

Welcome to Gloucestershire

As a new investor considering locations for your business in the UK, you may want to consider the advantages of Gloucestershire, a superb business location in the South West of England, which benefits from easy access to London, the Midlands, the South East and Wales.

Global Gloucestershire

Situated in beautiful countryside and a popular choice for businesses requiring access to a highly skilled and educated workforce, Gloucestershire offers the perfect balance between urban dynamism and idyllic rural landscapes. International airports at Birmingham City and Bristol City (both within a 1 hour drive), Cardiff City (1.5 hours) and with London Heathrow and Gatwick within 2 hours, the county is easily accessible to most international destinations. Excellent road and rail links further enhance Gloucestershire's reputation as a well connected place for business.

Industry Expertise

The economy of the county is competitive and diverse, and reflects a longstanding expertise in advanced engineering with world-class companies in Aerospace, Precision & Medical Technologies, and Defence. Financial and Business services are also well represented with a strong presence in banking and insurance industries.

With an ever-growing low carbon agenda, it makes sense to consider the environment, and Gloucestershire is keen to provide solutions for innovative companies striving to develop world-leading technologies in this sector. Locally there is considerable expertise in the field of wind and nuclear energy production, and the county has already proved attractive to inward investors and suppliers in the industry.

For those with a more creative flair, the county is also home to the Gloucestershire Media Group, supported by regional group, South West Screen. The GMG provides a wealth of services and advice to those in the creative media and digital industries, and is an inspiring source of networking, ideas and industry professionalism, both to small and large businesses alike.

Gloucestershire Facts and Figures

Population	582,600	(2008)
Economically Active	348,700	(2008)
Average Weekly Earnings (by residence)	£480.90	(2009)
Average Weekly Earnings (by workplace)	£468.30	(2009)
Hourly Pay by Residence	£12.11	(2009)
Hourly Pay by Workplace	£11.76	(2009)
County Unemployment Rate	11,950 (3.4%)	(March 2010)
Average House Price	£169,983	(January 2010)

Source: Nomis – official labour market statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk

A Highly Qualified Workforce

	Gloucestershire (numbers)	Gloucestershire (%)	South West (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ 4 and above	113,900	32.6	28.3	29.0
NVQ 3 and above	176,900	50.6	48.8	47.0
NVQ 2 and above	251,800	72.0	68.1	65.2
NVQ 1 and above	300,300	85.9	83.8	78.9
Other qualifications	22,600	6.5	7.3	8.7
No qualifications	26,700	7.6	9.0	12.4

Source: Nomis – 2008 official labour market statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk

Further Information about UK Qualification Levels

No qualifications: No formal qualifications held

Other qualifications: includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications

NVQ 1 equivalent: e.g. fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C, foundation GNVQ, NVQ 1, intermediate 1 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent

NVQ 2 equivalent: e.g. 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2, intermediate 2 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent

NVQ 3 equivalent: e.g. 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3, 2 or more higher or advanced higher national qualifications (Scotland) or equivalent

NVQ 4 equivalent and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent

Universities and Educational Establishments

Gloucestershire is superbly positioned for access to academic and vocational excellence from primary school age to post-graduate study. Prestigious universities and neighbouring higher education establishments abound, many of which have their own well-established international connections with industry, including:

- ★ The University of Gloucestershire (Gloucester and Cheltenham campuses)
- ★ Oxford University
- ★ Oxford Brookes University
- ★ Aston University
- ★ Birmingham University
- ★ Bristol University
- ★ The University of the West of England
- ★ Cardiff University
- ★ Warwick University
- ★ The Royal Agricultural College

Further Education Establishments (16–19 yrs and Adult Education) include:

- ★ Gloucestershire College (Gloucester and Cheltenham campuses)
- ★ Cirencester College
- ★ Stroud College
- ★ The Royal Forest of Dean College
- ★ Hartpury College
- ★ The National Star Centre

Invest in Gloucestershire

How can we help you to make the next steps? If you would like information on leasing or buying commercial land or properties, [register here now](#). If you would prefer to discuss your requirements in more detail, and to hear more about what's happening in Gloucestershire's business community, [contact us](#) now for further assistance.

It's simple, [register today and search](#) Gloucestershire's comprehensive database of approximately 1000 sites and premises. Whether you need retail, office, innovation space or industrial premises, we have locations to suit businesses like yours.

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