

Labour Market Review

South West Region Summer 2007

A young boy and girl are jumping on a trampoline. The boy is on the left, wearing a light blue striped shirt and dark pants, with his arms raised. The girl is on the right, wearing a striped tank top and pink pants, with her arms extended. They are both in mid-air, and the background is a clear blue sky with some trees visible at the bottom.

Lifting Children out of Poverty



Business and Economy Module



Skills and Learning Intelligence Module

jobcentreplus

Part of the Department
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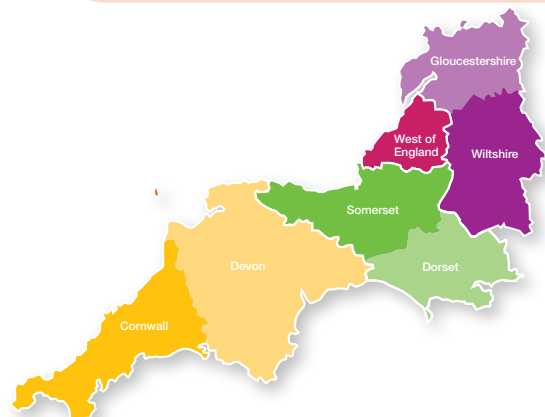
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Introduction

By the Customer Services Director for Jobcentre Plus South West, Claire McGuckin.



Welcome to the Summer edition of the South West Labour Market Review (LMR). The South West Labour Market Review has been a longstanding publication – although appearing in a number of guises over the years. This edition represents the final issue of this publication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for their interest in and support for our business agenda. You will be able to keep up to date with the latest Labour Market Information through the various websites quoted on the final page.

In this, final LMR publication we look at a core issue – Child Poverty – and how the Government's ambition to eradicate child poverty has been supported by Jobcentre Plus in the Region.

However, first may I take this opportunity to introduce myself. I moved to the South West region in May to take up post as Customer Services Director, having spent most of my career in London offices and around the Home Counties. I have been busy over the past months getting to know my new colleagues in and outside Jobcentre Plus and coming to grips with the geography of the region. This is quite a challenge in an area that covers 23,829 sq km – stretching 354 km from Land's End to the Gloucestershire border.

The Government is committed to halving child poverty by 2010 and aims to eliminate it by 2020. Regrettably despite progress since 1998/99 – with the number of children in poverty at a 15 year low – the statistics on child poverty published in March show that child poverty in the UK rose slightly in 2005/2006. Despite child poverty in the

UK falling faster over the last ten years than in any other European country only Italy, Portugal and the Slovak Republic have higher levels. That said since 1997, 600,000 children have been lifted out of poverty.

Our External Relations Manager, Phil Harrison, provides more information in his lead-in article to the work Child Care Partnership Managers have been involved in across the South West.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the contribution made to the Review by Damian Whittard and Laura Smith – of the Business and Economy Module and the Skills and Learning Intelligence Module (SLIM) respectively. Damian has contributed the Labour Market commentary and Laura has provided an overview of Skills and Learning. I regret we are unable to provide the annual review of Employees Earnings in the South West in this issue due to the work commitments of the author.

I hope you find this edition continues to provide a useful picture of the labour market within the region and the insight into the work of our Child Care Partnership Managers proves of interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire McGuckin'.

Claire McGuckin

/o /o

Produced in partnership with the Skills and Learning Intelligence Module (SLIM) and the Business and Economy Module of the Regional South/ West Observatory.

Although a number of hard copies are available on request we aim to publish the LMR primarily through the Jobcentre Plus website: www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk through the 'Partners Home' link.

Reducing Child Poverty

Welfare Reform presents a complex and dynamic challenge if we are to keep pace with economic and labour market pressures and to achieve our ambition of full employment.

Article provided by Phil Harrison, External Relations Manager, Jobcentre Plus South West Region

“ Reducing child poverty and ensuring that every child has the best possible start ”



A number of recent reports from prestigious individuals such as Lisa Harker¹; David Freud², and Lord Sandy Leitch³ impact across the Jobcentre Plus business agenda. The current Welfare Reform Green Paper⁴; the Government's response to the Leitch report⁵ and DWP's refreshed Child Poverty Strategy⁶ help to set out the framework within which Jobcentre Plus in the South West will respond to the various findings and recommendations.

Some of this work is already being taken forward – for example Local Employment Partnerships are starting to take shape, with employers committing to work in partnership with Jobcentre Plus to seek a wider range of applicants to fill their jobs. We aim to achieve 250,000 job opportunities nationally for some of our hardest to help clients through this initiative. 15 employers have already pledged to work with us and we are implementing the first pilot schemes already, including some in the

South West. Many more employers are already engaged and we expect to see that number increasing over the coming weeks and months.

Within this wider picture, reducing child poverty and ensuring that every child has the best possible start in life remain at the heart of our welfare reform.

We recognise that there is still much to be done. We also recognise the link between employment and prosperity. You will have seen that the Green Paper proposes that we increase lone parents' responsibility to seek work once their children get older. Under these proposals from October 2008, lone parents with a youngest child aged

12 or over will no longer be entitled to claim Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. The age will be brought down to 7 years from October 2010. (They will be eligible to transfer to Jobseeker's Allowance where they will receive support in looking for suitable work.)

We also recognise that child poverty is not an issue solely for Lone Parents – hence our widening agenda to encompass 'couple families' within our help and support regime, with intentions to provide Work Focused Interviews for partners of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants with children.

A major enabler for parents to take up or remain in work is affordable, accessible childcare. This is a key issue for many parents – lone parents and couples, both in and out of work. We are active within the SW region in promoting these aims. Our Childcare Partnership Managers work with Local Authorities, Children's Centres and Childcare partnerships to influence the provision of childcare within the region by developing innovative solutions. I hope that the articles they have provided in this, the final edition of the Labour Market Review, will provide some insight into their work and give a small indication of the measures we are taking to contribute to a reduction in child poverty in the South West.

1 "Delivering on Child Poverty: what would it take" Nov 2006

2 "Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work" Mar 2007

3 "Review of Skills: Prosperity for all in the global economy – world class skills" Dec 2006

4 "In work, better off: Next steps to full employment" Jul 2007

5 "World Class Skills: implementing the Leitch review of Skills in England" Jul 2007

6 "Working for Children" Mar 2007

Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership Managers across the region have been working to support the Child Poverty Agenda. They have provided the following articles – giving an insight into some of the work they have undertaken:

Making Partnership Work

Article provided by Chris Hodgson, Dorset and Somerset District Marketing Manager

The Childcare Recruitment Evening held in Taunton earlier in June was a great success with Jobcentre Plus, local employers and Partners turning out to show potential employees how worthwhile and fun a career in Childcare can be.

The evening hosted by Somerset Early Years Childcare Partnership, was supported by Ali Porter Childcare Partnership Manager and Gill Knight Labour Market Recruitment Adviser both from Somerset & Dorset Jobcentre Plus.

Childcare Partnership Managers are responsible for working strategically with Local Authorities, Children's Centres, External Childcare Partnerships and employers, taking forward the child poverty agenda for Jobcentre Plus. Working with key stakeholders they help to identify childcare workforce gaps and contribute to the development of solutions by influencing provision to reflect customer and employer needs.

"Childcare is one of the fastest growing employment sectors in the UK and these evenings bring together all aspects of training and employment opportunities" said Ali. "Many people would love to work in Childcare but don't know where to start, these evenings provide an informal environment to find out about training and vacancies from people who actually do the job."

Nurseries from across the County were on hand to give help and advice and also advertise their vacancies. Linda Parker from Lemon Tree Nursery in Orchard Portman said "I find these events are really energising. There's always a wide range of people who attend and a real buzz. It's great to network with other Childcare Providers, with Jobcentre Plus staff and to talk to

people who are really interested in working with children."

One of those people was Serena Stanbury who had just finished college and was looking for a job in Childcare. "This has been a great opportunity to meet some employers and find out what training is available" Serena said.

Childcare Recruitment evenings are held across Somerset over the year. They have proved a popular and positive way to promote Childcare often attracting up to 100 prospective employees at one evening. Jobcentre Plus Labour Market and Recruitment Advisers are on hand to discuss employer issues and give advice on e-channels for vacancy advertising as well as other as other Jobcentre Plus services.



▲ (left–right) Ali Porter, GPM Jobcentre Plus; Christine Sworder & Emma McEachan, Recruitment & Information Early Years; Linda Parker, Lemon Tree Nursery; Les Finlayson, Training & Recruitment Early Years; and Gill Knight, LMRA Jobcentre Plus.

◀ Sam Caddick (right) from Bouncy Bears Nursery in Wellington and Gill Knight from Jobcentre Plus discuss vacancies!

Working in Partnership to support Parents and Combat Child Poverty

Article provided by Julie Macnamara, the Childcare Partnership Manager for West of England

In Bristol and North Somerset, I have worked with Bristol City Council Children and Young People's Service and with North Somerset Childcare, Early Years and Play Team to fund three Childcare Co-ordinator Posts. I sourced funding from the Ethnic Minority Flexible Fund and the District Manager's Discretionary Fund, enabling the posts to be set up for one year in the most disadvantaged wards in the West of England District, providing support to some of its most vulnerable parents.

