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## Executive Summary

- In the three months to April 2009 there were 4.42 million economically active people aged over 16 in the South East – an increase of 10,000 on the previous quarter.
- The economic activity rate in the South East, at 82.7%, is the highest in the country and increased by 0.1% on the previous quarter, while the UK figure fell by 0.2%, to 79.2%.
- In the three months to April employment in the South East fell by 22,000, to 4.2 million people (aged over 16). This was one of the smallest falls in employment of any region this quarter.
- All regions saw a decrease in employment, with London and the East of England recording a significantly larger fall than the South East (down 79,000 and 49,000 respectively). In the UK the number of people employed fell by 271,000 in the three months to April, bringing total employment to 29.1 million.
- Female employment has continued to fall in the South East, with the number of women in work dropping by 19,000 in the three months to April. This was the second largest fall in women’s employment in any English region, with only the East of England (-28,000) recording a larger fall.
- In the three months to April there were 244,000 unemployed people in the region, or 32,000 more than in the previous quarter. This is one of the larger increases in unemployment of any region.
- Within the South East, the unemployment rate is 5.5% of the total economically active population within the region. This is the lowest unemployment rate of any region.
- The number of people in the South East claiming Job Seekers’ Allowance (JSA) rose to 154,868 between April and May, which is the highest figure since May 1997. Although the number of claimants within the South East region is rising, 38,104 people moved off the JSA register between April and May.
- The number of JSA claimants in the South East increased by 1,260 between April and May, by 12,500 over the quarter from February to May, and 86,100 over the year from May 2008. The claimant count rate in May remained the same as in April (3%) but was up 0.2% on the quarter and 1.7% on the year. The yearly increase was below the UK average (1.9%) and one of the smallest of any region. The claimant count rate in the South East remains the lowest of any region.
- Over the past quarter Reading saw the fastest growth in the percentage of people claiming JSA. At 0.8% it was one of the fastest rates of increase of any local authority in the UK. Milton Keynes and Slough also saw increases in the claimant count rate well above the South East and national averages over the past quarter.
- The unemployment rate as measured by the Labour Force Survey tends to be higher in the urban unitary authorities than in the counties. Over the year to the first quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate increased fastest in Hampshire and Surrey, while East Sussex and Kent saw the smallest increases.

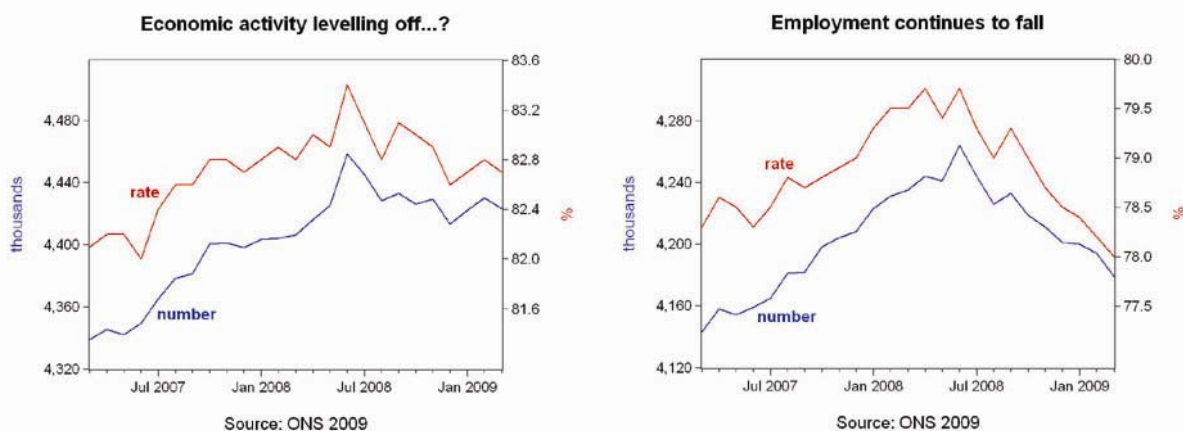
- Employment rates in the first quarter of 2009 were higher in the west of the region (in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire) than in the east. Hampshire and Buckinghamshire were the only counties not to see a fall in employment in the year to March 2009. Bracknell Forest and Brighton and Hove saw the largest falls in the employment rate over the year.
- In May 2009 there were 2,500 redundancy notifications in the South East – slightly more than the 2,100 registered in April. However, this total is still significantly lower than the monthly figures recorded in the autumn and winter of 2008/09. The service sector accounted for two thirds of redundancy notifications in May.
- At a sub-regional level, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight recorded disproportionately more redundancy notifications than other sub-regions – accounting for 36% of the South East total. Around one fifth of the notified redundancies were recorded in Surrey.
- Between May 2008 and May 2009 the number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the South East fell from 40,960 to 33,180. The vast majority of the drop in vacancies over the year was accounted for by the financial and business services sector. The only sectors seeing an increase in the number of vacancies over the year were public and other services, utilities and agriculture.

## 1. Economic Activity

Data for the three months to April 2009 shows that there were 4.42 million economically active people aged over 16 in the South East – an increase of 10,000 on the previous quarter.<sup>1</sup> Several other regions also recorded substantial increases in economic activity, including the North West (up 16,000) and the East Midlands (up 17,000). In the UK as a whole, economic activity decreased by 39,000 in the same period.

There was an increase in economic activity amongst men in the South East by 13,000; however the number of economically active women in the region fell by 3,000 in the three months to April. The economic activity rate in the South East, at 82.7%, is the highest in the country, followed by the South West and the East of England, and increased by 0.1% on the previous quarter, while the UK figure fell by 0.2%, to 79.2%.

The South East has the lowest economic inactivity rate of any region, at 17.3% in the three months to April. Moreover, the number of economically inactive people in the South East fell by 6,000 over the quarter, while some regions – notably London and the East of England – saw a significant increase in economic inactivity (up by 67,000 and 32,000 respectively).



<sup>1</sup> The economically active are those who are in employment or unemployed but available for work.

## 2. Employment

In the three months to April employment in the South East fell by 22,000, to 4.2 million people (aged over 16). This was one of the smallest falls in employment of any region this quarter. Unsurprisingly, all regions saw a decrease in employment in the three months to April – including London (down 79,000), the West Midlands (down 23,000), the East of England (down 49,000) and the South West (down 25,000). In the UK the number of people employed fell by 271,000 in the three months to April, bringing total employment to 29.1 million.

The South East labour market appears to be faring better than that of the other regions in the Greater South East. Whereas in the first few months of the recession employment in London, and to a lesser extent the East of England, continued to increase, in the past two to three months we have seen a significant fall in employment in London. This is perhaps indicative of the fact that the recession has now spread to a broader range of sectors. Initially the severest impacts were on manufacturing and construction rather than services, contrary to expectations. The fact that the service sector is now starting to contract more strongly may help to explain the recent sharp drop in employment in London, where the service sector accounts for a significant proportion of employment.

