

West of England: Economic News Bulletin

The Bulletin provides a quarterly summary of events and announcements of relevance to the local economy. For further statistical information: [West of England Key Statistics](#). Email: hollie.bryant@westofengland.org

Contents

[Key Economic Statistics](#)

[Key economic statistics for July 06 – June 07 \(residence based, 16+ population\)](#)

[Key economic statistics for July 06 – June 07 \(workplace based, 16+ population\)](#)

[West of England: Economic News](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Job gains](#)

[Job losses](#)

[Property & Development](#)

[Housing](#)

[Commercial development](#)

[Bristol office/industrial market](#)

[Business News](#)

[Tourism/Leisure](#)

[Aerospace News](#)

[Airbus](#)

[Rolls-Royce](#)

[Bristol Airport](#)

[Current Consultations/Partnership News & Events](#)

Key Economic Statistics

Key economic statistics for July 2006 – June 2007 (residence based 16+ population)

- Across the West of England, a total of 511,200 residents over the age of 16 were in employment during the period Jul 06 – Jun 07. This shows an increase of 5,500 since Jul 05 – Jun 06, when total employment of the over 16's was 505,700. Across the South West the number of over 16's in employment has similarly increased from 2,425,600 during Jul 05 – Jun 06 to 2,463,100 during Jul 06 – Jun 07 (a total increase of 37,500).

- Across the period Jul 06 – Jun 07, 272,500 of the sub-regions male residents over the age of 16 were in employment (a male employment rate of 69%); this represents an increase in male employment since the period Jul 05 – Jun 06, when 269,600 males over the age of 16 were in employment (a male employment rate of 69.3%).
- Across the period Jul 06 – Jun 07, 238,600 of the sub regions female residents over the age of 16 were in employment (a female employment rate of 58.3%); this represents an increase in female employment since the period Jul 05 – Jun 06, when 236,100 females over the age of 16 were in employment (a female employment rate of 58.2%).
- At 63.6%, the total employment rate of the sub-regions' 16+ resident population has remained unchanged since the period Jul 05 – Jun 06. This figure is higher than both the regional employment rate of 60.5% and the national employment rate of 59.6% for the period Jul 06 – Jun 07.

[Return to top](#)

- Employees' accounted for 447,000 (87.5%) of the sub-regions economically active resident population (aged 16+), whilst self-employees account for 62,100 (12.2%). This signals an increase of 1000 in the number of self-employed since Jul 05 – Jun 06. For the period Jul 06 – Jun 07, 84.3% of the regional, and 86% of the national (England and Wales) 16+ resident population were employees, whilst 14.9% of the regional and 13.3% of the national were self-employed.
- During the period Jul 06 – Jun 07, 369,400 of the sub-regions residents over the age of 16 were employed on a full-time basis; this equates to a full-time employment rate of 72.3% (down from 72.6% Jul 05 – Jun 06). This compares to a regional figure for Jul 06 – Jun 07, of 70.2% and a national figure (England and Wales) of 74%.
- During the period Jul 06 – Jun 07, 141,400 of the sub-regions residents over the age of 16 were employed on a part-time basis; this equates to a sub-regional, part-time employment rate of 27.7% (up from 27.4% July 05 – June 06). This compares to a regional figure for Jul 06 – Jun 07, of 29.8%, and a national figure (England and Wales) of 25.9%.
- The economic activity rate (% of residents aged 16+ who are economically active) of the sub-region between Jul 06 and Jun 07 was 65.6%; this remains relatively unchanged since Jul 05 – Jun 06, when the same figure was 66%. By contrast, the regional and national (England & Wales) economic activity rates, both at 62.9%, show a marginal increase since Jul 05 – Jun 06.
- Between Jul 06 and Jun 07, 16,600 of the sub-regions 16+ resident population were unemployed (an unemployment rate of 3.2%). This represents a reduction of 2,400 unemployed since Jul 05 – Jun 06, when the figure was 19,000 (an unemployment rate of 3.6%). The current rate of unemployment across the sub-region remains lower than both the regional and national averages of 3.8% and 5.3% respectively.
- During Jan 2008, the West of England claimant count (based on the number of residents claiming unemployment related benefits) totalled 8,287; this figure has fallen by 2,518 since Jan 2007.
- During Jan 2008 The West of England and the South West both had a claimant count rate of 1.2%; this is much lower than the national rate of 2.2% during the same period.

