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# Regional Skills Advice

[www.swslim.org.uk](http://www.swslim.org.uk)



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# Scope



- **Policy Parameters**
  - **LSC**
  - **Higher level skills**
  - **Employment and worklessness**
  
- **No investment table as funding not included in RFA envelope**
  
- **Sub regional and thematic advice**

# Context

- **Economic downturn - duration and intensity unknowable.**
- **Lowest unemployment of the English regions, but significant increases in the claimant count (highest of English regions).**
- **Vacancies decreasing significantly.**
- **Job losses - education, engineering, house building, printing and manufacturing. Financial services, construction, tourism and leisure are predicted to be increasingly affected.**
- **SW one of the highest skilled region.**
- **Regional picture disguises considerable intra-regional diversity.**



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## Context

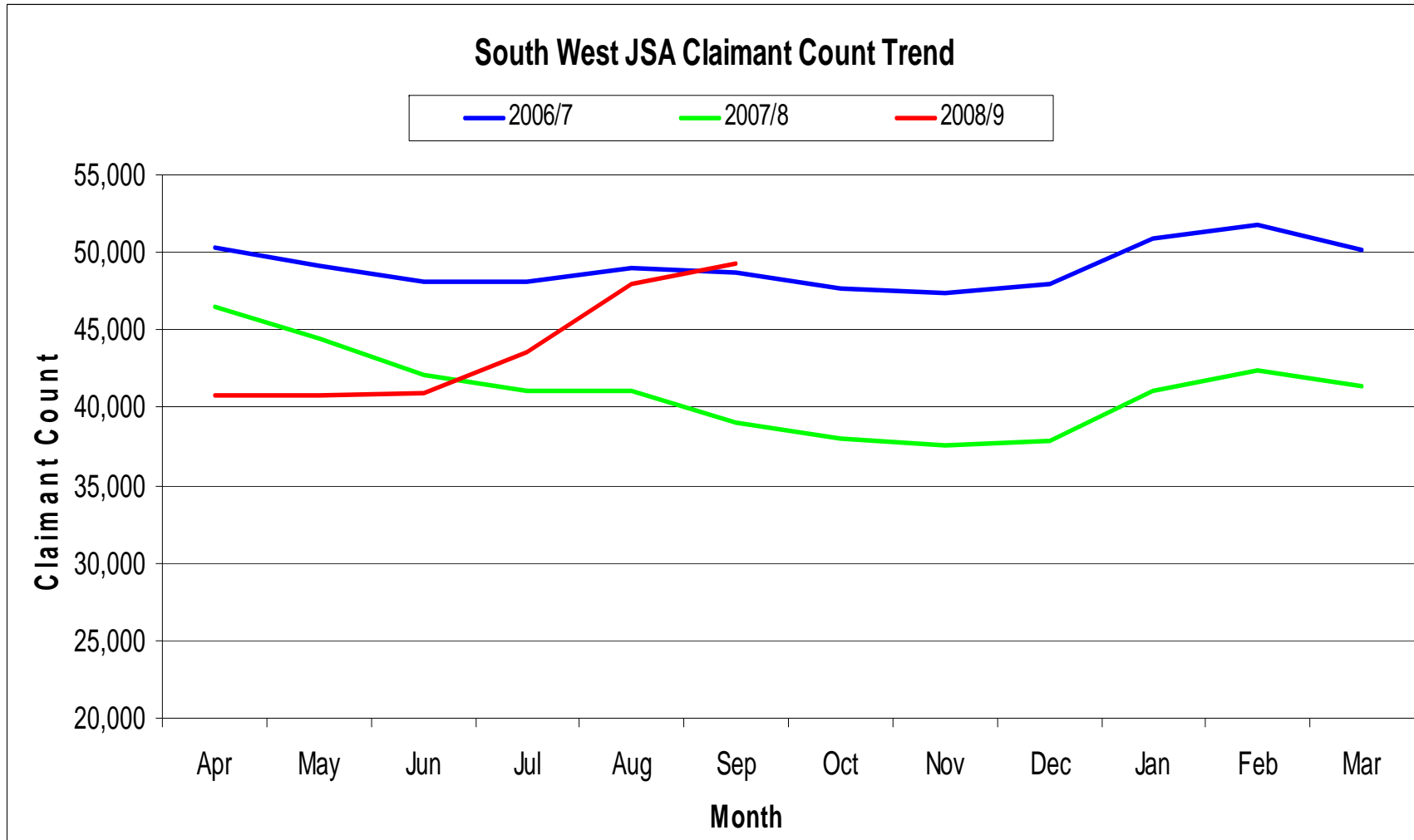


- **Significant progress required to meet the Leitch Intermediate and 2020 targets. Demographic change is a significant feature of future demand for skills**
  - **number of 15 to 19 year olds living in the region drop by 1% per year,**
  - **working age adult population is predicted to grow by or 1% per year.**
  - **large proportion of the SW's adult population growth is driven by immigration, much of it international**
  - **overall inflows of migrant workers to the South West appear to have declined in 2007/08 relative to the post accession peak in 2006/07.**



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# JSA Claimant Count





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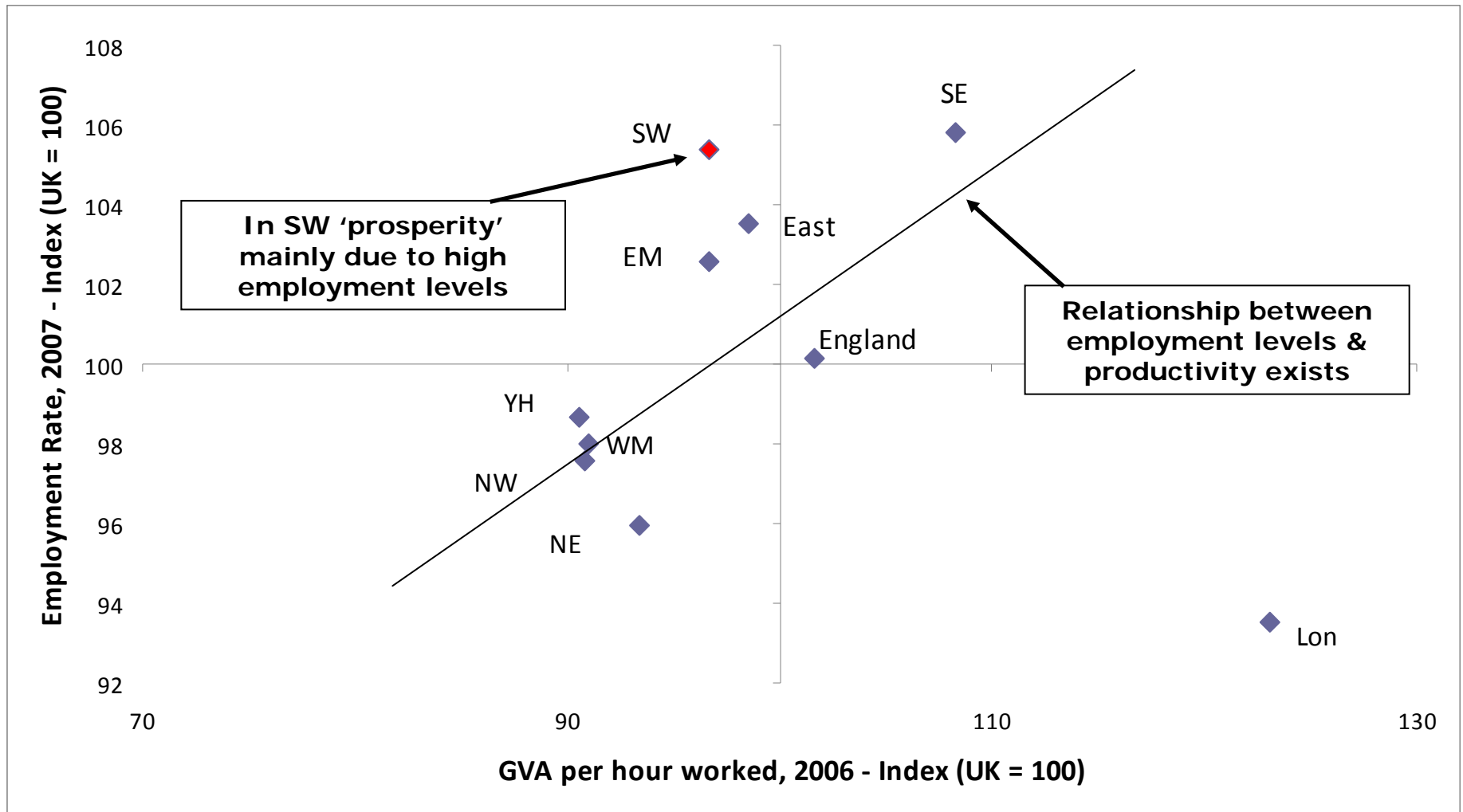
# Leitch Baselines