Childcare Co-ordinators work with parents in Sure Start Children's Centres, which provide support for parents of children under five years, by bringing together Early Years Education and Childcare, Parenting support and Children's Health and Social Services. The Co-ordinators provide a range of support to parents to help them overcome the barriers they face when seeking to return to work or training. In particular they give expert help and advice on the registered childcare options available. Many parents want

to work, but face numerous barriers on their journey into employment. The aim of the Childcare Co-ordinator's post is to work closely with parents, to support and signpost them to the most appropriate help to enable them to reach their potential. As well as supporting parents to find childcare and allaying their fears about quality, cost and availability, the Childcare Co-ordinators provide a range of services from advice about claiming Working Tax Credits to supporting them into voluntary or paid employment, providing motivation and encouragement.

Working closely with me, and meeting regularly, provided a very helpful support network for the co-ordinators. Wendy Jackson, the Co-ordinators' Manager said, "Jobcentre Plus provided funding for these roles and through regular meetings with the Childcare Partnership Manager we were able to share good practice and ideas, discuss issues and organise training. Due to the success of the posts the City Council has continued to fund them this year



and is using the system for measuring statistics set up by Julie as a useful tool to measure success."

Co-ordinators sourced their own referrals and ran a range of surgeries in Children's Centres and other community locations, where customers could book to see them or drop in for a chat. Over 600 people were seen in the first year of the project, and almost 20% of these were supported into work or training. Given the substantial barriers these customers face this was seen as excellent progress and the Co-ordinators continue to support parents on their journey into work.

Multi Agency Training Day in Swindon

Article provided by Jackie Tuckett, Childcare Partnership Manager Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon

Jobcentre Plus Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon, in partnership with Swindon Sure Start Partnership, the Children's Information Service Swindon and Swindon Children's Centres held a multi-agency training day for staff either working in, or with Children's Centres.

The day was designed to support the organisations in the delivery of their agenda, including helping parents into work.

The format was structured as a series of workshops, with delegates choosing

up to a maximum of eight workshops from a choice of fourteen.

Workshops ran simultaneously, with delegates moving round from workshop to workshop at the sound of a bell – the Jobcentre Plus version of Speed Dating!

The Workshops were delivered by:

- Jobcentre Plus:
 - New Deal for Lone Parent Adviser
 - Specialist Incapacity Benefits Adviser
 - New Claims Adviser
 - New Deal Adviser
- Swindon Children's Fund
- Children's Information Service (Childcare provision information)
- Children's Information Service (Services for children and young people)
- Marlborough House (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Learning Ambassadors
- Housing Workshop
- CAB Debt Advice

Penryn Community College

Article provided by Hannah Mitchell, Childcare Partnership Manager for Devon and Cornwall

As the Childcare Partnership Manager for Devon and Cornwall I have worked in partnership with Penryn Community College to organise the delivery of a comprehensive service to all parents of the New Year 7 intake students from September.

In light of recent recommendations from the Leitch Report, the proposal is to engage with the parents as they attend the school for their first open evening, to find out about the school and its services and visit their child's teachers. The initiative has established closer working between Jobcentre Plus and the Extended Services agenda in working with parents with children aged 6 to 19 years.

Attending the open evening Jobcentre Plus advisers will work alongside their

colleagues from the Local Authorities Family Information Service, providing a Parent Information Point covering a wide range of subjects ranging from Jobcentre Plus services to childcare and family information. The Adult Learning team will also attend to support parents with their Literacy and Numeracy.

The teaching staff will advise the parents as they tour the school about the Information Point and the Head Teacher will signpost parents to the new service in her introduction and welcome speech.

During the weeks before the open evening parents are being kept informed via the school newsletter, which also included a blank In Work Benefits form so that parents could

have a calculation done through Jobcentre Plus to see whether they would be better off in work.

The local Jobcentre received these forms and completed calculations; it has also encouraged parents to access the Jobcentre Services.

The school have committed to providing an on going service for parents via the school. They are in the process of having a new school built and would like to dedicate a Jobcentre Plus and Family specific area in the new foyer with a display with leaflets and information.

Jobcentre Plus will continue to attend the New Year 7 intakes parents evening as it enables Jobcentre Plus to engage specifically with lone parents whose youngest child is 12 years, and provides a service in an environment that parents are accustomed to.

Following the Penryn project other schools in the County have expressed an interest in providing the same service of support and information for their parents.



- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credits Information
- Teenage Pregnancy Unit
- Trio Childminding Support

46 delegates attended from such diverse occupations as Health Visitors, Children's Centre Managers and Connexions Advisers. Delegates thoroughly enjoyed the day and found the format very interesting and highly conducive to learning.

Delegates were asked to complete evaluation forms at the end of the day which provided us with comments such as:

- **“A brilliant day”**
- **“I have gained lots of information that I will be able to share with my colleagues”**
- **“Fantastic – learnt something every session”**
- **“Excellent use of a day – please repeat”**
- **“Would like to come back and do the workshops I never had time to do”**

Thanks go to Swindon Sure Start Partnership for funding the day.

Childcare Training in Swindon

Article provided by Jackie Tuckett, Childcare Partnership Manager Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon

For the second year running, Jobcentre Plus Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon District and New College, Swindon have arranged a tailored training course for Jobseekers looking to build a career in the Childcare sector.

The Childcare sector is rapidly expanding with a huge emphasis placed on the quality of childcare provision using well-trained and highly qualified staff.

Many Jobcentre Plus customers have difficulty in finding work in this arena due to lack of qualifications.

Childcare training is provided by many different organisations and funding is widely available to meet the training costs. Most training however, involves an element of work placement, which may have an impact on Jobseekers Allowance and impinge on the 'availability for work' conditions.

Last year, as a partnership venture, we developed a course, which met the necessary Job seeking requirements, and contained an element of work placement. The resulting qualification is a nationally recognised NVQ 2 in Children's Care Learning and Development.

Candidates experienced varying degrees of success on the course, with some students unable to undertake sufficient work placements to complete their qualification in the academic year, due to the 'availability for work'

dilemma. Those students on other benefits, for whom this has not been an issue, have been very much more successful, with three students well on their way to successfully completing their NVQ with others completing some of the units towards achieving the whole qualification.

This year, building on lessons learned from last year's intake, we have targeted the course at those people eligible for the Adult Learning Option. This is an approved pilot training scheme run jointly by Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council, which effectively removes the 'availability for work' conditions for the duration of the course, for a maximum of 52 weeks. This has been achieved by making the training specifically work focused and designed to enable the individual to realistically move into employment on completion of the course.

In order to promote the course, Jobcentre Plus and New College held an open day for prospective students. The open day was held in a centrally placed, easy to access Children's Centre, which was able to offer on site childcare for the children of candidates.

The purpose of the day was to ensure firstly that candidates were eligible for the Adult Learning Option, then explain the course and the commitment students will need to have in order to successfully complete it and finally to hear from existing childcare workers about what it's really like to work in childcare. We were also able to introduce candidates to two students currently doing the course, giving them a student's perspective and they were also introduced to the course tutors.

So far, eight candidates have signed up to do the course and are due to start introductory sessions at the College in July.

“ Childcare training is provided by many different organisations and funding is widely available to meet the training costs ”



Childcare Taster Scheme in Gloucestershire

Article provided by Sallie Mumford, Childcare Partnership Manager, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon

The childcare taster scheme in Gloucestershire gives Jobcentre Plus customers the opportunity to try out formal childcare for themselves, and to be made aware of the quality of registered childcare that's available.

As Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership Manager I and Gloucestershire County Council Access Commissioning Manager, Debe Lawson and the Children's Information Service have together set up the Gloucestershire scheme, which allows parents who are Jobcentre Plus customers to try out up to 10 sessions of free registered childcare. The initiative is funded by Gloucestershire County Council, and childcare providers are paid directly by the council.

The sessions can be taken over a complete week, or spread out over 10 weeks, depending on the needs of the parent and their children. Many childcare providers have actively supported this initiative. Parents can choose between pre-school playgroups and nurseries, childminders and out of

school and holiday play schemes to see which provision best suits the needs of their children.

This initiative was driven by the need to increase the take up of formal childcare:

'To reduce the proportion of children living in households where no one is working, by 2008 increase the number of children in lower income working families using formal childcare by 120,000'

Improving take-up of sufficient, accessible and affordable formal childcare for children in the 0-14 age range will enable parents to work, lift children and families out of poverty and reduce inequalities. Increased take up in early years should improve children's outcomes.

Jodi Green, who is a single mum, was made aware of the childcare taster scheme by her Lone Parent Adviser, Di Walker, after Jodi had expressed frustration about the behaviour of her son Joel, who was a very lively two year old. Joel's behaviour has improved

since doing the taster at the nursery, and Jodi was able to start work in her father's hairdressing business. Prior to starting work, Jodi also took advantage of the childcare assist scheme, giving her son extra time to settle into the nursery in the week before she started work.

