

**BRACKNELL FOREST FULL TIME WORKERS SUFFER WORST DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS IN SOUTH EAST AS REAL VALUE OF EARNINGS FALLS BY 16.5% 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 South East region drop by 5.5% says GMB**

Full time workers resident in Bracknell Forest have suffered the worst drop in living standards in South East region. The real value of their average gross earnings have fallen by 16.5% between April 2007 and November 2011, due to 'bankers recession' and stalled recovery.

Isle of Wight's full time workers suffered the next worst fall in living standards in the region with a drop of 13.1%, followed by Wokingham with a drop of 11%, Southampton with a drop of 10.8% and Surrey with a drop of 9.8%. In Reading the real value of average earnings for full time workers is down by 9.5%, for Portsmouth the fall is 9.4%, for West Sussex the fall is 8.8% and for Windsor & Maidenhead it is 8.3%. Living standards also dropped in Slough, Hampshire, Kent, Milton Keynes, West Berkshire, Brighton & Hove, Oxfordshire and Medway. Buckingham is the only area out of the 18 areas in the region where the movement in average earnings for fulltime workers has kept pace with the rate of inflation over the same period.

These figures are from a new analysis by GMB of official earnings data. The table below shows the change in living standards for 18 areas in the region, between April 2007 and November 2011. No figures are available for East Sussex. For the South East region as a whole the living standards of full time workers have fallen by 5.5% 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
South East		34,514	37,904	3,390	-5.5
<b>rank</b>					
1	Bracknell Forest	36,723	36,291	-432	-16.5
2	Isle of Wight	26,071	26,648	577	-13.1
3	Wokingham	40,066	41,793	1,727	-11.0
4	Southampton	25,725	26,880	1,155	-10.8
5	Surrey	45,913	48,436	2,523	-9.8
6	Reading	31,464	33,294	1,830	-9.5
7	Portsmouth	25,577	27,089	1,512	-9.4
8	West Sussex	32,108	34,174	2,066	-8.8

9	Windsor & Maidenhead	44,027	47,103	3,076	-8.3
10	Slough	26,938	29,028	2,090	-7.5
11	Hampshire	32,205	35,105	2,900	-6.3
12	Kent	33,391	36,759	3,368	-5.2
13	Milton Keynes	31,624	34,886	3,262	-5.0
14	West Berkshire	35,582	39,405	3,823	-4.5
15	Brighton & Hove	30,481	33,956	3,475	-3.9
16	Oxfordshire	33,943	37,901	3,958	-3.6
17	Medway	27,719	31,508	3,789	-1.6
18	Buckinghamshire	39,732	46,531	6,799	1.8

Richard Ascough GMB Regional Secretary for the South East said, **“These figures show that the Government’s strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in the region drop by 5.5%.**

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

**Full time workers resident in 17 areas in the South East 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 41,000 in the South East, 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.

