

Economic indicators suggest that while the North Kent economy has improved on some measures, more recent monthly measures are less positive. The quarterly total employment rate in TGK is now above the national average, and has risen over the last two years. The total unemployment rate is also now lower in TGK than a year ago, consistent with trends in the wider Kent & Medway area. Monthly JSA claimant counts have remained stable in TGK over the last month, although the overall trend is downwards. However, vacancies have fallen everywhere over the last month, which is reflected in higher JSA claimants to vacancies ratios across all areas. The percentage of residents economically inactive and want a job and the total out-of-work benefits rate remain high, in line with the position elsewhere

Total Employment Rates		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	70.8%	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	71.4%	=	↓	↓
Greater South East	71.8%	=	=	↑
Great Britain	70.2%	↑	↑	=

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul 2011-Jun 2012; Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jul 2010-Jun 2011; Jul 2009-Jun 2010

- The total employment rate in TGK is lower than in Kent & Medway (K&M) and the Greater South East (GSE), but above the Great Britain (GB) average.
- The rate in TGK now higher than over the last two years, which is similar to the position nationally, whereas it has remained the same as last quarter for K&M and the GSE.

% Economic Inactive wanting a job		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	7.9%	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	7.1%	↑	↑	↑
Greater South East	5.6%	=	↑	↑
Great Britain	5.6%	=	↓	↓

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul 2011-Jun 2012; Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jul 2010-Jun 2011; Jul 2009-Jun 2010

- The percentage of residents of working age who are economic inactive and want a job is higher in TGK compared to in K&M, the GSE and GB as a whole.
- This percentage is now higher in TGK than over the last two years, similar to the position for K&M, whereas for both the GSE and GB the percentage is the same as last quarter

Total Unemployment Rates		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	9.7%	↓	↓	↑
Kent & Medway	7.9%	↓	↓	↑
Greater South East	7.5%	=	↑	↑
Great Britain	8.2%	=	↑	↑

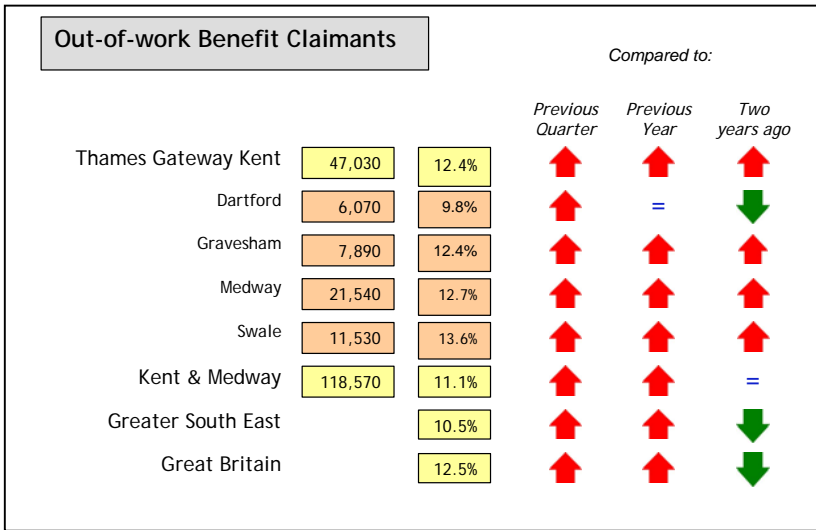
Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul 2011-Jun 2012; Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jul 2010-Jun 2011; Jul 2009-Jun 2010

- The total Unemployment rate is higher in TGK than in K&M, GSE and GB as a whole.
- Unemployment rates in both TGK and K&M are now lower compared to last quarter and last year, whereas they have remained stable since last quarter in GSE and GB

JSA Claimant Rates			Compared to:		
			Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	14,584	3.8%	=	↓	↓
Dartford	1,751	2.8%	=	↓	↓
Gravesham	2,569	4.0%	↓	↓	↓
Medway	6,948	4.1%	=	↓	↓
Swale	3,316	3.9%	=	↓	=
Kent & Medway	35,034	3.3%	=	↓	=
Greater South East		3.2%	=	=	↓
Great Britain		3.8%	=	=	=

