



South West England

Passion for food and drink

All the right ingredients

All about our region

South West England has a very long and proud tradition of farming and agriculture, so it's no surprise that the food and drink industry is one of the largest sectors in our region. Since 2002, productivity has grown at a faster rate than the national average for the industry.

Food producers based here find the vast array of raw material on their doorsteps, including the widest range of seafood species in Europe, a great asset in reducing costs and food miles. We have a mild climate, and this provides a high quality environment for farming which has driven the South West to become the leading region for organic foods in the UK and provides a quarter of all national organic production.

The widest range of foods on offer in the UK can be found here, including meat, fish, fresh fruit & vegetables, dairy & cheese, cider & beer as well as amazing producers of grocery items and bakery.

Some of the key employers include Unilever, Wrigleys, Apetito, Ginsters, Gerber Juices, Milk Link, Yeo Valley and Dairy Crest. The South West has gained a reputation for the production of a range of high quality foods, including Wiltshire Ham, Double Gloucester Cheese, Somerset Cider, Devon Toffee and Cornish Clotted Cream.

Universities meet the challenge

In the field of education, university expertise is working alongside business innovation to ensure the dynamic growth of the industry. There are over 50 dedicated courses on offer at the region's world-class universities as well as many specialist research centres.

For further information on the different research establishments involved in current success stories, go to: www.expertsouthwest.com/businesssectors/AgricultureFoodDrink.aspx

Where business is buzzing

There are many reasons why food and drink businesses thrive in the South West of England.

There's great interest in all types of food and drink in the region and it is recognised as a key sector for growth.

There's also a booming tourist industry and 31% of the £8 billion annual tourist spend in the South West is on food and drink. What's more, the opportunity to eat locally produced foods is the third main reason for holidaying in the South West.

Our sectors

Aerospace • Biotechnology & Bio-medical technologies • Composite technologies • Creative industries
Environmental technologies • Financial services • **Food and drink** • Information communications technologies
Manufacturing & advanced engineering • Marine industries • Renewable energy

www.southwestengland.com

South West
England



A helping hand

Organisations in the region that can help your business take off include:

Business Link

www.businesslink.gov.uk

South West Food and Drink

www.southwestfoodanddrink.com

South West RDA

www.southwestrda.org.uk

An aim of the South West RDA (the region's economic development agency) is for the region to be the UK's leading food and drink location by 2015, with the most successful and sustainable producers offering unrivalled product choice.

The RDA also delivers the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) aimed at businesses of all sizes looking to invest in assisted areas that need a grant to take their vision forward.

What works for you?

The South West of England has already proved to be a successful region for many food and drink companies. A dedicated team based in the South West RDA work with a network of colleagues across the whole of the region to help identify locations and premises suited to companies' needs.

Working with the RDA, an Italian family was able to bring their traditional Chicken Liver Paté to the region. The paté was successfully launched at the Speciality & Fine Food Fair, London in September 2009.

Luca, the Italian pate producer, put it like this: "Without the regional knowledge, contacts and support from South West RDA, we would not have been able to be in this position so quickly."

Reaching out to the UK and the world

The South West of England is ideally positioned to distribute produce nationally and internationally, with many distribution companies based in the region who specifically handle food and drink produce.

There is an excellent rail infrastructure with many towns and cities having mainline stations for London and the Midlands.

The region has a history of sea trade and there are major ports located all along the coast at Bristol, Poole, Plymouth, Weymouth and Falmouth.

There are several airports in the region, the largest being Bristol International. Other airports include Bournemouth International, Plymouth, Exeter and Newquay.



London to Poole - 2hrs 15mins
 London to Bristol - 2hrs 15mins
 London to Taunton - 2hrs 45mins
 London to Exeter - 3hrs 15mins
 London to Plymouth - 4hrs 15mins
 London to Truro - 5hrs 15mins
 London to Penzance - 5hrs 45mins

Find out more:

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