Looking at the longer term trends, over the year to April 2009, the South East and the West Midlands jointly experienced the largest fall in employment, of 56,000. The smallest falls were recorded in the East Midlands (-5,000) and the South West (-9,000).

Female employment has continued to fall in the South East, with the number of women in work dropping by 19,000 in the three months to April. This was the second largest fall in women's employment in any English region, with only the East of England (-28,000) recording a larger fall. Male employment dropped by a far smaller degree than female employment, falling by just 3,000 in the three months to April in the South East. This could be a reflection of the fact that the recession has now spread to the service sector, where a significant proportion of employees are women. The South East saw the smallest falls in male employment of any region, with several regions seeing a far greater fall including London (- 67,000), the East Midlands (-20,000), and the East of England (- 18,000).

In the three months to April the South East employment rate stood at 78%, which is 0.5% lower than in the previous quarter. The South East saw the smallest drop in the employment rate of any English region (along with Yorkshire and the Humber), and it continues to have the highest employment rate of all regions. Over the same period the UK employment rate declined by 0.8% to 73.3%.

The employment rate for men in the South East was down 0.2% on the previous quarter, at 82.3%. The UK employment rate for men declined by 0.9% to 76.9%. The employment rate for women in the South East fell by 0.9% to 73.3% - still significantly above the UK women's employment rate, which dropped by 0.7 percentage points on the previous quarter, to 69.3%.

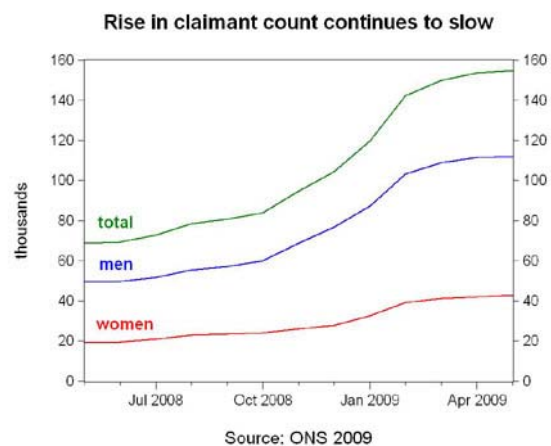
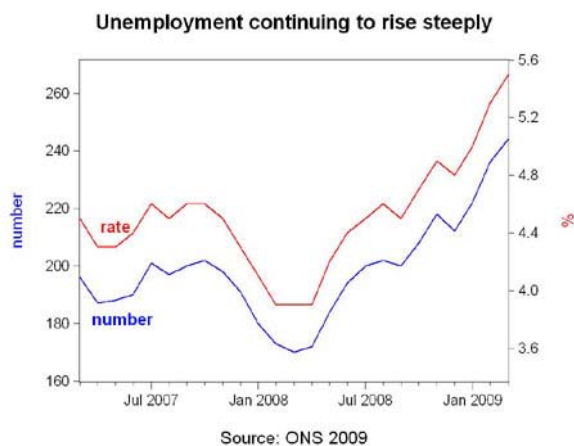
## 3. Unemployment

In the three months to April there were 244,000 unemployed people in the region, or 32,000 more than in the previous quarter. This is one of the larger increases in unemployment of any region, with only the West Midlands (39,000), Yorkshire and the Humber (29,000) and the East Midlands (26,000) recording higher increases, while in the North East unemployment in fact fell by 6,000. Within the South East, the unemployment rate represents 5.5% of the total economically active population within the region. This is the lowest unemployment rate of any region.

The number of unemployed people in the UK as a whole increased by 232,000 over the three months to April, with the rate increasing by 0.7% to 7.2%, bringing the total unemployed to over 2.26 million.

Both men's and women's unemployment increased by the same amount (16,000) in the three months to April. However, as in previous months, women appear to be more likely than men to move into economic inactivity rather than registering as unemployed. The number of women of working age who are economically inactive increased by 5,000 in the three months to April, while the number of inactive men fell by 10,000. This could be explained in part by the fact that women are less likely to be eligible for unemployment benefit (Job Seekers' Allowance) once their spouse or partner's income is taken into account.

In the three months to April the male unemployment rate increased by 0.6%, while the female unemployment rate also increased by 0.8% in the South East.



The number of people in the South East claiming Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) rose to 154,868<sup>2</sup> between April and May, which is the highest figure since May 1997 (Figure 4). The South East currently has the smallest number of JSA claimants, although there has been an increase of 125% in the number of those claiming JSA since April 2008. As of May 2009, 72.3% of those claiming JSA were men and 27.7% were women. Although the number of claimants within the South East region is rising, 38,104 people moved off the JSA register between April and May.

The number of JSA claimants in the South East increased by 1,260 between April and May, by 12,500 over the quarter from February to May, and 86,100 over the year from May 2008. The claimant count rate (percentage of residents claiming JSA) in May remained the same as in April (3%), but was up by 0.2% on the quarter and 1.7% on the year. The yearly increase was below the UK average (1.9%) and one of the smallest of any region. The claimant count rate in the South East remains the lowest of any region.

The number of men claiming JSA increased by 3,300 between April and May, while the number of female claimants increased by 1,600. This perhaps bears out the picture of women generally being less likely than men to be eligible for JSA. In the UK, there were 1.54 million people claiming JSA in May, and the number increased by 39,300 on April's figure. This is a smaller increase than in previous months.

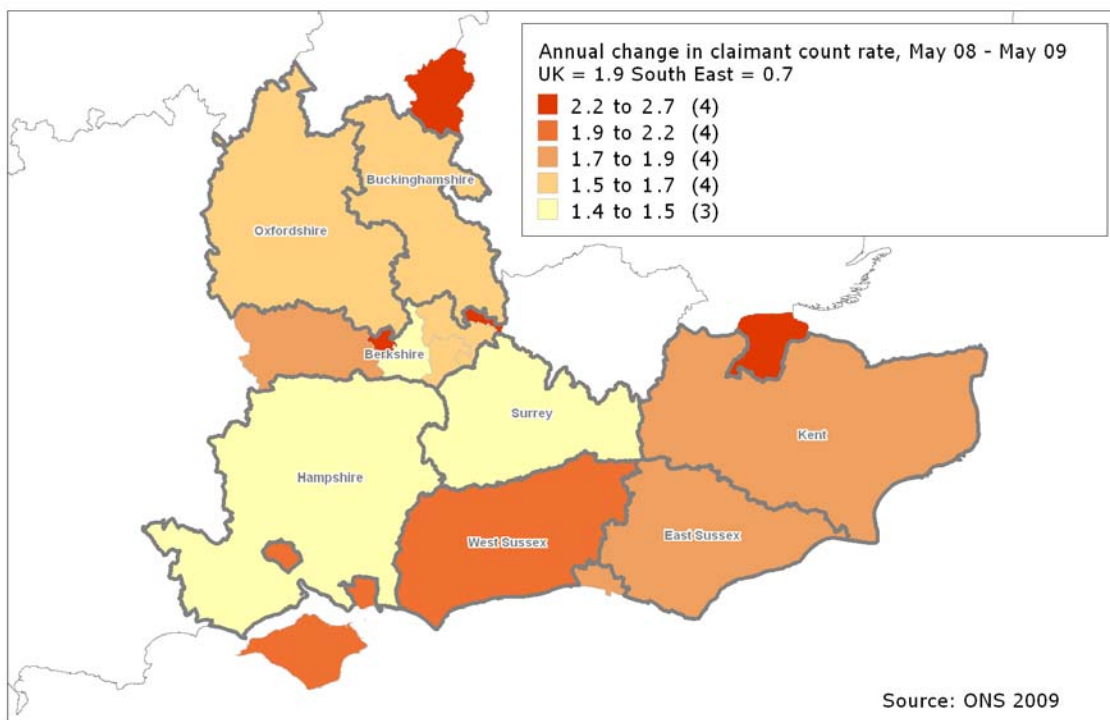
<sup>2</sup> This is the non seasonally adjusted figure.