Key economic statistics for July 2006 – June 2007 (workplace based, 16+ population)

- During the period Jul 06 – Jun 07, around 537,400 people were employed in the West of England. This marks an increase of 13,100 since Jul 05 – Jun 06.
- 72.6% (390,300) of persons employed in the sub-region worked on a full-time basis (an increase of 3000 since Jul 05 – Jun 06), whilst 27.3% (146,700) worked on a part-time basis (an increase of 9,800 since Apr 05 – Mar 06).
- A similar balance of full-time and part time workers is seen regionally and nationally: 70.1% of the 2,483,600 people employed in the South West worked on a full-time basis, whilst 29.9% worked

part-time. 74.1% of the 24,792,700 across England & Wales worked on a full-time basis, whilst 25.9% worked part-time.

- Between Jul 06 and Jun 07, males' accounted for 53.8% (289,200), and females for 46.2% (248,200) of all persons employed in the West of England. A similar gender balance is seen across both the South West and England and Wales.
- Between Jul 06 and Jun 07, 88.4% of the all males employed in the sub-region worked full-time hours, whilst 11.6% worked part-time hours. This domination of full-time employment is not seen amongst females employed in the sub-region; 54.3% work full-time hours, whilst 45.6% work part-time hours. Similar figures are found both regionally and nationally.

[Return to top](#)

(Sources: Annual Population Survey & JSA Claimant Count, Nomis)

West of England: Economic News, December 2007 – March 2008

Jobs

Gloomy outlook for jobseekers in 2008

28/12/07 [Western Daily Press](#)

A recent survey carried out for the Western Daily Press by accountants Deloitte has shown that a third of companies in the West expect to be employing fewer people by mid-2008. The disheartening survey predicts that 2008 could see the slowest rate of job creation since Labour came to power, with private firms recruiting fewer staff and the public sector continuing to cut back its spending. Adding to the gloomy outlook for jobseekers in 2008, the latest Burges Salmon Index showed that whilst most West bosses remain upbeat about their firms' prospects for 2008, most will hold back on recruitment.

Drive to boost graduate retention

17/01/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

A report by Bath and North East Somerset Council's Economic Development Officer has revealed that each student choosing to study at either of the cities two universities adds £6,350 to the economy of Bath every year. The report also found that the success of the cities graduates is essential to the development of Bath's knowledge economy. As a result of the findings, the University of Bath and Bath Spa University are now teaming up with the city council to encourage graduates to seek employment in Bath when their courses come to an end.

Job Gains

[Return to top](#)

Expansion of MOD

17/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

The Ministry of Defence is creating 600 new defence jobs as it expands its Abbey Wood headquarters at Stoke Gifford.

Insurance company to hire 200 new staff

25/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Insurance company, Liverpool Victoria, has announced plans to hire an extra 200 staff at its offices in Aztec West, Bristol.

Thousands of new jobs on the horizon

27/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

The Bristol Alliance, the developer behind Cabot Circus, has announced that the new £500m retail development will create more than 4000 jobs when it opens in September 2008. Civic leaders are keen to make sure that local people get the jobs on offer.

Job Losses

Jobs lost as show chain closes

22/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Four jobs have been lost at The Mall at Cribbs Causeway following the collapse of shoe chain Dolcis.

Property agent ceases trading

29/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Superior Real Estate Group, an international property agent based in Emerson's Green, has been forced into administration by mounting debts. All 30 employees have been made redundant.

Call centre to relocate to Cardiff

01/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

The AA is to move its Bristol call centre to Cardiff with the loss of 125 jobs. Around 100 staff will be offered the chance to relocate.

[Return to top](#)

Supermarket plans look set to be refused

05/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

German budget supermarket chain, Lidl, have submitted plans to build a new store in Hartcliffe, Bristol. The new venture could create up to 50 jobs for the area, however, council officers are recommending that the plans be refused on the grounds that the applicants have not demonstrated sufficient need for a retail space.

Compulsory redundancies at Rolls-Royce

12/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Engineering giant, Rolls-Royce, plans to cut 2,300 jobs from its worldwide workforce of 39,500. The company, which employs 3,500 at its Patchway site, near Bristol, cited the 'weak dollar' as the main reason for its unavoidable cost cutting. Details of which plants will see jobs lost have yet to be revealed.