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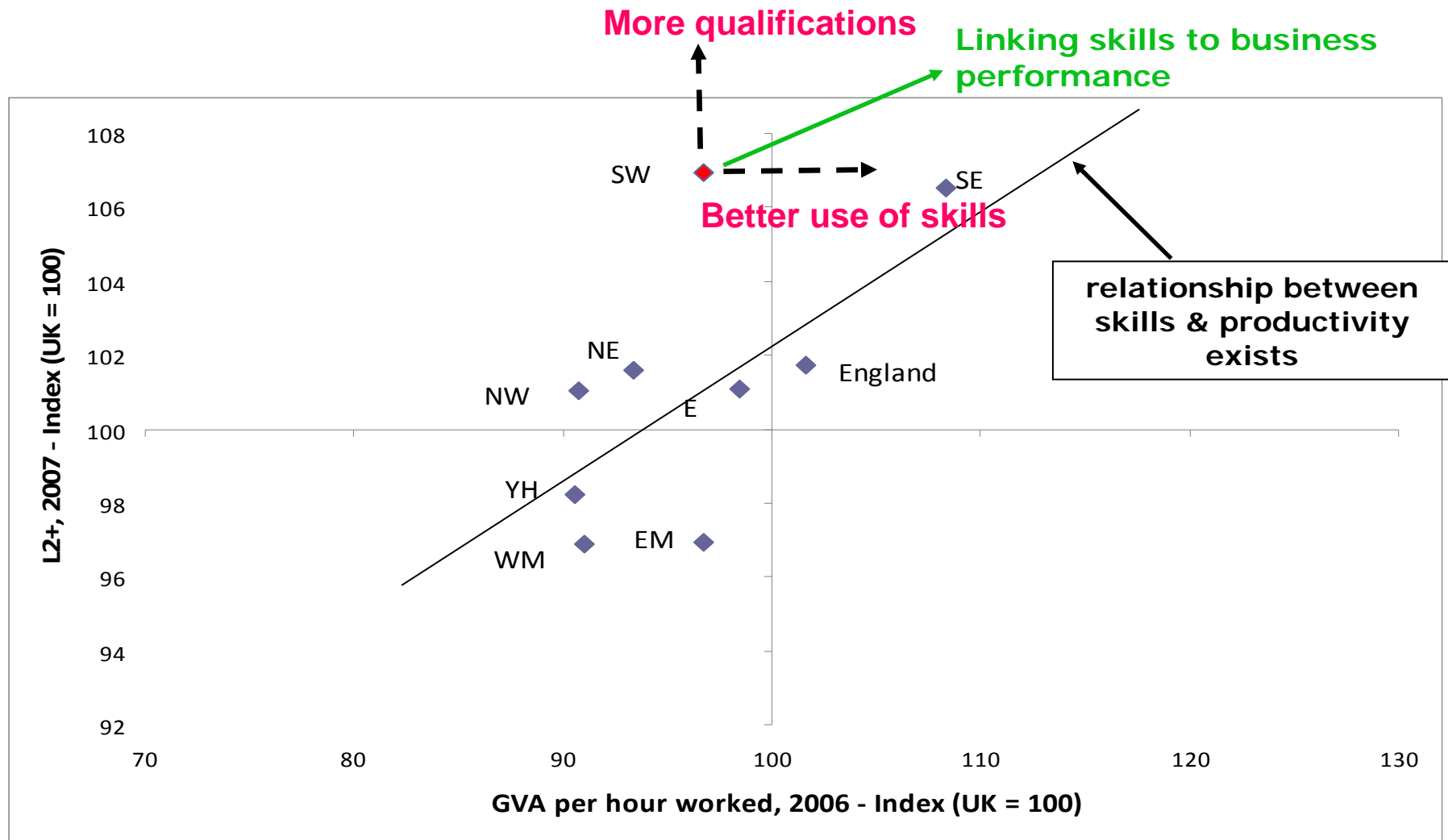
# Employment & Productivity





