Economic Trends Report

NOVEMBER 2011

Produced by the Economy & Tourism Unit, Exeter City Council

This latest quarterly edition of the Exeter and the wider Heart of Devon's region (EHOD) Economic Trends Report covers social, economic and demographic issues in relation to the functional economic sub-region, broadly covering Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge.

Key Information

Population						
Indicator *Source – See Note 1 on page 15*	**Exeter**	**East Devon**	**Mid Devon**	**Teignbridge**	**EHOD**	**England & Wales**
Population Totals	119,600	132,900	76,100	127,300	455,900	55,240,500
Percentage increase in totals	+0.67%	+0.15%	+0.13%	+0.31%	+0.33%	+0.79%
Population under 16	18,100 (15.1%)	20,700 (15.6%)	14,500 (19.0%)	21,500 (16.9%)	74,800 (16.4%)	10,314,300 (18.7%)
Population of working age	82,900 (69.3%)	75,000 (56.4%)	46,100 (60.6%)	76,200 (59.9%)	280,200 (61.5%)	35,761,700 (64.7%)
Population of retirement age	18,600 (15.6%)	37,100 (27.9%)	15,500 (20.4%)	29,600 (23.3%)	100,900 (22.1%)	9,164,400 (16.6%)
Employment						
Indicator *Source – See Note 2 on page 15*	**Exeter**	**East Devon**	**Mid Devon**	**Teignbridge**	**EHOD**	**England & Wales**
No. of employment jobs located in the area	94,600	45,500	24,600	45,100	209,800	25,363,100
Primary-sector employment	2,600 (2.7%)	600 (1.3%)	400 (1.5%)	1,100 (2.4%)	4,700 (2.2%)	675,200 (2.7%)
Secondary-sector employment	11,400 (12.0%)	6,000 (13.2%)	5,400 (21.9%)	7,400 (14.4%)	30,100 (14.4%)	3,413,300 (13.5%)
Service-sector employment	80,700 (85.3%)	38,900 (85.4%)	18,900 (76.7%)	36,600 (83.4%)	175,000 (83.4%)	21,274,700 (83.9%)
No. of employee jobs located in the area that are part-time (<30hrs)	28,100 (29.7%)	16,300 (35.8%)	8,300 (33.7%)	16,000 (35.5%)	68,700 (32.7%)	7,663,800 (30.2%)
No. of VAT and/or PAYE enterprises	3,505	5,680	4,135	5,050	18,370	1,887,280
House Prices/ Earnings						
Indicator *Source – See Notes 3 & 4 on page 15*	**Exeter**	**East Devon**	**Mid Devon**	**Teignbridge**	**EHOD**	**England & Wales**
Average house price	£214,901	£268,762	£225,662	£227,079	£234,101	£241,461
Median full-time annual earnings (residence-based)	£22,764	£22,918	£21,721	£23,262	£22,666	£26,094
House price to FT salary ratio	9.5	11.7	10.4	9.8	10.3	9.3
Claimant Count						
Indicator *Source – See Note 5 on page 15*	**Exeter**	**East Devon**	**Mid Devon**	**Teignbridge**	**EHOD**	**England & Wales**
Claimant count rate	2.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	3.8%
Male claimant count rate	3.6%	2.3%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	5.0%
Female claimant count rate	1.7%	1.1%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	2.6%
Economic Activity and Skills						
Indicator *Source – See Note 6 on page 15*	**Exeter**	**East Devon**	**Mid Devon**	**Teignbridge**	**EHOD**	**England & Wales**
Economic Activity Rate	82.3%	75.0%	77.2%	79.4%	78.7%	76.1%
Male Economic Activity Rate	84.6%	81.7%	89.0%	84.6%	84.6%	82.6%
Female Economic Activity Rate	79.9%	68.8%	65.8%	74.5%	72.9%	69.7%
Educated to A level or above	57.2%	54.5%	55.4%	59.6%	56.8%	50.6%
Educated to degree level	35.9%	37.7%	31.0%	33.6%	34.9%	31.0%

Population Totals

The population estimate for Exeter remains at 119,600 with the population for the EHOD sub-region at 455,900.