Portbury printing company announces closure

12/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Portbury-based printers, Wiltshire (Britol) Ltd, have announced it is to close, with the loss of up to 164 jobs.

Cadbury closure is final

15/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Hopes of saving the Cadbury factory in Keynsham were dashed yesterday after Cadbury bosses confirmed that the Somerdale site will close by 2010, with the loss of over 500 jobs.

Large firm quits Bath after 30 years

01/02/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

Polamco, one of Bath's largest employers is to quit the city after struggling to recruit staff in the area for a number of years. The firm, which produces components for clients such as Rolls Royce, will relocate to a custom-built site in Warmley, near Bristol. None of the company's 100-strong workforce will be lost in the move.

Bristol-based call centre closes

01/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Children's charity, Cereba, has closed its Bristol fundraising base. All 150 staff at the call centre in Kingswood have been made redundant.

Property & Development

[Return to top](#)

Housing

Plan for 46 new homes in village

06/01/08 [Weston & Worle News](#)

Developer, Bloor Homes, has applied to build 46 houses and 10 business units on a 1.64-hectare site in St Georges, Weston-Super-Mare.

Proposal to build two new towns in North Somerset

17/01/08 [Weston & Worle News](#)

A government-appointed panel report into the South West Regional Spatial Strategy has confirmed that over 26,000 new homes could be built in North Somerset by 2026. The majority of the new homes are earmarked for two locations - to the South West of Bristol, near Long Ashton, and east of Weston.

Latest figures from the Halifax House Price index

19/01/08 Bristol Evening Post & 24/01/08 Bath Chronicle

- Average house prices in the South West rose by 4.8% last year, bringing the average house price to £211,404.
- Average house prices in the Bristol area rose by 14% last year, bringing the average house price to more than £230,000.
- Average house prices in Bath rose by 17% last year, bringing the average house price to £313,558 - the second highest figure in the west, behind Truro, in Cornwall.

Plans for 95 new homes rejected

21/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & 24/01/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

Plans to build 95 homes on a site in Peasdown St John have been rejected by planners because of the noise impact on homes from traffic using the Peasdown bypass. The site has however been earmarked for as many as 100 homes in the Bath area's Local Plan.

Controversial Western Riverside Scheme gets go-ahead

31/01/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

Plans to build 2000 homes on a derelict zone on the edge of Bath has been given the go-ahead after Government officials decided to raise no objection to Bath and North East Somerset Council's decision to grant planning permission. The scheme, which includes a nine-storey block of housing, has been met with much local opposition.

New homes in Weston

31/01/08 [Weston & Worle News](#)

Two different planning applications seeking to build new homes in the Whitecross Road area of Weston-super-Mare have been submitted to North Somerset Council. If approved, a total of 24 new flats will be constructed in the zone.

[Return to top](#)

Shortage of land set to hamper affordable housing plans

24/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

A shortage of land in built-up areas could lead to a struggle to meet targets to provide more affordable housing in the West of England. According to a report by property firm Savills, an extra 95,000 households will be created in the sub-region by 2026, a large proportion of which will be single households. However, whilst most new homes sold last year were city centre flats, there will be fewer Brownfield sites becoming available for such developments. The report said that there will now be a move back out of the city to the suburbs, where land prices will be much higher.

145 new flats for Bristol's Harbourside

03/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Work has started on the Great Western Dockyard project, a £30million scheme that will see the construction of 145 one and two-bedroom flats above new facilities for the museum. The first flats will be finished by May 2009, with whole project is due for completion by December 2009.

100 flats proposed for historic site

05/03/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

Bradford on Avon-based developer, Classico Rural, has applied to Bath and North East Somerset Council to replace the buildings at Twerton Mill in Lower Bristol Road with a mixed-use development consisting of 106 residential units, commercial offices and car parking.

Commercial Development

[Return to top](#)

£30 million hotel for Batheaston

24/01/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

Plans to build a £30million five-star hotel in Batheaston have been unveiled by Hotelier Hilwood Resorts and Hotels. The plans to transform Bailbrook House in Batheaston into a hotel with 130 rooms, conference space for 200 delegates, and a 60-seat cinema will be officially unveiled next month.

