

Most indicators suggest that the North Kent economy is improving, especially those measured on a monthly basis. The quarterly total employment rate in TGK is now above the national average, being higher than now than over the last two years. The total unemployment rate is also now lower than a year ago and monthly JSA claimant counts across TGK are lower than last year. The numbers of vacancies have risen across TGK and now stand higher than two years ago. On the negative side, 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%	=	↑	↑

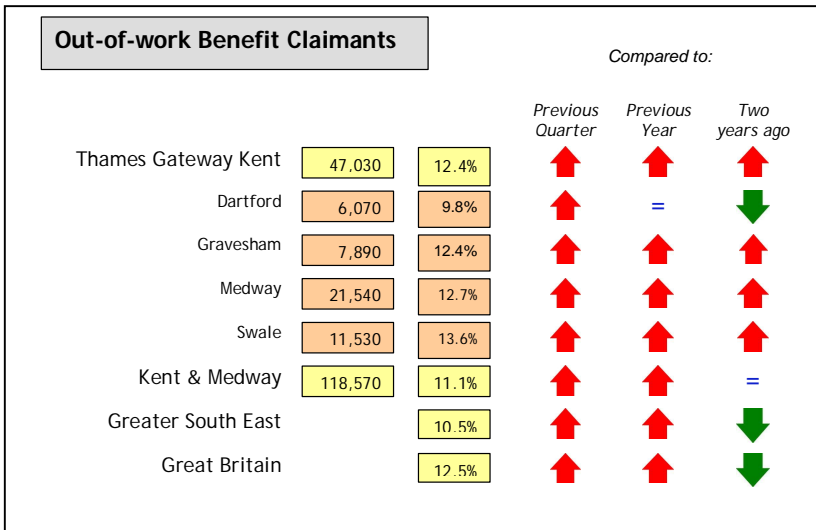
Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul 2011-Jun 2012; Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jul 2010-Jun 2011; Jul 2009-Jun 2010

- 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	14,592 (3.8%)	↓	↓	↓
Dartford	1,742 (2.8%)	↓	↓	↓
Gravesham	2,594 (4.1%)	↓	↓	↓
Medway	6,938 (4.1%)	↓	↓	↓
Swale	3,318 (3.9%)	=	↓	=
Kent & Medway	35,037 (3.3%)	↓	↓	=
Greater South East	3.2%	=	↓	↓
Great Britain	3.8%	=	=	↓

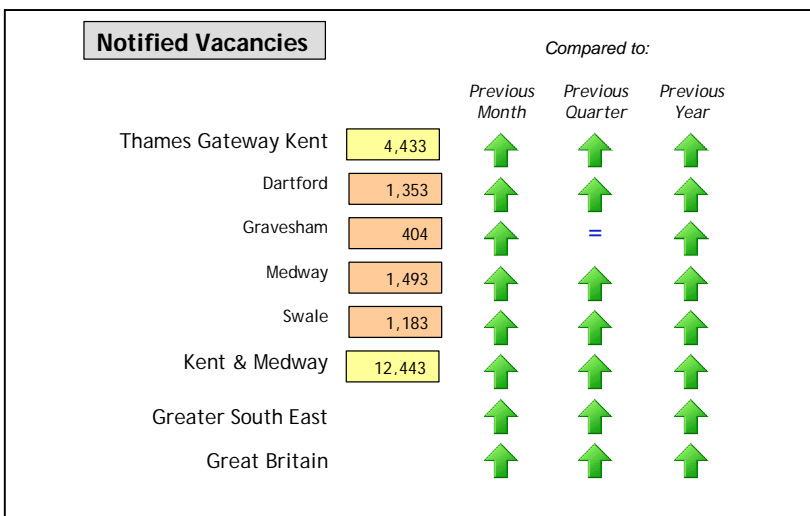
Source: Job Centre Plus, JSA Claimant Counts, Sept 2012; Aug 2012; Jun 2012; Sept 2011

- The Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimant rate is higher in TGK than in K&M and the GSE, but is 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 on a downward trend or remained static across TGK and this is in line with trends elsewhere too.



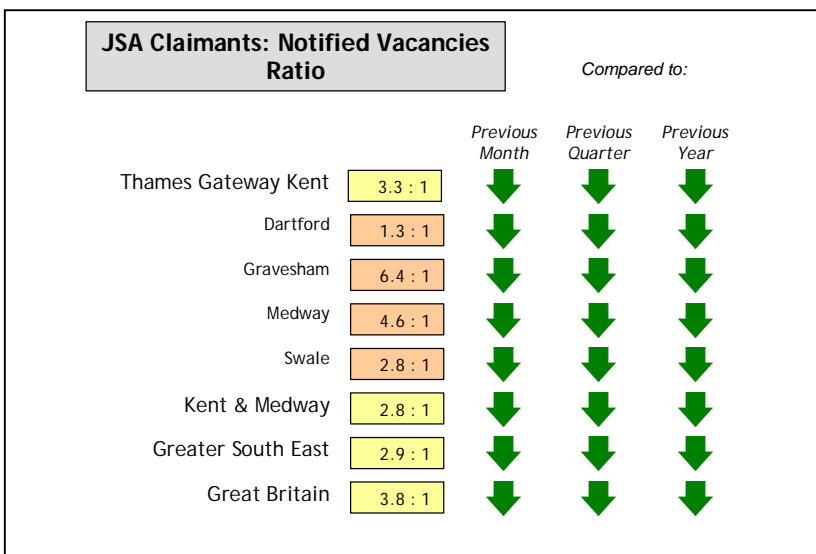
Source: DWP Work & Pensions Benefits Longitudinal Study; Feb 2012; Nov 2011; Feb 2011; Feb 2010

- 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, Sept 2012; Aug 2012; Jun 2012; Sept 2011

- Notified vacancies have increased in TGK and across areas, including in all the benchmark areas too.
- The numbers of vacancies this month are higher (or the same in the case of Gravesham) than at any of the times shown over the last year for all areas.



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

- The ratio of claimants to vacancies in TGK is slightly higher than in K&M and the GSE this month, but slightly below the national average. There is considerable variation in the ratios across TGK, with Gravesham having the highest ratio and Dartford the lowest - being well below that for the benchmark areas.
- Over the last year all areas - both across TGK and benchmark areas - have shown a consistent downward trend.

