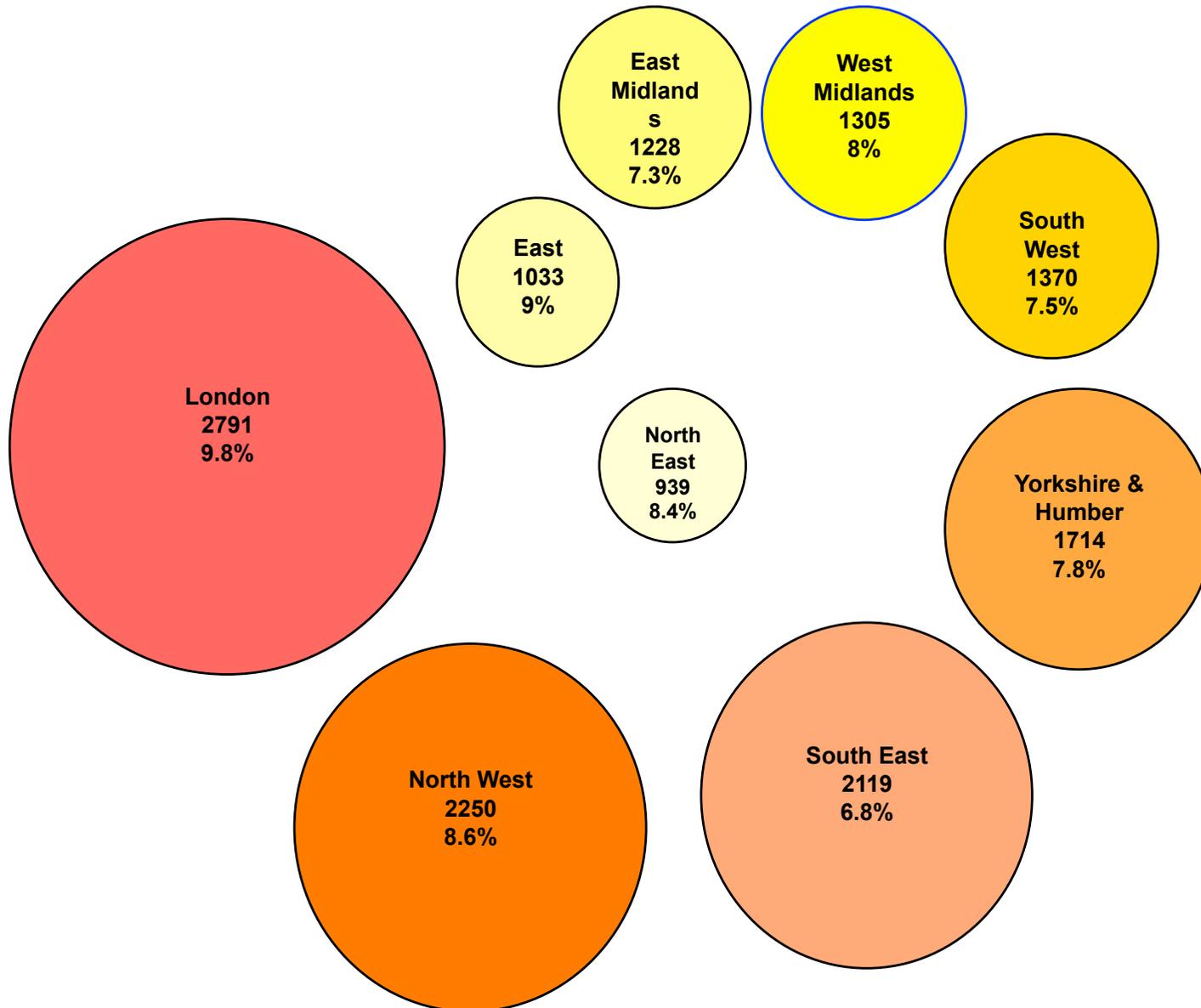


Regional graduate employment

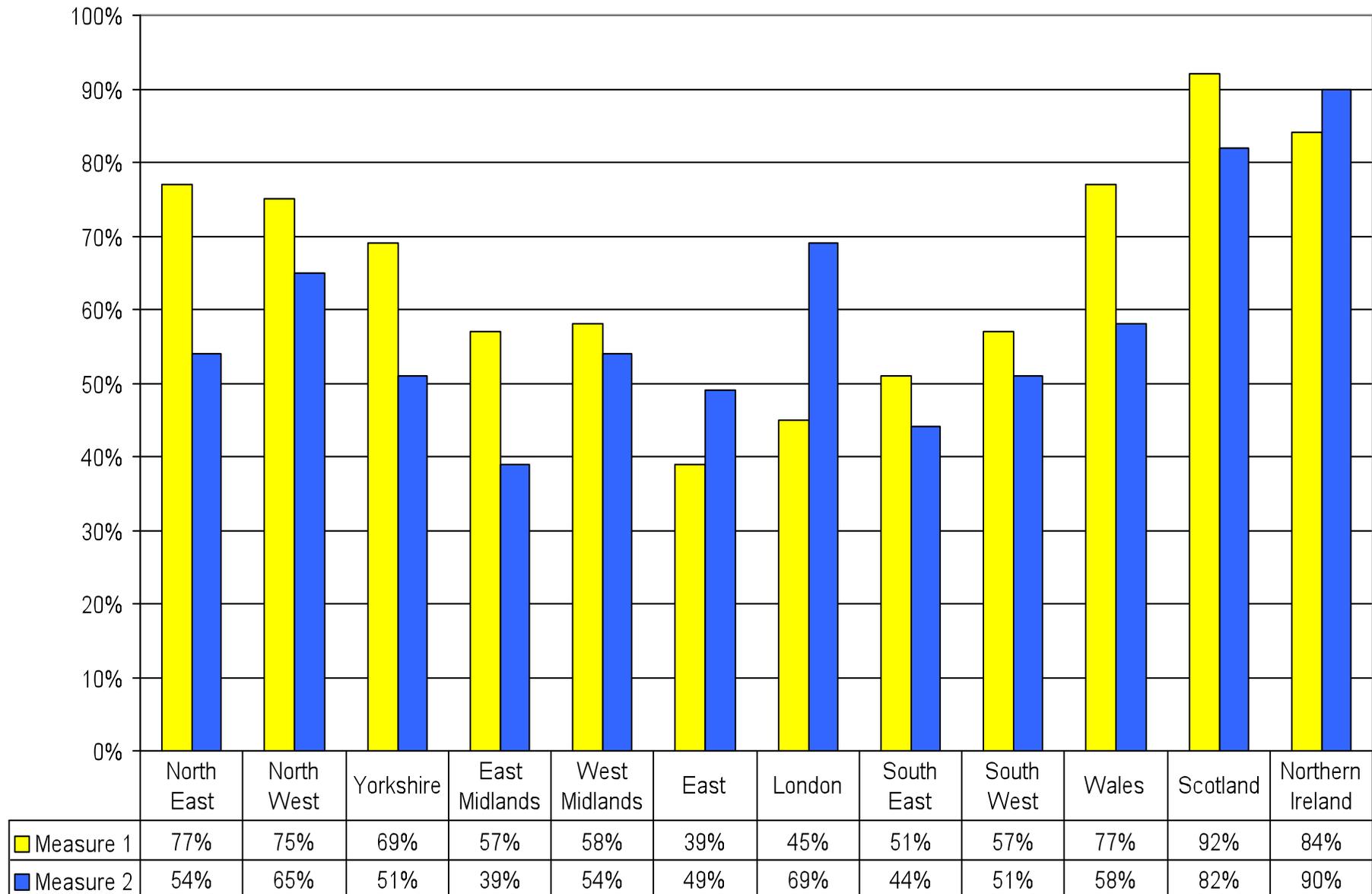
The HECSU view
Charlie Ball
Deputy Research Director



Graduates from 2007/8 known to be unemployed six months after graduating, by Government Office Region of institution of study



Graduate retention 2007/8



Current State of the Regions – DLHE data

No uniform increase or decrease in numbers of 2007/8 graduates employed in the regions compared to previous years. Different sectors have been affected by the recession in different regions.

Few private sector occupations saw increases in numbers of graduates entering them in 2007/8 in any region.



Current State of the Regions – DLHE data

Many professions that are heavily based in London saw significant falls in numbers of new graduates.

Proportion of employed graduates working in graduate-level employment did not show large variation between regions (all between 60 and 70% of employed graduates).



Current State of the Regions – careers services view

Careers services report that graduate employment in the regions has weakened in the last 12 months. Further difficulty in the labour market is expected in the next 12 months, but business confidence may be recovering in some regions.

Media reports have adversely affected graduate confidence – sometimes with the effect that young people do not apply for available jobs because they believe that there are no opportunities.

There is, as expected, a large increase in interest in PG study.

Those local economies that were more robust before the recession seem to have suffered the least.



Current State of the Regions – concerns

The employment of graduates in the regions is very reliant on the public sector.

Outside London, the most common roles for new graduates are either non-graduate (sales assistants, retail cashiers, waiting, bar staff, general office assistants), or public sector (junior doctors, nurses and teachers).



Current State of the Regions – concerns

Many of the general office assistants are employed in the public sector, in hospitals and local government. These graduates are amongst the most likely to move quickly from non-graduate to graduate jobs. If these opportunities are lost due to public sector cost savings, then it may have unanticipated effects on the supply of talent to the regional economy.

Careers services report that many trainees from previous years are being released by their employers on completion of graduate training schemes. Sectors where this has been noted include law and finance.



Current State of the Regions – successes

Careers services report that autumn careers fairs were well attended by employers and graduates. Business confidence did seem to be up slightly.

There seems to still be untapped demand for graduates amongst SMEs. Careers services report that many SMEs that would benefit from employing graduates but are not always aware of the benefits until they are effectively explained

