

Chief Executive's Report for May 2018 LEP board

Introduction

This report is in our usual format – starting with an executive summary from me and thematic summaries from People, Place and Business (as well as Finance) followed by detailed operational annexes. The overall structure is:

1. Executive Summary

- a. What we are doing**
- b. What's going well and what isn't**
- c. What are the key decisions needed at this board?**
- d. What are the key decisions anticipated at our next board(s)?**

2. LEP Dashboards

- a. Economic**
- b. Key highlights - reports on the key areas of thematic activities and challenges**
- c. Financial**

3. Annexes on other operational activities

As before I don't propose to run through my report on a page by page basis at the board – if there are any detailed factual questions please do contact me in advance – or raise any issues at the board. Please note the papers on ESIF and 'Matter referred from SIP' have been classified as commercially confidential.

Executive Summary

What we are doing

I mentioned at the last board meeting the quote from the Kellogg School of Management on LinkedIn "Don't worry so much about the first 90 days of your job – it's the last 90 that really count it's the end of your tenure that makes a lasting impression."

There are definitely less than 90 days to go now until David Ralph arrives (he is due on 4 June) and takes over as Chief Executive. So, this report will form a key part of our plan to position the new CEX well for future successes. A series of initial introduction meetings have been arranged across the LEP area to kick start his induction. When I started the first question everyone asked me was "where are you living?" – for reference I understand David's plan is to initially stay with family in West Somerset so he will quickly get a feel for the contrasts of our rural and urban world

Talking of successes, we have had further good news on **HIF Forward Funding** as bids from Devon (£45m) and Somerset (£83m) have been approved by Govt to go forward to the co-development stage of the HIF process. The process will continue to be competitive and

the LEP will continue to support our Local Authority colleagues. In addition, we have recently been awarded three pilot projects by Govt:

- **Career Learning Pilot** – Circa £1.7m pilot programme awarded by the Department of Education for a pilot including subsidised technical training and qualifications, as well as outreach capacity within communities. Covers Western Somerset (Mendip, Sedgemoor and West Somerset), Northern Devon (North Devon and Torridge) and Plymouth and Torbay, with a range of support on offer to individuals through to September 2019. Commissioning currently ongoing on outreach phase, with qualifications delivery due from Autumn.
- **Flexible Learning Fund** – Three pilot programmes have been approved by the Department for Education within the area, with a collectively value of circa £500,000, focusing on SEN skills, social care and engineering. Bridgwater College, South Devon College, Learn Devon and Somerset Skills and Learning members of the successful consortia.
- **Digital Skills Partnership Pilot** - Along with Lancashire we are one of two national pilots for an innovative new initiative to help identify gaps in digital skills provision, encourage partners to work strategically together to address them and attract investment from outside bodies. Improving digital skill levels in our economy will help support the LEP's strategic aim to boost productivity and prosperity. Paper 5.6 includes more detail.

In addition to the arrival of your new Chief Executive 2018 is likely to be a busy period with activities progressing on multiple fronts. In particular our focus since our last Board has continued to be on:

- Alongside the Productivity Strategy which was signed off by the LEP Board in March, we are now considering the implications likely to be arising from the HotSW Productivity Strategy's Delivery Plan. This will form the focus of our presentation at the start of the Board meeting – which will also reference some of the Innovation opportunities available from Innovate UK.
- At a national level the Govt's Strategic Review of LEPs is expected to conclude shortly although we do not yet know whether the change of Secretary of State at the MHCLG will delay publication slightly. Initial impressions continue to stress that Govt want a more consistent approach by LEPs across the country; from governance structures and committees, to transparency to strategy methodologies to delivery organisation and tools. The latest example where we will need to amend our operating approach to one consistent with other LEPs is set out in Paper 5.5. If we have any further news on the LEP Review (I am at a LEP network meeting in London next week) we will cover this at our meeting.
- Govt has also indicated that it is interested in seeing greater cross area working. For example, in the creation of Sub-National Transport Bodies to work with DfT on strategic priorities. Discussions on how the highways authorities in the SW will work together and form appropriate bodies is being actively progressed by our Local Authorities. At the time of writing it seems that we may end up with two such bodies; one focused around the northern authorities of West of England and Gloucestershire and another for the Peninsula from Dorset and Somerset to Cornwall. As a LEP our cross LEP working is also gaining greater structure and momentum - see Paper 5.1 for a brief update and an opportunity to help shape priorities.