Jodi has commented: 'After having a child and being out of work I felt a bit trapped and totally consumed by being at home full time being a mother. I wanted some life back and to feel like I was contributing to his care financially. The taster was a very gentle way of easing me back to work and gave me time to sort out my life before getting into work. I gained confidence.'

She went on to say: 'My job at a salon has given me training and a route to a long term career in hairdressing. I also use the computer, I'm on the phone and I make others happy. I feel so happy and enjoy work. I have no regrets and my confidence has got better and better.'

Childcare – get the facts. Straight.

Unsure about using registered Childcare?

We can help.

You can try out formal childcare in Gloucestershire to see how it can benefit you and your children.

If you are registered with a Jobcentre Plus Adviser and are looking to return to work, you can have up to **10 free half-day sessions or 5 full days of childcare at the registered setting of your choice***.

**Childminders – Out of School Clubs
Pre-School Playgroups – Nurseries**

Try out the quality of childcare that's available!

Call your Jobcentre Plus adviser today.

*Subject to the availability of places



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Skills, Learning and the Labour Market

This section of the Labour Market Review highlights some of the latest employment, skills and learning related data. In this edition we look at economic activity, employment and unemployment in the South West. We also look at data related to participation in learning and training for young people and adults and the qualification levels of the region's workforce.

Labour Market



Commentary provided by Damian Whittard – Economist, Business and Economy Module

Key points – South West (SW) Labour Market 2007:

- The number of persons that are economically active in the SW continues to increase
- The performance of the SW's sub-regional labour market varies – generally more buoyant in the northern sub-regions and weakening as one travels south and west
- The SW labour market continues to create jobs for its growing population – primarily in the construction and service sector
- Regional employment rates are amongst the best in England
- Unemployment rates are highest generally in urban areas and the far south west sub-regions
- The early signs are that national and regional unemployment rates may be beginning to stabilise after a period of sustained growth

Economic Activity

South West England (SWE) is home to over 5 million people; about 4 million people aged 16 and over, a working age population of just over 3 million and an economically active workforce of 2.5 million¹. SW economic activity rates are comparatively high (81.3%) and well in advance of the English average (78.9%); only the South East and East England have activity rates in advanced of SWE. The healthy economic activity rates indicate that the region, in general, offers good labour market opportunities – low economic

activity rates can result from increased numbers of discouraged workers².

In the past five years SWE has continually grown the size of its potential workforce; primarily through inward migration and return to the workforce of previously excluded groups. Over the previous twelve months (Q1 2006–Q1 2007), the economically active population grew by over 27,000, which resulted in an increase of 0.2% in its economic activity rate. As the economically active population has

grown at a faster rate than the working age population, the inference that could be drawn is that the inward migration has been economically, rather than lifestyle, driven.

The higher SW economic activity rates extend across all age groups and both gender groups. The region's comparative performance in two separate groups – age category 16–19 and females were particularly strong. Female activity rates are higher in SWE than any other English region.

¹ Economically active population refers to those who are either employed, self employed or registered as unemployed.

² Withdrawn from the workforce as they believe no jobs are available.

Economic activity rates are inconsistent throughout the sub-regions. The difference is in excess of 10% comparing the highest and lowest scoring regions – Gloucestershire and Plymouth. In general, higher rates are recorded in the northern parts of the region, with lower rates in the south-western and south-eastern districts. Bournemouth, interestingly, has relatively low rates of economic activity. This is more likely to be a reflection of its demographic profile and employment structure, rather than the less favourable prevailing labour market conditions that exist in some south-western areas. Differences in gender economic activity rates are also subject to variability. As represented as percentage residents of working age, the labour market in Poole, Bristol and Bournemouth employed 10% more men than it did women. This differential was reduced to less than 4% in Bath and Torbay. Female employment is linked to a variety of localised social and economic factors including demographic, industrial and employment structures.

Employment

2.5 million working age residents were in employment; 78% of the population and 96% of the economically active population. The region ranked second and first respectively in these two categories of all English regions – somewhat in advance of the English average. Over 2.1 million of those in employment were employees (86%), the remainder being self-employed. Self-employment was much more prevalent among men than women. Employment rates vary across the age groups, with the lowest rates recorded in the two youngest age categories, 16–19 and 20–24. Employment rates in SWE are consistently above the English average for all age groups and for both genders; this was more pronounced in age category 16–19 and in females. The higher rates for these two groups reflect SW's flexible labour market – the region provides greater opportunities to work part-time, opportunities which are suited to the demands of these groups.

Since 2001, the SW has consistently created new employment opportunities although a rising population has meant that the growth in employment rate has been suppressed. In the past twelve months SWE has created over 18,000

Fig 1 **Economic Activity Q1, 2007³**

	South West (000s)			SW Rank
	Men	Women	All	
Working age population	1,629	1,554	3,180	7
Economically active	1,381	1,202	2,583	6
% of working age population	84.7	77.3	81.2	2
Employed	1,327	1,154	2,481	6
% of working age population	81.4	74.3	78.0	2
% of economically active	96.1	96.0	96.1	1
Employees ⁴	1,073	1,035	2,108	7
Self-employed	244	104	348	5
% of employed	18.5	9.0	14.1	2
Unemployed ⁵	54	48	101	2
% of economically active	3.9	4.0	3.9	1
Economically inactive	249	352	598	4
% of working age population	15.3	22.7	18.8	2

Source: National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

Fig 2 **Economic Activity by County/Unitary Authority June 2006**

	Total	Residents of Working Age				
		%	Men	%	Women	%
Bath and North East Somerset	83,300	79	44,300	80.5	39,000	77.4
Bournemouth	77,000	77.8	42,200	82.9	34,800	72.4
Bristol	194,900	78.9	109,100	84.2	85,900	73.1
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	228,500	76.5	125,500	81.1	103,000	71.5
Devon	334,400	81.1	181,200	85.8	153,200	76.2
Dorset	179,900	79.7	97,900	84.4	82,000	74.8
Gloucestershire	283,400	82.9	153,900	87.2	129,500	78.2
North Somerset	91,400	81.7	49,400	85.4	42,000	77.8
Plymouth	113,400	76.2	61,200	79.7	52,200	72.4
Poole	66,500	79.2	37,000	85.1	29,600	72.9
Somerset	238,200	81.2	125,800	83.5	112,300	78.9
South Gloucestershire	134,300	86.3	72,300	89.6	62,000	82.7
Swindon	97,300	83.7	52,500	86.8	44,900	80.3
Torbay	57,300	78	29,800	79.9	27,500	76
Wiltshire	223,400	84.7	119,800	89.4	103,700	79.8

Source: National Statistics, Annual Population Survey (NOMIS)

new jobs, but with the rising population the employment rate actually reduced by 0.1% – although statistically, the rate is not significantly different from a year ago. The trend is consistent with other English regions; the best performing three regions maintained their

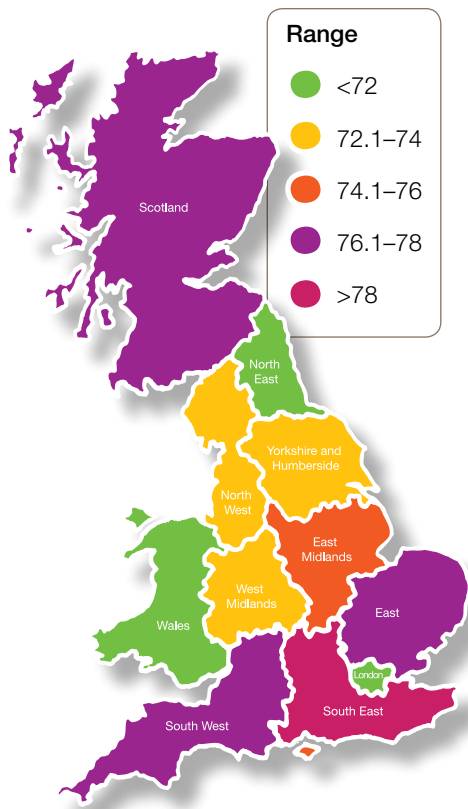
employment rate, while the remaining six regions' rates all declined. To set the SW performance in context, England's employment rate reduced by 0.6% and Yorkshire and Humberside, which experienced the largest reduction, fell by 1.5%.

³ Seasonally adjusted.

⁴ Employee and self employed figures are not seasonally adjusted and do not add up to the total employment figures.

⁵ Unemployment and inactivity are rated in ascending order.

Fig 3 **Employment by Region Q1, 2007**



Source: National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

Part-time Employment

SWE had the highest rate of part-time employment of any region (27.1%), considerably more than the national average (23.7%). Nearly one in every two female workers in SWE was employed part-time whereas with their male counterparts it was one in ten. This is, in some part, attributed to the family care responsibilities traditionally undertaken by women. Between March 05 to June 06, the number of part-time workers remained fairly constant, although the rate fell by 0.1% as the number of full time jobs increased. Part-time working can enable excluded groups access to the jobs market, but has also been cited as a contributing factor to the SW's productivity gap with the best performing English regions. Therefore, in economic terms, the growth of full time working is more advantageous to the region's economy.