Work starts on Museum of Bristol

07/01/08 & 08/12/07 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Contractor HBG has started work on the new £24.7m Museum of Bristol. Transit sheds on Princes Wharf, which used to be home to the Industrial Museum, are being restored in order to home the new exhibitions.

Weston Airfield scheme on hold

21/02/08 [Weston & Worle News](#)

North Somerset Council has deferred making a decision on the development of Weston Airfield into a business park due to fears that the access roads will be inadequate. Developer Persimmon Special Projects plans to use the site to build a one million sq ft business park, which they claim will create 5,000 jobs.

Bath casino scheme given the go-ahead

26/02/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

The Government has given the go-ahead for 16 casinos to be built across the country – including one in Bath. Bath & North East Somerset Council has drawn up a list of possible sites for the scheme, but no operator has been finalised. It has been estimated that the development will create 200 jobs and give the city's economy a £7 million boost each year.

Work begins on mini-hospital

28/02/08 [Bath Chronicle](#)

Building work has started on a new mini-hospital to serve the Bath area. The Circle Hospital at Peasedown St John will be the first hospital anywhere in the world to have been designed by internationally-renowned architects Foster & Partners - the firm behind the new Wembley Stadium. The facility, which is expected to open late 2009, will employ 150 staff and have the capacity to treat 600 patients a week.

[Return to top](#)

Cash boost for regeneration in South Bristol

29/02/08 [Western Daily Press](#)

The South West Regional Development Agency has revealed that grants worth £9.7m are being made available to fund the first phase of the development at Hengrove Park. The investment is part of the drive to reinvigorate deprived areas in the south of Bristol and secure the city's position at the centre of the region's economy.

Work starts on new community health centre

01/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Building work has started on a new £15million community health centre in Eastville, Bristol. The clinic, which is due to open in 2010 will see the current health clinic upgraded to provide services patients would usually need to attend hospital for. More community hospitals and centres are being built across the city as part of the Bristol Health Services Plan.

New library and health centre for North Bristol

06/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Councillors have given the go-ahead to a new library and health centre at the former Edwardian baths in Bishopston. The building will be converted to accommodate a large health centre and a two-storey library with 10 flats above will be built in the car park next door.

Verdict due on Hengrove Park

06/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Three planning applications for the massive overhaul of Hengrove Park, North Bristol, are being recommended for approval. They are for a community hospital, a skills academy and essential access and infrastructure work. Plans for a major leisure complex are expected to be submitted in the autumn.

Bristol Office/Industrial Market

[Return to top](#)

Brabazon Office Park

08/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Phase One, consisting of 9 new office buildings, varying in size from 1,800 sq ft to 5,000 sq ft, has been completed, with spaces now on the market. Recent deals include:

- Alder King has sold Unit 1, Golf Course Lane (5,046 sq ft) to Xype.
- Unit 5, a 1,825 sq ft office unit, has been let to Crane Electronics

12/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Brabazon Office Park has secured its third big tenant this year. ArcMonitoring, a CCTV surveillance firm, has taken Unit 9, a 1,824 sq ft office unit, on a 10-year lease at a rent of £19.75 per sq ft. This leaves Phase One of the scheme 40 per cent let or sold.

Phase two of the park is now planned - It will provide three units of 5,150 sq ft, 8,000 sq ft and 9,000 sq ft.

Cribbs Causeway

05/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Kleerex, shelving supply firm, has expanded from Unit 8 to Unit 1 Cribbs Causeway. The company has taken over the 43,505 sq ft warehouse/distribution unit with integral office on a 10-year lease, after paper company Antalis moved to new premises at Access 18, Avonmouth, earlier this year.

Highest take-up on record

12/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & Property News South West & South Wales, March 08

An annual review of Bristol's office market, by property advisers, CB Richard Ellis, has revealed that in 2007 Bristol's office sector recorded the highest total take-up on record when the city centre and out of town markets are combined. Total office lettings in Bristol city centre during 2007 totalled 896,600 sq ft (83,294 sq m) compared to 506,600 sq ft (47,063 sq m) in 2006 and a five-year average of 685,200 sq ft (63,655 sq m). Three deals accounted for 40 per cent of total take-up. They were The Court Service at 2 Redcliff Street; Hargreaves Lansdown's pre-let at 1 College Square, Harbourside and Burges Salmon's pre-let at ND3 Temple Quay 2.

