

## The Midlands and East of England's Outlook Remains Strong Despite Decline

## MARKET OVERVIEW

Employers across the Midlands and East of England anticipate a strong labour market during the April – June period. The Net Employment Outlook reported across the regions is West Midlands (+25%), East Midlands (+33%) and East of England (+35%). Compared with last quarter, West Midlands has decreased 5 percentage-points, East Midlands has decreased 6 percentage-points, and East of England has decreased 2 percentage-points. Compared with Q2 2021, West Midlands has increased 24 percentage-points, East Midlands has increased 34 percentage-points, and East of England has increased 31 percentage-points.

The East of England is experiencing the highest Employment Outlook of any UK region, closely followed by their neighbour the East Midlands. By contrast, the West Midlands come in with the lowest Outlook of any UK region. All three regions have declined from last quarter, but optimism remains strong. The lower Employment Outlook in the West Midlands can be explained by hiring in Birmingham having cooled slightly after being a hotspot last quarter.