The most significant change to population statistics since the August report has been as a result of the proposed changes to the state pension age. The proposals would see the state pension age for men increase to 66 and 65 for women, thus increasing the working age population and decreasing the retirement age population.

The most significant changes to the working age and retirement age populations would take place in East Devon and Teignbridge, which are traditionally populated by a greater number of people who are retired or approaching retirement. Based on current population levels East Devon would see an increase of 5,800 and Teignbridge 5,300 to their working age populations. Exeter and Mid Devon would see more moderate increases of 3,100 and 2,900 respectively.

Employment

The main difference between the previously reported employment figures for August and November has been brought about by a change in definition to focus on 'Employment' rather than 'Employees'. The 'Employment' class includes the self employed, as well as employees; whereas the 'Employee' definition only includes those paid via PAYE.

The full definitions are included below:

Employees: *An employee is anyone aged 16 years or over that an organisation directly pays from its payroll(s), in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme. It excludes voluntary workers, self-employed, working owners who are not paid via PAYE.*

Employment *= employees + working proprietors. Working Proprietors are sole traders, sole proprietors, partners and directors. This does not apply to registered charities.*

As a consequence of the change to 'Employment' the numbers of primary sector, secondary sector and service sector employees has broadly increased across the four EHOD authorities, with the highest increases in the service sector.

The number of part time jobs has decreased across the four authorities. This could be explained by the end of summer seasonal work and the fact that university students and young people will have returned to education following summer holidays.

Job Seekers Allowance Claimant Count Rates (October 2011)

The claimant count rate (the percentage of working age population in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance) for October 2011 (EHOD area) remained at 2.1% compared with a national claimant count rate of 3.8%. The table below shows the total numbers claiming JSA and how the percentages have changed since September.

Area	Total	Male	Female	Oct %*	Sept %*	% change
Exeter	2,187	1,487	700	2.6	2.7	- 0.1
East Devon	1,255	833	422	1.7	1.7	no change
Mid Devon	912	588	324	2.0	2.0	no change
Teignbridge	1,536	1,003	533	2.0	2.0	no change
EHOD	5,890	3,911	1,979	2.1	2.1	no change
South West	86,409	57,637	28,772	2.6	3.3	- 0.7
South East	139,670	91,290	48,380	2.6	3.2	- 0.6
England & Wales	1,365,160	898,318	466,842	3.8	4.8	- 1.0
Great Britain	1,502,528	993,180	509,348	3.8	3.9	- 0.1

** Of resident population aged 16 to 64 (male & female)*

The figures show that despite the difficult national picture claimant count rates have remained stable or decreased across the EHOD sub-region. For the South West as a whole claimant count rates fell from 3.3% to 2.6%.

At a ward level there are a number of wards in Exeter that have claimant count rates higher than the Exeter, South West and Great Britain average. The list below shows the five wards where claimant count rates are highest:

1. Priory (4.8%)
2. St David's (4.3%)
3. Mincinglake (3.7%)
4. Newtown (3.5%)
5. Cowick (3.4%)

The previous Trends Report touched on an increase in female claimant count rates in Exeter and Mid Devon. The October figures show female claimant count figures for Exeter have decreased by 0.1% to 1.7% and have remained at 1.4% in Mid Devon. For EHOD overall female claimant count rates have decreased by 0.1% to 1.4%. At a regional and national level rates have remained stable or decreased.

Claimant Count and Young People

Nationally young people are being hit especially hard by job cuts. The employment rate for young people is the lowest since records began (in 1992) with 1.02 million young people out of work (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15755627) and approximately 500,000 claiming JSA.

Whilst the EHOD sub-region has not been as dramatically affected as other locations across the UK there are still a significant number of young people claiming JSA. The term 'young people' refers to the Government classification 18 – 24 year old age group. The table below shows the October claimant count rates for the age group 18 – 24 and draws a comparison with the rates of October 2010.

