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The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS)

David Swales
Research Manager
Learning and Skills Council - England

Agenda



Law Society of Scotland

- NESS background
- Methodology and Questionnaire
- Headline Findings

What is NESS?

Aim

National Employers Skills Survey (NESS) provides detailed information about training activities, recruitment problems and skill gaps facing employers in England. It provides a common basis to develop policy and assess the impact of skills initiatives. It was first conducted in 2003 and was also conducted in 2004 and 2005.

Cross-government activity

NESS 05 was commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA).

Sample size

75,000 telephone interviews of employers were completed

Analysis

Where possible the data has been sampled by sector and employer sizebands. Results are available at National, regional (9) and local areas (47) levels.

The National Employer Skills Survey series



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- Prior to 2003 – Various local surveys and small England wide survey
- NESS2003
 - 72,000 cases;
 - All establishments with 1+ employee.
- NESS2004
 - 27,000 cases;
 - all establishments with 2+ **workers**;
- NESS2005
 - 75,000 cases
 - All establishments with 2+ workers;
- NESS2007
 - 75,000 cases
 - All establishments with 2+ workers;
 - Follow-up cost of training survey; 7,000 cases

Questionnaire

- 75 questions
- Average 20 minutes to complete

Four main areas of questioning:

- 1) Characteristics of workplace / occupational profile of employees / recruitment of young people
- 2) Experience of vacancies – inc external skills deficiencies (skills shortage vacancies)
- 3) Experience of skills problems within workforce – internal skills deficiencies (skills gaps)
- 4) Training, workforce development and engagement with FE colleges