Sub-regionally, the rate of part-time work is relatively divergent. Just under a third of Torbay and Devon's employment is part-time, this drops down to a fifth in Swindon. The most productive regions of the South West,

the urban regions of Swindon and Bristol, were the only two regions to have part-time rates below the national average. Bournemouth and Poole had relatively low rates, compared to other SW sub-regions, reflecting the male dominated nature of their economy. Growth rates were, if anything, more divergent across the region. B&NES witnessed strong growth in part-time employment (14%) compared to the previous fifteen months. B&NES has a strongly focussed service economy, centred on Tourism, which demands high rates of seasonal and part-time working. Dorset and Poole experienced the largest shift away from part-time working. Both sub-regions experienced a decline in employment overall but lost more than twice the number of part-time jobs than actual jobs lost. This means that for every two part-time jobs that were lost one full time job was created. Theoretically it is possible that, the total number of jobs can reduce whilst at the same time the total numbers of hours increased.

Employment by Industry

Manufacturing provides the SW labour market with one in every eight jobs. The importance of manufacturing, to both the regional and national economies, has slowly been diminishing as competitive global pressures push low cost manufacturing off-shore. Over 16,000 SW manufacturing jobs were lost in the last fifteen months, 5% of SW manufacturing employment.

The largest sector of the SW's economy is services, accounting for six in every eight SW jobs. Comparatively however, the services sector is less important to the regional economy (75.8%) than it is to the English economy (76.7%). This statistic is somewhat misleading since it includes the Greater South East⁶ regions which skew the results considerably. SWE has an average of 2% more employees working in the services sector than the remaining English regions. Within the services sector the public sector accounted for approximately 4 in every 10 jobs, and distribution 3 in 10.

Overall, employment increased at a slightly faster rate nationally than it did regionally. In general employment, growth occurred within the construction and service sector whereas decline

Fig 4 **Part-time Work March 2005–June 2006**

Region	Part-time work	% of total work	Change 05–06	Growth rate (%)
Bath and North East Somerset	24,500	30.1	3,000	14.0
Bournemouth	18,400	24.8	700	4.0
Bristol	43,000	23.3	-3,300	-7.1
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	63,400	28.9	-1,500	-2.3
Devon	99,100	30.5	5,700	6.1
Dorset	45,200	25.6	-7,300	-13.9
Gloucestershire	69,200	25.3	-300	-0.4
North Somerset	24,100	26.7	1,500	6.6
Plymouth	32,100	30.3	2,000	6.6
Poole	15,800	24.7	-1,400	-8.1
Somerset	66,400	29.5	-600	-0.9
South Gloucestershire	31,900	24.6	-1,300	-3.9
Swindon	19,200	20.9	-300	-1.5
Torbay	16,700	31.0	-600	-3.5
Wiltshire	58,100	26.7	3,500	6.4
South West	627,100	27.1	-100	0.0
England	5,391,300	23.7	-63,100	-1.2

Source: National Statistics, Annual Population Survey (NOMIS)

6 London, South East and East England.

Fig 5 **Employment by Industry** March 2005–June 2006

	South West				England
	Total	% of total industry	Change	Growth rate (%)	Growth rate (%)
Agriculture & Fishing	46,000	1.9	-500	-1.1	-0.2
Energy & Water	25,500	1.1	-200	-0.8	4.9
Manufacturing	304,700	12.6	-16,300	-5.1	-3.6
Construction	205,200	8.5	7,400	3.7	3.6
Distribution Hotels and restaurants	501,500	20.7	-16,100	-3.1	-2.5
Transport and communications	138,300	5.7	-1,700	-1.2	-0.6
Banking, finance and Insurance	340,600	14	14,400	4.4	1.8
Public admin., Education & Health	707,300	29.2	10,300	1.5	2.3
Other services	151,600	6.3	7,900	5.5	1.7
Total Services	1,839,300	76	14,800	0.8	0.7
All Jobs	2,420,700	100	5,200	0.2	0.3

Source: National Statistics, Annual Population Survey (NOMIS)

was most keenly felt in the primary and manufacturing sectors. Regionally, 'distribution etc' lost significant number of jobs (over 16,000) during the preceding fifteen months. The regional 'banking etc' sector grew at the fastest rate of all regional sectors, increasing in size by 4.4% and creating over 14,000 new jobs. The national 'banking etc' sector also grew, but at less than half the rate of the regional 'banking' sector. The 'energy etc' sector experienced strong growth nationally but experienced a moderate decline regionally, being the only sector to grow at the national level and decline at regional level.

Employment by Occupation

The most common occupation group, both regionally and nationally, is 'managers and senior officials'. When combined with the two categories of 'professional occupations', it is estimated that these three highly productive occupational groups provide over 41% of all employment. This also reflects the general move to a service sector based economy. Although considerable, the percentage is below the national average, again this average being skewed by the dominance of employment in the Greater South East. SWE has a higher proportion of employment in 'skilled trades, personnel services, customer services and elementary occupations' than nationally. The concern is that

although the region has a workforce strong in trade specific skills it has less so in the more productive 'professional occupations'. It is difficult to know to what extent the occupational structure of the region has developed in response to the demands of industry, or to the supply of skills. The region's comparative position, however, has strengthened in terms of 'managerial and associate professional occupations' over the previous fifteen months – i.e. it has grown at a proportionately higher rate than nationally. The proportion of

'professional occupations' has also grown in SWE, but at a comparatively slower rate than nationally, and hence the gap between national and regional rate is widening.

Unemployment

Numbers in employment have grown consistently over recent years, yet [counter intuitively] so has the unemployment rate. This is as a result of growing the economically active population at a faster rate than employment. This has occurred at two levels; inward migration, both domestic and intra-regional; and the return to the economically active population of previously excluded groups – such as those with health problems. It has been argued that the increasing unemployment rate is the result of the region's and nation's strong economies. Good labour prospects are acting as a draw to economic migrants. Higher rates of unemployment may also partially reflect the success of the government's new deal initiative aimed at getting excluded groups back into the labour market. Often, the first step to getting a job for individuals from previously excluded groups is to join the ranks of the unemployed, the unemployed forming part of the economically active population.

The unemployment rate is measured by two separate sources, data collected

Fig 6 **Employment by Occupation** March 2005–June 2006

Occupation	South West				England	
	Total	% of total	Change 05-06	Growth rate 05-06	% of total	Growth rate 05-06
Managers and senior officials	372,400	15.4	15,300	4.3	15.4	0.8
Professional	290,100	12.0	1,600	0.6	12.9	1.7
Associate professionals and technical	336,300	13.9	21,700	6.9	14.4	2.9
Administrative and technical	296,000	12.2	800	0.3	12.4	-1.2
Skilled trades	287,600	11.9	-10,400	-3.5	10.9	-1.8
Personal service	201,500	8.3	-2,800	-1.4	7.8	3.7
Sales and customer service	187,900	7.7	-14,200	-7.0	7.5	-2.2
Process, plant and machine operatives	168,200	6.9	-1,100	-0.6	7.3	-0.1
Elementary	280,900	11.6	-5,100	-1.8	11.2	-1.5

Source: National Statistics, Annual Population Survey (NOMIS)

and published by using the ILO definition⁷, and the narrower claimant count definition⁸.

Of all the English regions, SWE has the lowest unemployment rate. In Q1, 2007 over 101,000 people were registered as ILO unemployed – the first time since Q4, 2005 the unemployed number has gone above 100,000. Although the unemployment rate is relative low, 3.9% compared to 5.7% nationally, the rate has steadily been increasing. Over the past twelve months the rate has increased by 0.3% resulting in an additional 9,000 people being registered as unemployed. Although the trend is increasing the latest rate is not significantly different from a year ago.

The increase in unemployment is not region specific, all regions have seen a 'ticking up' of their unemployment rate in recent years. In the past year all regions, except London and East England, have experienced a growth in the rate of unemployment. Although starting from a higher base, the national growth in unemployment has been at a faster pace than regionally, and hence the regional and national unemployment gap has widened marginally.

Both nationally and regionally, the overall trend in unemployment rates since 2001 was downwards until 2003, after which rates began to rise – although not consistently. The SW rate of increase, which starting from a lower

base, was slower than the national rate of increase. This has resulted in currently the largest differential between SWE and English unemployment rates since 2003. Regional unemployment rates are similar to those at the start of 2002, 3.9% before falling to around the 3% mark in 2003–04. SW rates then slowly increased to the current high of 3.9%. In reality the regional trend has been fairly benign since Q3 2005, hovering around the 3.8%–3.9% mark. The national rate since Q3 2005 however, continued to experience growth, although the most recent data does also suggest that national unemployment growth rates are starting to flatten out. The lower levels of the SW unemployment will be to some extent as a result of its industrial structure as well as flexible working practices such as part-time working. It has benefited from strong growth in service sector jobs whilst has been somewhat protected from the large scale redundancies that the manufacturing sector has experienced nationally as a result of the pressures of globalisation.

