<u>We welcome the overall increase in</u> <u>employment, but are deeply concerned</u> <u>that millions have faced a real terms</u> <u>pay cut under this Government – Debbie</u> <u>Abrahams</u>

Debbie Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting on today's Labour Market Statistics, said: "We welcome the overall increase in employment, but are deeply concerned that millions have faced a real terms pay cut under this Government. "The cost of basic essentials continues to rise as real wages decline under the Conservatives. Millions are struggling to get by while Theresa May hands £1 billion to the DUP to keep herself in a job. "Too many people also continue to face barriers to getting a job on the basis of their age, ethnicity, disability or where they live. These same groups bear the brunt of this Government's failed austerity plans. "A Labour government will implement a real Living Wage of £10 per hour, and bring an immediate

end to Tory austerity."