Welcome

This report brings together key business, economic and labour market intelligence to provide a regular insight into the current state of the Norfolk economy. Data is correct to 30th June.

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The Business and IP Centre, Norfolk

The Business Library at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library has been chosen to pilot a Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) dedicated to supporting local entrepreneurs to start, run and grow their own businesses.

While based in Norwich, the Centre will support businesses from across the County and will be called The Business and IP Centre, Norfolk.

When fully operational, it will build on its existing services to provide a dedicated service for both aspiring and established entrepreneurs in the area to take advantage of free intellectual property and business information and expertise.

Customers will be able to access the library’s valuable online collections such as market research, company and financial information, and patent and trademark specifications, spanning both the UK and global markets.

Access to these core library collections, will be complemented by a face-to-face service, including workshops, events, and one-to-one advice and coaching sessions from business experts on how to protect their ideas, grow their businesses, and become commercially successful.

Further information about all Business Library services and events can be found on https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/library-services/business-library or by calling 01603 774740.

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Quick Links

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Norfolk Economic Snapshot

Employment

- The labour market in Norfolk has maintained a relatively healthy position.
- At 75.1%, the County has a higher rate of people in employment compared to the national average of 73.6%. However, Norfolk still performs when compared to regional average of 77.3%.
- At 4.2%, Norfolk’s unemployment level has performed well compared to the national average, but still scored not so well when compared to regional rate of 3.9%.
- The rate of claimants for main out of work benefits (8.5%) is lower than the national rate (9.0%).
- At the district level there appears to have been a significant fall in employment level in Great Yarmouth with growth in Norwich and South Norfolk.

Average House Prices

- The average house price in Norfolk has increased by 28% since April 2012.
- It is lower than the regional increase of over the same period of 37% but higher than the average increase for Great Britain of 25%.
- The regional figure is mainly influenced by the high house prices in Cambridgeshire.
BUSINESS UPDATES

Renewable UK

Norfolk’s capabilities and the opportunities on offer for businesses based in the energy sector were recently showcased at an offshore wind exhibition; Renewable UK.

Renewable UK is a key event within the energy sector, bringing together investors, businesses, suppliers, and government and business leaders from around the world.

The East of England Energy Zone stand promoted the unique position of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast to take advantage of planned offshore wind developments in the North Sea, as well as the diverse and globally renowned

Baxter Healthcare Ltd. safeguards jobs

Baxter, based in Thetford, and one of Norfolk’s biggest manufacturers, has received funding to ensure its future remains firmly rooted in Norfolk, resulting in the safeguarding of over 400 jobs.

The company, which make life saving products and supplies hem to the health sector, approached the Council and the LEP to support its decision making about future manufacturing investment for its Thetford plant to maintain an IV solutions manufacturer in Norfolk in the UK.

Both the Council and the LEP agreed that the importance of maintaining Baxter in the A11 corridor required a unique solution and therefore felt it was appropriate to invest £2m to ensure it stayed in the County and to enable the company to invest in innovation, product development and training for its staff.

This supported the realisation of an internal multi-million pound investment by Baxter and work is underway to upgrade its infrastructure and manufacturing equipment. For more information on Baxter visit www.baxterhealthcare.co.uk.
TRANSPORT

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Norfolk County Council is currently feeding into Highways England’s process for deciding on trunk road priorities post 2020. NCC continues to liaise with HE on its schemes in the current programme, to secure earliest delivery and ensure that the needs of Norfolk are taken into account.

Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing
Great Yarmouth’s much needed Third River Crossing has taken an important step as councillors approved a bid for £1.2m from the Department for Transport (DfT) to take the scheme forward to the next stage of design and planning. The image below shows the latest intended design of the bridge.

Infrastructure and Economic Growth Team: supports growth and helps remove infrastructure constraints in key areas such as transport, housing and planning.

Greater Thetford and Attleborough

Thetford
Thetford is a growth location on the A11 corridor identified for 5,000 new houses and the creation of 5,000 new jobs.

Attleborough
Attleborough is identified in the Breckland Core Strategy for 4,000 new houses and 1,500 new jobs to 2026.

To support these developments, partners have been working together to identify transport impacts of planned growth. Partnerships of the key stakeholders have been set up to prioritise and oversee delivery of the required infrastructure.

Source: Mouchel.

Infrastructure team email:
transportstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk
**Skills**

**Employment and Skills Team** comprises the Apprenticeships Team, the Skills Development Partnership and the ESF Facilitator teams. The focus is on raising skills levels within Norfolk for the benefit of both the individual and the economy.

**Fantastic Achievement!**

As part of a nationwide search to find the Apprentice Team of the Year, nine apprentices from the Apprenticeships Norfolk Network took part in a testing 5-month challenge. They just missed out on a top place, finishing a brilliant 4th.

City College Norwich has been awarded a £200k contract to deliver work aimed at supporting 133 NEET people aged between 15-18 in Norwich, until March 2018.

The bespoke programme will include a summer programme of activities. The aim is for 85% to transition into further education or training.

For more information on ESF please email ESF.Facilitators@norfolk.gov.uk

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**Norfolk Apprenticeship starts - Latest figures**

Data source: FE Data Library

Map shows Apprenticeship starts for all ages/levels in 2014/15 (Q3 2015/16 in blue)

**Norfolk** is 5 percentage points above national and regional starts of 3% for the period of August 2015 to April 2016 (Quarter 3).

For more information on the Employment and Skills team email skills@norfolk.gov.uk
Funding Support

**Economic Programmes Team** provides support to the Council and other partners to access external funding, with the aim of increasing funds spent in Norfolk. It has specialist expertise in European funding.

**Programmes to continue after UK EU Referendum Result**

The bodies managing EU funds are keen to stress that it is business as usual in all EU programmes. The UK remains a full member of the EU and will remain so until 2018 at the earliest.

Norfolk County Council would therefore encourage potential project promoters to make the most of the opportunities available to draw down funding to make a meaningful difference to our communities, the economy and the environment.

The Economic Programmes Team is focused on supporting partners to maximise access to the remaining EU funds. Contact us at eufunding@norfolk.gov.uk for support.

**Current Funding Opportunities**

**Eastern Agritech Initiative**—grants available to agricultural businesses requiring funding for growth and research and development. Visit [www.agritechgrants.co.uk](http://www.agritechgrants.co.uk)

**Oil and Gas Taskforce Business Support Scheme**—grants available for businesses in the oil and gas sector needing help to diversify. Visit [www.newanglia.co.uk/oil-and-gas-taskforce](http://www.newanglia.co.uk/oil-and-gas-taskforce)

**France (Channel) England Interreg Programme**—The 4th call for projects opens on 13th of September 2016. Visit [www.interreg5a-fce.eu](http://www.interreg5a-fce.eu) for more information

**North Sea Region Interreg Programme**—The 3rd call for projects opens on 14th November 2016. Visit [www.northsearegion.eu](http://www.northsearegion.eu) for more information.

**FCE approves its first project**

The France (Channel) England Programme has approved its first €5.5 million project, Intelligent Community Energy (ICE). Led by Bretagne Developpement Innovation the project will tackle energy vulnerability in remote areas and islands. Two pilot sites—the Ushant Islands and University of East Anglia—will test out energy solutions and the development and implementation of a smart grid. The aim is for remote communities to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

There are nine partners involved in the project from both France and England. These include Technopole Brent Iroise; Pole Mer Bretagne; Technopole Quimper Cornouaille; Syndicate Departemental de l'Energie du Finistere; Exeter University, Plymouth University; Marine South East and University of East Anglia.