Claimant Count

Claimant count data record the numbers of people claiming unemployment related benefits of Jobseeker's Allowance and National Insurance Credits. As with the ILO unemployment rate, SWE has the lowest claimant count unemployment rate of any region, equal with South East England. Approximately 44,500 people were claiming unemployment related benefit in May 2007 – two out of every three claimants were male. The overall rate was 1.5% of the population, being a reduction of 0.1% on the same time the previous year. The national figure also reduced by 0.2% during the same time period.

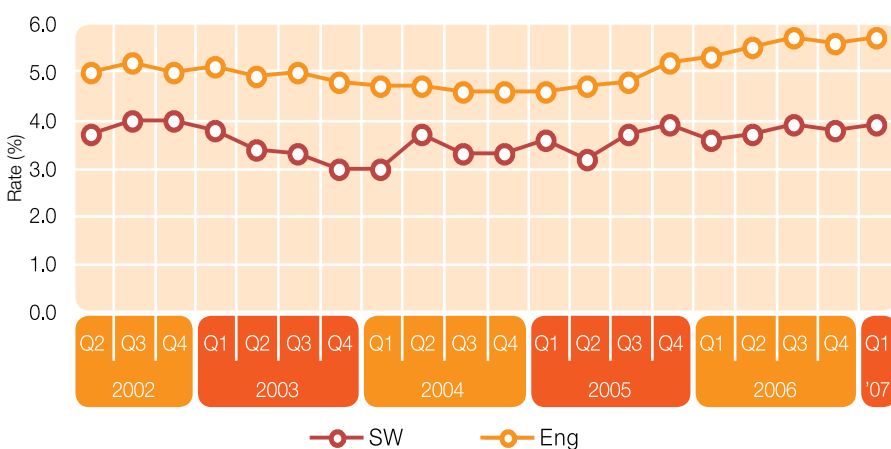
The labour market conditions vary across the region and the claimant count statistics are no different. Claimant count statistics are comparatively low in general; only Plymouth and Torbay have claimant count rates above the national average. However, across the region there is considerable variation and trends evident. Urban areas and south-western sub-regions tend to have higher rates of unemployment. The lowest rates are recorded in the rural and eastern areas of the region. The most recent district data is encouraging, as with the

Fig 7 ILO Unemployment by Government Office Regions Q1 2006–Q1 2007

	Total Q1 2007	Rate	Change 06–07	% change
North East	84,856	6.8	2,915	0.2
North West	193,976	5.7	29,228	0.8
Yorkshire & the Humber	156,297	6.2	20,499	0.8
East Midlands	122,207	5.5	10,040	0.5
West Midlands	172,478	6.4	33,453	1.2
East	136,438	4.7	-1,910	-0.1
London	293,005	7.3	-11,290	-0.4
South East	198,973	4.6	7,014	0.2
South West	101,350	3.9	9,137	0.3
England	1,459,579	5.7	99,087	0.4

Source: National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

Fig 8 ILO Unemployment, 5 year trend Q2, 2002–Q1, 2007



Source: National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

7 ILO unemployed – residents aged 16 and above who are currently not in employment but who are actively seeking work.

8 The number of people claiming unemployment related benefits.

Fig 9 Claimant Count Unemployment May 06–May 07

	Total	Rate (%)	% change
Bath & North East Somerset	1,124	1.0	-0.1
Bournemouth	1,647	1.6	-0.3
Bristol	6,064	2.3	-0.2
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	4,890	1.6	-0.3
Devon	5,390	1.3	-0.1
Dorset	1,883	0.9	-0.2
Gloucestershire	5,765	1.7	-0.1
North Somerset	1,258	1.1	0.0
Plymouth	3,762	2.4	-0.2
Poole	845	1.1	-0.1
Somerset	3,483	1.2	-0.1
South Gloucestershire	1,468	1.0	-0.1
Swindon	2,337	2.0	-0.2
Torbay	1,960	2.6	-0.1
Wiltshire	2,642	1.0	0.0
South West	44,518	1.5	-0.1
England	744,455	2.4	-0.2

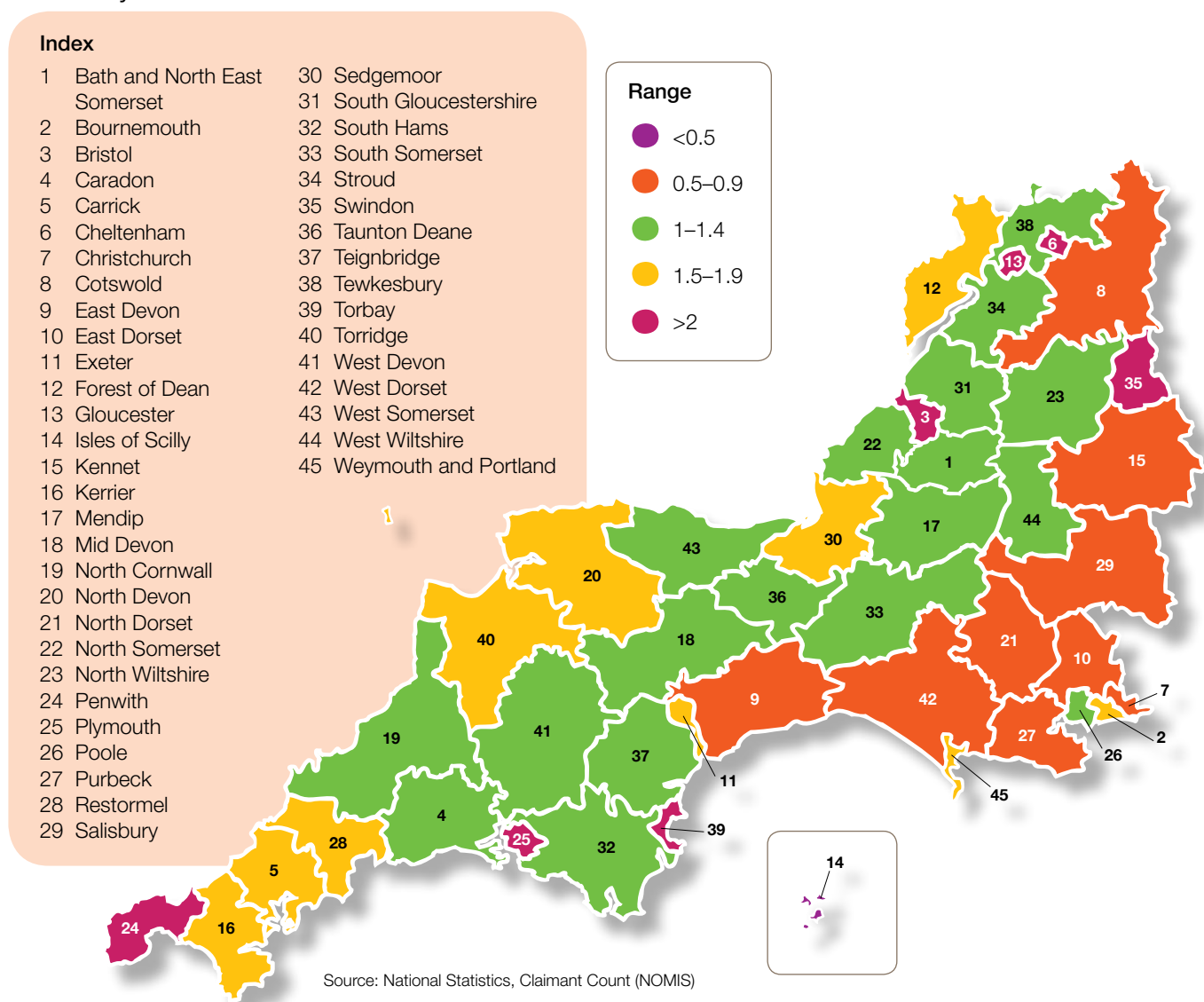
Source: National Statistics, Claimant Count (NOMIS)

national and regional trend, all except two sub-regions have experienced a reduction with their claimant count rate. The unemployment rate of the two sub-regions, North Somerset and Wiltshire, remained unaltered.

With the consistent reductions in claimant count rates experienced at the national, regional and sub-regional level, combined with the evidence of a relatively benign ILO unemployment rate, the question it raises is have unemployment rates peaked for the foreseeable future?

A cloud on the horizon, however, is that inflation is still a potential problem. The Bank of England, in order to dampen inflationary pressures have increased the interest rate to its recent record high of 5.75% – the effects of the current America sub prime mortgage market, however, means that in the short term any interest rate rises are unlikely.

Fig 10 Claimant Count Rates in South West Local and Unitary Authority Areas May 2007



Skills and Learning



Article provided by Laura Smith, on behalf of SLIM, Marchmont Observatory, University of Exeter



Participation in learning and training

Young People

Most young people in the region stay on in some form of full-time education after leaving compulsory secondary education. Latest figures show three-quarters of 16 year olds and three-fifths of 17 year olds remained in full-time

education, making the South West one of the best performing regions in England. More females than males stay on into full-time education, 63% for males aged 16–17 in the region compared to 74% for females.

