

FOOD EDITION
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The *Welsh Economic Review* is now published once a year, by the Welsh Economy Research Unit (WERU) at Cardiff Business School. The aim of the *Review* is to provide an authoritative and objective analysis of the Welsh economy in a manner that promotes understanding and informs decision-making. The core section of the *Review* is written by members of WERU, with feature articles contributed by academics or practitioners within or outside Wales. The *Review* is circulated widely within Wales, to both private and public sector organisations, including the education sector and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Notes for Contributors

Authors should send papers for potential publication in the *Welsh Economic Review* to the Editor at the address given below, preferably via e-mail in a Word for Windows format. Papers are welcome on any topic that would be of general interest to the readership, and should be written in a style suitable for non-specialist readers. Papers should be approximately 3,000-4,000 words, and any graphs or figures should be accompanied by the underlying data to allow reproduction.

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Dr Annette Roberts,
Editor, *Welsh Economic Review*,
Welsh Economy Research Unit,
Cardiff Business School,
Aberconway Building,
Colum Drive,
Cardiff, CF10 3EU.

Tel 029 2087 4173

Fax 020 2087 4419

e-mail robertsa1@cf.ac.uk

Editorial

This *Review* follows in the wake of considerable political change in the UK. An inconclusive general election in May 2010 led to a coalition between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, the popularity of which is already proving to be contentious, as respective election manifestos have to bow to austerity measures. The figures reported in this *Review* show that 2010 was generally a year of recovery, but the impact of public expenditure cuts is yet to be felt.

The last *Review* focussed on Green Energy – a topic likely to have relevance for many years to come. This issue has an equally important and related focus: Wales' food sector. While agriculture makes only a small contribution to Welsh gross value added, it is crucial in terms of stewardship of the landscape and because of its interconnectedness with the food and drink sectors in Wales; all of which have the potential to participate in Wales' sustainable future.

This issue's interview is with Elin Jones AM, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Rural Affairs. While understanding the value of Welsh red meat exports she is mindful of the need to increase local food awareness and consumption in the interests of

sustainability. Late last year she launched a new food strategy '*Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010-2020*' which faces this challenge and others.

This *Review* also features three articles. Peter Midmore of Aberystwyth University examines the contribution of the agri-food sector to the Welsh Economy with particular reference to the impact on employment of sector supply chain relationships. He concludes that the growth of food exports may not deliver prosperity in a sustainable manner, while encouraging local consumption of local produce might. This chimes with Calvin Jones' view in the Political Economy section.

In the second article by Kevin Morgan of

Cardiff University, the two themes of food and social well-being are examined by plotting the history and development of school meals provision from the 1880s to the present day; the most recent improvements to which are threatened by impending cuts in public expenditure, and the change in the political landscape.

Melanie Jones, David Blackaby and Phil Murphy of Swansea University in their article '*Childhood Obesity in Wales*' report the initial results of their work which compares the occurrence of obesity at the UK level and within Wales, and the relationships between childhood and adult obesity.

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Editor: Annette Roberts

Assistant Editor: Jane Bryan

Contributors: Jane Bryan, Calvin Jones, Neil Roche,
Max Munday and Annette Roberts.
