

NERIP

The Regional Observatory Newsletter



NORTH EAST
REGIONAL
INFORMATION
PARTNERSHIP

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Welcome

The new Indices of Deprivation were published by Communities and Local Government in December. These show, at very small area levels, how deprived different parts of the country are. They break deprivation down into six domains (housing, employment, crime etc), and some sub-domains. This new data provides plenty of opportunity for further investigation, and NERIP will undertake some of this during the early part of 2008 working with our partners to meet policy needs. Some very useful maps illustrating deprivation by domain and by Local Authority District have been produced by Jonathan Douglas at the Government Office, and are attached [here](#).

On a related theme, the Government has just announced the national Centre for Spatial Economics, which will support high quality research into the uneven geography of local and regional prosperity. It is really good news for the North East that researchers at Newcastle University are part of the winning consortium to run this important new Centre, with academics from some other parts of the UK. More details of the new centre can be found [here](#).

The headline indicator used to measure the economic performance of regions is Gross Value Added, or GVA. In December, new data was released for 2006, which showed that growth of GVA per head in the North East was higher than that in any other UK country or region. This is the fourth year in a row that the North East has shown higher growth than the national average, lending increasing credibility to suggestions that improvements in the region's economy are robust and for the long-term. A briefing paper produced by the Office for National Statistics' Regional Statistician can be found [here](#).

Jon Carling

Indices of Deprivation 2007

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. As with the 2004 Indices, the Indices of Deprivation 2007 have been produced for Lower Super Output Areas, of which there are 32,482 in the country.

There are also six district summary scores for each Local Authority district (there are 354 districts in England) and for each County Council and higher tier (there are 149 of these). A relative ranking of areas, according to their level of deprivation is then provided. There are also supplementary Indices measuring income deprivation amongst children and older people: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI).

The methodology underpinning the ID 2004 and the ID 2007 are largely the same though there have been small changes to some of the underlying indicators. Comparison between the two Indices is therefore possible.

Jonathan Douglas's maps of the six key domains, and of the overall index at District level, can be found [here](#), together with a link to the data and guidance on the CLG website.

Regional GVA

GVA data for 2006 at regional level, and for 2005 at sub-regional level, was released by the Office for National Statistics in December. Attached [here](#) are two briefing papers, one for the North East and the other for the area covered by the Northern Way policy initiative (ie North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber) produced by Nigel Brough, the Office for National Statistics' Regional Statistician.

Exports from the Region and Supplies to the Region

Companies in the North East supply goods and services to the region, to the rest of the UK and to world markets. In order to produce those goods and services, they need to purchase supplies, and again those come from within the North East, the rest of the UK, and the rest of the world. This [research](#), led by Michael Jackson of the NERIP Executive Team looks at a range of industries, or sectors, and considers the impacts of the differing proportions of supplies and sales from different geographical areas. It discusses how these factors can contribute to improving the overall economy of the North East region.

Developing a North East Energy Evidence Base

The principle purpose of this [report](#), produced by TNEI for Energy North East, is to collect into one place information that establishes an energy evidence base for the North East of England. This evidence base has been built up to include details regarding energy consumption, energy generation and energy infrastructure. The information contained within

the report provides an up to date outline of the current state of energy within the region and can be used by policy makers and decision makers to inform future programmes and strategies regarding a wide range of energy issues.

Migrant Health in the North East

Relatively large numbers of migrant workers have arrived in the region in recent years. Last year, the North East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO) commissioned a mapping exercise on migrant health. Their report investigates who the North East's new arrivals are, the numbers that have arrived since the late 1990s, the areas in which they are living and the regional infrastructure there to support them. It considers their health needs, current service provision and commissioning arrangements. The findings will be presented together with some other perspectives from the leaders of regional organisations and the head of the Department of Health's Asylum team at this meeting on 10 March in Stockton. There will be a chance to discuss issues where collaboration would be useful and what we might need to do to make that happen. A [draft programme](#) is attached and a report will be made available prior to the meeting.

Women, Identity and Employability

A one-day conference is being held at the University of Teesside on 7 February, following up the ADVANCE Women to Employability action research project. Here are the [conference programme](#) and the [registration form](#).

State of the Region Report 2008

NERIP staff are currently finalising the 2008 State of the Region Report, to be published in a couple of months' time. The report, running to well over 100 pages, will provide a detailed profile of the region in words and statistics, and will for the first time include comparisons with international regions as well as those in the UK. There will also be some forward-looking projections, which will suggest how the region's performance might develop in the future against a number of indicators (note the use of the word 'might' - we will not be making forecasts!). The State of the Region Report is the only report that NERIP publishes in hard copy, and will be available free of charge. If you are in receipt of this newsletter then you are on our mailing list and you should receive a copy, probably at the beginning of April. Those who would like further copies should contact info@nerip.com, including SORR in the title of your e-mail. If you would rather not receive a copy, then again please e-mail the same address to tell us.

Feedback from Migrant Workers Conference

A summary report of the national Migrant Workers Conference, held at the East of England

Development Agency in November, is attached [here](#).

Vacancy : Office for National Statistics

ONS are looking to recruit a Regional Statistician for the North East, based in Newcastle. More details can be found [here](#).

Big Lottery Fund : Evaluation of Healthy Living Centre programme

The Big Lottery Fund's Healthy Living Centre (HLC) programme evaluation ran from 2001 until 2007. A key part of the programme has been to engage local people in the development of projects that lead to positive changes in their area. HLCs have developed the knowledge, skills and relationships to engage with hard-to-reach communities, and have gone on to produce tangible positive changes in those communities beyond health-related improvements.

As agencies across the North East work to address health inequalities, and as more Lottery funding is channelled through the region, researchers and policy-makers may wish to note the key findings and lessons from the [evaluation](#).

ONS Regional Snapshot

The latest ONS regional snapshot can be found [here](#).

New on the website this time is the latest version of **[NERIP's Research Mapping tool](#)**. This should, over time, enable policy-makers to search for existing research, from regional academics and others, that is relevant to regional policy. It should also provide contact details for academics and other researchers with knowledge and expertise relating to different policy themes. This tool is the first iteration of that work. It requires more content, and we will also develop the software product over the next few months, but we hope that even in its current form it will be useful to people. Anyone with comments on the tool, or suggestions for additional content, should contact [Michael Jackson](#).

An important part of information dissemination is knowing who is interested in what. We invite all our readers to become part of our network of contacts by allowing us to add you to the [Contacts Directory](#) on our website. To do this, either contact us directly (info@nerip.com) or, better still, [sign-up](#) to the Collaborative Zone on our website. As well as giving you access to the forums in the Regional Research Agenda (see above), when you sign-up we will contact you to seek your permission to add your details to our Contacts Directory. In line with our [privacy policy](#), we will not put your details in the Contacts Directory unless you have given us permission to do so.

We hope that you have found this newsletter of interest. However, if you do not want to receive copies in future please email info@nerip.com with unsubscribe in the subject line.

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