**Sub-regional variations in employment and unemployment**

**Claimant count**

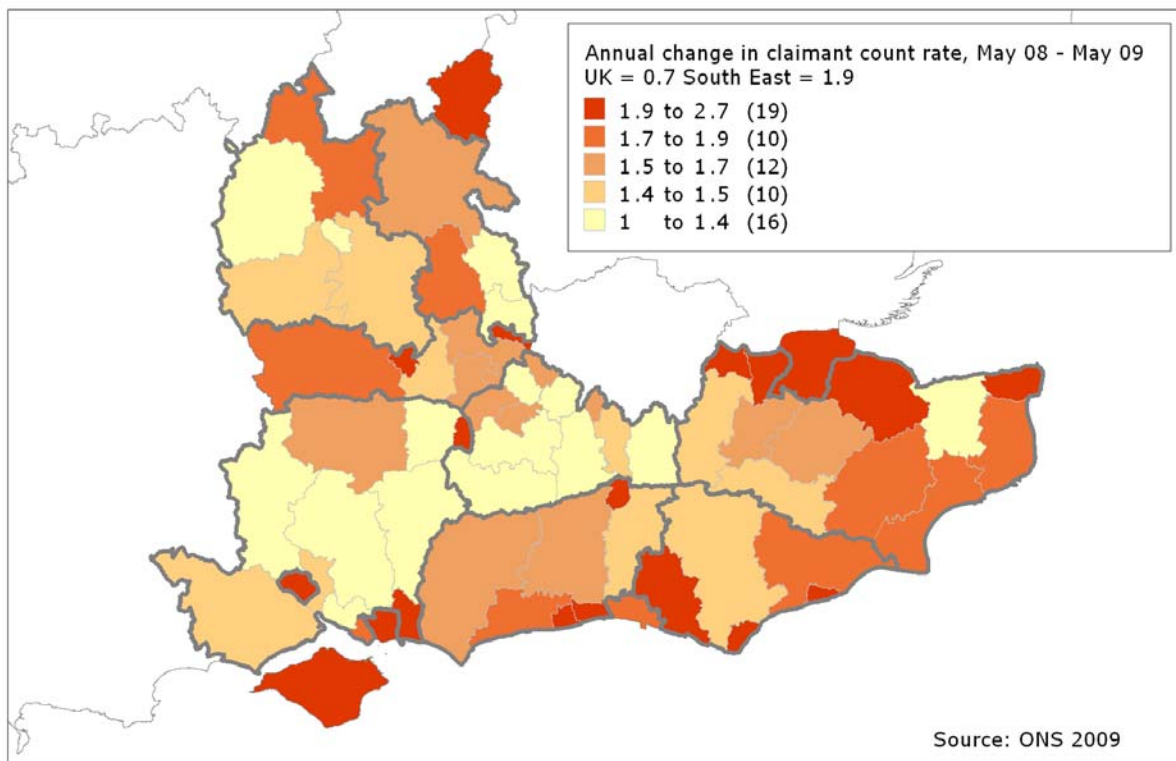
Looking at changes in claimant count unemployment over the past year, Kent and Hampshire have seen increases in unemployment of 14,581 and 11,029 respectively over the past 12 months. However, Milton Keynes has seen the fastest increase in the claimant count rate over the past year – that is the percentage of residents claiming Job Seekers' Allowance (Map 1). The claimant count rate in Milton Keynes increased by 2.7%, which is well above the South East and UK averages (0.7% and 1.9% respectively). Substantial increases in the claimant count rate were also recorded in Reading (2.5%), Medway (2.2%) and Slough (2.3%).

**Map 1: Annual change in claimant count rate – county and unitary authorities (May 2008-May 2009)**



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Map 2: Annual change in claimant count rate – districts / unitaries (May 2008-May 2009)



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Source: ONS 2009

Coastal, peripheral local authorities have tended to see the fastest increase in the claimant count rate over the past year (Map 2), although Milton Keynes recorded the most rapid increase (2.7%). The claimant count rate in Thanet increased by 2.4%, in Hastings by 2.3% and in Medway by 2.2%.

Over the past 12 months, the largest increases in the claimant count rate across the UK have been mainly in coastal areas and in the north and Midlands.

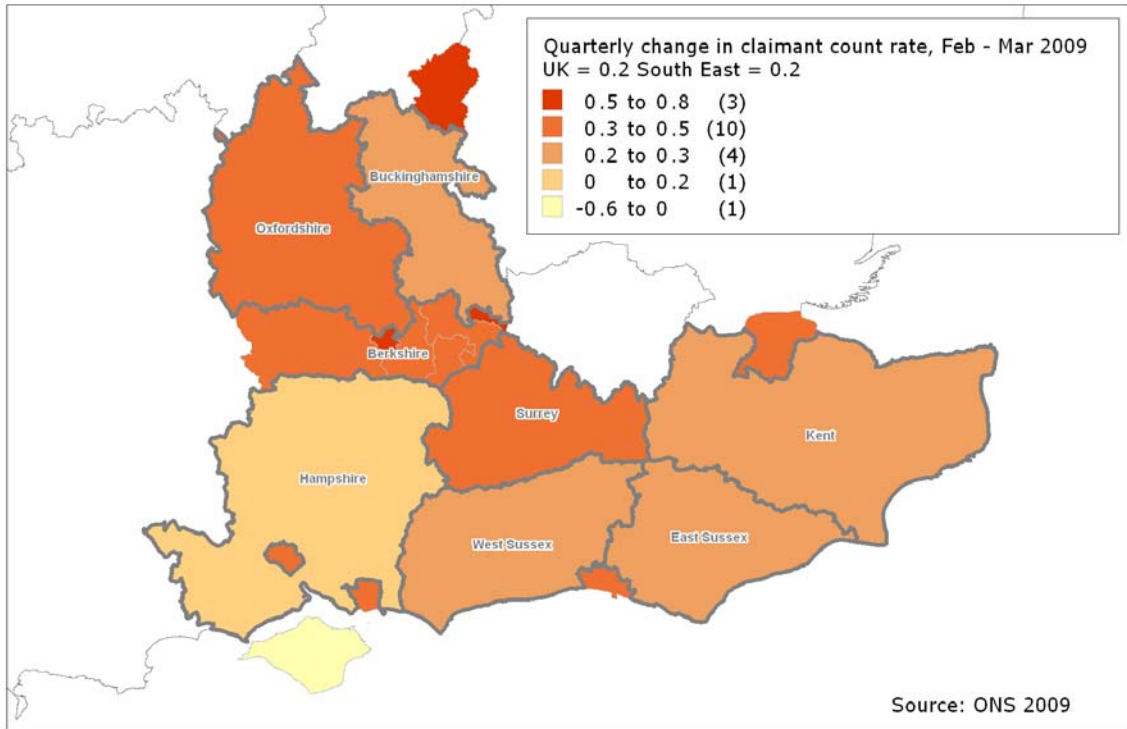
Looking at more recent change, over the past quarter the largest increases in claimant count unemployment, in absolute terms, have been in Kent and Surrey: increases of 1,843 and 1,592 respectively. However, this is not surprising given that these are two of the largest counties in the South East. A more appropriate approach to looking at changes in unemployment is to consider the change in the claimant count rate.<sup>3</sup> Over the past quarter the claimant count unemployment rate in Reading has increased by 0.8% - faster than in any other county or unitary authority in the South East and well above the increase of 0.2% in the South East and UK as a whole (Map 3). In fact the increase in unemployment in Reading was one of the fastest of all counties and unitaries in the country.

