

## South East Labour Market Update Headlines – June 2010

The **claimant count unemployment<sup>1</sup>** in May 2010 was **142,362**. The claimant count was **9,544 lower than in April 2010** and 12,506 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom decreased by 65,973 between April and May 2010 to 1.5 million.

There were **48,361 vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in May 2010, which is 15,178 higher than a year ago**. In May 2010, there were 3 claimants per vacancy – compared to 5 claimants per vacancy in May 2009.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to April 2010 there were **286,000 unemployed people in the region – about 12,000 higher than in the previous three months**. The increase in unemployment in the South East was only exceeded by Yorkshire and Humber (up 24,000). Unemployment in the West Midlands fell by 14,000 in the same period. In the UK the total number of people out of work increased by 23,000 to 2.47 million.

- There were **175,000 men out of work in the region – up 5,000 on the previous three months**. **Female unemployment increased by 7,000** in the three months to March 2010, to 111,000.

In the three months to April the average **unemployment rate was 6.4%, which is now the second lowest of any region** (behind the South West at 6.1%). The unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region increased by 12,000** during the three months to April 2010. Most regions recorded increases in employment, the exceptions being the East of England (down 14,000) and East Midlands (down 22,000). In the UK as a whole, employment marginally increased by 5,000.

- **Women's employment increased by 2,000 and men's increased by 10,000 during the three months to April.**

The **employment rate was 76.5%** in the three months to April – falling by 0.2% on the previous quarter, but still the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people increased by 24,000** in the three months to April, one of the highest increase of all regions. The East Midlands saw the largest fall of 32,000 for this period.

- **Men's economic activity increased by 15,000, whilst women saw an increase of 9,000** for the three months to April 2010.

The **economic activity rate was 82.0%** in the three months to April, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people decreased by 1,000** during the three months to April. The rate of economic inactivity was 18.0%. The reason why economic inactivity increased is likely to be simply due to population changes (e.g. more people reaching the age of 16 and being counted as inactive).

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<sup>1</sup> 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 for the South East for May 2010 is 138,700 – a fall of 5,300 since April.