[Return to top](#)

Vantage Office Park

12/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

Bristol developer Deeley Freed has completed work on phase two of Vantage Office Park, the latest new office development in north Bristol. More than 18,000 sq ft of space is now available within three buildings. Phase one was finished a year ago and sold to a pension fund, with current occupiers including Marigold and Norwest Holst Construction.

Portwall Place

19/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

A landmark 170,000 sq ft office development, started in 2005 on Portwall Lane, opposite St Mary Redcliffe Church, has been completed. The new five-storey building, which offers the largest floor plates in the South West, has space for up to 1,500 people. More than three-quarters of the space has already been pre-let - deals include law firm Beachcroft LLP taking 90,000 sq ft on the ground, first and second floors.

Unbuilt office block sells for £45million

22/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

A new office block in College Square, Bristol, has been sold for £45million, despite the fact that construction work on the new development has yet to commence. The building, which has been sold by developer Crest Nicholson to Danish pension fund Kommunernes Pensionsforsikring, has already been pre-let to Hargreaves Lansdown, who will take up a 17-year lease in October 2009.

Bank House

22/02/08 Property Week

After gaining planning permission in December 2007, the Carlyle Group, has started work on a 250,000 sq ft office scheme on the site of the former Clerical & Medical offices on Temple Way. Demolition of the current building, which is faced in bronze reflective glass, begins in March.

[Return to top](#)

Access 18, Avonmouth

Property News South West & South Wales, March 08

300,000 sq ft of new industrial space will be available from July as developers St Mowden complete their 212-acre, Access 18 scheme at Avonmouth. Antalis is to relocate its regional office and distribution centre from Cribbs Causeway, into an 18,750 sq ft high bay warehouse; a 165,000 sq ft warehouse is under construction for Nisbets; and there is capacity for a further 600,000 sq ft, which could be offered to a single occupier.

Demand for industrial premises remains strong

Property News South West & South Wales, March 08

The market is struggling to keep up with the strong demand for industrial premises in the South west. Businesses looking to expand in Bristol, are being stifled by the lack of land available for industrial development. Stock levels in greater Bristol are heading to an all time low as a lack of industrial development land has meant no significant development of standard 5,000 A greater supply of modern industrial accommodation is needed across Bristol if firms are to grow and prosper.

Record year for ROK

07/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Bristol building group ROK has revealed that its annual turnover for 2007 was up by 38 per cent on last year, bringing it to £950.1 million, with pre-tax profits of £31.7m.

Business News

[Return to top](#)

Bristol telecoms firm in multi-million takeover

03/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Apertio telecoms firm, founded in Emersons Green, Bristol, has been taken over by mobile phone giant Nokia in a £103million deal.

Business West to merge with rival

04/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Business West has revealed it plans to merge with its rival Great Western Enterprise (GWE) in April 2008. The new company, to be named GWE Business West, will have an estimated turnover of £10million.

Somerfield to sell up?

14/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Bristol-based grocery chain, Somerfield, could be sold for around £1.8billion according to reports that it has received three offers in this price range in recent weeks. The supermarket group currently has 900 stores and employs 56,000 people in the UK.

Imperial Tobacco in £650m deal

28/01/08 [Bristol Evening post](#)

Imperial Tobacco, based in Southville, Bristol, is paying £650million for Spain's largest cigarette distributor, Compania de Distribucion Integral Logista. This latest deal forms part of its 12.6 billion euro takeover of Spanish competitor Altadis SA

Bristol marketing firm bought by US rival

05/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Mason Zimpler, a Bristol-based marketing agency, has been bought out by a US rival in a multi-million pound deal. The company, which employs around 44 staff at its Bristol base, will keep its name following the deal with Texas based Harte-Hanks.

Medical firm in takeover

12/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Hunter-Fleming, a Bristol-based pharmaceutical company, has been acquired by Italian-based, Newron Pharmaceuticals, in a deal worth up to £18million. The company will retain both its name and all 13 staff following the deal.

Music retailer returns to city

12/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Music retailer, Fopp, is to open a new shop in Bristol less than a year after going into administration and closing all three of its branches in the city. The firm has now been acquired by HMV who plan to re-open a number of branches nationwide.