Similarly to last quarter, Milton Keynes (+0.6%) and Slough (+0.7%) have again seen significant increases in the claimant count rate over the past quarter. This could be indicative of the continued high number of redundancy notifications in these two urban centres in recent months. Indeed, the latest data suggests that urban areas in general have tended to see faster rises in the claimant count rate in the past quarter, with Oxford, Portsmouth, Medway, Dartford and Windsor and Maidenhead all registering faster increases than the regional average (0.4% compared to 0.2%) – Map 4.

<sup>3</sup> This approach is favourable to simply looking at the percentage change (as recently used by the national press), since some areas have a low base (low claimant count) so even a small change in unemployment could result in an apparently 'significant' percentage change.

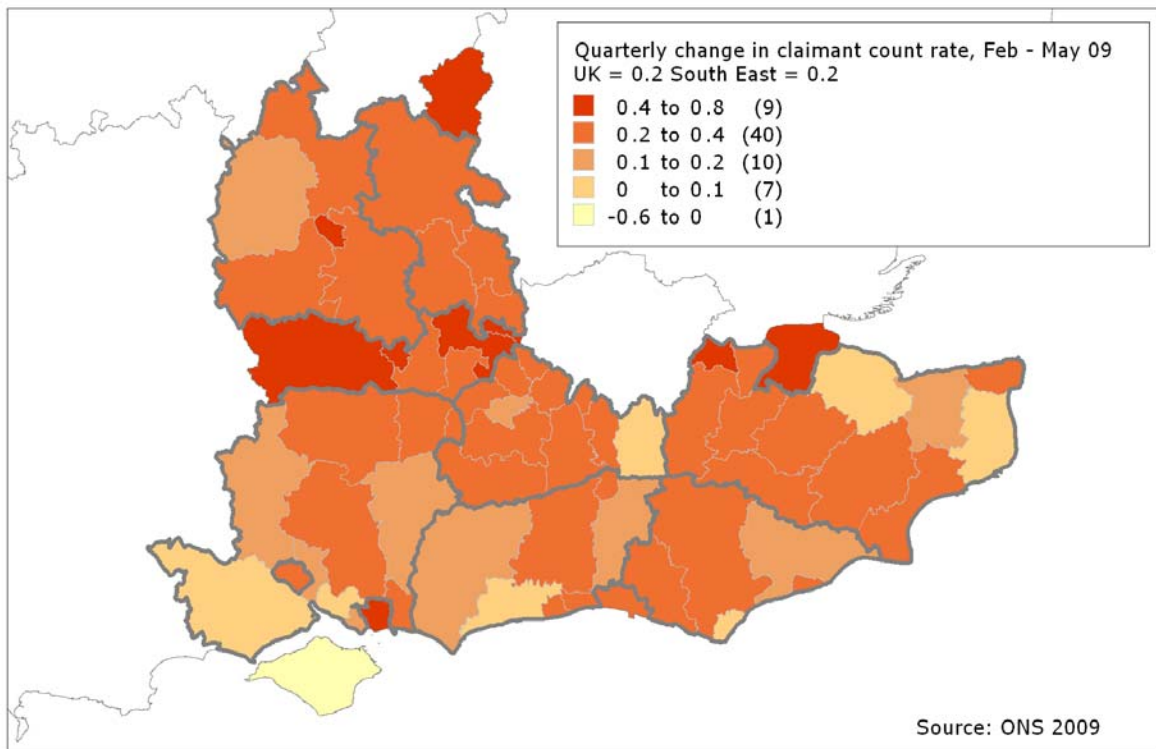
See Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this document for details of changes in the claimant count and claimant count rate for every local authority in the South East.

**Map 3: Quarterly change in claimant count rate (February-May 2009) – county and unitary authorities**



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**Map 4: Quarterly change in claimant count rate (February - May 2009) – District/Unitary authorities**



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The contrasting experiences of inland urban local authorities on the one hand and coastal/peripheral and rural areas on the other is clear from Map 4. A number of urban local authorities have seen increases in unemployment above the regional and national averages over the past quarter, while in contrast last quarter a clear rise in the claimant count of coastal areas was seen. The initial rise in the claimant count for coastal areas was explained by their higher than average concentration of manufacturing, construction and distribution and transport related sectors, as well as seasonal factors. However, the claimant count figures for this quarter suggest that as the recession has now spread to a broader range of sectors, more prosperous areas in the Inner South East have started to 'catch up'. As initially projected, the recession is now beginning to significantly affect the service sector, which has a greater concentration in the urban local authorities who have experienced the greatest increase in the claimant count this quarter.

Additionally, the number of notified redundancies in the Inner South East has been steadily rising since September 2008, and it is likely that these redundancies have been feeding through into recent unemployment figures. Nevertheless, most areas in the Inner South East have relatively tight labour markets, which could mean that employers will try to retain staff because the pool of available labour from which to recruit when the upturn comes is relatively small.

