

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – July 2010

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in June 2010 was **134,100**. The claimant count was **8,300 lower than in May 2010** and 18,000 lower than a year ago.

There were **40,500 vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in June 2010, which is 10,700 higher than a year ago, but 7,800 lower than in May**. In June 2010, there were 3 claimants per vacancy – compared to 5 claimants per vacancy in June 2009.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to May 2010 there were **272,000 unemployed people in the region – about 12,000 less than in the previous three months**. The decline in unemployment in the South East was only exceeded by West and East Midlands (down by 23 and 15 thousand). In the UK the total number of people out of work declined by 34,000 to 2.47 million.

- There were **162,000 men out of work in the region – down by 9,000 on the previous three months. Female unemployment declined by 4,000** in the three months to May 2010, to 111,000.

In the three months to May the average **unemployment rate was 6.2%, which is the lowest of any region**. The unemployment rate dropped by 0.2 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region decreased by 12,000** during the three months to May 2010. Most regions recorded increases in employment such as Yorkshire & The Humber (up 52,000), South West (up 34,000) and London (up 30,000), the only exception being East of England (down 6,000) and the South East (down 12,000). In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 160,000.

- **Women's employment decreased by 23,000, whilst men's increased by 11,000 during the three months to May 2010.**

The **employment rate was 76.1%** in the three months to May – falling by 0.6% on the previous quarter, but still the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people decreased by 24,000** in the three months to May, being the highest decrease of all regions. Most regions recorded increases in the number of economically active people such as London (up 49,000), Yorkshire & The Humber (up 44,000) and the South West (up 32,000).

- **Men's economic activity increased by 3,000, whilst women saw a decrease of 27,000** for the three months to May 2010.

The **economic activity rate was 81.2%** in the three months to May 2010, remaining the highest in the country (along with East of England's).

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 46,000** during the three months to May 2010 and the rate of economic inactivity was 18.8%. 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).

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 for the South East for June is 135,600 – a fall of 3,300 since May.