Area	Number Oct 2010	%* Oct 2010	Number Oct 2011	%* Oct 2011	% Change of total claimants
Exeter	515	2.6	695	3.5	+ 0.9
East Devon	310	3.7	400	4.8	+ 1.1
Mid Devon	210	4.4	305	6.4	+ 2.0
Teignbridge	365	4.3	445	5.2	+ 0.9
EHOD	1,400	3.5	1,845	4.7	+ 1.2
South West	22,250	4.6	27,140	5.6	+ 1.0
England & Wales	358,115	6.8	419,390	7.9	+ 1.1
Great Britain	394,165	6.8	459,615	8.0	+ 1.2

** Of resident population aged 18 - 24*

The results show that the numbers of young people claiming JSA since last year has increased across all the EHOD authorities. Mid Devon has the highest percentage of young people claiming JSA at 6.4% of all 18 – 24 year olds. The figure for Mid Devon is above the South West average. For EHOD overall the rate of change for total claimants has been higher than for the South West and England and Wales.

The table below shows the number of young people claiming JSA for six months or over and 12 months or over and how the rates have changed between October 2010 and the latest claimant count figures.

	6 months or over					12 months or over				
Area	**No. Oct 2010**	**%* Oct 2010**	**No. Oct 2011**	**%* Oct 2011**	**% Change total claimants**	**No. Oct 2010**	**%* Oct 2010**	**No. Oct 2011**	**%* Oct 2011**	**% Change total claimants**
Exeter	70	3.8	170	7.8	+ 4.0	25	1.3	30	1.4	+ 0.1
East Devon	30	2.7	85	6.8	+ 4.1	10	1.1	20	1.8	+ 0.7
Mid Devon	25	3.4	85	9.1	+ 5.7	15	2.0	15	1.5	- 0.5
Teignbridge	25	2.0	85	5.5	+ 3.5	10	0.9	20	1.3	+ 0.4
EHOD	150	3.0	425	7.2	+ 4.2	65	1.3	85	1.5	+ 0.2
South West	2,475	3.2	5,420	6.3	+ 3.1	560	0.7	905	1.1	+ 0.4
England & Wales	57,780	4.7	107,590	7.9	+ 3.2	20,405	1.7	25,510	1.9	+ 0.2
Great Britain	64,265	4.7	118,740	7.9	+ 3.2	22,160	1.6	28,345	1.9	+ 0.3

** Of total claimant count age 18 – 64*

The figures show that across the EHOD authorities there have been significant increases in the number of young people claiming JSA for six months or more. In numbers terms the increases have been highest in Exeter where there are 100 more young people claiming JSA in October 2010. Significantly the percentage of change for the EHOD authorities has been higher than for the South West, England and Wales and Great Britain.

With the exception of Mid Devon the numbers claiming JSA for 12 months or over have also shown an increase across EHOD. Whilst the numbers remain low it is worth considering the percentage change for total claimants. For East Devon and Teignbridge the change is higher than for England and Wales and Great Britain.

The 12 months or over figures are particularly significant as research shows that for young people the longer the period of unemployment early in life the higher the chances of unemployment later in life. Long term youth unemployment can also play a role in a scenario known as wage scarring where long term unemployment early in life can reduce wages over a long period.

The significance of addressing youth unemployment was reflected at the end of November when the Government unveiled a new £1 billion scheme aimed at helping young people get back into work or training.

The key measure of the scheme is paying subsidies to businesses to take on 18 – 24 year olds. Part of the scheme includes a £150 million programme that will specifically target 16 – 17 year old NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) and provide vital support to help them get back into education, an apprenticeship or a job with training.

More details can be found here: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2011/nov-2011/dwp132-11.shtml

South West Regional Development Agency & South West Observatory – Prospects for Private Sector Jobs Growth in South West England

In October 2011 the South West RDA and the South West Observatory published a joint report looking into the prospects for private sector jobs growth in SW England.

The report outlined that the South West, over the last twenty years, has generated most of its net increase in employment from activity related to government spending and private consumption. In the last two years the South West has been hit particularly hard by public sector job losses and this is expected to continue for some time.

The high levels of Government and personal debt and difficult economic conditions mean that much more economic growth will need to be driven by private investment and exports. The report sets out how the Coalition Government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit by cutting public expenditure and raising taxes.