Around 8% of young people aged 16 and 17 in the South West participate in programmes of Work-Based-Learning (WBL), such as Apprenticeships. Levels of WBL tend to be higher in regions towards the northern half of England such as the North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber, reflecting the

larger concentration of industries such as manufacturing which have a stronger use of Apprenticeships and work-based learning programmes. Similarly, as a result of the industries in which WBL is most frequent, more males than females undertake WBL, 10% of males aged 16 and 17 compared to 6% of females.

Within the South West, participation in education (whether full-time or part-time) or WBL vary considerably. Bath and North East Somerset and Cornwall have the highest participation rates for 16 and 17 year olds, well above both the regional and national averages. Torbay and Poole have the lowest participation rates, at 4 and 7 percentage points below the national average respectively.

Fig 11 **Participation in education and training of 16 & 17 year olds combined¹ South West & England, 2004**

	Males		Females		All	
	South West	England	South West	England	South West	England
Full-time education	63	62	74	72	68	67
WBL	10	10	6	7	8	8
Part-time education	5	5	4	4	4	5
Total education & WBL	77	77	84	82	80	79

Source: DfES, 2006

¹ Excludes the full-time education overlaps with Government Supported Training. 2004 figures are provisional.

The Connexions Service Annual Activity Survey of the destinations of young people completing secondary education also shows the South West to have high levels of participation in full-time learning. In the Annual Activity Survey 2004, compared to the other regions in England the South West had the second highest number of young people in full-time learning at 86.4%, above the 84.8% national average.

Whilst it is evident that the majority of young people do stay in education and training once leaving secondary education, there is still a significant number who do not go into either employment or education or training after leaving school. According to estimates by the Connexions Service for 2006 approximately 7.7% of those 16–18 year olds known to the Service were not in education, employment or training (NEET). As would be expected given the high rates of participation in education and training, in general the number of young people who are NEET is lower in the South West in comparison to the national picture. Two of the Connexion partnership areas in the South West do, however, have levels of NEET higher than the national average, with Swindon at 8.3% and Bournemouth at 8.5%.

Fig 12 **Participation in education and training of 16 & 17 year olds combined¹, South West 2004**



England average 79
South West average 80

Source: DfES, 2006

Fig 13 **Proportion of 16–18 year olds NEET Connexion partnership area, 2006**

	16–18 year olds known to Connexions	16–18 yr olds NEET		% of 16–18 year olds whose current activity is not known
		Estimated number	%	
Bath & North East Somerset	6,290	260	4.2	3.8
Bournemouth	4,700	400	8.5	5.8
Bristol	12,200	950	7.8	5.5
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	17,300	1,060	6.1	0.9
Devon	21,720	1,300	6.0	1.4
Dorset	11,300	770	6.8	5.0
Gloucestershire	19,900	920	4.6	6.1
North Somerset	5,240	250	4.8	3.6
Plymouth	9,640	710	7.4	1.5
Poole	4,720	290	6.2	4.9
Somerset	15,930	760	4.8	4.8
South Gloucestershire	7,760	390	5.0	3.4
Swindon	7,030	580	8.3	3.9
Torbay	4,670	320	6.8	0.8
Wiltshire	12,270	740	6.0	3.2
England	1,641,980	126,150	7.7	5.0

Note: 2006 data are an average of the figures provided by Connexions at the end of November 2006, December 2006 and January 2007. They include all young people known to Connexions who were aged 16, 17 or 18 on these dates.

Source: Connexions Service, 2007

Adults

Similarly to young people, participation in learning and training by adults in the South West is high. Latest figures for April 2005 to March 2006 show 73% of adults (aged between 16 and 69) had participated in some form of learning. This is the second highest level of participation in learning of the regions in England and above the national average of 69%.

All of the county and unitary areas within the South West have learning participation rates by adults that are either higher or in-line with the national average. The highest levels of adult learning are in Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth and South Gloucestershire, with the lowest levels in Somerset and Bristol (although figures are in-line with the national average).

Looking specifically at learning or training by adults that is related to their job, the numbers in the region are similar to the national picture. Latest figures for July 2005 to June 2006 show 12% of working age adults (aged 16–60/65) had received job-related training², just above the national average of 11% and the second highest rate of the English regions.

Women and managerial and professional staff are most likely to undertake job-related training. The higher uptake of job-related training by women has been linked to their greater likelihood of being employed in industries such as the public sector and occupations such as teaching where job related training is most prevalent.

Within the South West the majority of county and unitary authority areas

have higher rates of job-related training for adults than the national average. Dorset, Gloucestershire and Torbay have the highest levels of job-related training and the lowest rates are seen in Poole, North Somerset and Wiltshire, with rates below the national average.

Information available from the 2005 National Employers Skills Survey shows that public sector or voluntary organisations are more likely to provide training than those in the private sector. A significant proportion of this training is often driven by health and safety statutes or the need to provide inductions for new employees. On average, 29% of training in the South West, compared with 27% in England as a whole, was related to either health and safety or induction training.

Fig 14 **Participation in learning by adults (16–69) Apr 2005 to Mar 2006, South West**

Area	Taught	Non-taught	Both taught & non-taught	Any learning	No learning
Bath & NE Somerset	7.9	20.9	51.2	79.9	20.1
Bournemouth	5.3	25.7	45.7	76.7	23.3
Bristol	7.1	24.7	38.2	70.0	30.0
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	6.1	23.7	41.7	71.5	28.5
Devon	8.3	24.0	42.8	75.1	24.9
Dorset	8.0	21.3	43.5	72.8	27.3
Gloucestershire	7.2	21.4	45.1	73.6	26.4
North Somerset	7.3	25.3	42.2	74.7	25.2
Plymouth	7.0	23.1	45.9	75.9	24.0
Poole	7.8	26.0	38.9	72.6	27.4
Somerset	6.6	25.0	37.6	69.3	30.8
South Gloucestershire	5.9	26.7	43.8	76.4	23.6
Swindon	8.5	19.5	43.5	71.6	28.5
Torbay	6.2	28.0	40.7	74.9	25.1
Wiltshire	5.9	26.5	42.5	74.9	25.0
South West	7.1	23.9	42.5	73.5	26.5
England	7.1	21.7	40.6	69.3	30.7

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, Apr05–Mar06, NOMIS Data Service

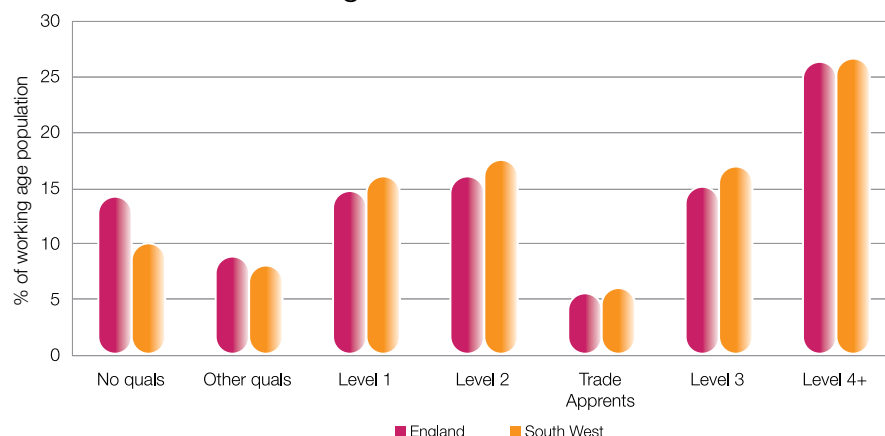
2 Job-related training received within four weeks leading up to the interview for the Labour Force Survey.

Qualifications levels of the region's workforce

Working age population

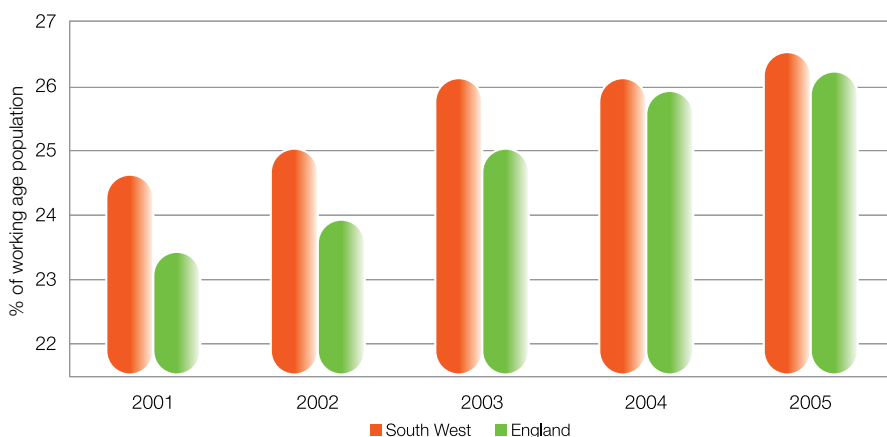
Adults (aged between 16 and 60/65) in the South West are well qualified with over one quarter having their highest qualification at level 4 and above. This is the third highest proportion within the English regions, just behind London and the South East. The region also has a high proportion of adults qualified to either Levels 2 or 3 and a low proportion without any qualifications at 10% of the working age population, well below the national average of just over 14%.