- Alongside the Great South West (cross LEP) work we are also building our momentum around the conclusions that came out of the SW Rural Productivity Commission – see paper 5.2 for an update.

As previously mentioned we continue to work hard on the delivery of our current programme to maximise impact. Directors will be aware that our delivery programme is substantial – circa £750m in size. Given this we have included a special Board Paper this month on how we deliver Programme Management and manage our resources. Elsewhere in the country some LEP Boards focus in greater detail on programme issues at their Board meetings (hence five plus hour board meetings are not unknown!) – in our LEP we have delegated management of internal resources to the Finance and Resources Committee and management of the investment and programme pipeline to the Strategic Investment Panel (SIP). Both these groups meet monthly and we need to thank David Bird (who chairs both) and other board members and officers who give time to these meetings. Paper 5.3 sets out our approach to investment management so that directors can appraise these arrangements.

I will start the rest of my report with the usual highlight on our three core activities:

- i. Championing our common priorities and build partnerships – these have previously been based on our area's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and our over-arching Growth Deal investment plan submitted to HMG in March 2014. As flagged above we are now working on what will be our new Delivery (Plan) priorities; following our last board meeting we established T & F group to consider these issues. The group met recently and their conclusions will be reflected in the presentation on these agendas at the commencement of our Board meeting. It is likely this work will form the foundation for our forthcoming work on Local Industrial Strategies. Though we have yet to be given clear guidance on what these will require, it seems important that our work on these agendas should not slacken whilst we wait for Govt to develop and communicate its thinking. Another uncertainty may be introduced by the recent announcement of consultations on unitary authorities in Somerset delaying progress in the Joint Committee. Supporting the development of our Local Industrial Strategy and involving all partners in this work will undoubtedly form a key priority for our new Chief Executive in coming months.
- ii. Secure investment – this work is centred around developing pipelines of opportunities, prioritising these as needed and drawing up where applicable proposals / bids for investment. This latter element no longer focuses particularly on bids for Local Growth Fund (as this is finished) but we still facilitate and advise on ESIF monies as well as working with partners on lobbying for allocations from central budgets. See paper 5.4 on ESIF issues.

There is still no more explanation from Govt on what future funding streams will be-attention in Whitehall is firmly centred on Brexit and is likely to remain so for many more months. That's said it can be anticipated that at some time in the next year or so Govt attention will shift to how to make the most of our post Brexit world – and again

developing our pipelines of opportunities will be a continuing priority.

- iii. Efficient and effective delivery of funded programmes of investment – our assurance framework is in place and we are managing a pipeline of approaching three quarters a billion pounds of investment across our three ‘pots’. We continue work to maximise projects progress and spend; latest programme delivery reports are attached in the appendices to this report. We anticipate that (at the time of writing this report) we will have one project related matter referred to the Board by SIP that will need consideration. Please see paper 5.5 in the main board pack.

What’s going well and what isn’t

I would like to draw director’s attention to the following successes / challenges / decisions / feedback needed.

