

The most significant sector of employment, accounting for a third of all businesses in Solihull is the Business Services, including IT and software. Using a skilled service sector, it is forecast to be one of Solihull's major employment growth sectors between now and 2015.

In the West Midlands the sector consists of more than 3,000 companies employing 57,000 people with a turnover of £14 billion or 5.4 per cent of the UK's overall ICT output.¹

Solihull is part of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire (CSW) Corridor, an area that is home to over 1000 ICT and software companies.² The cluster is Research and Development intensive and over half of the companies have located their Head Offices in the area.



SUCCESS SO FAR

Economic Picture

- There are currently over 6,000 employees working in the ICT sector in Solihull and just over 60,000 within the West Midlands.
- The UK's third largest ICT cluster is based in the West Midlands, mainly in the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Triangle
- The number of ICT employees based in Solihull have increased by 3.7% (2003-2005)
- Firms within the ICT sector accounts for 6% of regional output.
- ICT supports almost all sectors of the economy.

“The central location's transport systems enable good nationwide and international access, particularly for Fujitsu's network support and field services. Other contributing factors include the skill base of the local workforce, the proximity to a number of universities, and the degree of support that the business has received.”

Fujitsu Telecommunications



“The location is perfect for us as it is a few minutes to all the major road and rail networks. Birmingham International Airport is very conveniently situated a couple of miles away, which means that we can get to our overseas clients in Ireland, South Africa and Asia.”

Proteus Software



“With the NEC hosting a range of IT related exhibitions, Solihull provides a great location to keep up with the latest trends in our business sector. Additionally, the improved rail links to London from Birmingham International (Virgin) or Solihull (Chiltern) mean that within 90 minutes one can be in Central London for business meetings.”

Abussi



Educational & Research Links

Birmingham University

The School of Computer Science provides specialist teaching and conducts research in fundamental and applied computer science, software engineering, artificial intelligence and cognitive science. The School has nearly 90 active researchers (academic staff, research staff and research students) and is a close knit community that enjoys a stimulating intellectual environment. The School has approximately 800 students studying undergraduate and postgraduate courses.³ Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering - The Department has a large number of activities, ranging from the teaching of undergraduate degrees, to using our expertise to help local companies.

Birmingham City University

Technology Innovation Centre (tic) delivers a wide range of courses that enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for a successful career in a technology driven society.⁴

University of Warwick

The Department of Computer Science was one of the first departments on the campus, and it has steadily grown in size with the increase in demand for undergraduate and postgraduate opportunities. Rated excellent for teaching quality, the Department is consistently ranked in the top ten UK Computer Science Departments in independent surveys, and is noted for its friendly academic community. The Department has also achieved grade 5 or above in every research selectivity exercise.

Coventry University

Faculty of Engineering and Computing is home to 8 departments and have excellent links with industry, commerce and universities worldwide. They remain at the forefront of technological advances and keep pace with employers changing expectations.



Local Networks & Associations

- West Midlands ICT Cluster - www.wmictcluster.org
- The National B2B Centre - www.nb2bc.co.uk
- The West Midlands Networking Company Ltd (WMNC) - www.wmnc.org.uk
- United Kingdom IT Association - www.ukita.co.uk

¹ Advantage West Midlands 'ICT' - www.advantagewm.co.uk

² PricewaterhouseCoopers – Plant Location International: CSW ICT and Software Audit 2002

³ University of Birmingham - www.cs.bham.ac.uk

⁴ University of Central England - www.uce.ac.uk



Contact Solihull's Business Investment Team on
Tel: 0121 704 6151 Fax: 0121 704 6114
www.solihull.gov.uk/businessadvice
email: economicdev@solihull.gov.uk