The Government wants to encourage "economic rebalancing", where the private sector replaces some of the reduction in public sector expenditure and employment and the report states the four key elements in this shift:

- Switching the share of activity and employment from the public to private sector
- Moving the share of demand from domestic consumption to exports
- Increasing the share of national supply from manufacturing, with a reduced reliance on financial services
- Altering the geographical balance, with less reliance on London and the South East

The report made a number of conclusions:

- Older and female workers are those most at risk from the public sector job cuts due to their higher representation
- The greatest economic consequence of public sector job cuts will be felt in those towns whose economy is not sufficiently diversified
- An 'hourglass effect' has occurred – there has been a hollowing out of middle income jobs in the labour market. Indications suggest that low skilled workers are suffering as a result of workers with the more skilled being 'bumped down' into lower paid occupations
- Any expansion in the private sector job market has tended to have been concentrated in lower paid, temporary and part time occupations. Over 40% of the 320,000 UK jobs created in the last year have been part time – increasingly part time employment is not necessarily a voluntary decision for many but rather a necessity for those who cannot find full time work
- Evidence also suggests that any manufacturing recovery may not lead to large scale employment expansion – in all probability, any growth will be through productivity gains and not significant additional employment

The overriding conclusion drawn by the report suggests the labour market in the South West over the next few years will remain difficult and significant adjustment will be required. There will not be a simple switch from public sector to private sector employment and the economy will remain below strength.

House Prices

The average house price in EHOD in the third quarter of 2011 was £234,101. This is an increase from £227,343 in the first quarter of 2011 and has been influenced by the rise in house prices in three of the four EHOD authorities.

Average house prices increased in East Devon from £263,758 to £268,762. Mid Devon has had the most significant increase, rising from £206,795 to £225,662. Prices in Teignbridge increased from £222,771 to £227,079. Exeter was the only authority to experience a decrease in average house prices, falling from £216,051 to £214,901.

Despite the overall increase in average house prices across EHOD, the gap between average house prices in EHOD and the average price for England and Wales has increased by approximately £5,000.

The table below shows the average house price and the ratio of house prices to median full-time salary.

Area	Average house price	Annual earnings	House price to Full Time salary ratio
Exeter	£214,901	£22,764	9.5
East Devon	£268,762	£22,918	11.7
Mid Devon	£225,662	£21,721	10.4
Teignbridge	£227,079	£23,262	9.8
EHOD	£234,101	£22,666	10.3
England & Wales	£241,461	£26,094	9.3

The table below shows the average house price and volume of sales by region and district in Quarter 3 for the last three years:

	2011 – Q3		2010 – Q3		2009 – Q3	
Area	**Average house price (£)**	**Total sales**	**Average house price (£)**	**Total sales**	**Average house price (£)**	**Total sales**
Exeter	214,901	479	209,938	475	195,745	439
East Devon	268,762	644	278,562	671	246,604	659
Mid Devon	225,662	274	231,473	311	223,916	315
Teignbridge	227,079	533	232,239	576	227,137	518
EHOD	234,101	1,930	238,053	2,033	223,351	1,931
England & Wales	241,461	180,984	246,387	177,135	223,996	166,354

Source: Crown Copyright, ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Resident Analysis) 2010 & Land Registry, Average Price and Volume of Sales by Region and District, 2011 Quarter 3

Exeter Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Survey Results

Some of the findings from the Exeter Chamber of Commerce September 2011 quarterly business survey are provided in the table below. As was the case in last quarter, the September survey gives a mixed picture for the local economy.

Exeter Chamber of Commerce Survey – sales, margins, employees, cash flows and confidence (September 2011)

	UP		SAME		DOWN	
	Sep 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Jun 11
% Sales	40	52	35	26	25	22
% Margins	23	26	46	52	31	22
% Employees See note 1	30	28	53	57	17	15
% Employees See note 2	19	28	73	57	8	15
% Cashflow	19	28	44	44	37	28
% Confidence	14	21	67	69	19	10

Note 1 Source: Exeter Chamber of Commerce September 2011 – Change on last quarter
Note 2 Source: Exeter Chamber of Commerce September 2011 – Forecast for next quarter

Sales

40% of respondents reported an increase in sales, a 12% drop from the 52% reported in the previous June survey. There is only a small rise in those reporting a decrease in sales from June with a 3% increase from 22% to 25%. There has been a 9% rise in respondents reporting no change in sales which perhaps indicates a degree of stabilisation.