- i. Development of our significant opportunities – In the presentation at this month’s Board meeting reference will be made to a number of key opportunities in our LEP area:
 - a. Advanced Engineering (including Nuclear, Marine and Aerospace) – we await publication of the Nuclear Sector Deal where we have been part of the working group negotiating the Deal with Govt. Our Nuclear sector co-ordinator (Corinne Matthews) has been facilitating this work and developing funding proposals. We have also recently seconded Sheldon Ryan to develop the South Coast Marine Cluster – the priority will be to draw out what the commercial proposition is for investment in the sector.
 - b. Digital (including Creative, Big Data and Silicon) – the Govt has recently published its Creative Industries Sector Deal and we are currently appraising its potential to support our area’s opportunities. As a LEP I sense we will need in future to put more resource into this area as development / promotion of our pipelines are currently lagging those in Advanced Engineering.
 - c. Core economy (including Tourism, Healthy Aging and Food and Drink) – these agendas cross LEP boundaries and are currently part of our regional working on Rural agendas. That said I also sense we will need in future to put more resource into this area than we have in the past.
- ii. Our transport programme in Growth Deal 2 - The Growth Deal 2 announcement by Government included approval of three major transport projects, M5 Junction 25 at Taunton; Forder Valley Link Road at Plymouth; and the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension junction but only included sufficient funding to support the first two of these projects. The LGF allocation was £35.4m against an aggregate bid for these projects of £42.9m. Subsequently the LEP’s flexibility in approaching this challenge was constrained when the Department for Transport decided that Forder Valley Link Road would be a “retained scheme” for which they would make the approval decision, and would retain the funding for the scheme. In Spring 2017 it was agreed by the LEP that the LGF programme would be over programmed by £1.5m in order to enable the first phase of the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension project to go ahead. This decision was taken in light of the expectation that LGF requirement for M5 Junction 25 would be reduced below the £12.9m originally sought. At the time it was understood there would be clarity on such a reduction before the end of the 2017/18 financial year. However, it has taken longer than

anticipated to achieve such clarity; the last meeting of SIP considered an update from our transport consultant and requested more detail on how the funding allocated to the M5 Junction 25 project had been reduced given the additional funding obtained since the original project proposal had been developed for inclusion in our Growth Deal bid. Although no conclusion was reached in the meeting this remains an issue that will need resolving before approval of the business case for J25 can be granted.

- iii. European Social Fund: Additional Calls – Work ongoing with Managing Authority / DWP on three further calls for ESF activity, worth £4.6m. Calls with cover off additional support for young people and those at risk of becoming NEET; Supporting additional level; 2 and 3 qualifications for those in work; and the development of training capacity within our colleges.
- iv. European Social Fund: Opt-In Programmes – Three opt in programmes currently ongoing with HotSW, working with Serco (focused on apprenticeship and higher-level apprenticeships), Careers South West (focused on support for young people) and Learn Direct (focused on delivering qualifications for those in work). Roughly £8m committed to date, with around 1,000 opportunities / interventions recorded.
- v. European Social Fund: Building Better Opportunities for All – DWP / Big Lottery led opt in programme worth around £4m. Delivery ongoing with a range of partners, providing support for employment and inclusion activities for young people across the Devon, Somerset and Torbay/Plymouth areas. Focus on literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and employability central within majority of provision, working with those hardest to reach and or with a disability of other barrier to work / learning.
- vi. European Social Fund: Hidden Talent / Strategic Employer Engagement – £1m to support a range of activity aimed at extending higher education opportunities to those with a cold spot in the HotSW, and engaging with the business community on the opportunities to tailor provision in FE and HE to meet employer demand.
- vii. Careers Hub / Enterprise Advisor Network – Currently working with 60 schools across the LEP area, the Enterprise Advisor Network incorporated 3 advisors working with a team of business volunteers to take forward a business mentoring/ networking programme across the LEP area. Discussions currently ongoing on an expansion and broadening of activity, with the additional of a Career Hub, providing a wider array of support and advice to member schools as highlight in other board papers.
- viii. Hinkley Strategic Delivery Forum / Hinkley Point Training Agency – Support for the Skills and Employment strand of the HSDF, working closely with colleagues from Somerset and across the NSW partnership. Recent deep dive session and wider discussions facilitating a range of HotSW activity around upskilling, construction activity and training capacity. Includes £6.5m of support for aligned capital projects across colleges in the HotSW, and direct revenue support for the operation and implementation of the Hinkley Point Training Agency.
- ix. Construction Skills Steering Group – Joint partnership established between public and private sector stakeholders to drive forward shared priorities for the construction sector and secure additional activity. Current focus on improving local labour market intelligence, securing additional resources for apprenticeships and high demand areas, and leveraging public sector construction expenditure and learning opportunities.

