

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – January 2011

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in December 2010 was **131,600**. The claimant count was **500 lower than in November 2010** and 25,000 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom fell by 4,100 between November and December 2010 to 1.46 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to November 2010 there were **273,000 unemployed people in the region – about 8,000 lower than in the previous three months**. The North West saw the strongest fall in unemployment (down 17,000) followed by the South East and Yorkshire and Humber (down 6,000). West Midlands (up 48,000) and East Midlands (up 15,000) saw the strongest growth in unemployment. **In the UK the total number of people out of work increased by 49,000 to 2.5 million.**

- There were **158,000 men out of work in the region – down 7,000 on the previous three months. Female unemployment declined by 2,000** in the three months to November 2010, to 115,000.

In the three months to November the average **unemployment rate was 6.1%, which is still the second lowest of any region following with the South West (5.9%)**. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region has increased by 21,000 to 4.19 million over the previous three months. The South East recorded the largest absolute increase in employment**. Other UK regions also saw increases in employment with Scotland (up 18,000) London (up 16,000), North West (up 9,000), Wales (up 6,000) and the East of England (up 5,000). Several regions saw a substantial decline in employment over the previous three months with West Midlands (down 69,000), Yorkshire & the Humber (down 24,000), North East (down 36,000) and Northern Ireland (down 12,000). In the UK as a whole, employment decreased by 69,000.

- **Women's employment increased by 8,000 and men's increased by 13,000 during the three months to November 2010.**

The **employment rate was 75.1%** in the three months to November – an increase of 0.3% points on the previous quarter, remaining the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people increased by 12,000 in the three months to November.**

- **Men's economic activity increased by 6,000 and women's increased by 6,000** in the three months to November 2010.

In the three months to November, the **economic activity rate increased by 0.1 percentage points, to 80.1 per cent**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 1,000** during the three months to November. The rate of economic inactivity was 19.9% (down by 0.1 percentage points), the lowest of all regions.

¹ The non seasonally adjusted claimant count in the South East was 127,800 in December, an increase of 662 compared to November. In the UK, the non seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 11,900 to 1.43 million.