Fig 15 **Qualification levels of the adult population**
South West & England, 2005



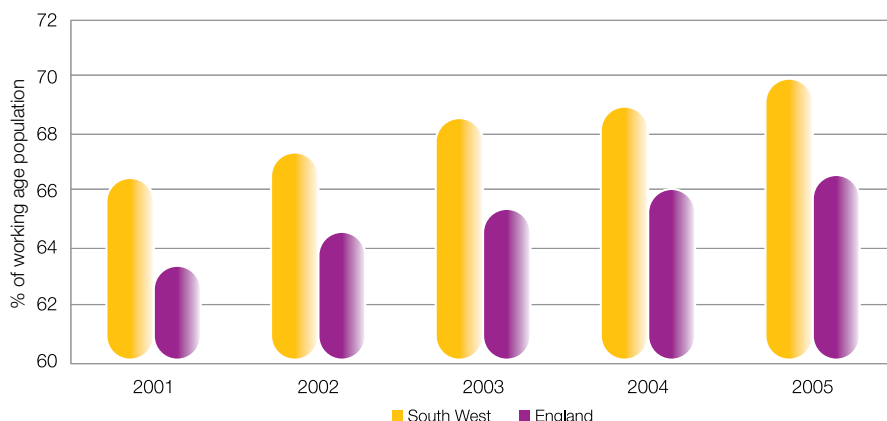
Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, Jan–Dec 2005, NOMIS Data Service.

Fig 16 **Adult population qualified to Level 4+ 2001 to 2005**



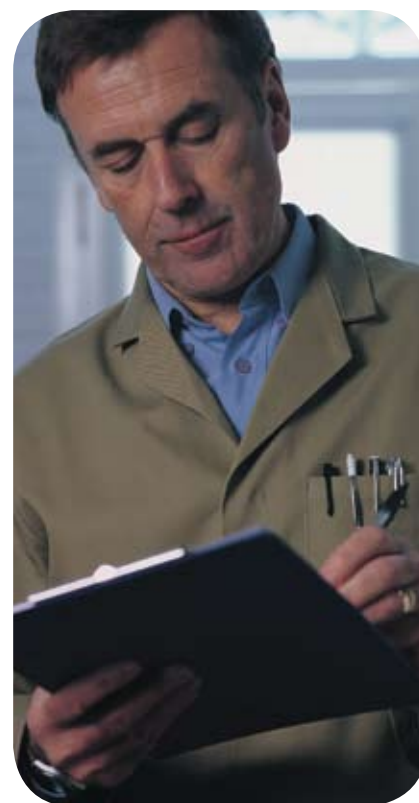
Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey & Local Area Labour Force Survey, NOMIS Data Service.

Fig 17 **Adult population qualified to Level 2+ 2001 to 2005**



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey & Local Area Labour Force Survey, NOMIS Data Service.

The adult population in the region has become more qualified over time with the proportion qualified to Level 4 and above rising from 22% in 1999 to 27% by 2005. The proportion with Level 2 and above qualifications has increased from 66% in 2001 to nearly 70% in 2005. The proportions either without qualifications or with Level 1 have declined steadily over time.



Although at a regional level, the working age population looks well qualified, the nature of averages means that wide ranging disparities can be hidden. Looking at higher level skills (Level 4+), nine of the fifteen county and unitary authority areas within the region have proportions of qualified working age adults below the national average. The lowest proportions of higher level skills are seen in Plymouth, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Torbay and Poole. Levels are at their highest in areas towards the north of the region such as Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. There

is an 18 percentage point difference between the top (Bath and North East Somerset 38%) and bottom (Plymouth 20%) performing county/unitary areas in the South West. This being so, the level of adults without any qualifications at all is low when compared to the national average with all of the fifteen county and unitary authority areas in the South West having proportions without qualifications below the national average. The highest levels are seen in Bristol and Swindon.

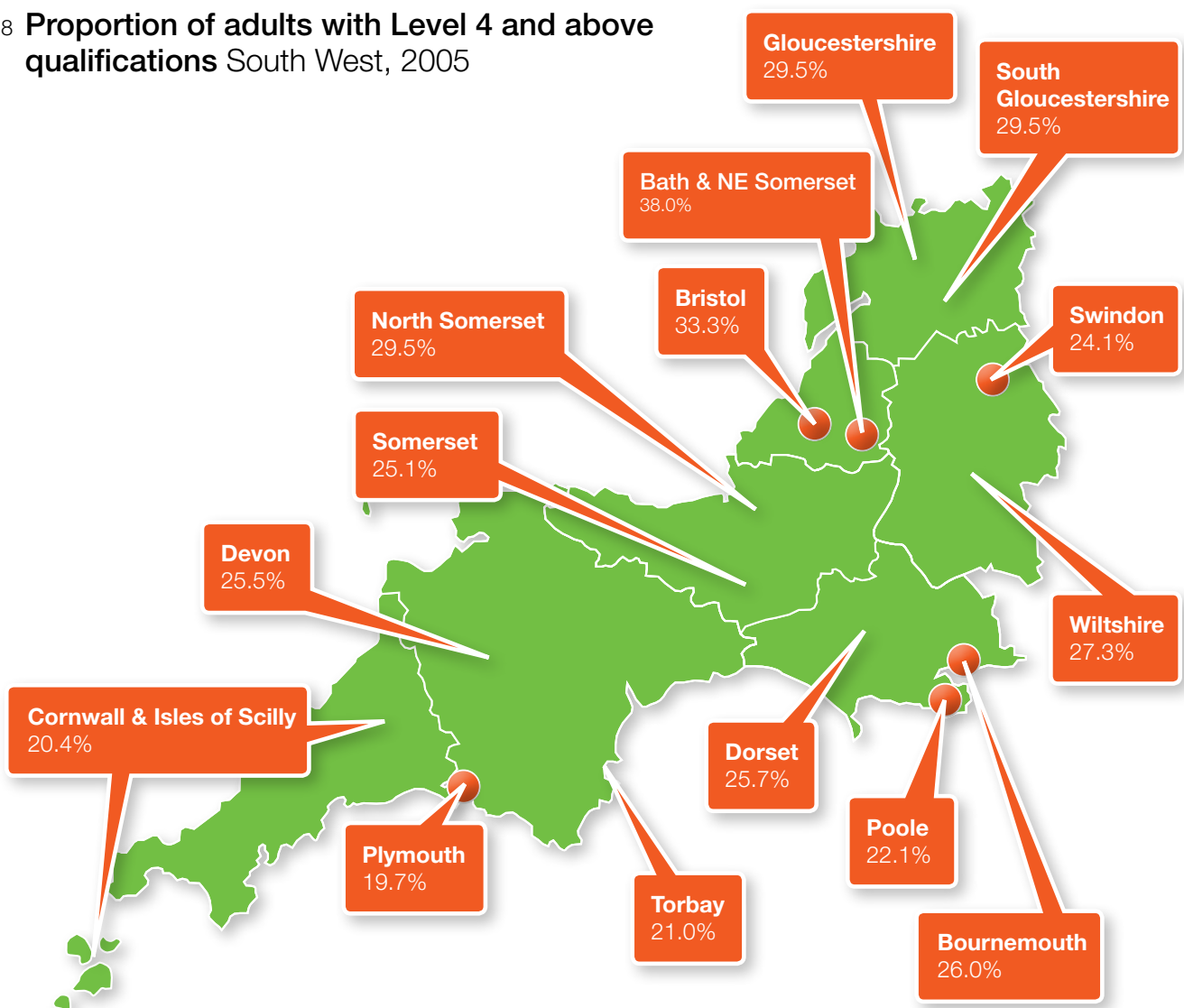
The disparity in qualifications in the region has a number of causes, some of which may be particular to the local area. However, the effect of the local industrial and occupational make up

will be significant. Those industries that require a high level of knowledge and are more knowledge intensive tend to parallel geographical areas with higher skills levels.

Economically active population

People who are economically active³ in the labour market are generally better qualified than the general population of working age. There are more economically active adults with qualifications Level 4 and above and fewer without qualifications.

Fig 18 **Proportion of adults with Level 4 and above qualifications South West, 2005**



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey & Local Area Labour Force Survey, NOMIS Data Service.

³ Either those in work or those who are not in work, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous 4 weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight, or, out of work and have accepted a job which they are waiting to start in the next fortnight.