- x. Growth Hub – as indicated in previous items Govt is increasingly looking for more consistent approach by LEPs across the country; from governance structures and committees, to transparency to strategy methodologies to delivery organisation and tools. One of the tools impacted will be how growth Hubs are operated further proposals will be discussed at future Business Leadership Group and SIP with a report to the next board. The Growth Hub dashboards are attached as an appendix to this report. By the end of March 2018, the Hub had engaged with 3898 businesses, referring 828 to a local or national service, and providing a more intensive package of 4-hour business support to 269 businesses. The Hub has now delivered 23 partner events
- xi. Unlocking Growth Fund - LEP received £5m from Government as part of the Growth Deal 2 settlement to establish the Unlocking Growth Fund, a capital fund designed to fund smaller projects that develop employment and workspace sites and/or premises to support and foster business growth across the HotSW area. Match funding was required and a maximum of 50% of the total fund (£2.5m) was set for any single project. Two calls for funding applications have been held, resulting in a total of 23 applications which led to the submission of 11 full business cases. Of these, eight projects were agreed by the sub-group and SIP to proceed to funding agreement. The fund is now fully allocated. However, SIP recently felt it would be prudent to ask the Business Leadership team to consider how it might progress a further round of if the LEP found it had available resource if another project ran into difficulties. This will be considered at the next meeting of SIP.
- xii. Energy - Responding to stakeholder feedback, a final focussed round of consultation on the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan is progressing. This includes presentation to an invited Expert Panel towards the end of June prior to sign off by the 3 LEPs (we are working with Dorset and Cornwall LEPs on this work). The **SW Energy Capacity Hub** is being set up by the West of England Combined Authority on behalf of seven LEPs in the SW (i.e. including Solent LEP as well as the 6 SW LEPs) We have provided input to the Hub Manager Job Description. Aim is to complete recruitment by July.
- xiii. Consultations – Since our last board meeting responses provided by our Place thematic team on consultations for the Somerset Strategic Housing Plan and Ofcom's Mobile Coverage. Our response on the Defra Health and Harmony consultation is to be completed by 8th May.

What are the key decisions needed at this board?

Strategic papers: -

- 5.1 Great South West
- 5.2 Rural Productivity

Operational papers: -

- 5.3 Programme Management
- 5.4 ESIF update

5.5 Matter referred from SIP

5.6 Digital Skills Partnership Pilot

What are the key decisions anticipated at our next board(s)

- Productivity Strategy Delivery Plan
- Marketing and Comms
- LEP Review conclusions and implications for our LEP

xiv. LEP Dashboards

a) Economic

Please note that the data provides a snapshot from the current data and the national sources used often do not present the most up to date picture. For a more up to date picture of the local economy that takes account of the very latest developments Board Directors are encouraged to contact their local economic development teams. If directors require any further amplification on the data sources, please do let us know.

