

Key Data for 2017

The Main Regional Data

The annual release of regional data is a bedrock for sub-national analysis. The latest numbers for 2017 came out just before Christmas.

In 2017, UK GVA (in real terms) was 1.9% higher at £1.82bn. UK GVA per head was £27,555. SW England had GVA of £130.6mn (7% of total) and GVA per head of £23,499 (85%). On these measures, UK was up 3.6% and 3.0% respectively in nominal terms from 2016. SW England grew only 2.6% and 1.8% respectively. Our region failed to keep pace on these crucial indicators of productive performance in 2017. Only London, East of England, North West and, just, Northern Ireland saw GVA per head grow faster than the UK average. Of the other eight of drifters, SW England was the slowest!

The Local Data

Within Dorset, the county area reached GVA per head of £19,592 in 2017. Bournemouth and Poole reached £24,667. Both were below average. The main local figures are shown in the table below.

2017	GVA (£mn)	GVA/head (£)	latter % of UK average
Bournemouth	4400	22593	82
Christchurch	1189	23964	87
Poole	4003	26463	96
East Dorset	1770	19802	72
North Dorset	1183	16639	60
Purbeck	960	20532	75
West Dorset	2294	22476	82
Weymth & Portld	735	11179	41
BCP	9592	24244	88
DCC	6942	18509	67
Dorset	16534	21454	78

Source: ONS

In Dorset, nowhere was above the UK average for GVA/head. Poole was closest at 96% of the UK level. Weymouth and Portland was furthest away at just 41%. The usual ranking persisted with urban 'better' than rural and east 'better' than west. Beware, however, the usual caveat that this is 'normal/expected' reflecting commuting patterns and industrial location.

Considering the new local authority structure (due April 2019), BCP contributed 51% of Dorset GVA and 58% of Dorset GVA per head. This

Regional Economic Development: Local Economy Briefing 27

(latter higher than former) implies a productivity gap between the two in favour of the conurbation: again, as expected for a workplace measure. The worrying thing is that the gaps between places within Dorset and between Dorset and elsewhere are, if anything, getting wider.

The latest industrial structure is always interesting. The first table shows sector GVA for the new BCP area. It reveals the conurbation's relative strengths in financial services and production but the overriding importance of property, public and tertiary services.

2017	GVA (£mn)	2017	GVA (£mn)
Agric, utils et al	248	Prof, sci & tech	498
Manufacturing	749	Business admin	271
Construction	597	Public admin+def	405
Wholesale & retail	1030	Education	592
Transport & storage	259	Health & social	943
Accom & food servs	331	Leisure	113
Info & comms	388	Other services	162
Finance	1244	Household acts	31
Real estate	1731	Total	7075

The final table repeats the exercise for Dorset County, showing a greater relative reliance on production and much less on finance. No surprises here.

2017	GVA	2017	GVA
Agric, utils et al	257	Prof, sci & tech	465
Manufacturing	793	Business admin	148
Construction	538	Public admin+def	520
Wholesale & retail	731	Education	468
Transport & storage	110	Health & social	582
Accom & food servs	319	Leisure	68
Info & comms	184	Other services	237
Finance	135	Household acts	33
Real estate	1417	Total	7005

Outlook

This regional and local data is important but always a year behind. The 2018 economy was sluggish and is unlikely to have changed the local economic story significantly. The question, of course, is whether the economy of transition in 2019-20 offers more or less opportunity to close Dorset's gaps?

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