

BEDFORDSHIRE FULL TIME WORKERS SUFFER WORST DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS IN THE EASTERN REGION AS REAL VALUE OF EARNINGS FALLS BY 20.7% DUE TO 'BANKERS RECESSION' AND STALLED RECOVERY

These figures show that the Government's strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in the Eastern Region drop by 7.3% says GMB

Full time workers resident in Bedfordshire have suffered the worst drop in living standards in the Eastern region. The real value of their average gross earnings have fallen by 20.7% between April 2007 and November 2011, due to 'bankers recession' and stalled recovery.

Thurrock's full time workers suffered the next worst fall in living standards in the region with a drop of 11.6%, followed by Suffolk with a drop of 8.8%, Cambridgeshire with a drop of 8.7%. In Hertfordshire the real value of average earnings for full time workers is down by 7.7%, for Essex the fall is 6%. In all of the 10 areas in the region living standards are down including in Luton, Southend-on-Sea, Peterborough and Norfolk.

These figures are from a new analysis by GMB of official earnings data. The table below shows the change in living standards for 10 areas in the Capital, between April 2007 and November 2011. For the Eastern region as a whole the living standards of full time workers have fallen by 7.3% in this period. The fall for the UK as a whole is 5.9% and for England is 6.2% during the same period.

In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011, are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings. See Notes to Editors for sources and inflation details.

		Mean gross annual (£) - full-time			Drop in real value of earnings from April 2007 to November 2011*
		2007 £	2011 £	Change £	%
	United Kingdom	30,015	32,837	2,822	-5.9
	England	30,852	33,661	2,809	-6.2
	Eastern	32,134	34,691	2,557	-7.3
rank					
1	Bedfordshire	35,178	33,266	-1,912	-20.7
2	Thurrock	28,501	29,541	1,040	-11.6
3	Suffolk	28,626	30,493	1,867	-8.8
4	Cambridgeshire	34,211	36,476	2,265	-8.7
5	Hertfordshire	37,584	40,415	2,831	-7.7
6	Essex	33,914	37,077	3,163	-6.0
7	Luton	24,905	27,506	2,601	-4.8
8	Southend-on-Sea	30,534	34,381	3,847	-2.7
9	Peterborough	25,393	28,904	3,511	-1.5
10	Norfolk	24,990	28,520	3,530	-1.2

Paul Hayes GMB Regional Secretary for the Eastern Region said, **“These figures show that the Government’s strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in the Eastern region drop by 7.3%.**

George Osborne has the economic literacy of a stick of rhubarb.

Full time workers in Bedfordshire, Thurrock, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Luton, Southend-on-Sea, Peterborough and Norfolk have seen the value of their earnings drop when they have a job. Things have got a lot worse in the past year as the recovery underway at the time of the election stalled and the region is mired in a new recession.

Two thirds of the economy is consumer driven and Osborne must be the only person who does not get it. Squeezing wages, pay freezes and cutting jobs will not restart the economy. Using the IMF measures his cuts will reduce real private consumption by 4% and GDP by 3.4% over the next few years.

I doubt if the electorate had any notion that a change of government would lead to a loss of 376,000 jobs across the UK and 31,000 in Eastern, in the public sector, in the short time since the general election. When the ‘same old Tories’ were returned to power they brought with them the same old philosophy that “if it’s not hurting it’s not working.”

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

1 **2007-2011 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - residence based** *Source: Table 7.7a, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. Crown Copyright Reserved*

2 In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011, are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings.

3 Between April 2007 and November 2011 inflation has been 16.1%, of which half (7.65%) has taken place since April 2010.