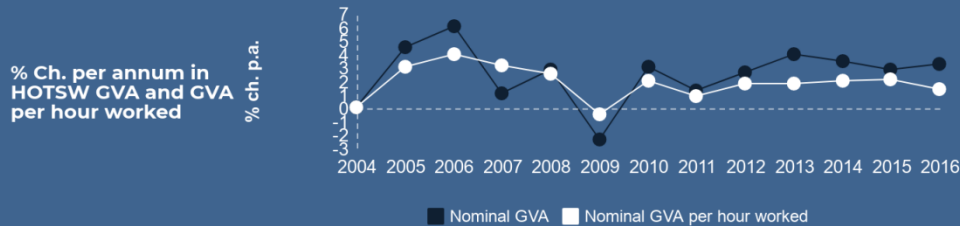
May 2018

Heart of the SW Economy Dashboard

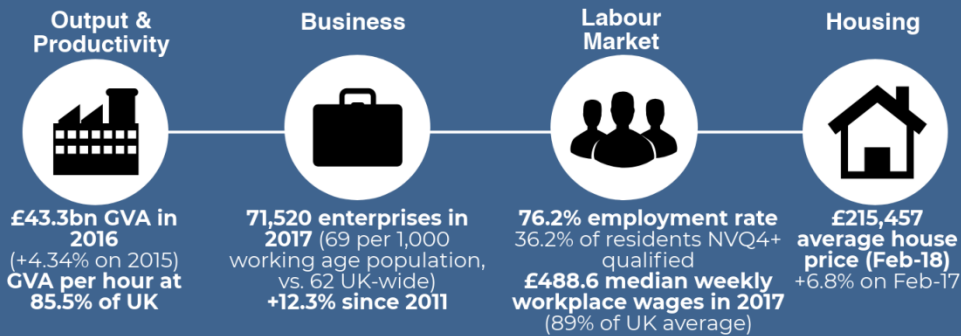


LATEST - Highlights on Labour Productivity

- HotSW productivity growth in 2016, in nominal terms (i.e. not accounting for inflation), has seen a sharper slow down relative to UK-wide (less London) growth. HotSW average productivity stood at 82.3% of the UK average in 2016, 1.4% higher than the previous year, compared to 2.1% growth between 2014 and 2015.
- GVA in HotSW grew to £43.3 billion in 2016, a 4.34% increase on the previous year. The chart below shows HotSW GVA to have picked up pace during this year, whilst productivity growth had slowed over the same period, after fairly consistent growth rates post-2012.
- This suggests that the economy grew in 2016 as a result of an expansion in the total labour input, rather than improved productivity per unit of labour (hour or worker).



HotSW Overview



National & Regional Context

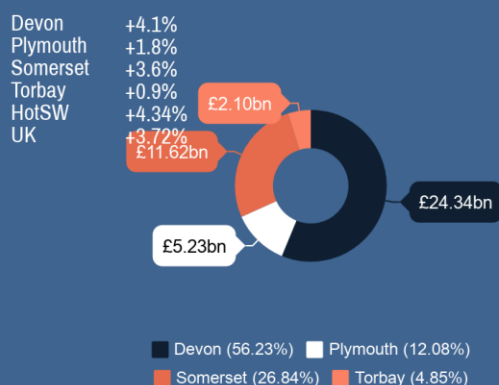


- In Q1 2018, total GDP grew by 0.1%, compared to 0.4% the previous quarter. Construction and services were all weaker than their post-downturn average, however services continue to drive GDP growth. Construction was the largest pull, falling 3.3%, and Q1 2018 saw the slowest GDP growth since Q4 2012.
- The productivity of UK workers has dropped back to pre-financial crisis levels. UK labour productivity, as measured by output per hour, is estimated to have fallen by 0.5% from Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2016 to Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2017, and a further 0.1% to Q2-17. The UK has seen a steady economic recovery since the financial crisis, but it has been helped by longer hours and more people working, whereas labour productivity growth has been lower on average than prior to the economic downturn.
- Real household disposable incomes in the UK are falling at their steepest rate since 2011. The amount that families have to spend - after tax and benefits are taken into account - fell by 2% in the first quarter of 2017, compared to 2016. This is the biggest decline for more than five years, with inflation the primary reason for the fall - hitting 2.8% in September 2017, which was last higher in March 2012.

Heart of the SW Subregional Analysis

Economic Output (GVA, £m, 2016)

GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR



Source: Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach) ONS, Dec 2017

Workforce Earnings

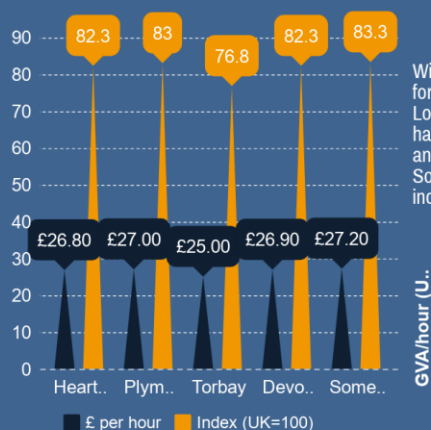
Gross Weekly Workplace Wages (Median, Full-Time)

Positive growth all across the area, however inflation has risen by 2.8% in October 2017 on the previous year, which makes all but Somerset and Torbay workers worse off in terms of take-home pay. The highest workplace pay in the area remains in Plymouth, at 96% of the UK average, but Torbay has seen the highest annual growth.

