

Thames Gateway Kent: Economic Indicators Dashboard

September 2012

There continues to be mixed signs on the state of the North Kent economy. Claimant counts are continuing to fall in TGK, in line with wider trends, but at the same time vacancies have also fallen leading to an increase in the claimant to vacancy ratio that runs counter to trends the wider area. These counter trends, however, are limited to Dartford and Gravesham, where the fall in vacancies has been particularly significant. Trends in Medway & Swale are similar to in the wider areas.

Total Employment Rates		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	69.3%	↓	↓	↓
Kent & Medway	71.4%	↓	↓	↓
Greater South East	71.8%	↑	↑	↑
Great Britain	70.2%	↑	=	↓

Source: Annual Population Survey, Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jan-Dec 2011; Apr 2010-Mar 2011; Apr 2009-Mar 2010

- 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.
- The employment rate in TGK has fallen over the last two years, in line with trends in K&M. This contrasts with an increase in the wider GSE and in GB at large.

% Economic Inactive wanting a job		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	7.4%	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	6.5%	↑	↓	↑
Greater South East	5.9%	↑	=	↑
Great Britain	5.6%	=	↓	=

Source: Annual Population Survey, Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jan-Dec 2011; Apr 2010-Mar 2011; Apr 2009-Mar 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 has increased in TGK over the last two years, whereas in other comparator areas trends have been mixed.

Total Unemployment Rates		Compared to:		
		Previous quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	11.3%	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	8.4%	↓	↑	↑
Greater South East	7.5%	=	↑	↓
Great Britain	8.2%	↑	↑	↑

Source: Annual Population Survey, Apr 2011-Mar 2012; Jan-Dec 2011; Apr 2010-Mar 2011; Apr 2009-Mar 2010

- The total Unemployment rate is higher in TGK than in K&M, GSE and GB as a whole and it is higher than last quarter, last year and two years ago.
- Unemployment rate trends in TGK are similar to average GB trends over the last two years, whereas in K&M and the GSE trends have been more varied.

JSA Claimant Rates			Compared to:		
			Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	14,971	3.9%	↓	↓	↑
Dartford	1,830	2.9%	↓	↓	↓
Gravesham	2,689	4.2%	=	↓	↑
Medway	7,141	4.2%	↓	↓	↑
Swale	3,311	3.9%	↓	↓	↑
Kent & Medway	35,772	3.4%	↓	↓	↑
Greater South East		3.2%	↓	↓	↓
Great Britain		3.8%	↓	↓	↓

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

- The Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimant rate is higher in TGK than in K&M, the GSE and GB. Dartford has a lower JSA rate than other areas across TGK.
- There has been a downward trend across all areas over the last quarter, although in Gravesham it is the same as last month. However, compared to a year ago the rate is higher across most of TGK, with the exception of Dartford.

Out-of-work Benefit Claimants		Compared to:		
		Previous Quarter	Previous Year	Two years ago
Thames Gateway Kent	47,030 (12.4%)	↑	↑	↑
Dartford	6,070 (9.8%)	↑	=	↓
Gravesham	7,890 (12.4%)	↑	↑	↑
Medway	21,540 (12.7%)	↑	↑	↑
Swale	11,530 (13.6%)	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	118,570 (11.1%)	↑	↑	=
Greater South East	10.5%	↑	↑	↓
Great Britain	12.5%	↑	↑	↓

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 well below.
- 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.

Notified Vacancies		Compared to:		
		Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	2,905	↓	↑	↑
Dartford	704	↓	↓	↓
Gravesham	320	↓	↑	↑
Medway	926	↑	↑	↑
Swale	955	↑	↑	↑
Kent & Medway	9,922	↑	↑	↑
Greater South East		↑	↓	↑
Great Britain		↑	↓	↑

Source: Job Centre Plus, Aug 2012; July 2012; May 2012; Aug 2011

- Overall notified vacancies across TGK have fallen over the last month, which is due to decreases in Dartford and Gravesham. This contrasts with increases Medway and Swale and in the wider benchmark areas.
- Since last quarter and last year the picture is more mixed, with vacancies up in TGK and K&M, but lower at the GSE and GB level from last quarter.

JSA Claimants: Notified Vacancies Ratio		Compared to:		
		Previous Month	Previous Quarter	Previous Year
Thames Gateway Kent	5.2 : 1	↑	↓	↓
Dartford	2.6 : 1	↑	↑	↑
Gravesham	8.4 : 1	↑	↓	↓
Medway	7.7 : 1	↓	↓	↓
Swale	3.5 : 1	↓	↓	↓
Kent & Medway	3.6 : 1	↓	↓	↓
Greater South East	3.6 : 1	=	=	↓
Great Britain	3.6 : 1	↓	↑	↑

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

- The ratio of claimants to vacancies is higher in TGK than in K&M, the GSE and GB, but there is considerable variation in the ratios across TGK. Gravesham has the highest ratio while Dartford's is well below the K&M, GSE and GB average.
- Over the last month the ratio has risen in TGK, which is contrary to the downward trend in K&M and GB. At district level the ratio has risen only on Dartford and Gravesham, with Medway and Swale having a consistent downward trend over the last year.

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