Margins

The overall pattern for margins suggests that they are declining. Respondents reporting a decline in margins have increased from 22% to 31% and whereas in June 26% of respondents reported an increase in margins, only 23% reported this in September.

Employees

There is a mixed picture for the number of employees employed in the last quarter. Whilst there has been a small (2%) increase in respondents reporting an increase this has been cancelled out by a 2% increase in the numbers of employers employing less people. Despite this, the number of businesses taking on additional employees was the highest it has been for many years.

There is more encouraging news however from respondents on the numbers employed in the future. There is a significant increase (57% in June, 73 % in September) in the number of respondents reporting they will keep employee numbers the same in the next quarter and only 8% of respondents thought they would need to downsize over the next quarter, which is positive and suggests a level of stabilisation.

Cashflow

Cashflow figures are disappointing for the latest quarter. Respondents reporting an increase in cashflow have fallen from 28% in August to 19% in September. Respondents reporting that cashflow was constant remained at 44%. Respondents reporting a decrease in cashflow rose from 28% to 37%.

Confidence

The report showed that business confidence has fallen somewhat since the last quarter but remains above the lowest levels of April 2011. Business confidence generally remains 'medium' with 67% of respondents reporting this category. Those reporting low confidence increased from 10% to 19%. The Chamber of Commerce puts the lower business confidence down to the pressure on sales and margins, and *"perhaps the huge number of 'doom and gloom' media reports currently circulating"*.

The next Exeter Chamber of Commerce survey is due out in December 2011. To access the results before the next Economic Trends report or for more details, go to: http://www.exeterchamber.co.uk/Survey-Results/

Education and Skills News

University of Exeter

The University of Exeter has been ranked 9th in the Sunday Times University Guide 2012, a jump from 17th in the 2011 table. The University also finished runner up in the paper's University of the Year award.

The University also ranked highly in the Times Higher Education World Rankings (156) and is now in the top 1% of universities in the world. The university performed well across indicators covering teaching, research and knowledge transfer and scored particularly strong scores for 'international outlook' and 'research influence'.

The £275m investment programme at the University's Streatham campus is moving towards completion and is expected to be ready to open in Spring 2012. Some of the buildings are already open, including the Business School's ultra modern Building One and the INTO Academic Centre.

Step 2 Skills: A New Job and Skills Brokerage Service

The EHOD Employment and Skills Board are piloting a recruitment support service to new, expanding or relocating businesses. The one-stop service, branded the Step 2 Skills initiative, will help businesses looking to integrate into the local economy and acquire a skilled workforce, from basic through to high level skills.

The service brings together the expertise and resources of a range of local organisations (including Jobcentre Plus, Careers South West, Exeter College, Exeter City Council and East Devon District Council) with the common goal of support business growth. The initiative also aims to secure wider social benefits, including boosting job opportunities for local people, helping unemployed people develop relevant skills for employment, and increasing apprenticeship placements; a local skills priority.

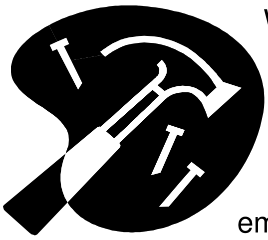
To promote graduate retention and the retention of higher level skills within the EHOD economy the initiative will connect businesses to higher level skilled candidates and wherever possible link into graduate schemes and knowledge transfer initiatives.

The Step 2 Skills initiative will also support vulnerable groups to progress towards employment. Many of EHOD's growth sectors and occupations, such as hospitality, retail, transport and logistics, customer service and business administration, have lower skilled entry positions or requirements, making them more accessible to young people and those re-entering the labour market. The initiative will offer support and tailored pre-training to help local people be better prepared and eligible to interview for vacancies.

The majority of services offered under the umbrella of the initiative are cost free to business. More specialist pre-training requirements may require a financial contribution and the initiative will try to access public funding to subsidise training costs wherever possible.