Boeing Bristol wins multi-million pound role

12/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

The Bristol arm of US defence giant Boeing has won a major role in the Ministry of Defence's £16billion Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) project, which will see it designing lightweight armoured vehicles for the army. Boeing, which moved into Bristol Business Park last April, has already grown to team of around 70 staff, and this latest deal worth £4 million is likely to see the team grow further.

Somerfield back in profit

27/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Following £166.8m of rationalisation and redundancy costs, Bristol grocery chain, Somerfield, are back in profit, making a total £26.4 million for the year to April 28, 2007. The company, which employs more than 1,500 people at its Whitchurch headquarters and 10 stores in Bristol, is up for sale for an estimated £2.5 billion

Tourism/Leisure

[Return to top](#)

Future of Old Vic is secured

01/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

The future of Bristol's Old Vic has been secured after the Arts Council approved the theatres revised business plan and thus handed it a £2.6million funding boost. The majority of the money will be spent on an essential multi-million pound refurbishment, with the hope that the theatre will reopen later this year.

£11million facelift for Bristol's Broadmead

22/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Investors of Bristol's new Cabot Circus development have announced that £11 million will be spent on updating the old Broadmead shopping precinct. The work will include upgraded paving slabs, benches, streetlights and signposts and some shopfronts refurbished – the majority of the work will be completed in time for the launch of Cabot Circus in September 2008.

£25m hotel development 'on track'

21/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Developers overseeing the transformation of a Grade II-listed building in the centre of Bath into £25 million hotel say that the scheme is running 'on track'. The Gainsborough Hotel is due to open next year.

Tropicana plans scaled back

07/02/08 [Weston & Worle News](#)

Henry Boot Ltd, the developers behind the £30 million Tropicana scheme in Weston-super-Mare, have scaled back their original plans following the results of a public consultation. The latest plans see the entertainment and leisure complex reduced to a four-storey building, with a smaller 'footprint' on the beach due to the removal of a beach car park.

Grand Pier under new management

08/02/08 [Western Daily Press](#)

The Grand Pier in Weston-super-Mare has been sold to a local family who plan to upgrade the attraction by opening new restaurants and offering Victorian-style shows.

Aquarium @ Bristol

06/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Bristol's Imax and Wildwalk attractions, which closed down in April last year, are to be turned into a huge aquarium and visitors centre.

Aerospace News

Airbus

[Return to top](#)

17/01/08 [Western Daily Press](#)

Airbus has achieved its highest ever annual-intake of orders during 2007; only narrowly missing out on overtaking its US rival, Boeing, in total annual orders for commercial aircraft. The planemakers net orders of 1,341 aircraft during 2007, means that Airbus have a total of 3,421 planes on its books - six years' worth of production. However, despite its recent success, Airbus aims to cut 10,000 jobs – including 1,100 at its Filton plant - and sell plants to lower its costs.

29/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

In a deal worth £1.4billion, US investment firm, MatlinPatterson Global Advisers, has agreed to buy six Airbus freighter aircraft. As a result of the deal, two of MatlinPatterson's airline clients, Varig Logistica in Brazil and Global Aero Logistics in the USA will become new Airbus operators.

08/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

According to Airbus's global market forecast, by 2026 the global aircraft market will be worth £1.4 trillion. It is expected that between Airbus and its rival Boeing, a total of 24,300 planes will be built over the next 20 years to meet growing demand for passenger and freighter aircraft. If orders were divided equally this would see Bristol based Airbus building aircraft at a rate of 607 a year.

14/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

Filton-based plane giant, Airbus, has landed a new deal worth £1.7 billion to sell 10 of its jets to Latin American consortium, Synergy Aerospace.

02/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

The future of thousands of jobs at Airbus in Bristol looks to be safe after the plane giant won a £20billion contract with the US government. The US has so far ordered a total of 179 planes, for which wing design and production will be undertaken at Filton. It is hoped that follow-up orders will lead to a total deal worth over £40bn, providing over 30 years worth of work.

Rolls-Royce

[Return to top](#)

08/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

As a result of increased trading across all of its businesses, Patchway engine giant, Rolls-Royce, have reported a 13% growth in underlying profits for 2007; this equates to a total figure of around £800million.

