

South East Labour Market Update Headlines – May 2011

The **claimant count unemployment¹** in April 2011 was **129,600**. The claimant count was **300 lower than in March 2011**. The claimant count in the United Kingdom increased by 12,400 between March 2011 and April 2011 to 1.469 million.

Using the broader measure of unemployment (the Labour Force Survey measure), in the three months to March 2011 there were **255,000 unemployed people in the region – about 17,000 less than in the previous three months, the largest fall of any of the UK regions**. The South West (up 11,000) and London (up 6,000) saw the greatest increase in unemployment. **In the UK the total number of people out of work decreased by 36,000 to 2.455 million**.

- There were **143,000 men out of work in the region – down 13,000 on the previous three months**. **Female unemployment decreased by 4,000** in the three months to March 2011, to 112,000.

In the three months to March the average **unemployment rate was 5.7%, which alongside the East of England (6.2%) was the lowest of any region**. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points over the previous three months.

The **number of people in employment in the region increased by 24,000 to 4.2 million over the previous three months**. Two regions saw larger rises in employment over the previous three months than the South East; East of England up 35,000 and East Midlands up 33,000. Other regions to report a rise in employment were London (up 10,000), West Midlands (up 13,000), Yorkshire and Humber (up 24,000) and Wales (up 12,000). Four regions saw a fall in employment over the previous three months; North West down 9,000, North East down 4,000, South West down 26,000 and Scotland down 4,000. In the UK as a whole, employment increased by 118,000.

- **Women's employment in the region increased by 4,000 and men's increased by 20,000 during the three months to March 2011**.

The **employment rate was 75%** in the three months to March – no change on the previous quarter, remaining the highest of any region.

The **number of economically active people increased by 8,000 in the three months to March**.

- **Men's economic activity increased by 7,000 and women's showed no change on the previous three months**.

In the three months to March, the **economic activity rate dropped 0.3 percentage points to 79.8 per cent**, remaining the highest in the country.

The number of **economically inactive people increased by 13,000** during the three months to March. The rate of economic inactivity was 20.2%, the lowest in the country.

¹ The non seasonally adjusted claimant count in the South East was 137,027 in April, an decrease of 1,832 compared to March 2011. In the UK, the non seasonally adjusted claimant count decreased by 6,140 to 1.521 million.