### ***ILO Unemployment***

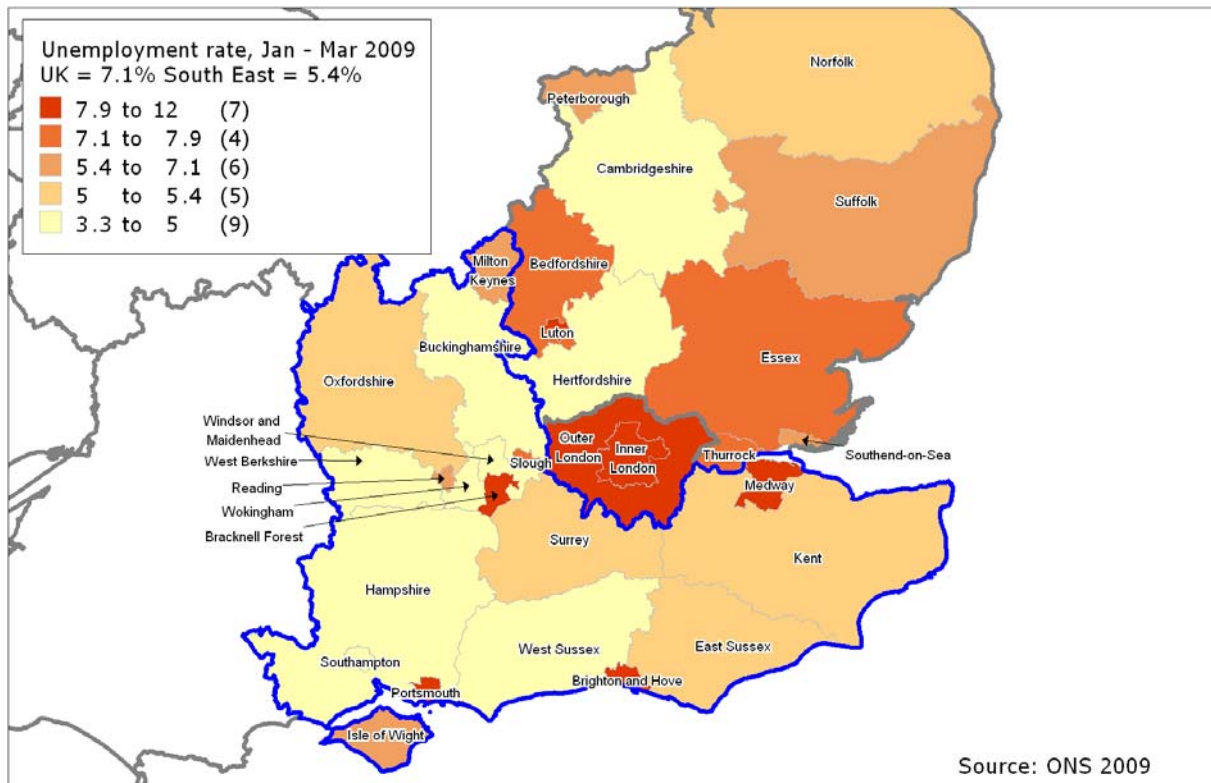
This month we are looking in more detail at recent changes in employment and unemployment at a sub-regional level, using data from the Labour Force Survey for all counties and unitaries in the South East for the period January to March 2009, with the same quarter in 2008 for comparison. It is important to note that the unemployment figures should be treated with particular caution due to the small sample sizes. The unemployment figures presented here are the broader, survey based ILO<sup>4</sup> measure. This is different from claimant count unemployment, which measures only the number of people claiming unemployment benefit, which is not the same as the total number of people out of work.

In the first quarter of 2009, unemployment rates in the urban unitary authorities tended to be higher than in the counties (Map 5). Medway (9.9%), Brighton and Hove (9.7%) and Portsmouth (9.2%) had the highest unemployment rates in the first quarter of this year. This figure is considerably higher than the rate of unemployment for the South East as a whole which was 5.4%. The sub-regions within the South East that had the lowest unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2009 were Windsor and Maidenhead (3.3%), West Berkshire (3.9%), Buckinghamshire (4%), Wokingham (4.4%) and West Sussex (4.8%).

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<sup>4</sup> International Labour Organisation.

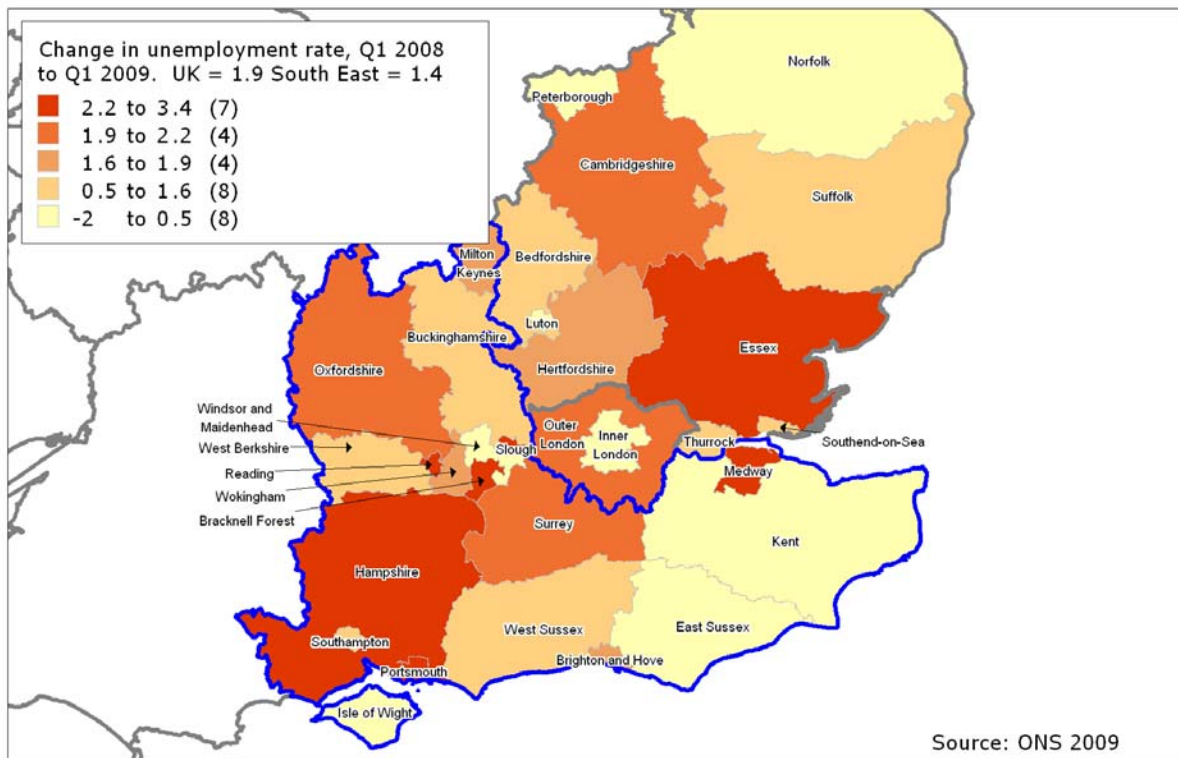
Map 5: Unemployment rate - county and unitary authorities, January – March 2009



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Looking at change in the unemployment rate between the first quarter of 2008 and first quarter of 2009, there are a number of sub-regions within the South East that over the year saw considerable growth in the unemployment rate (Map 6). These include Slough, Medway, Portsmouth and Bracknell Forest, all of which saw growth of at least 3 percentage points in the unemployment rate. This figure is higher than the UK average change in unemployment of 1.9 percentage points over the last 12 months. Amongst the counties, Hampshire and Surrey saw the fastest increase in the unemployment rate (2 percentage points), while the smallest increases (less than 0.5%) were seen in East Sussex and Kent. Conversely, Windsor and Maidenhead (-2%) and the Isle of Wight (-1%) were the only sub-regions in the South East whose unemployment rates actually fell over the last 12 months.

