

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – August 2010

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in July 2010 was **132,042**. The claimant count was **2,093 lower than in June 2010** and 21,514 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom decreased by 3,061 between June and July 2010 to 1.44 million.

There were **40,283 vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in July 2010, which is 8,538 higher than a year ago**. In July 2010, there were 3 claimants per vacancy – compared to 5 claimants per vacancy in July 2009.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to June 2010 there were **268,000 unemployed people in the region – about 13,000 lower than in the previous three months**. The North West (down 20,000), Yorkshire and Humber (down 15,000) and West Midlands (down 27,000) saw greater falls in unemployment than the South East. Unemployment in London was up 12,000 in the same period. In the UK the total number of people out of work increased by 49,000 to 2.457 million.

- There were **155,000 men out of work in the region – down 14,000 on the previous three months**. **Female unemployment increased by 1,000** in the three months to June 2010, to 113,000.

In the three months to June the average **unemployment rate was 6.1%, which is now the joint lowest of any region along with the South West**. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region fell by 1,000** compared with the previous three months. The South East was the only region to see a fall in employment, with London (up 40,000), the South West (up 32,000) and Yorkshire and Humber (up 31,000) all experiencing substantial rises. In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 184,000.

- **Women's employment fell by 17,000 and men's increased by 16,000 during the three months to June**.

The **employment rate was 74.6%** in the three months to June – falling by 0.3% points on the previous quarter, but still the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people decreased by 14,000** in the three months to June. In London, the figure increased by 52,000.

- **Men's economic activity increased by 2,000, whilst women's fell by 16,000** in the three months to June 2010.

The **economic activity rate was 79.5%** in the three months to June, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 32,000** during the three months to June. The rate of economic inactivity was 20.5%, still the lowest of all regions.

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 in the South East for July 2010 is 135,100 – a fall of 1,400 since June.