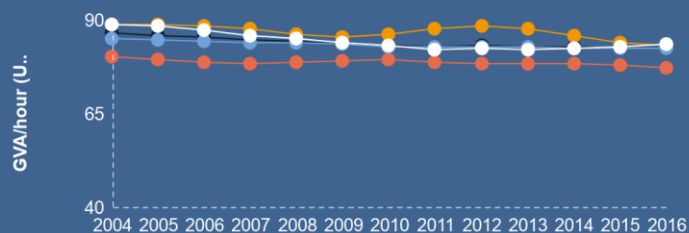
	Average FT Workplace Earnings (£/week)	% Change 2016-17	% Change 2016-17 net of inflation
Devon	£483.7	1.5%	-1.3%
Plymouth	£528.9	1.8%	-1.0%
Somerset	£484.4	3.6%	0.8%
Torbay	£467.1	10.6%	7.8%
HotSW	£488.6	2.0%	-0.8%
UK	£550.4	2.2%	-0.6%

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS, Nov 2017

Labour Productivity 2016 (GVA per Hour Worked)



With the exception of Somerset, productivity growth in nominal terms (i.e. not accounting for inflation) across HotSW has continued to slow down relative to UK-wide (less London) growth. After years of consistently higher productivity, Plymouth's productivity has converged with the Devon and Somerset averages in 2016, having seen a sharp and consistent decline relative to the UK average from 88.3% in 2012, to 83% in 2016. Somerset's productivity has experienced a different trajectory, with productivity increasing from 82%, to 83.3% over the same period.



Source: Subregional Productivity - ONS, Feb 2018

Legend: Heart of the SW (black), Plymouth (orange), Torbay (red), Devon CC (blue), Somerset (white)

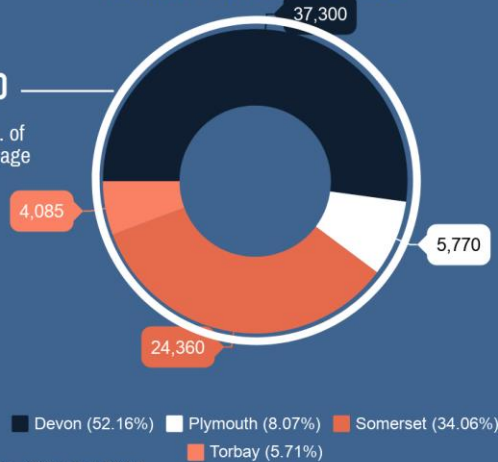
Business Stock & Business Growth

HOTSW TOTAL: 71,520

Business density (2016) - no. of enterprises per 1,000 working age population:

Devon	92.4
Plymouth	44.7
Somerset	86.8
Torbay	64.2
HotSW	80.7
UK	72.6

NUMBER OF ACTIVE ENTERPRISES



HotSW Enterprises by Size:

Micros (89.1%)	63,745
SMEs (10.6%)	7,575
Large (0.3%)	200
Total (100%)	71,520

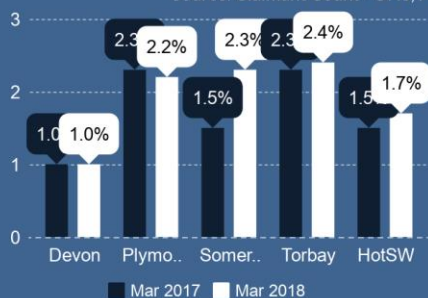
ENTERPRISE GROWTH

	2016-17	2011-17
Devon	+1.7%	+11.5%
Plymouth	+1.4%	+18.6%
Somerset	+1.5%	+12.0%
Torbay	+1.9%	+13.3%
HotSW	+1.6%	+12.3%
UK	+4.5%	+28.3%

