

Thames Gateway Kent: Economic Indicators Dashboard

July 2012

North Kent has experienced mixed economic trends over the last month, with JSA claimant rates continuing to fall and economically active residents wanting a job falling. However, the overall employment rate continues to fall and the unemployment rate continues to rise, as does overall out-of-work benefit claimants. Notified vacancies at the TGK level have fallen this month for the first time in the last year and the JSA claimants to notified vacancies ratio appears to be stabilising.

Total Employment Rates		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	70.2%	↓	↓	↓
Kent & Medway	71.5%	↓	↓	↓
Greater South East	71.6%	↓	↓	↓
Great Britain	70.0%	↓	↓	↓

- The total employment rate in TGK is lower than in Kent & Medway (K&M) and the Greater South East (GSE), but around the Great Britain (GB) average.
- Like elsewhere, the employment rate in TGK has fallen over the last two years.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct 2010-Sep 2011, Jul 2010-Jun 2011, Oct 2009-Sep 2010, Oct 2008-Sep 2009

% Economic Inactive wanting a job		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	6.4%	↓	↓	↑
Kent & Medway	6.7%	↓	↑	↑
Greater South East	5.9%	↑	↑	↑
Great Britain	5.7%	=	=	↑

- The percentage of residents of working age who are economic inactive and want a job is slightly lower in TGK than the K&M average, but significantly higher than the GSE and GB average.
- Both TGK and K&M have seen a fall over the last quarter and TGK is better than a year ago. This is more positive than in the GSE and Great Britain where it has risen or remained the same.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct 2010-Sep 2011, Jul 2010-Jun 2011, Oct 2009-Sep 2010, Oct 2008-Sep 2009

Total Unemployment Rates		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	10.9%	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	9.0%	↑	↑	↑
Greater South East	7.5%	↑	↑	↑
Great Britain	8.0%	↑	↑	↑

- The unemployment rate is higher in TGK than in K&M, GSE and GB as a whole.
- Unemployment has increased consistently in TGK and the benchmark areas over the last two years.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct 2010-Sep 2011, Jul 2010-Jun 2011, Oct 2009-Sep 2010, Oct 2008-Sep 2009

JSA Claimant Rates			Compared to:		
			Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	15,602	4.1%	↓	↓	↑
Dartford	1,938	3.1%	↓	↓	↓
Gravesham	2,819	4.4%	↓	↓	↑
Medway	7,308	4.3%	↓	↓	↑
Swale	3,537	4.2%	↓	↓	↑
Kent & Medway	36,934	3.5%	=	↓	↑
Greater South East		3.3%	↓	↓	=
Great Britain		4.1%	↓	↓	↑

- The Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimant rate is considerably higher in TGK than in K&M and the GSE, but the same as the GB rate.
- Dartford has a lower JSA rate than other areas across TGK.
- Since last month and previous quarter rates have fallen everywhere or stayed the same than in K&M where it has remained the same.

Source: Job Centre Plus, JSA Claimant Counts, May 2012; Feb 2012; May 2011

Out-of-work Benefit Claimants

			Compared to:		
			Previous Quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	45,740	12.1%	↑	↑	↓
Dartford	5,940	9.6%	↓	↑	↓
Gravesham	7,710	12.1%	↑	↑	↑
Medway	20,980	12.4%	=	↑	↓
Swale	11,100	13.1%	↑	↑	↓
Kent & Medway	115,640	10.9%	↑	↑	↓
Greater South East		10.3%	↓	↑	↓
Great Britain		12.2%	↓	↑	↓

Source: DWP Work & Pensions Benefits Longitudinal Study; Nov 2011, Aug 2011, Nov 2010, Nov 2009

- The Out-of-work benefit claimant rate is higher in TGK than in K&M and the GSE and on a par with the GB average
- Across TGK Swale has the highest rate which is well above the TGK and GB average.
- The rate in Dartford is well below the other benchmark areas and has seen an improvement over the last quarter.

Notified Vacancies

		Compared to:		
		Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	2,684	↓	↑	↑
Dartford	922	↓	↑	↑
Gravesham	414	↑	↑	↑
Medway	673	↓	↓	↑
Swale	675	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	8,050	↓	↑	↑
Greater South East		↓	↑	↑
Great Britain		↓	↑	↑

Source: Job Centre Plus, JSA Claimant Counts, May 2012; Feb 2012; May 2011

- The number of notified vacancies has fallen in most areas over the last month, with the exception of Gravesham and Medway where there has been a decrease
- Since the last quarter vacancies are up in all areas except Medway and since last year they are up everywhere.

JSA Claimants: Notified Vacancies Ratio

		Compared to:		
		Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	5.8 : 1	=	↓	↓
Dartford	2.1 : 1	=	↓	↓
Gravesham	6.8 : 1	↓	↓	↓
Medway	10.9 : 1	↑	↑	↓
Swale	5.2 : 1	↓	↓	↓
Kent & Medway	4.6 : 1	↑	↓	↓
Greater South East	4.1 : 1	↑	↓	↓
Great Britain	4.3 : 1	↑	↓	↓

Source: Job Centre Plus, Apr 2012, May 2012, Feb 2012, May 2011

- The ratio of claimants to vacancies is higher in TGK than in K&M, the GSE and GB.
- There is considerable variation in the ratios across TGK, being considerably higher in Medway and lowest in Dartford
- Compared to the last quarter and last year the ratio has decreased in all areas but Medway where there has been a drop in the number of vacancies recently.

Key	
↑	Upward trend
↓	Downward trend
=	No change
Note: The population base for calculation of rates is Residents aged 16 to 64 years.	