

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – October 2010

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in September 2010 was **130,400**. The claimant count was **1,800 lower than in August 2010** and 24,800 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom increased by 5,300 between August and September 2010 to 1.47 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to August 2010 there were **282,000 unemployed people in the region – about 15,000 higher than in the previous three months. East Midlands (up 5,000) and East of England (4,000) saw weaker growth in unemployment than the South East.** The South West (down 14,000), West Midlands (down 14,000), North West (down 8,000) and London (down 6,000) saw falls in unemployment instead. In the UK the total number of people out of work decreased by 20,000 to 2.45 million.

- There were **165,000 men out of work in the region – up 11,000 on the previous three months. Female unemployment increased by 5,000** in the three months to August 2010, to 117,000.

In the three months to August the average **unemployment rate was 6.3%, which is now the second lowest of any region following with the South West (5.7%).** The unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region has increased by 23,000 to 4.17 million** over the previous three months. Some regions saw large increases in employment, with the East of England (up 35,000), the South West (up 35,000), North West (up 29,000) and West Midlands (up 27,000) all experiencing substantial rises. London (up 19,000), North East (up 12,000) and East Midlands (3,000) saw moderate rate of increase in employment while Yorkshire & The Humber (down 32,000) recorded a substantial drop in employment. In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 178,000.

- **Women's employment increased by 21,000 and men's increased by 2,000 during the three months to August.**

The **employment rate was 74.9%** in the three months to August – an increase of 0.3% points on the previous quarter, remaining the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people increased by 39,000** in the three months to August. This was the highest increase of any region (together with East of England).

- **Men's economic activity increased by 13,000, whilst women's increased by 26,000** in the three months to August 2010.

In the three months to August, the **economic activity rate increased by 0.6 percentage points, to 80%**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people dropped by 25,000** during the three months to August. The rate of economic inactivity was 20% (down by 0.3 percentage points), 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 September 2010 is 135,300 – an increase of 300 since August.