Map 6: Change in unemployment rate - county and unitary authorities, January-March 2008 to January-March 2009



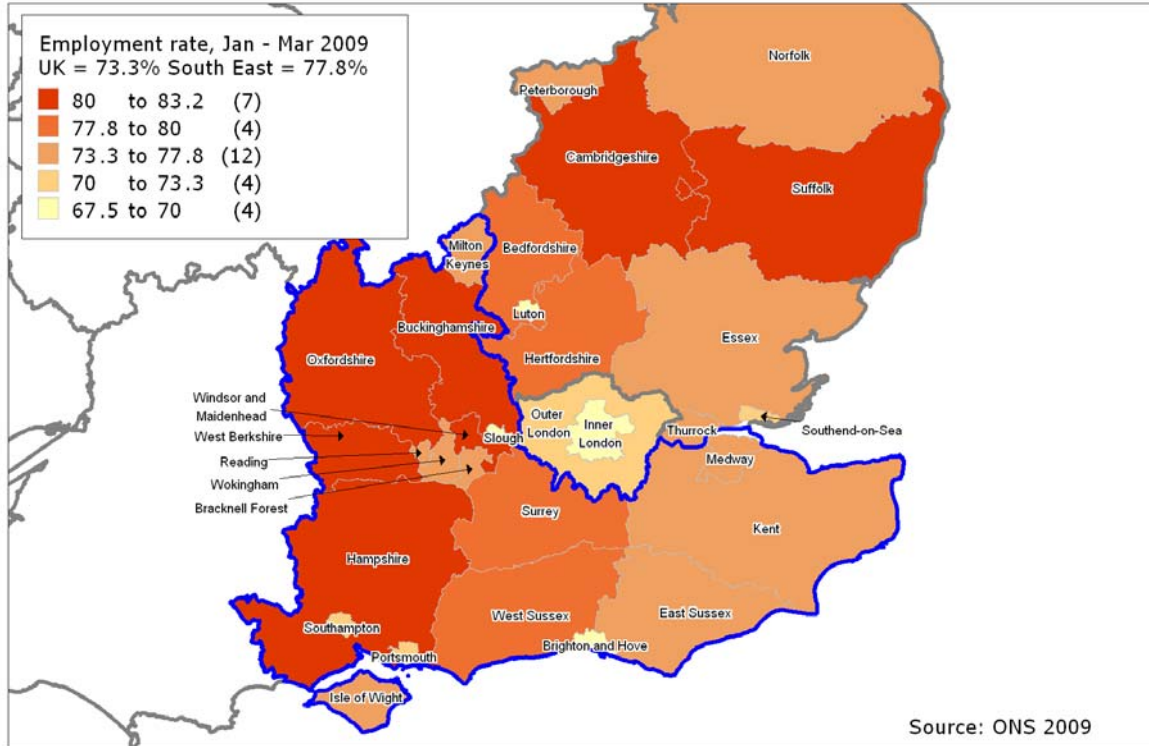
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## Employment

In the first quarter of 2009, employment rates were higher on the western side of the region than in the east (Map 7). The counties with the highest rates of employment were Buckinghamshire (82.1%), Oxfordshire (80.3%) and Hampshire (81.8%). West Berkshire and Windsor and Maidenhead also had employment rates of over 80%. This is considerably better than the national average of 73.3%. The sub-regions within the South East that had the lowest employment rate in the first quarter of 2009 were Slough and Brighton and Hove with rates of 69.3% and 67.5% respectively.

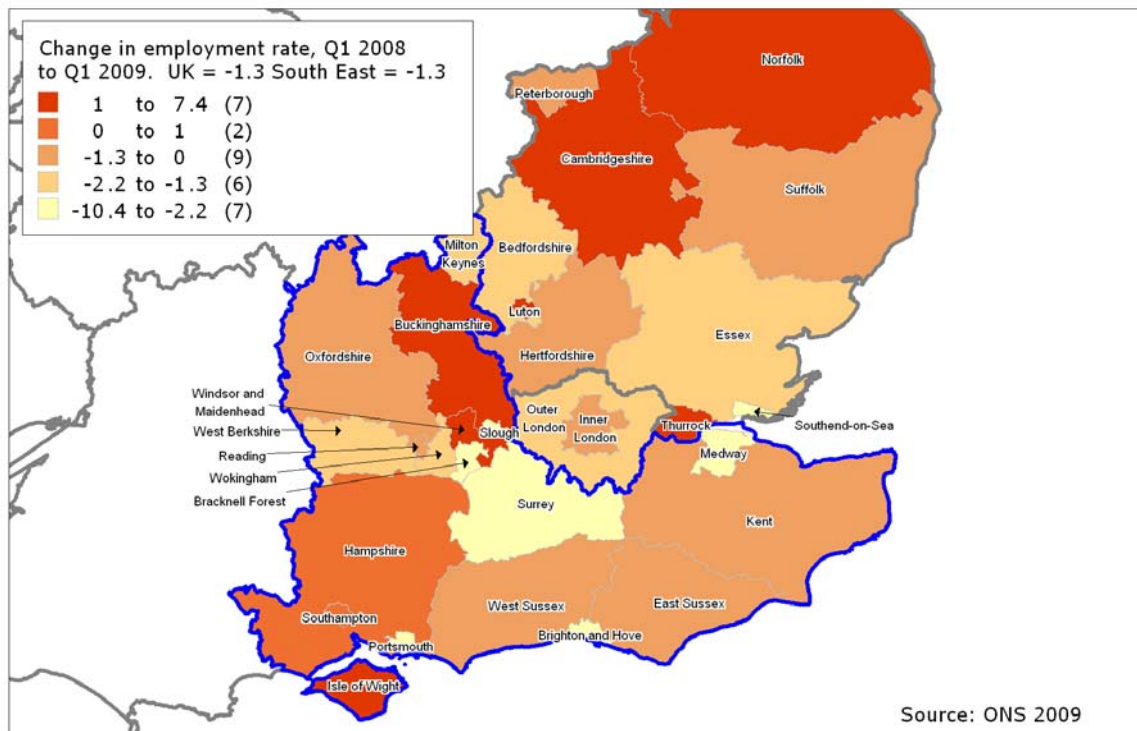
Looking at change over the year from the first quarter of 2008 to first quarter of 2009, all counties except Hampshire and Buckinghamshire saw a drop in the employment rate (Map 8). The most marked decline was in Surrey (-2.7%). Amongst unitary authorities, Bracknell Forest and Brighton and Hove saw the largest falls in the employment rate - much more marked than the South East and UK average of -1.3%.

