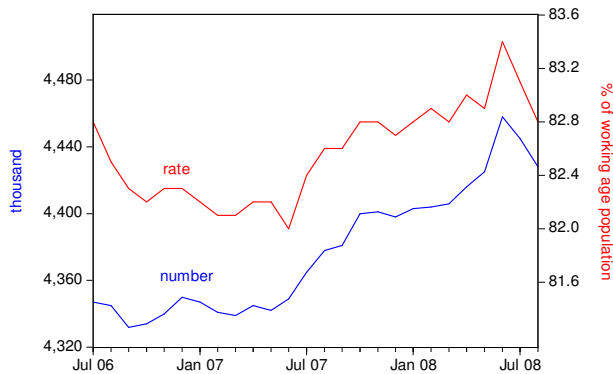


South East Labour Market Update November 2008

Contact: Claire Hann
 Research & Economics Team
 Strategy & Communications Directorate
 01483 501 334
research@seeda.co.uk

Economic activity starting to fall...



Source: National Statistics 2008

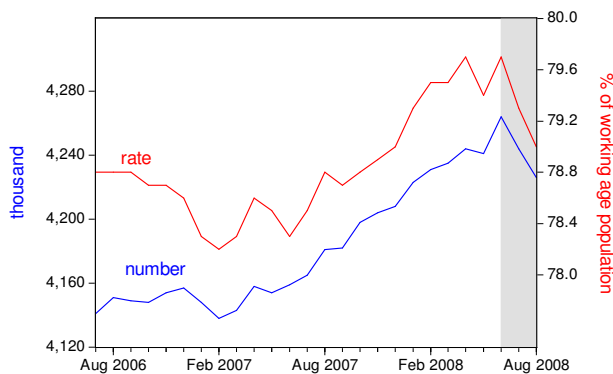
Economic Activity

Data for the three months to September shows that there were 4.43 million economically active people aged over 16 in the South East, or 3,000 higher than in the previous quarter.¹

The economic activity rate in the South East, at 82.8%, is still the highest in the country, despite being 0.1% lower than the previous quarter.

At 79.1%, the national figure remained unchanged on the previous quarter.

Employment also declining



Source: National Statistics 2008

Employment

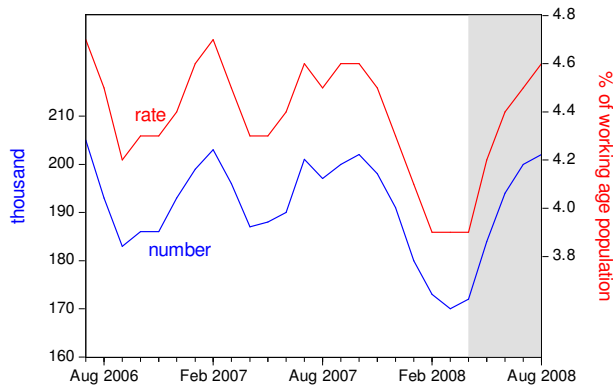
In the three months to September there were 4.23 million people aged over 16 in employment in the South East, which is 15,000 less than in the previous quarter. In the UK there were 29.4 million people in employment – 99,000 fewer than in the previous quarter. This suggests that the fall in employment has slowed slightly in the UK compared to last month's data release, while the South East is showing its first quarterly fall in employment since the beginning of 2007.

Over the three months to September the South East recorded one of the largest falls in employment of any region. Only the North West, West Midlands, Wales and London saw larger falls in employment. However, to put this in context, the South East has the largest number of people in employment, outside London, so a drop of 15,000 represents just 0.4% of the workforce. Moreover, there are still 45,000 more people in employment in the South East than in September last year.

Breaking down the figures by gender reveals that for the first time in recent months female employment in the South East fell, to a greater degree than male employment. Female employment dropped by 9,000 in the three months to September, while male employment fell by 6,000.

¹ The economically active are those who are in employment or unemployed but available for work.

Unemployment continues to rise...



Source: National Statistics 2008

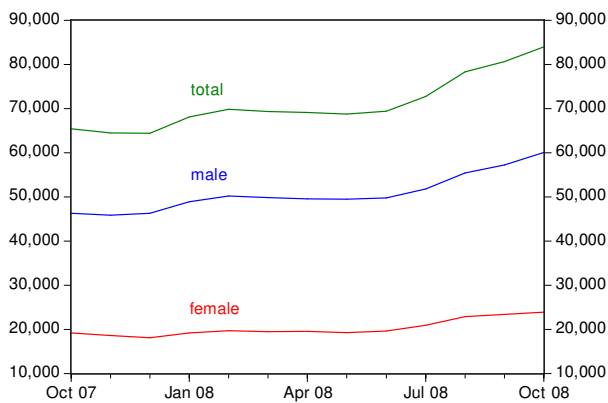
In the three months to September the South East employment rate stood at 79% - 0.4% lower than in the previous quarter. Over the same period the UK employment rate declined by 0.4% to 74.4%. The South East employment rate remains the highest of any region.

The employment rate for men in the South East declined by 0.4% to 83.1% - still the highest in the country. The UK employment rate for males declined by 0.5% to 78.3%. Male employment declined in every English region except the North East, North West, East Midlands and East of England.

The employment rate for women in the South East fell by 0.3% to 74.6%, making it the second highest in the country behind the South West. The UK female employment rate dropped by 0.2% to 70.1%.

Unemployment

Claimant count also rising



Source: National Statistics 2008

In the three months to September there were 202,000 unemployed people in the region, or 18,000 more than in the previous quarter. This represents a smaller increase in unemployment than in the previous quarterly data release. Nevertheless, the only other regions seeing larger increases in unemployment than the South East were Yorkshire and the Humber (a rise of 21,000) and Wales (24,000). The number of unemployed people in the UK increased by 140,000 over the same period.

The unemployment rate for those aged 16+ in the South East increased by 0.4% to 4.6% in the three months to September. This remains one of the lowest rates of any region (except the South West and Northern Ireland). The UK unemployment rate increased by 0.4% to 5.8%.

The increase in unemployment in the South East was entirely driven by a growth in male unemployment, which increased by 20,000 (the largest increase of any region) while female unemployment fell by 2,000. The male unemployment rate increased by 0.8% to 5%. The female unemployment rate fell by 0.1% to 4.1%.

There were 84,800 people in the South East claiming Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) in October - some 4,000 more than in September. The number of men claiming JSA increased by around 3,200 between September and October and the number of female claimants by around 800. There were almost 981,000 people in the UK claiming JSA, and the number increased by 36,500 between September and October.

SEEDA Research & Economics Team | Document control

Note: delete before publishing externally, keep for internal release and SEEDANET (it will allow easy location of documents, charts, maps and data).

Document title	South East Labour Market Update: November 2008
-----------------------	--

Purpose	Economic update
----------------	-----------------

Author(s)	R&E Team
------------------	----------

Audience	SEEDA
-----------------	-------

Release	YES	Internal	YES	External
----------------	-----	-----------------	-----	-----------------

Amendment History			
Date	Issue	Status	Author
12/11/08	V1	Final	R&E

Source/file locations	
Word document	I:\S&S\Strategy\Research & Economics\ECONOMICS\Briefs\Economy updates\Labour market
Charts	I:\S&S\Strategy\Research & Economics\ECONOMICS\Briefs\Economy updates\Labour market
Maps	N/A
Underlying data	I:\S&S\Strategy\Research & Economics\ECONOMICS\Briefs\Economy updates\Labour market

Approved by:	IP	Date:	13/11/08
---------------------	----	-------	----------

* Policy & Economics Briefs are largely internal documents