions saw large increases in employment, with the East of England (up 54,000), the South West (up 44,000) and London (up 39,000) all experiencing substantial rises. In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 286,000.

- **Women's employment fell by 22,000 and men's increased by 21,000 during the three months to July.**

The **employment rate was 74.7%** in the three months to July – falling by 0.2% points on the previous quarter, but still the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people decreased by 8,000** in the three months to July. In the East of England, the figure increased by 62,000.

- **Men's economic activity increased by 9,000, whilst women's fell by 17,000** in the three months to July 2010.

The **economic activity rate was 79.7%** in the three months to July, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 21,000** during the three months to July. The rate of economic inactivity was 20.3%, still the lowest of all regions.

¹ This is the non seasonally adjusted figure, which we use for consistency, as sub-regional data is only available without seasonal adjustment. The seasonally adjusted figure in the South East for August 2010 is 134,700 – a fall of 800 since July.