Map 7: Employment rate - county and unitary authorities, January – March 2009



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**Map 8: Change in employment rate - county and unitary authorities, January-March 2008 to January to March 2009**



Source: ONS 2009

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## 5. Redundancy notifications

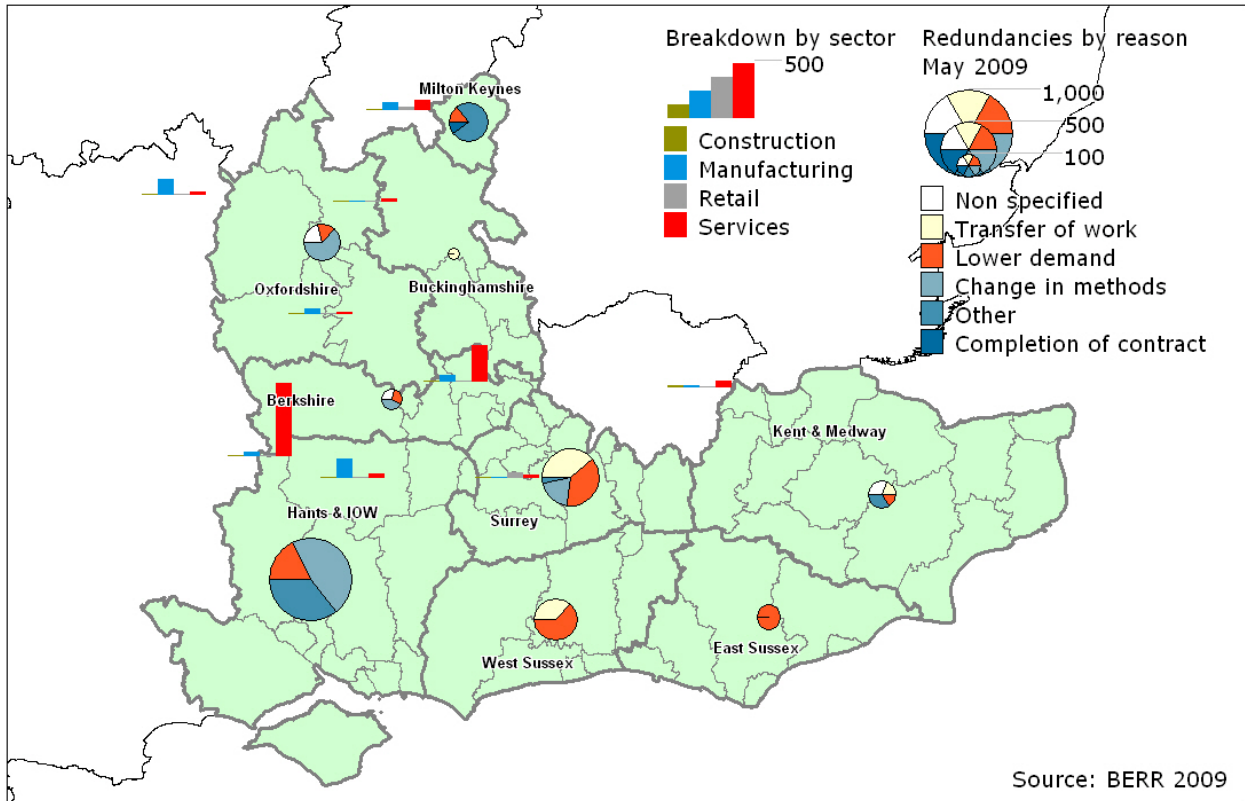
One of the most up-to-date sources of information on the impact of the recession on employment is the number of redundancy notifications. There are significant caveats around this data, but it gives an indication of the growing number of job losses being seen in the South East. Only firms making more than 20 staff redundant have to give notification of their intentions; in some cases the company's headquarters is in the South East, but the actual redundancies are taking place in another region; some of the redundancies are not scheduled to take place until a later date; sometimes employees changing contracts are recorded as 'redundancies', even if they are moving into new employment.

Bearing these caveats in mind, in May 2009 there were 2,500 redundancy notifications in the South East – slightly more than the 2,100 registered in April. However, this total is still significantly lower than the monthly figures recorded in the autumn and winter of 2008/09. Over the past few months there has been an increase in the proportion of redundancy notifications in the service sector, with fewer redundancies being announced in the manufacturing and construction sectors relative to previous months. Service sector activities, which accounted for more than 50% of all redundancies in April appear to have been hit harder in May: two thirds of the redundancy notifications announced in May were in this sector. The manufacturing sector accounted for around 28% of all redundancy notifications in May (similar to the monthly average since October 2008). There were relatively few redundancy notifications in the retail and construction sectors in May (each representing less than 5% of total redundancies).

Looking sub-regionally, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight recorded disproportionately more redundancy notifications than other sub-regions – accounting for 36% of the South East total. Around one fifth of the notified redundancies were recorded in Surrey. The service sector accounted for more than 90% of all redundancy notifications in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and more than 80% in

Surrey. Within the service sector, telecommunications accounted for around half of all redundancy notifications.

**Map 9: Redundancy notifications by sub-region, sector, volume and reason, May 2009**



Source: BERR 2009

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## 6. Vacancies

Between May 2008 and May 2009 the number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the South East fell from 40,960 to 33,180.<sup>5</sup> The vast majority of the drop in vacancies over the year was accounted for by the financial and business services sector, where the number of available vacancies fell by more than 7,500. There were more than 1,000 fewer vacancies in the distribution and hospitality sectors. The only sectors seeing an increase in the number of vacancies were public and other services, utilities and agriculture. This can be explained by the fact that these sectors have not been affected as severely by the recession so far.

<sup>5</sup> Note that vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus do not represent all vacancies in the labour market, as not all employers use the service when recruiting. In general higher-skilled jobs are under-represented in those vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus.

