

## South East Labour Market Update Headlines – November 2010

The **claimant count unemployment<sup>1</sup>** in October 2010 was **127,400**. The claimant count was **3,000 lower than in September 2010** and 27,500 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom decreased by 7,700 between September and October 2010 to 1.46 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to September 2010 there were **278,000 unemployed people in the region – about 11,000 higher than in the previous three months**. West Midlands (up 13,000) and East Midlands (up 12,000) saw stronger growth in unemployment than the South East. The South West (down 17,000) and London (down 10,000) saw falls in unemployment instead. **In the UK the total number of people out of work slightly decreased by 9,000 to 2.45 million.**

- There were **159,000 men out of work in the region – up 4,000 on the previous three months. Female unemployment increased by 7,000** in the three months to September 2010, to 119,000.

In the three months to September the average **unemployment rate was 6.2%, which is still the second lowest of any region following with the South West (5.5%)**. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region has increased by 36,000 to 4.19 million over the previous three months. The South East recorded the second largest increase in employment, only behind that of London (up 39,000)**. Other UK regions also saw increases in employment with the East of England (up 32,000), the South West (up 29,000), North West (up 21,000), Scotland (up 21,000) and North East (up 17,000) all experiencing moderate rises. Only Yorkshire & The Humber (down 39,000) saw a substantial decline in employment over the previous three months. In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 167,000.

- **Women's employment increased by 19,000 and men's increased by 17,000 during the three months to September 2010.**

The **employment rate was 75.2%** in the three months to September – an increase of 0.6% points on the previous quarter, remaining the highest of the English regions.

The **number of economically active people increased by 47,000 in the three months to September. This was by far the highest increase of any region.**

- **Men's economic activity increased by 21,000, 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 0.8 percentage points, to 80.2 per cent**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people dropped by 33,000** during the three months to September. The rate of economic inactivity was 19.8% (down by 0.8 percentage points), still the lowest of all regions.

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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 in the South East for October 2010 is 133,200 – a decrease of 1,500 since September.