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Top 100, 2008

Welcome to the Top 100, 2008

WELCOME to the Top 100 Businesses ranked by the most recent available turnover figures up to March 31.

The Top 100 is compiled using information from various databases including FAME and is edited by Gloucestershire Media in association with accountants and business advisors Hazlewoods.

We have included companies who have their head office in the county and the circulation area of The Citizen and Gloucestershire Echo.

Once again the Top 10 is dominated by the financial services industry with Cheltenham & Gloucester, the mortgage lending arm of Lloyds TSB, in the number spot once again.

This year GE Aviation (formerly Smiths Aerospace) of Bishop's Cleeve and Kraft Foods of Cheltenham – two of the county's most important employers and active in the local community – are omitted because they were unable to provide a UK turnover figure.

In the interests of accuracy we have contacted every company in the list.

A quick glance at the Top 100 demonstrates just how diverse the economy of Gloucestershire has become. In 2007 the total turnover figure for the Top 100 was £50.79bn – this year it is £53.81bn.



DIFFICULT TIMES: Barry Dare, the leader of Gloucestershire County Council, outside Shire Hall in Gloucester

'Challenging times are ahead for businesses'

The credit crunch is presenting major challenges to business but Coun Barry Dare, leader of Gloucestershire County Council, says the region's skills and talents will ultimately win through...

WITH the UK economy entering more difficult times, the role of Gloucestershire's businesses and business people becomes even more important.

Both the credit crunch and the slowing housing market will cause difficulties for all our businesses – and for some it will cause very substantial problems.

For many of the businesses affected by the difficulties at Cotswoldgate (the Gloucester-based house builder which went into administration in April), for example, there will be challenging weeks ahead as they deal with the aftermath. Even those businesses not directly associated with house-building will have to face consumers who have less money to spend and staff with bigger bills to pay at home.

If we want to continue Gloucestershire's success

into the future, we all have crucial jobs to play. Business leaders must continue to innovate and to think big.

Gloucestershire businesses have never been afraid to innovate and to look beyond the county borders. Now we need to make sure that we see the emergence of markets like China and India as an opportunity, not a threat.

Gloucestershire's businesses will have to be flexible and responsive like never before to ensure their competitiveness in such demanding market places. The county council has several crucial roles to play. We already provide excellent education for Gloucestershire's future business leaders and employees, with our schools being amongst the best in the county.

From 2009 the council will take on responsibility for skills development for young people after the age of 16, taking over responsibility for colleges and sixth form centres from the Government.

I am committed to making sure that we work with Gloucestershire businesses to make sure that they continue to get employees with the skills they need into the future.

Hopefully, a more joined up education system in the county should help drive excellence – and save the taxpayer some administration costs.

As consumers and employees we've all got a crucial role to play. All of us can buy from Gloucestershire businesses where possible or look at doing business with other Gloucestershire companies.

There is no more important reason for the success of Gloucestershire's businesses than Gloucestershire's people, their skills, their talent and their support.



POTENTIAL IN CHINA: ships sail towards the permanent ship lock of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River, near Yichang, in central China's Hubei Province

There will be challenging times ahead for Gloucestershire businesses, but I am confident that not only will they meet those challenges – but that Gloucestershire businesses will also continue to grow, improve and innovate.

GLoucestershire's

**TOP
100**

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BUSINESSES 2008



32-page special