08/02/08 [Western Daily Press](#)

Rolls-Royce has reported a record number of orders for 2007. Total orders across all sectors soared to a best ever £45.9bn, up 76 per cent on the previous year. The engine-maker's Patchway plant was singled out for special praise thanks to its £1bn contract to supply and maintain EJ200 engines for the Saudi Eurofighter jets

Bristol Airport

29/01/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

The number of passengers using Bristol Airport grew by 3.1% during 2007, to a total of 5.84 million. This increase is linked to the use of larger aircraft, as the total number of flights from the airport was down 8% on last year. The airport will submit plans for an £80million expansion, which includes doubling the size of the current terminal, to North Somerset Council this summer.

19/02/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#)

A new three-times daily service between Bristol and Germany's "Gateway to the World" hub in Frankfurt will be operated by Lufthansa, Germany's national airline. The service, due to start March 30, will replace a link severed when Flybe/BA Connect pulled out of Bristol last March.

03/03/08 [Bristol Evening Post](#) & [Western Daily Press](#)

Just 5 months after it was introduced, Easyjet has scrapped one of its three Polish routes from Bristol.

Current Consultations/ Partnership News and Events

If you would like us to include information regarding your organisations current consultations or events in the next edition of the news bulletin please contact us at hollie.bryant@westofengland.org

[Return to top](#)

Creative Industries at the Core of New Research Cluster

Researchers from the University of the West of England, the University of Gloucestershire and the Countryside and Community Research Institute have joined forces to form a new research cluster *Creative Industries for Sustainable Environments, Economies and Communities* (CISEEC) which aims at exploiting the expertise and experience of a number of staff, associated professionals/artists, and post-graduate students, currently working in or researching on the creative industries in the South West. Knowledge network, creation and dissemination are at the core of this new cluster.

Members want to combine and strengthen their research activities and capacities in the creative industries and the environment, with a concentration on art and its capacity to focus on ecology and rural regeneration and encourage a critical dialogue about the role of the arts within rural regeneration and the cultural economy through networking, workshops and seminars. The other objectives of the cluster include providing a supportive network for postgraduate study in a range of disciplines that have art, ecology and the creative industries at their core; developing a research consortium by pooling resources such as contacts, expertise and experience, which will provide a foundation of strength from which funding applications can be made and, last but not least, streamlining the group's knowledge-exchange structure to allow better synergy between research and practice, with a view to informing public policy and governance.

For further information, please contact Dr Laurence Carmichael (UWE) laurence.carmichael@uwe.ac.uk; Dr Owain Jones (CCRI) ojones@glos.ac.uk; Professor Andrew Stonyer (UG) astonyer@glos.ac.uk Carolyn Black (Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust Project Director) forestdean@gmail.com

ESRC funds PhD Research on the Emerging Creative Industry Sector in Gloucestershire

The creative industry sector is increasingly seen as an economic driver for both national and local economies. It has become one of the UK's fastest growing sectors, contributing to 8% of UK's GDP. In the South West Region, it is a key sector in the Regional Economic Strategy, and it has been recognised as a strategic priority in the large urban areas, such as Bristol. Policy development in this field is, however, less well developed in the more rural parts of the region. Yet in Gloucestershire, for instance, 1900 businesses in the creative sector

produce an annual turnover of 4.2% of the total turnover of all enterprises in the county, employ 4.8% of the county's workforce, and have the ability to compete in world markets. The issue for local authorities is to identify how local policy can best support creative industries so that they become a force for regeneration, economic growth and social cohesion. Stroud District Council has understood the potential of the creative industries on local economic development and has teamed up with UWE to identify breeding grounds for clusters of creative industries in a rural environment. The PhD research, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and Stroud District Council aims to identify how rural local authorities can engage productively with the creative industry sector.

For further details, contact Laurence Carmichael Laurence.carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

The West of England Partnership consists of four unitary authorities - [Bath & North East Somerset \(B&NES\)](#), [Bristol](#), [North Somerset](#) and [South Gloucestershire](#) - and a range of social, economic and environmental partners.

Info West is produced quarterly by the [West of England Partnership Office](#) and distributed through the West of England Local Intelligence Network Website: [Intelligence West](#) supported by the South West Regional Development Agency.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**North
Somerset
COUNCIL**
services that benefit the community

**South Gloucestershire
Council**

**South West of England
Regional Development Agency**