

Careers Bradford

BUSIBYTES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

GENERAL INFORMATION

Unemployment has decreased in Bradford in line with the national trend, according to new figures. For the first time in 18 months the number of people out of work in the UK has fallen, down to 1.7 million. The total is still 200,000 higher than this time last year. In Bradford the total number of people on Job Seeker's Allowance in November was 9,492, down from 9,702 in September, the November figure being up by 860 on the same month last year. The unemployment rate for Yorkshire and Humberside is also significantly higher than this time last year, and is still increasing.

TA 14/12/06

Lack of basic skills like numeracy, literacy and IT skills is hindering the career prospects of up to 30,000 local workers, according to a new survey by Learndirect. Many adults would be consequently missing out on promotions, pay rises and other career opportunities.

TA 04/12/06

Envirowaste, based on Queen's Road, Bradford, is to open a new £1 million waste transfer station. The new site is expected to increase the company's recycling rate from 55% to 80%, and will bring with it ten new jobs. The company works with large scale building contractors and construction firms to take away their waste products, much of which it then recycles. The new facility will be up and running in the spring.

TA 05/12/06

Yorkshire's list of top 50 manufacturing companies, contains a number of companies from around the district – at 5 is Morrisons, 22 Filtronic, 23 Ciba Chemicals, 24 Beltpacker, 26 Farmers Boy, 30 Hallmark Cards, and 34 Pace Micro Technology. Between them they employ more than 12,000 people.

YP 05/12/06

Keighley News is creating business opportunities in its landmark building, which is to include two retail units on the ground floor.

KN 14/12/06

The Little Germany District in Bradford is undergoing a renaissance, with many of the old buildings being converted into apartments, and the area itself being given a facelift. The district had previously been the traditional wool merchants' quarter, and established businesses are hoping that further investment will follow.

TA 21/12/06

McGinnis, one of Northern Ireland's biggest property development and building companies, has chosen to have a base in Morley, and will be working on a mixed-use scheme in the heart of Bradford. The company feels that Bradford is on the verge of major changes, and among their projects is one to convert the Beehive next to Bradford University, into apartments.

YP 18/01/07

CONSTRUCTION AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Quarmby Construction are to work with developers Newmason Properties on the Victoria Mills complex in Shipley. Ilkley-based Quarmby have won the contract for phase two of the £70 million luxury apartment project.

TA 15/12/06

FINANCE

Yorkshire Building Society is planning to create 100 new jobs by opening at least 15 new branches over the next three years. The company recognizes the need of customers to have face to face contact with a member of staff. Currently there are 131 branches nationwide, and the first of the planned new branches will open in the summer.

YP 09/01/07

Provident Financial, based in Bradford, is likely to auction off its motor insurance business. The business currently accounts for around 20% of group taxable profits, and may fetch in excess of #200 million. It is also working towards demerging its international lending division from its domestic division. The international side could become a separately listed company in the spring of 2007.

YP 18/01/07

FOOD AND DRINK

The Old Bear Brewery, based in Keighley, has invested in a new van to help the company expand. Currently it operates as a micro-brewer, but it looking to operate on both sides of the Pennines.

TA 20/12/06

Mumtaz Food Industries, the Bradford-based curry restaurant company, has won an exclusive contract with the NHS to supply halal baby foods to the UK's hospitals. Last summer the company launched its Mumtaz Baby Food range which is now stocked in major supermarkets and retailers like Asda, Tesco, Morrisons and Boots, and which is also proving successful in France and the Middle East.

YP 23/01/07

HOTEL AND CATERING

www.realbradfordcurry.com is a new venture being launched this month, which will arrange to deliver curries from some of Bradford's finest restaurants to customers' doors. Meals are to be made in small batches and then flash frozen without the need for additives. They will then be shipped overnight to the customer's door by courier. The brains behind the idea is the same man who transformed Harry Ramsden's fish and chip shop into a nationwide phenomena.

TA 22/01/07

LAW

Gordons Solicitors has announced the appointment of ten new solicitors, eight in Leeds and the other two in their Bradford office.

YP 12/12/06

MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Real Affinity, the Bradford-based marketing company, is set to acquire Leeds-based company Corporate Hospitality Services (CHS). Real Affinity had recently shed some jobs, but this is its second big acquisition in the last 12 months and the company hopes its troubles are now in the past. All new staff are to relocate to the Bradford office. Last year the company made a profit of £2.78 million and posted a £3 million increase in turnover, up to £8.1 million.

TA 08/01/07

MANUFACTURING

Riverdale Publishing Ltd has relocated to Silsden, to a building formerly occupied by Weaverstyle Fabrics. The company used to be in Skipton and was known as Kingsley Cards, and is a long established designer and manufacturer of cards.

KN 07/12/06

Carnaud Metalbox, the Shipley-based maker of drinks can machines, has expanded over the past 12 months, taking on more than 40 new staff and increasing its turnover. The company now employs 250 people and expects turnover to surpass last year's total of £25 million.

TA 04/01/07

RETAIL SALES

UK shops have suffered the worst ever festive build-up according to figures from the Retail Footfall Index. The combination of interest rate rises and growing household bills is being blamed for the poor performance. In November there was a drop of 7.3% of shoppers compared with November 2005.

YP 05/12/06

United Co-operatives has confirmed it is in discussion with the Manchester-based Co-operatives group. If the two merge, it would lead to one of the biggest supermarket chains in the country, and would put them in direct competition with the so-called "Big Four" of Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury and Tesco. United Co-operatives employs 16,000 people across the country and has a turnover of around £2 billion.

TA 13/12/06

Morrisons has reported satisfaction with its Christmas trading figures. The increase in trade apparently came late on, but has shown a like for like sales rise of 6.3% excluding fuel in the six week Christmas and New Year period.

YP 11/01/07

TEXTILES AND SEWING

John Haggas Group's Keighley-based owner has bought control of KM Group, which has Scotland's renowned Harris Tweed industry. The Scottish company employs around 100 mill workers and 150 home-based weavers, and makes the world's only commercially produced hand-woven tweed, producing around 95% of it.

TA 18/12/06

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Jet2.com, which operates out of Leeds-Bradford airport, has been caught up in the collapse of travel company CT2. The travel company had failed to pay airline companies for thousands of

tickets booked for holidaymakers. Jet2 have not commented on the collapse.
TA 14/12/06

Leeds Bradford Airport had a record breaking year last year, with 2.8 million passengers passing through, up by 7%, to 65 different destinations.
TA 09/01/07

Leeds Bradford Airport is being sold off by the five local authorities which own it, and the deal made should be announced in April. The airport is expected to fetch #120 million. The two front runners are tipped to be Bridgepoint Capital and a Balfour Beatty-led consortium.
YP 16/01/07

All contributions or comments for this labour market newssheet are welcome. Please send to Chris Swanson in Information Services at Connexions West Yorkshire at Careers Bradford, Tel 01274 829485 or e-mail chris.swanson@careersb.co.uk

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