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**ISLE OF WIGHT TOPS THE SOUTH EAST LEAGUE WITH 13.1
UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS CHASING EACH JOB VACANCY**

The number one political priority has to be securing a reduction in unemployment by creating jobs, by stimulating demand in the economy, not by cutting wages and shedding jobs says GMB

In second half of 2011 there were 13.1 unemployed workers chasing each live unfilled job vacancy in the Isle of Wight a new GMB analysis shows. The Isle of Wight was top of the South East league with the highest ratio of claimants to unfilled job vacancies. In the Isle of Wight during this period there was a monthly average of 3,129 unemployed claimants chasing a monthly average of 238 live unfilled job vacancies. Next in the league in terms of number of claimants for each unfilled vacancy were Medway 11.8; East Sussex 6.3 and Brighton and Hove 5.2. Below are the figures for the 19 areas in the South East for this period.

The figures show that in the South East region there were a total of 139,087 unemployed claimants chasing a total of 39,911 unfilled job vacancies. That means that there were 3.5 unemployed workers chasing each unfilled job vacancy across the region as a whole.

The figures show that in Great Britain there were a total of 1,504,172 unemployed claimants chasing a total of 289,839 unfilled job vacancies. That means that there were 5.2 unemployed workers chasing each unfilled job vacancy across the country as a whole.

The number of unemployed claimants chasing each unfilled vacancy by region in Great Britain is as follows in descending order: Scotland 7.8; North East 7.8; London 7.7; Yorkshire and Humber 6.3, Wales 5.6; North West; 5.5 West Midlands 4.8; East Midlands 4.0 Eastern England 3.9; South East 3.5 and South West region 3.4.

All these figures are from a new GMB analysis of the live unfilled vacancies and total claimants. The figures were for the period between July and December 2011 and show the monthly average for both over 6 months. The full table with all 204 areas in Great Britain is set out as a pdf at the foot of the national release on this subject on the GMB website (www.gmb.org.uk).

Live unfilled vacancies and total claimants in the 19 areas in the South East, July-December 2011 (monthly average over the 6 months)

	live unfilled vacancies	total claimants	ratio
Great Britain	289,839	1,504,172	5.2
South East	39,911	139,087	3.5
Local council areas			

1	Isle of Wight	238	3,129	13.1
2	Medway	597	7,065	11.8
3	East Sussex	1,506	9,459	6.3
4	Brighton and Hove	1,259	6,500	5.2
5	Kent	5,813	28,201	4.9
6	Slough	807	3,337	4.1
7	Bracknell Forest	434	1,667	3.8
8	Milton Keynes	1,690	6,413	3.8
9	Portsmouth	1,346	5,034	3.7
10	Reading	1,016	3,699	3.6
11	Southampton	1,567	5,630	3.6
12	Wokingham	435	1,450	3.3
13	Windsor and Maidenhead	555	1,746	3.1
14	West Sussex	3,901	11,435	2.9
15	Buckinghamshire	2,180	6,186	2.8
16	Hampshire	5,868	16,429	2.8
17	Surrey	5,350	12,144	2.3
18	West Berkshire	856	1,768	2.1
19	Oxfordshire	4,493	7,799	1.7

Richard Ascough Regional Secretary for the South East Region said **“The rise in unemployment since the recovery stalled was made in Downing Street.**

The truth is that jobs are haemorrhaging in the public and private sectors and no one in Parliament seems to know what to do to stop this.

There are parts of the region like Isle of Wight in such despair that more than a quarter of households with people of working age have no one in work. The prospects for these are bleak since the number of unemployed workers chasing each vacancy across the region is even higher than shown. Across the UK there are 1.2 million unemployed who are not claimants.

The number one political priority has to be securing a reduction in unemployment by creating jobs, by stimulating demand in the economy, not by cutting wages and shedding jobs.”

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Contact Richard Ascough Regional Secretary 07918 904 779 or 0208 397 8881 or Paul Maloney GMB Senior Organiser 07801 343 839

Notes to editors

1) Source: ONS July – December 2011. Vacancy figures are those notified to Jobcentre Plus by employers. Live unfilled vacancies are those that a jobseeker can apply for, i.e. vacancies that have not yet been filled or suspended.

2) The vacancy and claimant count data is available down to district level. Journalists who require data at district level should contact the GMB press office.