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# our communities

## Topic Report

bitesize



### Dorset Labour Market

This bulletin is part of a series which make up the 2018/19 local economic assessment of Dorset.

There are 153,000 employees in Dorset<sup>3</sup>. Some of the biggest sectors in terms of employment are associated with low pay, such as the accommodation and food sector. Dorset does, however, have above average representation in the advanced engineering sector which is highly productive and generates a high level of gross value added. We need to build on this specialism by providing the right conditions for firms to invest and grow.

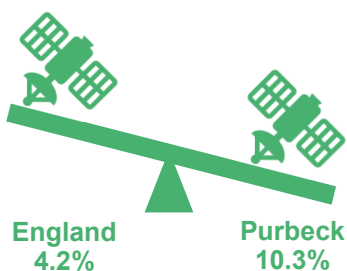
**Big Numbers**

- 10%** of employees in Purbeck work in **advanced engineering**
- £8.51** is the median hourly wage in the accommodation and food sector
- The claimant count rate in Dorset is currently **1.6%**
- £523** gross weekly pay for full time employees in Dorset
- 12,700** more people commute **out** of the area than **in** every day

#### Box 1: Employment

- Key sectors for the area are advanced engineering, tourism & leisure and the creative industries. We have above average employment representation in the first two but lower in the creative industries<sup>3</sup>.

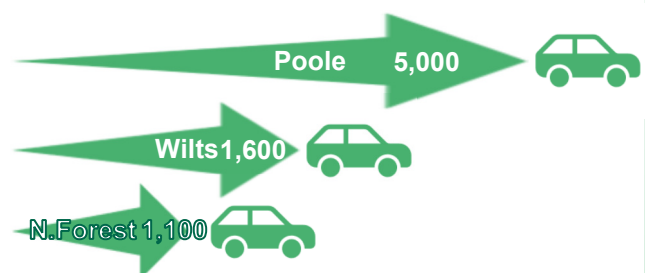
% of employees working in advanced engineering



- Compared to England, we have a smaller proportion of people working in the transportation and storage sector - around 2% compared to 5% nationally, and fewer people working in administration and support - around 4% compared to 9% nationally.
- In contrast we have a higher proportion working in the accommodation and food sector - 11% compared to 7% nationally. This sector typically has the lowest pay of all sectors.
- Sectors that tend to have the highest pay, like ICT and financial services are also under-represented locally.

- One of the challenges we face is the need to grow employment in high value-added firms offering quality, year round jobs.
- Every day around 12,700 more people commute out of the area than in. The biggest net loss of commuters is to Poole at over 5,000, followed by Wiltshire and the New Forest<sup>2</sup>.

Net daily out-commuters from Dorset



- In 2018 there were on average 2,600 people in the Dorset Council area claiming unemployment benefits<sup>1</sup>. Unemployment tends to be significantly lower locally than nationally. The claimant count for 2018 stood at 1.2% of the working-age population compared to 2.2% nationally.
- Our claimants tend to be older, with a higher proportion aged 35+ than nationally.

**Sources:**

1 Claimant Count, ONS, Jan-Dec 2018 [Includes Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance]  
2 2011 Census, Table WU01UK

## Box 2: Earnings & Occupations

- Earnings in Dorset are below average. Median gross weekly pay for full time employees was £523 for Dorset workers compared with £571 in Great Britain. The only part of Dorset with above average pay was Purbeck with £577<sup>4</sup>.
- Weymouth and Portland sees the lowest weekly earnings of Dorset's local authorities at £480<sup>4</sup>.
- The best-paid occupations in the South West region are in the electricity & gas supply, financial services, education, and ICT sectors<sup>4</sup>.
- The differences in pay can be stark - someone working in the accommodation and food sector can expect to earn less than half the average of someone working in the electricity & gas supply sector, in the South West<sup>4</sup>. Unfortunately fewer people work in the higher paid sector.



Occupations in the electricity and gas supply sector paid on average £21.97 per hour in the South West ...



... compared to only £8.51 per hour for the accommodation and food sector.

## Our plans include

- Ensure economic growth benefits everyone.
- Place the environment at the heart of growth.
- Actively listen to businesses and the community.
- Attract inward investment and develop the tourism offer.
- Grow relationships between schools and business, including a key sectors approach.
- Develop agritech/aquaculture sector, marine and aerospace through skills, inward investment and support structures.
- Support the establishment of the Dorset Innovation Park enterprise zone.
- Establish a Dorset School Improvement Board, with a focus on Weymouth.
- Raise the aspirations of young people through the Careers Enterprise Company.
- Deliver an Apprenticeship strategy.
- Enhance further education provision through investment in local colleges.

### Sources:

4 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2018), ONS, DC estimate by DCC