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## Gloucestershire's 2011 economic review published

**Gloucestershire is faring well economically but an ageing population and an increase in young people leaving the county is adding pressure, a new study has revealed.**

The Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment 2011 has found that the county has relatively low unemployment rates, a skilled labour force, above average GCSE and A Level results and a well developed road and rail network.

It revealed that Gloucestershire has a strong manufacturing sector and has a good mix of international and innovative companies with 88% of people commuting to work within the county.

Links out of county are good and Gloucestershire is leading the way for carbon reduction, the assessment says.

But the review, carried out by Inform Gloucestershire, the Research Team at Gloucestershire County Council for GFirst, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), also found that the county has several issues which are putting pressure on the economy.

A gap in the skills market is being created by a combination of an increase in people over 65 and a decline in the number of young people aged between 15 and 29 as more and more of them leave the county.

Other factors affecting Gloucestershire's economic strength include a decline in people going into higher education and inadequate broadband in many areas.

While tourism still accounts for a large part of Gloucestershire's business, employment in this sector has declined though it's increased in the south west and UK in general.

Cllr Chas Fellows, cabinet member for economy and environment, said: "I am pleased to see that despite the tough financial backdrop, Gloucestershire is actually doing well with many businesses thriving, making it an attractive place to live and work.

"But we're not complacent and this report highlighted areas of concern too.

"For example, action is needed to boost an entrepreneurial spirit and interest in local employers amongst school leavers.

"Broadband is another issue and I am pleased that both of these areas are a priority for the county council."

Now the assessment is complete, a number of areas for further research have been identified:

- The characteristics of the future workforce
- Skills issues facing the county
- Analysis of Gloucestershire's business sectors
- Higher education provision and demand

Access to this document can be found at: [Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment](#)

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