

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – December 2010

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in November 2010 was **127,200**. The claimant count was **250 lower than in October 2010** and 27,500 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom decreased by 3,500 between October and November 2010 to 1.41 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to October 2010 there were **276,000 unemployed people in the region – about 3,000 higher than in the previous three months. East Midlands (up 19,000) and West Midlands (12,000) saw the greatest increase in unemployment.** The South West (down 8,000), Scotland (down 5,000), London (down 4,000) and East of England (down 2,000) saw falls in unemployment instead. In the UK the total number of people out of work increased by 35,000 to 2.5 million.

- There were **158,000 men out of work in the region – up 3,000 on the previous three months. Female unemployment remained unchanged** in the three months to October 2010, at 118,000.

In the three months to October the average **unemployment rate was 6.2%, which is still the second lowest of any region following with the South West (5.7%)**. The unemployment rate remained unchanged over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region has increased by 15,000 to 4.17 million** over the previous three months. Some regions saw large increases in employment, with the South West (up 23,000), Scotland (up 17,000) and London (up 16,000) all experiencing substantial rises. Yorkshire & the Humber (down 33,000), North East (down 23,000) and West Midlands (down 22,000) recorded a substantial drop in employment. In the UK as a whole, employment decreased by 33,000 to 29.1 million.

- **Women's employment increased by 13,000 and men's increased by 2,000 during the three months to October.**

The **employment rate was 75.0%** in the three months to October – 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 17,000** in the three months to October. This was the highest increase of any region.

- **Men's economic activity increased by 4,000, whilst women's increased by 13,000** in the three months to October 2010.

In the three months to October, the **economic activity rate increased by 0.4 percentage points, to 80.1%**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people dropped by 20,000** during the three months to October. The rate of economic inactivity was 19.9% (down by 0.4 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 November 2010 is 131,700 – a decrease of 1,100 since October.