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# Skills & Productivity



# Evidence

- **South West Regional Skills, Enterprise and Employment Analysis 2007, SLIM**
- **South West LSC Strategic Analysis 2008 (not yet available but will be by the time this is submitted – currently have the summary document)**
- **Healthy Labour Market Review 2008, SLIM**
- **Briefing on Unemployment, Nov 2008**
- **Consultation evidence – outcomes of the consultation process with local authorities, college principals, SSCs and the Skills Consultation event.**



# Priorities for CSR Period



- **European Social Fund – use flexibly**
- **Jobcentre Plus – enhance capacity and increased flexibility**
- **Further Education Funding - stability and flexibility to enable the region to meet sectoral and economic need.**
- **Welcome credit transfer by 2010 and welcome the new policy for funding to support bite sized chunks of learning in business critical areas, as a result of the economic downturn.**
- **Greater funding flexibilities are also sought for Sector Skills Councils**



## Help business to avoid making redundancies



- **We propose support for labour employers to develop labour pooling activities, to enable the sharing of labour and skills.**
- **Increase national funding available for the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service.**



# At risk of redundancy



- **Increased flexibility is required in the Train to Gain programme**
- **Market and promote skills accounts more proactively**
- **Provision of Information, Advice and Guidance services (IAG)**
- **Apprenticeships - groups of employers in training associations**

# Those made redundant

- **Consideration is being given nationally to:**
  - **Reviewing JSA entitlements so that people can access support from the beginning of the claim (i.e. not 6 months after unemployment)**
  - **Remove of the 16hr training rule in JSA.**
  
- **Consider additional resources for social purpose organisations who are specialists in helping people access the labour market (particular those that focus on hard to reach groups).**



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## **New entrants into the labour market**



- **We recognise that people who have recently qualified may not have the necessary work experience to get a job during an economic downturn.**



## Medium to longer term



- **Infrastructure issues – Local ESBs, Regional Skills Partnership, local authorities, National Skills academies**
- **Leitch Targets**
- **RSP Priorities**
  - **Leadership and management**
  - **Enterprise skills**
  - **Creativity and innovation – STEM**
  - **Intermediate and higher level skills and sector priorities**
- **Other issues**
  - **Rural issues**
  - **Green new Deal**
  - **Tackling worklessness**
  - **IAG**



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## Other blocks

- **The advice needs to link to the way in which skills will support the priorities in:**
  - **Transport**
  - **Housing**
  - **Economic Development**



## Sub regional issues



- **Consultation with local authorities on sub regional priorities.**
- **Regional verification**
- **What are the issues likely to be?**
- **How should this be represented in the Skills Advice?**



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# Discussion Sessions



## ■ Session 1

- What should we do in response to the economic downturn?

## ■ Session 2

- What are the medium to longer term priorities?
- How can skills support the broader thematic issues?

## ■ Session 3

- How should the local/sub regional priorities be reflected?