For more information about this initiative or to find out more about how the Employment and Skills Board can help your business, contact gillian.bishop@exeter.gov.uk

Construction course to help young jobless



Western Training Schemes in Exeter has joined forces with the Prince's Trust to run a series of Construction Skills Certification Scheme courses at the Matford Business Centre. Completion of the course is a basic requirement for anyone wanting to start work on a building site. The course comes with a guaranteed pass and it is hoped will give young people in the area a head start in gaining employment in the construction industry.

For more information visit the Western Training Scheme http://www.westerntrainingservices.co.uk/home/

Exeter City Centre Retail Vacancy Rates

*City Centre Manager, **John Harvey** gives the results of the latest **City Centre Management Survey** of vacant City Centre retail units from a survey published on 3 November 2011.*

Key Facts

Despite the backdrop of the recent 'flat' UK economic growth forecast figures (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15535518) the latest Exeter City Centre Retail Vacancy Rates survey shows a reduction in City Centre retail vacancy rates. The city's vacant unit rate now stands at 6.6%, a decrease from 7.4% in September 2011 and against a national average of between 10 and 14%.

It is particularly encouraging that retail vacancies now stand at their lowest level since January 2011 and that vacancies are significantly lower than 2009 and the majority of 2010. In the final run-up to Christmas this year there has been a drop in the City Centre retail vacancy rate from 46 empty retail units to 41.

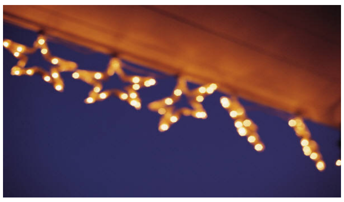
It's normal to see short-term lettings in the run-up to Christmas, with businesses such as Calendar Club taking space on a short-term basis, but these figures also reflect more long-term commitments and significant investment in the City Centre. Investment in the City Centre is currently running at encouraging levels, with investment from both independent businesses and national names.

Exeter City Centre has seen Hotter Shoes, Republic and Urban Outfitters open before Christmas and the significance of these investments will not be lost on retail analysts or Exeter shoppers. Work is progressing well on John Lewis, with work likely to be completed in late 2012. Major businesses such as John Lewis and Urban Outfitters only back winning cities, cities of opportunity and vision - Exeter is clearly such a location.

The City Centre still faces challenges, but there are significant grounds for optimism.

More information: John Harvey at **http://exetercitycentre.blogspot.com/**

Christmas Lights Saved



The generosity of members of the Exeter Chamber of Commerce ensured the High Street in Exeter would have Christmas lights this year.http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-15378796

South West Communications (http://www.swcomms.co.uk/) agreed to make a significant contribution to the cost of the lights with Exeter City Council providing additional funding. Marsh Barton electrical firm SunGift Solar (http://www.sungiftsolar.co.uk/) put up the entire display for free.

Thanks also go to the following businesses who had also committed funding: Musto, Specsavers, McGahey the Tobacconist, L'Occitane, HSBC, House of Fraser, Marks & Spencer, JJB Sports, Early Learning Centre, Triumph, Waterstones, Boots, Paperchase, Greggs, Sony Centre, GAP, Nickelby's, H&M Hennes, Santander, Urban Outfitters, Republic, Costa and Tesco Metro.

Manufacturing Sales Rise in the South West

Manufacturing in the region is showing encouraging signs of growth, according to the results of a survey carried out by the Manufacturing Advisory Service in the South West (MAS-SW). The quarterly Barometer survey covered the period from July to September and resulted in a number of positive findings:

- The majority of respondents (63%) reported an increase in six monthly sales during the quarter, compared to 55% in the previous quarter (April to June) and 53% in the same quarter in 2010
- 90% of respondents indicate that staffing numbers will remain the same or increase over the next six months
- 44% expect to increase their investment in technology over the next six months. This is a rise from 34% in the previous quarter and 29% a year ago
- 47% reported an increase in enquiry levels compared with six months ago, which is a significant rise from the 37% recorded in the previous quarter
- 48% expect to increase sales turnover in the next six months

Simon Howes, managing director of MAS-SW said: "*While economic conditions remain challenging, it is encouraging to see growth over the last six months in South West manufacturing. The majority of Barometer respondents appear to be sustaining enquiry levels and output while a significant proportion are planning to invest in people and technology*".

