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**WALSALL TOPS THE WEST MIDLANDS LEAGUE WITH 8.2
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 8.2 unemployed workers chasing each live unfilled job vacancy in Walsall a new GMB analysis shows. Walsall was top of the West Midlands league with the highest ratio of claimants to unfilled job vacancies. In Walsall during this period there was a monthly average of 10,536 unemployed claimants chasing a monthly average of 1,287 live unfilled job vacancies. Next in the league in terms of number of claimants for each unfilled vacancy were Birmingham 7.7; Dudley 7.1 and Wolverhampton 7.0. Below are the figures for the 14 areas in the West Midlands for this period.

The figures show that in the West Midlands region there were a total of 166,561 unemployed claimants chasing a total of 34,832 unfilled job vacancies. That means that there were 4.8 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 14 areas in the West Midlands July-December 2011 (monthly average over the 6 months)

	live unfilled vacancies	total claimants	ratio
Great Britain	289,839	1,504,172	5.2
West Midlands	34,832	166,561	4.8
Local council areas			

1	Walsall	1,287	10,536	8.2
2	Birmingham	6,646	51,070	7.7
3	Dudley	1,402	9,969	7.1
4	Wolverhampton	1,680	11,815	7.0
5	Sandwell	2,089	13,602	6.5
6	Stoke-on-Trent	1,438	7,894	5.5
7	Coventry	2,398	10,554	4.4
8	Solihull	1,170	4,750	4.1
9	Herefordshire, County of	672	2,697	4.0
10	Telford and Wrekin	1,202	4,460	3.7
11	Shropshire	1,354	4,868	3.6
12	Worcestershire	3,869	10,912	2.8
13	Staffordshire	5,990	14,694	2.5
14	Warwickshire	3,637	8,741	2.4

Joe Morgan Regional Secretary for the West Midlands 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 Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton 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 Joe Morgan Regional Secretary 07852 168 424 or 0121 550 4888 or Samantha Jones GMB Senior Organiser 0121 550 4888

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.