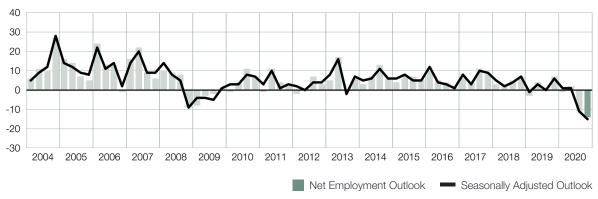


## **SOUTH EAST**

## South East Jobs Market Set for Challenging Quarter

Employers anticipate the weakest labour market since the survey began in 1992 during the upcoming quarter. The Net Employment Outlook stands at -15%, declining by four percentage points in comparison with the prior quarter and by 21 percentage points when compared with last year at this time.



No bar indicated Net Employment Outlook of zero

## MARKET OVERVIEW

Employers in the South East are less confident of a return to pre-crisis hiring activity than UK average, with 47% expecting pre-COVID-19 hiring levels to return within 12 months, and 22% expecting these levels to resume within three months.

Almost half of employers are looking to offer more upskilling opportunities following the impact of COVID-19, with 47% intending to offer more learning and development opportunities post-pandemic, a considerable 11 percentage points above UK average. Employers in the region also signal the joint highest intent on letting their staff work entirely remotely – matched only by London – with 19% of employers intending to let employees do so following the pandemic. Elsewhere, 29% of employers will offer staff the opportunity to work remotely some of the time, whereas 37% will offer more flexi or condensed hours. Finally, 37% of employers intend to offer staff more health and wellbeing benefits as a result of COVID-19.