More Information: http://www.mas.bis.gov.uk/south-west/resources_local/manufacturing-barometer

Business News

- The Exeter branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has announced a new chairman. Courier company owner, Colin Fribbens has taken over from Nigel Hillier, having been the Federation's vice-chairman for the past two years. Business coach, Helen Mattacott and retired solicitor Frances Canning were appointed vice-chairmen. Colin Fribbens said of his appointment:

"*I want to see the FSB become more popular in this area and would like to see more members attending out monthly focus events for networking and communication with other small businesses. At times like these any opportunity small businesses have to network and do business face to face is a must*"

More news can be found on the FSB website: http://www.fsb.org.uk/Exeter
FSB newsletter: http://www.fsb.org.uk/Exeter%20Newsletter

- Homes and businesses in parts of Exeter are among the first in the county to have access to superfast broadband. Following upgrade work to the Exeter Castle exchange- speeds of 40 Mbps are now available. Marsh Barton, Exeter Business Park, Middlemoor, Whipton and Pinhoe are among the first areas to receive the upgrade.

New Stores & Job Boosts

- Exeter received a jobs boost after Waitrose opened a new store in the city on the site of the former maternity hospital on Heavitree Road. The store created up to 200 new jobs, about 95% of which went to new recruits

- The claims management company EMC Advisory Services (EMCAS) has opened a new office in Exeter and expects to create 70 new jobs in the city over the coming months. Exeter Chamber of Commerce vice-president Derek Phillips welcomed the recruitment drive: "*It's good news that EMCAS have chosen Exeter for their long term future base and that even more jobs are coming to the city in this specialised industry*"

- Calor Gas has chosen Exeter as the location for its new style Energy Centre, where staff will help consumers to find out more about renewable energy options to help cut emissions and save money. A team of experts endorsed by the Energy Saving Trust will advise households about energy efficiency, insulation and low carbon appliances. The development has been praised by Minister of State for Climate Change Greg Barker:

  > *"I welcome the opening of Calor's first Energy Centre in Exeter and am delighted to see evidence of Calor's forward thinking approach in tackling the difficult issues of saving energy and energy provision head on"*

Notes

Sources:
Unless otherwise stated:
1 – ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2010 and ONS Annual Population Survey, March 2011;
2 – ONS Business Register and Employment Survey 2010;
3 – Land Registry, July to September 2011;
4 – ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2010;
5 – ONS Claimant Count October 2011,
6 – ONS Annual Population Survey march 2011 (Qualifications March 2011 for Education Data)

 Counts typically rounded to nearest hundred (to the nearest 10 for the Annual Business Inquiry)

Added Notes on Population:
*Mid 2008 yearly estimated figures were revised by ONS following access to better data for two key parts of the estimates – students and international migration. Consequently, 2002-2009 figures for Exeter and many other areas were revised downward.

Further information can be found here:
http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/mig-stats-improve-prog/comm-stakeholders/improvements-2008-pop-est/index.html

Abbreviations
East Devon', 'Mid Devon' & 'Teignbridge' are district areas;

'EHOD' is Exeter and Heart of Devon, which encompasses the districts of Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge.

'Devon' - This is the historic county area including most of Plymouth and Torbay.

'SW' is the South West region, 'SE' is the South East region and 'E & W' is England and Wales.

'Usual occupation' means the type of work a claimant ordinarily performs by virtue of experience and/or training.
Normally claimants do not think of seeking work in other than their usual occupation.

Statistical Measures

Measures of average
Mean – The sum of all values divided by the total number of values
Median – Middle value when the data is arranged in order (e.g. in the range 2-3-5-6-6, 5 is the median)
Mode – Most frequently occurring value (e.g. in the range 2-3-5-6-6, the mode is 6 as it occurs twice)

Measures of dispersion (data ranges)

Percentile – Any of the 99 numbered points that divide an ordered set of scores into 100 parts each of which contains one-hundredth of the total. For example, if 65% of the scores were below yours, then your score would be the 65th percentile.
Decile – As percentile, but with the set of scores divided into tenths (10% groups).
Quartile – As percentile, but with the set of scores divided into fourths (25% groups).

This report is produce quarterly with the next edition due around February 2012.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, my contact details are provided below:

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