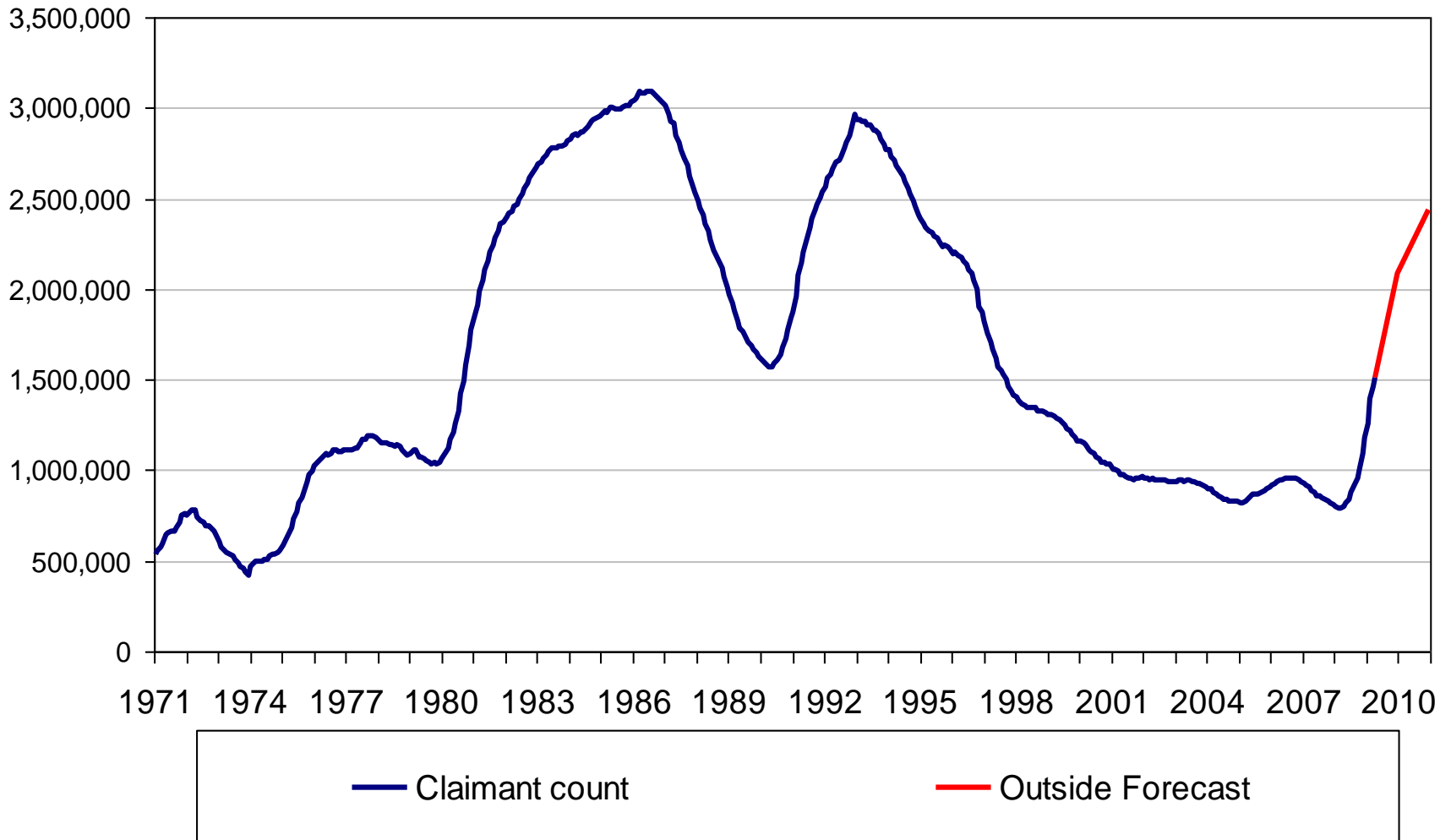


# Responding to the Economic Climate

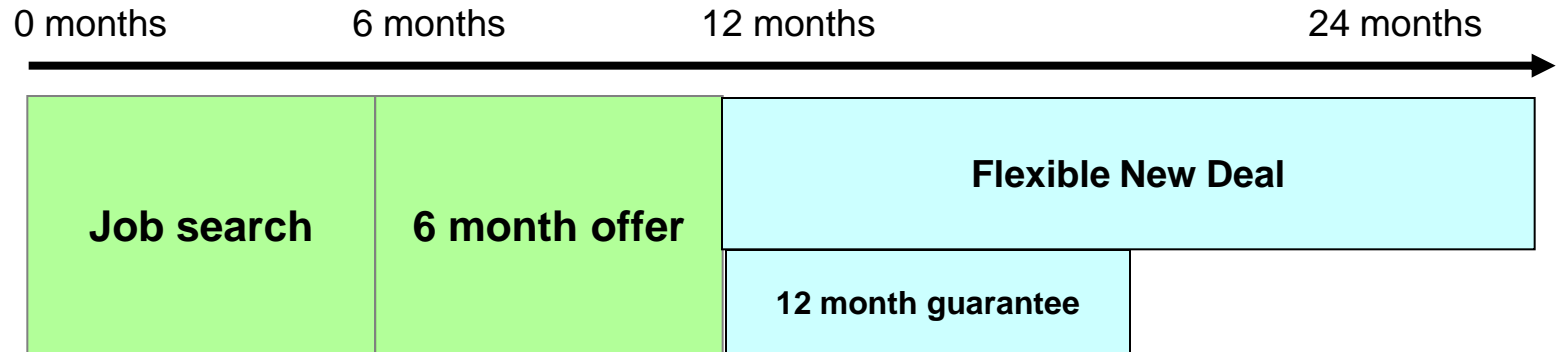
Mark Fisher

# Unemployment is rising sharply...



- The current UK employment rate is 73.3%
- This is a decrease of 0.8% on the quarter and a decrease of 1.5% on the year
- In May, although there were 357,500 new claims for Jobseeker's Allowance 306,500 people flowed off unemployment benefits
- Most people leave JSA quickly: around half of new claims last less than 3 months and around three quarters less than 6 months
- But there are still opportunities coming up all the time - Jobcentre Plus takes an average of 10,000 new vacancies every working day and thousands more come up through other recruitment channels

# Our aim is to provide more help for those on benefit longest...



## **Before job loss:**

- Rapid Response Service

## **From Day 1 all customers get:**

- A work focused interview with an employment adviser
- Light touch basic skills screening, those with below level 2 skills signposted to help from skill service
- At around week 6, mandatory back-to-work session on rights and responsibilities
- Fortnightly signing

## After 13 weeks all customers get:

- A review with an adviser
- Six weeks of weekly signing then resuming fortnightly
- Submitted to a suitable vacancy
- Voluntary referral to skills assessment with extra help for those with the lowest skills

**The six month offer** – a £500 million package to support 500,000 people.

Four components:

- £1,000 recruitment subsidy + fit with ‘in work skills allowance’ (Train to Gain)
- Self-employment credit – practical and financial support
- Work-focused training
- Volunteering placements

Announced 12 January, went live 6 April

Underpinned by more intensive mandatory intervention.

## Guarantee of work or training for all 18 to 24 year olds

Four components:

- Future Jobs Fund - £1 billion challenge fund, aims to create around 150,000 new jobs for long-term unemployed young people or in unemployment hot spots
- Help with moving young people into key employment sectors
- Work-focused training
- A community task force programme delivering real help within their local community

Guarantee will be in place from early 2010

Mandatory employment support for 25+ age group (and those not taking up guarantee)

Delivered by outside providers. Contracts for first phase to start in October 2009. Second phase to start in 2010

Personalised employment support with minimum 4 weeks work related activity before the end of 12 months.

To deliver effective services we are working with:

- Jobcentre Plus
- Other organisations
- External providers
- Local partners to make better use of different funding streams

Working together we can help people to find work:

- Support for active job search
- More support to prevent long term unemployment
- Avoid shift to inactive benefits

Putting the labour market in a strong position when the economy moves into upturn