

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – February 2011

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in January 2010 was **130,200**. The claimant count was **1,000 lower than in December 2010** and 28,000 lower than a year ago. The claimant count in the United Kingdom rose by 2,400 between December 2010 and January 2011 to 1.46 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to December 2010 there were **273,000 unemployed people in the region – about 5,000 lower than in the previous three months**. The North West saw the largest fall in unemployment (down 19,000) followed by Scotland (down 13,000). West Midlands (up 28,000) and North East (up 13,000) saw the greatest increase in unemployment. **In the UK the total number of people out of work increased by 44,000 to 2.5 million**.

- There were **157,000 men out of work in the region – down 2,000 on the previous three months**. **Female unemployment declined by 3,000** in the three months to December 2010, to 116,000.

In the three months to December the average **unemployment rate was 6.1%, which alongside the South West was the lowest of any region**. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region fell by 4,000 to 4.18 million over the previous three months**. A number of other UK regions also saw larger falls in employment with North East (down 47,000) West Midlands (down 43,000) and South West (down 12,000). Several regions saw a rise in employment over the previous three months with Scotland (up 23,000), East Midlands (up 12,000), Wales (up 10,000) and London (up 7,000). In the UK as a whole, employment decreased by 68,000.

- **Women's employment increased by 5,000 and men's fell by 9,000 during the three months to December 2010**.

The **employment rate was 75%** in the three months to December – a decline of 0.2% points on the previous quarter, remaining the highest of any region.

The **number of economically active people declined by 9,000 in the three months to December**.

- **Men's economic activity fell by 11,000 and women's increased by 2,000** in the three months to December 2010.

In the three months to December, the **economic activity rate declined by 0.3 percentage points, to 80 per cent**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 15,000** during the three months to December. The rate of economic inactivity was 20% (up by 0.3 percentage points), the lowest in the country.

¹ The non seasonally adjusted claimant count in the South East was 135,300 in December, an increase of 7,400 compared to December 2010. In the UK, the non seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 79,900,900 to 1.5 million.