

**THE SOUTH WEST SKILLS MARKET
A REVIEW OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY**

REPORT FOR THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL
EMPLOYMENT FORUM

SEPTEMBER 2004

SLIM

South West Observatory - Skills and Learning (SLIM)

'the key co-ordinator, assembler, analyser and disseminator of skills and learning information in the South West'

The Skills and Learning Intelligence Module (SLIM) provides a source of robust and accessible evidence on the skills and learning needs of individuals and businesses across the South West. SLIM seeks to inform policy decisions, funding programmes, organisational and partnership strategies and individual projects. The development of SLIM has been driven by the growing emphasis on the region as a focus for promoting sustainable economic and social development and a national emphasis on evidence-based practice.

SLIM offers a range of services to capture, synthesise and disseminate knowledge on skills and learning:

- It develops on-line databases of research and data;
- It drives discussion and analysis of this information through e-newsletters; a quarterly Bulletin; on-line discussions; workshops and thematic reports.
- It offers individual advice and analysis through a help-desk and through direct working with the Regional Development Agency (RDA) and Regional Assembly.
- As a module of the South West Regional Observatory, it will increasingly work with the other modules to contribute to an holistic understanding of the region's path to sustainable development.

SLIM supports the Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) which is 'the way in which key regional partners led by the RDA will develop and deliver an agreed plan to address the skills and employment needs of employers and individuals within the region'. It does this in its role as secretariat to the South West Employment and Skills Research Forum where it works in partnership to identify gaps in current knowledge, secure resources and commission research to fill these gaps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SLIM would like to thank the members of the project Steering Group: Liz Georgeson, South West RDA; Nicola Oates, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE); Rose Bird, Government Office South West (GOSW); and Janet Rice, Gloucestershire LSC. Many thanks also go to Gareth James (formerly Head of Planning and Research at Somerset LSC), chair of the Steering Group, who provided invaluable advice and support to the project team.

Thanks also go to the Regional Observatory Core Unit for producing the maps, to Somerset LSC for support with some data analysis, and to Pete Gisborne, Head of Knowledge at West of England LSC, for his advice on data issues. In addition, thanks also go to the many organisations that helped to provide data for the report, but in particular to Devon & Cornwall, Avon, Gloucester & Wiltshire, and Dorset & Somerset WDCs, the Plymouth Resettlement Centre, Jobcentre Plus SW Regional Office, TUC Learning Services SW, the Employers' Organisation (EO) and Government Office for the South West (GOSW).

We would also like to thank those organisations contributing funding to the project: South West RDA (SWRDA); the South West Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs); the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE); and Objective 3 European Social Fund (ESF).

Finally, SLIM would like to acknowledge the Project Team:

Chris Evans, project director
Laura Smith, labour market analyst
Jo Pye, adviser on non-formal learning
Alan Dunster, consultant on strategic overview

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALI	Adult Learning Inspectorate
CoVE	Centre of Vocational Excellence
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EO	Employers' Organisation
ESF	European Social Fund
FRESA	Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action
GLO	Global Learning Outcomes
GOSW	Government Office for the South West
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HMT	Her Majesty's Treasury
ILfA	Inspiring Learning for All
IiP	Investors in People
LP	Learning Partnership
LSDA	Learning and Skills Development Agency
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NTOs	National Training Organisations
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
RA	Regional Assembly
REF	Regional Employment Forum
RES	Regional Economic Strategy
SBS	Small Business Service
SSDA	Sector Skills Development Agency
SSC	Sector Skills Council
SWESA	South West Enterprise and Skills Alliance
SWO	South West Observatory
SWRDA	South West Regional Development Agency
WDC	Workforce Development Confederation