Source: UK Business Counts - ONS, Oct 2017

Unemployment

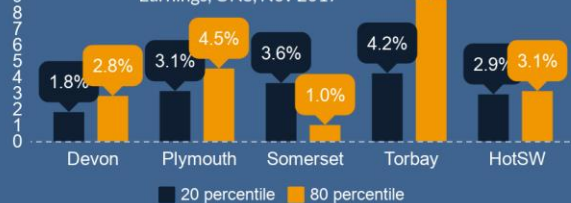
Source: Claimant Count - ONS, May 2018



Note: The Claimant Count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all JSA claimants. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Inclusive Earnings

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS, Nov 2017



Qualifications

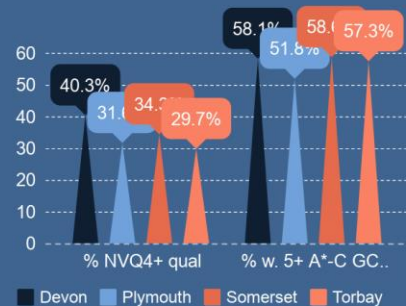
Sources: ONS, May 2018
DfE, 2017



% of resident population qualified at a NVQ4 level and above



% of pupils achieving at least 5 A*-C GCSEs (inc. Maths & English)



ANNUAL GROWTH IN WEEKLY RESIDENT EARNINGS - BOTTOM 20 VS. TOP 20 PERCENTILES

In all areas but Somerset, median gross weekly pay at the 80th percentile (for the top 20% of working age residents) has grown faster than for the bottom 20%, particularly so in Torbay. For most areas, this means that the lowest paid residents are already, or close to being, worse off with the rise in inflation.



Glossary & Release Calendar

Economic Output (GVA Income Approach)

Gross value added (GVA) is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. It is measured at current basic prices, which include the effect of inflation, excluding taxes (less subsidies) on products (for example, Value Added Tax). GVA plus taxes (less subsidies) on products is equivalent to gross domestic product (GDP).

These regional estimates of GVA are measured using the income approach. This involves adding up the income generated by UK resident individuals or corporations in the production of goods and services. The GVA(I) estimates presented here are on a workplace basis (allocated to the location where the economic activity takes place).

Source: Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach) - ONS
Released annually, around mid-December.

Average Earnings (Median Gross Full-Time Weekly Pay)

Based on a sample of employee jobs taken from HM Revenue & Customs PAYE records.

Full-time employees: 30+ paid hours worked per week, or those in teaching professions working 25+ hours per week. Why full-time pay rather than total? It gives a better idea of the earnings offer of jobs in the area; the 'total' averages earnings across full-time and part-time jobs, according to their distribution, and so areas with higher part-time employment rates would skew the earnings figure. To get an idea of part-time earnings, these can be looked at separately.

Median earnings: The headline statistics for ASHE are based on the median rather than the mean. The median is the value below which 50% of employees fall. It is ONS's preferred measure of average earnings as it is less affected by a relatively small number of very high earners and the skewed distribution of earnings. It therefore gives a better indication of typical pay than the mean.

Earnings by percentile (10%, 20%, etc): show the earnings figure below which that proportion of employees fall. For example, the 10% decile will give the earnings figure below which the 10% of lowest earners fall.

Resident versus workplace pay: The resident-based data set provides information about earnings of employees who are living in an area, who are on adult rates and whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence. Workplace pay relates to the earnings of employees who are working in an area.

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - ONS
Released annually, around end of November

Labour Productivity (GVA per Hour worked, Index)

GVA per head is sometimes used as an indicator of a sub-region's economic performance, and is dividing a workplace-based numerator (GVA) by a residence-based denominator (residential population); this means that this measure does not account for people commuting into and out of a region, and significant commuting flows can lead to highly distorted results. Moreover, by including all the residential population (including students, carers, pensioners and others not economically active) and not just those who are in employment, the denominator includes residents who are not directly contributing to GVA.

