

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – April 2011

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in March 2011 was **129,900**. The claimant count was **300 higher than in February 2011** and 22,400 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom increased by 700 between February 2011 and March 2011 to 1.45 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to February 2011 there were **263,000 unemployed people in the region – about 10,000 less than in the previous three months. Only the East of England saw a larger fall in unemployment (down 15,000)**. The North East (up 11,000) and the North West (up 6,000) saw the greatest increase in unemployment. **In the UK the total number of people out of work decreased by 17,000 to 2.48 million.**

- There were **145,000 men out of work in the region – down 13,000 on the previous three months. Female unemployment increased by 3,000** in the three months to February 2011, to 118,000.

In the three months to January the average **unemployment rate was 5.9%, which alongside the South West (6.0%) and East of England (6.0%) was the lowest of any region.** The unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region increased by 19,000 to 4.2 million over the previous three months.** Three regions saw larger rises in employment over the previous three months than the South East; East of England up 42,000, East Midlands up 26,000 and Yorkshire and Humber up 20,000. Other regions to report a rise in employment were London (up 16,000), South West (up 7,000), West Midlands (up 5,000), Scotland (up 7,000) and Wales (up 2,000). Two regions saw a fall in employment over the previous three months; North West down 6,000 and North East down 6,000. In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 143,000.

- **Women's employment in the region decreased by 3,000 and men's increased by 22,000 during the three months to February 2011.**

The **employment rate was 75%** in the three months to February – no change on the previous quarter, remaining the highest of any region.

The **number of economically active people increased by 8,000 in the three months to February.**

- **Men's economic activity increased by 9,000 and women's showed no change on the previous three months.**

In the three months to February, the **economic activity rate stayed unchanged at 80.1 per cent**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 3,000** during the three months to February. The rate of economic inactivity was 19.9%, the lowest in the country.

¹ The non seasonally adjusted claimant count in the South East was 138,859 in March, an decrease of 992 compared to February 2011. In the UK, the non seasonally adjusted claimant count decreased by 11,241 to 1.527 million.