Headline findings positive over time



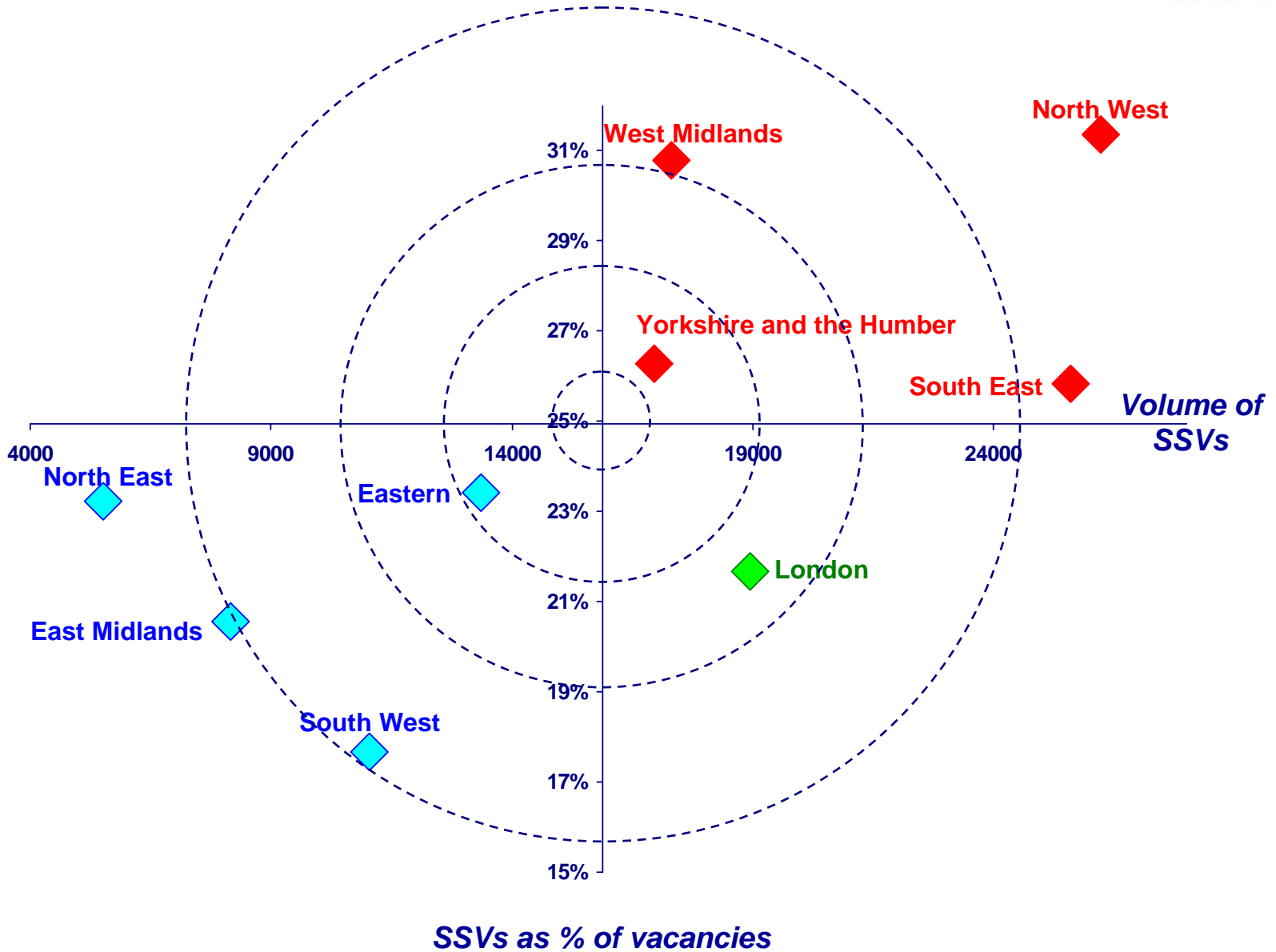
InformationWeek

	NESS03	NESS04	NESS05
Skill-shortage vacancies (SSVs)			
■ % of establishments with unprompted SSVs	4%	4%	4%
■ Proportion of all vacancies which are unprompted SSVs	20%	17%	17%
■ Number of unprompted SSVs per 1,000 employees	6	5	5
Skill gaps			
■ % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient	22%	20%	16%
■ The number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment	11%	7%	6%
Training			
■ % of establishments training staff over the last 12 months	59%	64%	65%
■ % of employers with a training plan	39%	44%	45%
■ % of employers with a budget for training	31%	34%	33%

Skill-shortage vacancies across the regions



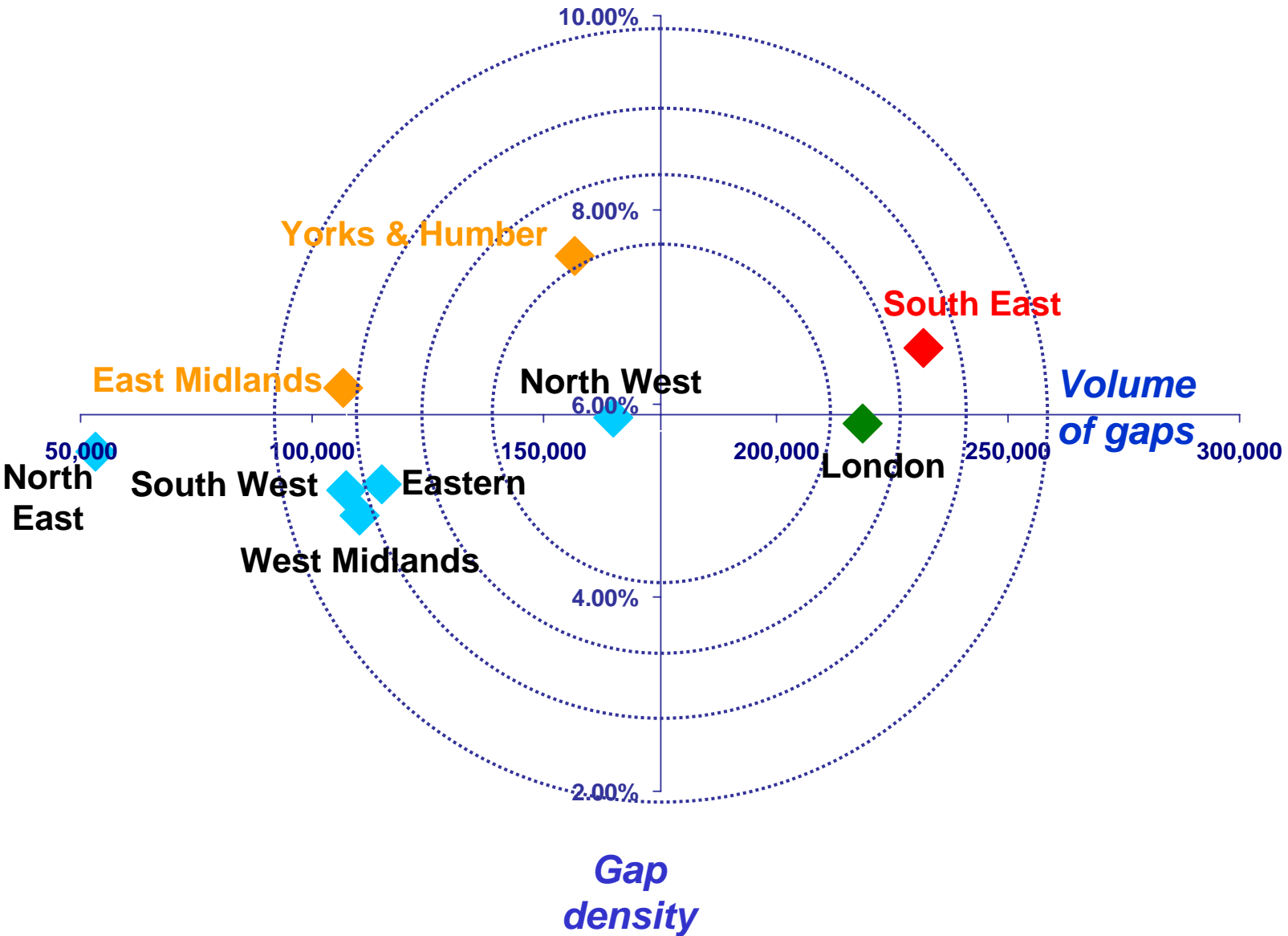
Information & Statistics



Skill gaps across the regions



London Skills Survey



Training by region

