

Welsh Economic Review

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The *Welsh Economic Review* is produced twice yearly, by the Welsh Economy Research Unit (WERU) at Cardiff Business School. The aim of the *Review* is to provide an authoritative and objective analysis of the Welsh economy in a manner that promotes understanding and informs decision-making. The core section of the *Review* is written by members of WERU, with feature articles contributed by academics or practitioners within or outside Wales. The *Review* is circulated widely within Wales, to both private and public sector organisations, including the education sector and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Notes for Contributors

Authors should send papers for potential publication in the *Welsh Economic Review* to the Editor at the address given below, preferably via e-mail in a Word for Windows format. Papers are welcome on any topic that would be of general interest to the readership, and should be written in a style suitable for non-specialist readers. Papers should be approximately 3,000-4,000 words, and any graphs or figures should be accompanied by the underlying data to allow reproduction.

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This edition of the *Review* features an interview with Phil Dryden, the new Managing Director of Corus (Strip) Products UK. The company (British Steel before the merger with the Dutch steel maker Hoogovens) no longer underpins the livelihoods of whole communities as in the past, but it remains an important presence in Wales, nonetheless. Phil Dryden suggests that Corus' modernisation programme has secured its future.

The first feature article is by Nicolas Lampkin, from the Institute of Rural Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. His paper '*Organic Farming in Wales: Economic and Policy Opportunities and Constraints*' provides a concise but far ranging treatment of a familiar but not fully understood concept. He examines what Wales has contributed to organic farming as well as the economic contribution of the method to the Welsh economy.

Another reality check is provided by Richard Marsh, of DTZ Pieda Consulting, in his article '*Work and Families in Wales*'. Here he assesses the implications of the recently announced Work and Families Bill introduced by government for businesses, in the light of the costs and benefits associated with maternity leave. While it is a challenge, particularly for small firms, to factor in maternity and paternity arrangements, the aggregate impact in Wales is apparently relatively insignificant.

WERU 2006 Conference

The 14th Annual Welsh Economy Research Unit conference will be held on Friday May 26th 2006 at Cardiff Business School. The conference will compare and contrast the Celtic economies, with special reference to key aspects of Eire's most recent development trajectory.

WERU Activities

Information about WERU publications, projects and activities can be found at www.weru.org.uk. Alternatively please contact Clare Baldwin, WERU Administrator, tel. 02920 874173, email BaldwinCL@cardiff.ac.uk

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