

Business bulletin

Economy Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 6 March 2014

Dean of Guild Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Frank Ross (Convener)</p>  <p>Councillor Gordon Munro (Vice Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillors Ross (Convener), Munro (Vice Convener), Austin Hart, Barrie, Blacklock, Bill Cook, Corbett, Edie, McVey, Milligan, Rankin, Rust, Paterson, Leader (ex officio) and Deputy Leader (ex officio)</p>	<p>Lesley Birrell Committee Officer Tel: 529 4240</p> <p><u>Greg Ward</u> Director of Economic Development Tel:529 4298</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Macro Economic Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroeconomic Issues - Output in Scotland increased during Q2 2013 by 0.6 percentage points. This was almost equivalent to the UK economy which expanded by 0.7 percentage points. 	<p>The Edinburgh Economy Watch provides more detail on the latest economic trends.</p>
<p>Local Economic Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise - Business incorporations in the city in the three months to December are 16.5% lower than the same period in 2012. In the comparator period 	<p>The Edinburgh Economy Watch provides more detail on the latest economic trends.</p>

Recent news

there was however an increase of 30% in the number of new start up businesses assisted by Business Gateway in Edinburgh. Further information on Business Gateway performance is included in the Investing in Jobs: Economic Development Service Key Performance Indicators and Enterprise and Innovation Update reports presented today.

- Investment – one foreign direct investment project was recorded in the city during November, which is higher than the same period last year. There were no foreign direct investments recorded in the city in November 2012.
- Labour Market – The JSA rate in Edinburgh was 2.7% in November 2013. This continues the recent downward trend and remains significantly lower than the averages for Scotland and comparator cities. The range in Edinburgh by ward is from a low of 1.1% to a high of 4.6%. The gap has narrowed by 0.3 percentage points since the last report to committee.
- Housing, Planning and Development - the total volume of house sales rose to £205 million in October up 30 per cent on the same period last year. The number of house sales increased from 876 to 976 from September to October, an increase of 12 per cent.
- Visitor Economy - Edinburgh airport saw a rise in passenger numbers of 8.5% in November 2013 over the same month in 2012.

Background

Edinburgh City Centre

Footfall

- Footfall on Princes Street in January 2014 fell by 34 per cent against a very strong December 2013. Footfall in January 2014 also decreased by 2 per cent compared to last year.

Retail Sales

- For December 2013 – retail turnover in Edinburgh shows 0.5 per cent increase on the same period last year. This is higher than the Scottish average

Further information on can be found in [Essential Trends](#).

Recent news	Background
<p>(decrease of 2.9 per cent) and higher than the UK average (0.4 per cent increase on December 2013).</p>	
<p>Investing in Edinburgh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major investments into Edinburgh announced during the period 1 October – 31 December included: the air navigation services provider NATS opening an office on Haymarket Terrace; Morrisons opening new metro supermarkets on Shandwick Place and Gorgie Road, creating around 40 new jobs; the cash-and-carry chain United Wholesale buying a 68,000 sq ft unit at the Edinburgh Interchange industrial park; and the television production company ITV establishing a news and current affairs office in Edinburgh. • Media and public announcements show 128 jobs created by known domestic investments during the period 1 October – 31 December. • Foreign direct investments into Edinburgh announced during the period 1 October – 31 December included: The integrated circuits supplier Dialog Semiconductor and the software developer Hollander leasing office space in Sighthill; the pharmaceutical and medical devices firm Johnson & Johnson taking up a "virtual tenancy" at the Edinburgh BioQuarter; and the seismic services company Petroleum Geo-Services leasing office space on Haymarket Terrace. 	