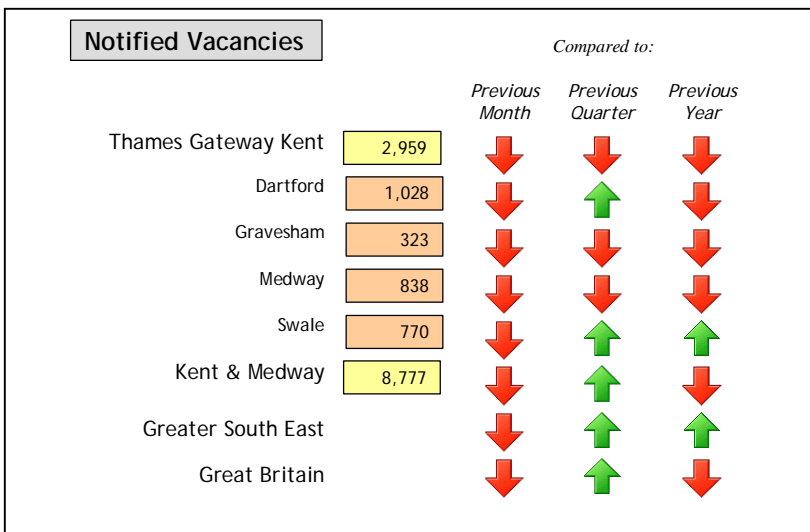
Source: Job Centre Plus, JSA Claimant Counts, Oct 2012; Sept 2012; July 2012; Oct 2011

- The Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimant rate is slightly higher in TGK than in K&M and the GSE, but on a par with the national GB rate. The JSA rate in Dartford is considerably lower than in other areas across TGK and the rate for the benchmark areas as well.
- JSA claimant rates have been stable across all areas over the last month, with the exception of Gravesham which saw a fall. Over the longer term the trend has been downwards over the last year, including in TGK.



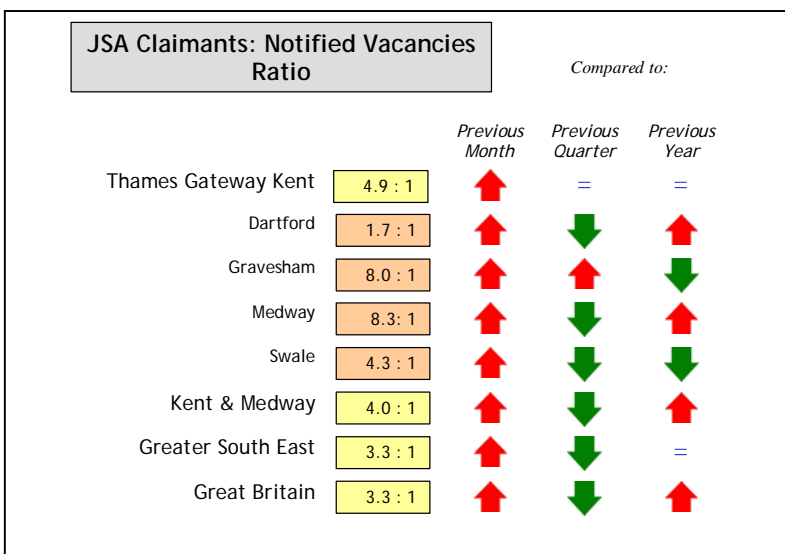
Source: DWP Work & Pensions Benefits Longitudinal Study; Feb 2012; Nov 2011; Feb 2011; Feb 2010

- The overall 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 - well above the TGK and GB average - whereas in Dartford the rate is considerably lower.
- The rate is now higher in TGK than two years ago, whereas it is the same in K&M and lower in the GSE and GB at large.



Source: Job Centre Plus, Oct 2012; Sept 2012; July 2012; Oct 2011

- Notified vacancies have decreased over the last month in all areas across TGK, as well as in the benchmark areas too.
- Since last quarter the picture is more mixed with vacancies across TGK higher in Swale and Dartford but lower in Gravesham and Medway. Vacancies in all benchmark areas still remain higher, despite the fall since last month.



Source: Job Centre Plus, JSA Claimant Counts; Sept 2012; Aug 2012; Jun 2012; Sept 2011

- The ratio of claimants to vacancies is consistently higher than last month in all areas across TGK and in the wider benchmark areas.
- For TGK overall the position has been fairly stable compared to last quarter and last year, but this masks mixed trends at local authority level. For the wider benchmark areas the trends have also been more erratic - decreasing since last quarter but rising or remaining the same compared to last year.