For these reasons, **GVA per hour worked** and GVA per filled job are the most appropriate measure of regional and subregional productivity. These measures only count the input of those who are directly employed in the production process, rather than the whole population. GVA per hour worked and GVA per filled job can both be used as measures of labour productivity, but these 2 measures are different. GVA per hour worked divides GVA by the total hours worked by the workforce in the subregion; GVA per filled job apportions GVA to the number of jobs in the subregion.

There will be some small differences between the results for the two measures. GVA per filled job does not take into consideration regional labour market structures or different working patterns, such as the mix of part-time and full-time workers, and job shares. For this reason, GVA per hour worked is a more comprehensive indicator of labour productivity and the preferred measure at sub-national level.

GVA per hour worked index: The productivity index shows how well a sub-region has performed compared with the rest of the UK, that is, the UK average. Therefore, a decrease in the productivity index number of a subregion means that the subregion has performed relatively worse than the rest of the UK over the period. Its actual productivity level may have improved, but at a slower rate than the UK overall, thus declining relative to the UK=100 index. Similarly, an increase in the productivity index number means that the subregion has performed better than the rest of the UK.

Source: Subregional Productivity - ONS
Released annually, around February

Business (Number of enterprises, density)

UK Business Counts: An extract compiled from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) recording the number of enterprises that were live at a reference date in March.

An **enterprise** can be thought of as the overall business, made up of all the individual sites or workplaces. It is defined as the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) that has a certain degree of autonomy within an enterprise group.

A **local unit** is an individual site (for example a factory or shop) associated with an enterprise. It can also be referred to as a workplace.

The choice of metric here is for the number of enterprises, as growth in this metric indicates new businesses, rather than new businesses plus expansions in existing businesses; this would therefore also give the percentage start-up rate net of the rate of business deaths.

The number of businesses by **employment size** are defined as: Micro (0-9 employees); SME (10-249 employees); Large (250+)

Business density: measured as the number of enterprises per 1,000 working age residents

Source: UK Business Counts - ONS

Released annually, dates not always consistent; next release expected mid-July

Jobs & Employment (No. of Employees, Employment Rate)

BRES No. of Employees: BRES is an employer survey of the number of jobs held by employees broken down by full/part-time and detailed industry (5 digit SIC2007). The survey records a job at the location of an employee's workplace. Sample: approximately 82,000 VAT and/ or PAYE registered businesses across the UK.

APS Employment Rate: The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a continuous household survey. The topics covered include employment and unemployment, as well as housing, ethnicity, religion, health and education. The datasets consist of 12 months of survey data and are broken down and rolled over on a quarterly basis. The sample size is approximately 320,000 respondents UK-wide, and it uses data combined from 2 waves of the main Labour Force Survey (LFS), collected on a local sample boost.

Source: Business Register for Employment Survey (BRES) - ONS;

Released annually, around end of September

Annual Population Survey (APS) - ONS; **Released quarterly**

Unemployment (The claimant count)

The Claimant Count/ rate: This series counts the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) plus out-of work Universal Credit (UC) claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work. This is the claimant unemployment rate, a headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

The Claimant Count is based on a tabulation of monthly extracts from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administrative systems. Results are published approximately 5 weeks after the reference date that they relate to. The Claimant Count has undergone a number of changes since the introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in 2013. This has led to some inconsistency in coverage and ongoing development work which has caused the series to be reclassified from National Statistic status to Experimental Official Statistics. This period of development is likely to be ongoing until the new benefit is fully rolled out.

The APS unemployment rate: refers to those of working age without a job who have been actively seeking work within the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks. The way in which the Annual Population Survey is conducted gives rise to quarterly snapshots of the previous 12 months of labour market data. As previously mentioned, this is a household-based survey, with around 320,000 respondents nationally.

The APS unemployment rate is not the proportion of the total population who are unemployed. It is the proportion of the economically active population (those in work plus those seeking and available to work) who are unemployed. This follows guidelines specified by the International Labour Organisation and it ensures that UK unemployment statistics are broadly comparable with those published by other countries.

Source: Claimant Count - ONS; **Released monthly**
Annual Population Survey - ONS; **Released quarterly**

If you have any questions or feedback regarding this dashboard, please contact:

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