Contact Details

for Business Economy Module and Skills and Learning Intelligence Module (SLIM)

South West Business and Economy Module

Business and Economy Module
South West of England Regional
Development Agency
100 Temple Street
Bristol
BS1 6AE

www.swbem.org.uk

Damian Whittard
Economist

Tel: 0117 9330271
Email:
damian.whittard@sebem.org.uk

Economic Systems Consultancy
Research
18 Whiteford Road
Mannamead
Plymouth
PL3 5LX

Dr Steven Brand
Email: sbrand_3@msn.com

SLIM

The Marchmont Observatory
University of Exeter
St Luke's Campus
Holnicote Annex
Heavitree Road
Exeter EX1 2LU

Chris Evans
Director

Tel: 01392 264850
Fax: 01392 264966
Email: chrsevans@aol.com

Ben Neild
Assistant Director

Tel: 01392 264850
Fax: 01392 264966
Email: b.neild@exeter.ac.uk

Andrew Dean
Researcher and Co-ordinator

Tel: 01392 264925
Fax: 01392 264966
Email: a.dean@exeter.ac.uk

Jo Pye

Senior Researcher

Tel: 01392 264850
Fax: 01392 264966
Email: j.pye@exeter.ac.uk

Gilly Alexander
R&D Manager

Tel: 01392 264850
Fax: 01392 264966
Email: G.Alexander@exeter.ac.uk

i-works Research

19B Walnut Rd
Chelston
Torquay
TQ2 6HP

Laura Smith
Director

Tel: 01803 393418
Email: info@iworksresearch.co.uk

Glossary

Labour Force Survey

A quarterly sample survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work. It is the biggest regular household survey in this country and provides a rich and vital source of information about the labour force using internationally agreed definitions.

ILO Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment includes people who are out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks – or are out of work and have accepted a job that they are waiting to start in the next two weeks.

Employment Rate

Like the ILO unemployment rate, the employment rate is derived using ILO definitions. This rate measures the proportion of the working age population in employment. The working age population comprises men aged 16–64, and women aged 16–59.

Claimant Count Unemployment

– Seasonally Adjusted

The unemployment count is adjusted to take account of regular seasonal variations. This series gives the best

indication of the underlying trend. Seasonally adjusted figures are only available at national and regional level.

– Unadjusted

This includes those people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support or National Insurance credits on the day of the count, who on that day were unemployed and actively seeking work. These figures are not adjusted to take account of regular seasonal variations.

Part-time Workers

Workers not normally working more than 30 hours a week.

Self-Employed People

Those working on their own account whether or not they have any employees.

– Long-Term Claimants

Defined as those people who have been claiming benefit at a Jobcentre Plus Office for over six months.

– Revision of Figures

Seasonally adjusted figures and denominators for calculating unemployment rates (both adjusted and unadjusted) are subject to revision to provide a consistent assessment of the trend in unemployment. For this reason it is important to ensure that current data is being used, NOMIS is therefore the safest source.

NOMIS

The majority of statistical data is obtained via the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS), the National Statistics Database containing an extensive range of government statistical data on the UK labour market.

Labour Market Information websites

www.dwp.gov.uk

Department for Work and Pensions website – information available through the Resource Centre tab.

www.swo.org.uk

South West Observatory site.

www.swsim.org.uk

The site for the Skills and Learning Module of the Observatory – providing information and intelligence on skills and learning across the South West.

www.swbem.org.uk

The site for the Business and Economy Module of the Observatory – providing information, intelligence and analysis on all aspects of business and economic activity within the South West.

www.statistics.gov.uk

This is the official website for National Statistics. It contains statistical information on numerous topics and holds Census 2001 data.

www.nomisweb.co.uk

ONS online database system.

www.southwestskillsstrategy.info/

South West Regional Skills Partnership (formerly SWESA) – information on research and skills issues in the region – the website is designed as a resource for all those working in skills related areas.

www.cesi.org.uk

Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion.

www.jrf.org.uk

Joseph Rowntree Foundation research site.

Jobcentre Plus

South West Region

Devon and Cornwall District

Ground Floor
Pynes Hill Court
Rydon Lane
Exeter, Devon
EX2 5SP

Tel: 01392 888 800

DM: Phil Weeks

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon District

Cedar House,
Spa Road,
Gloucester
GL1 1XL

Tel: 01452 366 150

DM: Charles Morse

South West Regional District

The Pithay
Bristol
BS1 2NQ
Tel: 0117 945 6600

DM: District Manager

Dorset and Somerset District

20-28 Cotlands Road,
Bournemouth,
Dorset BH1 3RS
Tel: 01202 446 166

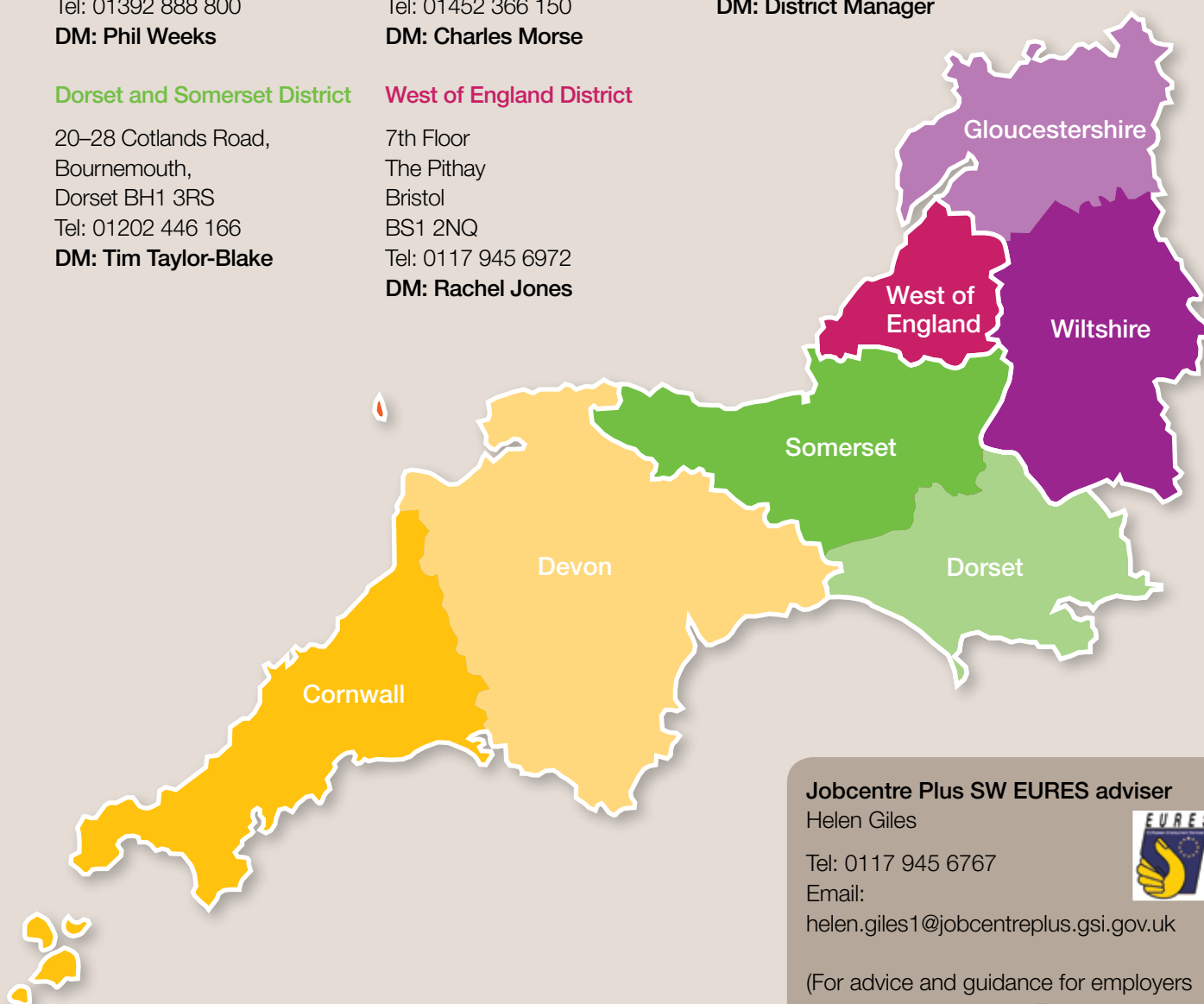
DM: Tim Taylor-Blake

West of England District

7th Floor
The Pithay
Bristol
BS1 2NQ

Tel: 0117 945 6972

DM: Rachel Jones



Jobcentre Plus SW EURES adviser

Helen Giles

Tel: 0117 945 6767

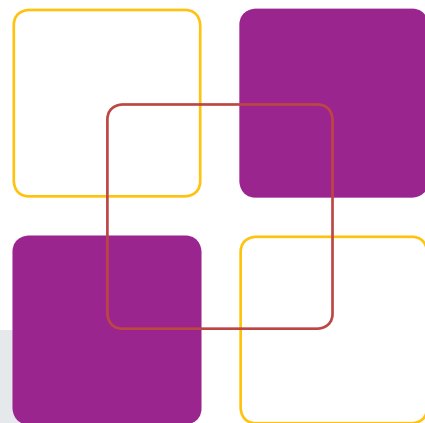
Email:

helen.giles1@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk



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