

Welsh Economic Review

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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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Editorial

2011 was a volatile year. At the beginning of 2012, there is cause for cautious optimism despite relatively high unemployment rates, and a return to growth is predicted for 2013.

Stepping back from the month on month economic volatility that has become familiar, the Interview section provides a polemical piece written by Professor Richard Wyn Jones which considers the history, challenges and prospects of Welsh government. He highlights the threats to democracy inherent in the increasing technocratic culture across Europe, and more locally notes the leakage of talent from Wales. This point is discussed more fully in the article

contributed by Gillian Bristow, Madeleine Pill, Rhys Davies and Stephen Drinkwater.

The UK Coalition government has expressed an aspiration that the baton of recovery should be passed from the public to the private sector in the UK, provoked by substantial cuts in public sector budgets. The Project Report by Verina Pinto and Calvin Jones provides a timely reminder of the importance and

nature of the steel sector in Wales; a long established private sector activity. The final Project Report then provides an equally timely appreciation of, not only the scale of the public health sector, but the urgency with which it must re-evaluate its procurement policy to secure the greatest regional and local effect.

Contents

Review	Page
Economic Commentary	6
Economic Events Diary	9
Labour Markets	12
Property Markets	15
Industrial Activity	18
Interview with Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Cardiff University.	21
Location, Location... Employment? Understanding Welsh graduate mobility over time. <i>Gillian Bristow, Madeleine Pill and Rhys Davies, Cardiff University, and Stephen Drinkwater, Swansea University.</i>	25
Project Report: The Economic Impact of Tata Steel in Wales <i>Verina Pinto and Calvin Jones, Welsh Economy Research Unit, Cardiff Business School.</i>	30
Project Report: The Economic Impact of NHS Procurement: A Study of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board <i>Kevin Morgan, Max Munday and Annette Roberts, Cardiff University.</i>	33

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