## South East Labour Market Update June 2009 (cont'd)

<b>TABLE 1:</b>		<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Change in rate</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% change in</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>County/UA</b>	<b>May-08</b>	<b>Apr-09</b>	<b>May-08-May-09</b>	<b>May-08</b>	<b>May-09</b>	<b>May-08-May-09</b>
South East	n/a	1.3	3	1.7	68,752	154,868	125.3
United Kingdom	n/a	2.2	4.1	1.9	831,851	1,564,978	88.1
Bracknell Forest	Bracknell Forest	0.9	2.5	1.6	635	1,829	188.0
Reading	Reading	1.8	4.3	2.5	1,708	4,188	145.2
Slough	Slough	2	4.3	2.3	1,545	3,335	115.9
West Berkshire	West Berkshire	0.8	2.6	1.8	770	2,402	211.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	Windsor and Maidenhead	0.9	2.5	1.6	773	2,209	185.8
Wokingham	Wokingham	0.6	2	1.4	592	2,020	241.2
Aylesbury Vale	Buckinghamshire	0.8	2.3	1.5	897	2,501	178.8
Chiltern	Buckinghamshire	0.8	2.1	1.3	405	1,091	169.4
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	2.2	4.9	2.7	3,278	7,286	122.3
South Bucks	Buckinghamshire	0.8	2.1	1.3	292	799	173.6
Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	1.2	2.9	1.7	1,196	2,902	142.6
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove	2.6	4.3	1.7	4,474	7,372	64.8
Eastbourne	East Sussex	2.5	4.5	2	1,346	2,427	80.3
Hastings	East Sussex	3.5	5.8	2.3	1,798	2,984	66.0
Lewes	East Sussex	1.4	3.4	2	728	1,769	143.0
Rother	East Sussex	1.7	3.4	1.7	786	1,552	97.5
Wealden	East Sussex	0.8	2.2	1.4	630	1,748	177.5
Basingstoke and Deane	Hampshire	1.1	2.6	1.5	1,079	2,653	145.9
East Hampshire	Hampshire	0.9	2.1	1.2	566	1,386	144.9
Eastleigh	Hampshire	1.2	2.6	1.4	871	1,925	121.0
Fareham	Hampshire	0.9	2.1	1.2	574	1,339	133.3
Gosport	Hampshire	1.5	3.2	1.7	711	1,530	115.2
Hart	Hampshire	0.6	1.8	1.2	310	983	217.1
Havant	Hampshire	1.9	4	2.1	1,321	2,690	103.6
New Forest	Hampshire	0.9	2.3	1.4	833	2,215	165.9
Portsmouth	Portsmouth	2	4	2	2,698	5,285	95.9
Rushmoor	Hampshire	1.3	3.3	2	741	1,881	153.8
Southampton	Southampton	2.1	4.1	2	3,370	6,427	90.7
Test Valley	Hampshire	0.8	2	1.2	561	1,370	144.2
Winchester	Hampshire	0.8	1.8	1	549	1,173	113.7
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	1.9	3.9	2	1,523	3,068	101.4
Ashford	Kent	1.2	3	1.8	810	2,041	152.0
Canterbury	Kent	1.3	2.6	1.3	1,206	2,357	95.4
Dartford	Kent	1.5	3.5	2	846	2,006	137.1
Dover	Kent	2.1	3.8	1.7	1,319	2,328	76.5
Gravesham	Kent	2.4	4.4	2	1,402	2,605	85.8
Maidstone	Kent	1.1	2.7	1.6	982	2,409	145.3
Medway	Medway	2.2	4.4	2.2	3,550	7,020	97.7
Sevenoaks	Kent	0.8	2.2	1.4	509	1,491	192.9
Shepway	Kent	2.6	4.3	1.7	1,469	2,468	68.0
Swale	Kent	2	4.1	2.1	1,559	3,218	106.4
Thanet	Kent	3.2	5.6	2.4	2,305	4,086	77.3
Tonbridge and Malling	Kent	0.9	2.5	1.6	611	1,711	180.0
Tunbridge Wells	Kent	0.9	2.3	1.4	578	1,457	152.1
Cherwell	Oxfordshire	1.1	2.8	1.7	937	2,463	162.9
Oxford	Oxfordshire	1.4	2.7	1.3	1,517	2,974	96.0

## South East Labour Market Update June 2009 (cont'd)

South Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire	0.7	2.1	1.4	554	1,646	197.1
Vale of White Horse	Oxfordshire	0.6	2	1.4	445	1,433	222.0
West Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire	0.6	1.8	1.2	360	1,121	211.4
Elmbridge	Surrey	0.6	1.9	1.3	468	1,520	224.8
Epsom and Ewell	Surrey	0.7	2.2	1.5	315	950	201.6
Guildford	Surrey	0.8	2	1.2	709	1,714	141.7
Mole Valley	Surrey	0.5	1.8	1.3	255	855	235.3
Reigate and Banstead	Surrey	0.8	2.2	1.4	633	1,804	185.0
Runnymede	Surrey	0.6	1.9	1.3	329	1,010	207.0
Spelthorne	Surrey	1	2.5	1.5	564	1,406	149.3
Surrey Heath	Surrey	0.6	2.1	1.5	328	1,068	225.6
Tandridge	Surrey	0.7	2	1.3	331	996	200.9
Waverley	Surrey	0.6	1.9	1.3	418	1,273	204.5
Woking	Surrey	0.9	2.4	1.5	506	1,393	175.3
Adur	West Sussex	1.4	3.6	2.2	499	1,256	151.7
Arun	West Sussex	1.6	3.4	1.8	1,222	2,675	118.9
Chichester	West Sussex	1.1	2.6	1.5	669	1,571	134.8
Crawley	West Sussex	1.5	4.1	2.6	965	2,584	167.8
Horsham	West Sussex	0.8	2.4	1.6	646	1,871	189.6
Mid Sussex	West Sussex	0.6	2	1.4	492	1,553	215.7
Worthing	West Sussex	1.5	3.8	2.3	884	2,196	148.4

<b>TABLE 2</b>		Rate	Rate	Change in rate (pp.)	Number	Number	% change in JSA claimants
Unitary (County Council)	County/UA	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-08-Apr-09	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-08-Apr-09
South East	Bracknell Forest	1.3	3	1.7	68,752	154,868	125.3
United Kingdom	Bracknell Forest	2.2	4.1	1.9	831,851	1,564,978	88.1

Kent	Kent	1.6	3.4	1.8	13,596	28,177	107.2
Medway	Medway	2.2	4.4	2.2	3,550	7,020	97.7
East Sussex	East Sussex	1.9	3.7	1.8	5,288	10,480	98.2
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove	2.6	4.3	1.7	4,474	7,372	64.8
Surrey	Surrey	0.7	2.1	1.4	4,856	13,989	188.1
West Sussex	West Sussex	1.2	3.1	1.9	5,377	13,706	154.9
Hampshire	Hampshire	1.1	2.5	1.4	8,116	19,145	135.9
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	1.9	3.9	2	1,523	3,068	101.4
Portsmouth	Portsmouth	2	4	2	2,698	5,285	95.9
Southampton	Southampton	2.1	4.1	2	3,370	6,427	90.7
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire	0.9	2.4	1.5	2,790	7,293	161.4
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	2.2	4.9	2.7	3,278	7,286	122.3
Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire	0.9	2.4	1.5	3,813	9,637	152.7
Reading	Reading	1.8	4.3	2.5	1,708	4,188	145.2
Slough	Slough	2	4.3	2.3	1,545	3,335	115.9
West Berkshire	West Berkshire	0.8	2.6	1.8	770	2,402	211.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	Windsor and Maidenhead	0.9	2.5	1.6	773	2,209	185.8
Wokingham	Wokingham	0.6	2	1.4	592	2,020	241.2
Bracknell Forest	Bracknell Forest	0.9	2.5	1.6	635	1,829	188.0