



August 2017

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Dorset Economic Data

Strategic Economics Ltd (njSE) has undertaken research in local economic analysis to provide historical data on the Dorset economy in support of wider research about valuing local nature.

Approach to this project

There have been three main elements to the work:

- 1) Collecting a range of data from ONS and other sources on Dorset output and employment by sector, place and over time.
- 2) Manipulating the data to produce consistent and compatible proxies for the key variables further back, identifying the assumptions, compromises and judgements made to produce the estimated series.
- 3) Providing the compiled summary series in accessible form.

Data issues & reconciliation

We have spent some time investigating what data is available. There have been and remain issues about definition, collection and consistency in providing any history before 1997 at a county level (see our previous note for a summary of data issues).

Sources acquired:

ONS data

- 1) GVA (£mn) 1997-2015 by broad sectors – levels, shares and changes.
- 2) PPI and CPI inflation series 1997-2015
- 3) Employment breakdown 2015 in detail: 18 industries, 8 Dorset areas, Dorset aggregates and 5 local LEP areas
- 4) GDP at factor cost for cross-checking
- 5) Regional Trends extractions for GDP, employees in employment for UK/England/SW England, for various years as benchmarks (notably 1981 and 1994)
- 6) Regional GVA by local authorities 1997-2014 – GVA totals and 10 sector breakdowns
- 7) Historic regional series for UK regions 1966-96 – GDP at factor cost, 18 sectors, incomes expenditure et al.

LEFM data

- 1) Dorset Local Economy Forecasting Model for Dorset County Council 2016/17, Cambridge Econometrics; baseline data.
- 2) Modelled real GVA (2012 £mn), employment ('000s) 1981-2036 (forecasts not used) for 44 sectors
- 3) Population and labour force totals

Methodology Used:

Analyse all the sources acquired and adopt calculated/estimated methodologies to derive the key data series.

Long-term summary

- 1) Take the 1997-2015 Dorset GVA data (released December 2016). Estimate Dorset average contributions to the regional totals.

Take the 1970-1996 historic series for SW England. Calculate Dorset equivalents by reference to the estimated Dorset averages.

Use the resulting growth rates to 'backcast' GVA for Dorset 1970-1997.

- 2) Take the LEFM employment data 1981-2015.

Compare and contrast the definitions and data revealed with employees in employment from ONS Regional Trend archives for 1970-81 and 1981-97.

By reference to the average employment/employees and employment difference 1981-85 to 'backcast' the former for 1970-80.

3) Divide GVA by employment to show productivity ratios.

Sector and Place summary

Compile output (GVA) data 1997-2014 for 19 broad SIC sectors and 8 Dorset areas

Compile employment data for 2015 for the 3 main Dorset areas (Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole) , the 8 sub-areas (unitary and district councils), the whole Dorset LEP and 4 neighbouring LEP comparators.

Display the real GVA and employment data from LEFM and calculate productivity ratios of the two.

We trust our approach and resulting data summaries (see attached spread sheets) satisfy the brief and believe this research is now concluded.

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