



Research Review

Recent Research Publications Relevant to the Department: January – March 2006

Introduction

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The Department's Analytical Services monitors recently published research that has relevance to the work of the Department and, each quarter, produces a list of that work for wider dissemination. The list for the quarter ending March 2006 follows.

The research articles in the quarterly review are listed under the four areas that are seen as key in delivering the Department's strategic objectives; enhancing the provision of learning and skills, increasing the level of research and development, helping individuals acquire jobs and developing and maintaining the framework of employment rights and responsibilities.

While much of the research is not focused directly on Northern Ireland, much of it remains very relevant to strategic and policy issues faced here. The appropriate web addresses have been listed from which articles and full reports can be downloaded.

If you are aware of any other bodies that conduct research relevant to this Department but are not covered in the attached, please let the department know so those can be monitored in future. Contact details are set out on the left hand side of this page.

The Department also commissions work to meet specific research needs. The DEL Research Agenda provides details of current and planned research for the period 2007 -2009. It can be accessed from the following link. <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-stats/research-reports-2/researchagenda0709.htm>

Enhancing Provision of Learning and Skills

a) Skills

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Skills for all	H Steedman	Mar - 06	This article looks at the life choices and life chances of the many young people in the UK who do not go to university. It also summarises the key findings and what they mean for recent government initiatives to improve vocational education and upgrade the nation's skills base. http://cep.lse.ac.uk/centrepiece/v10i3/steedman.pdf
Literacy, Numeracy and the Labour Market: Further Analysis of the Skills for Life Survey	J Grinyer	Jan - 06	This paper examines the relationship between adult literacy and numeracy skills, participation on basic skills courses and subsequent labour market outcomes, namely private earnings and probabilities of being employed and participating in the labour market. This analysis is the first of its kind to be based on the 2003 skills for life survey, which to date is the most comprehensive survey to explicitly measure adult basic skills for a representative sample across England. http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RB712.pdf
Pay helps tackle skills gaps in higher education	SSDA	Jan - 06	Higher education faces a shortage of teachers in maths, science and engineering with employers willing to pay more for academic staff qualified in these subjects, according to research by Lifelong Learning UK. http://www.ssda.org.uk/ssda/Default.aspx?page=2385
Working Futures 2004-2014: National Report	R Wilson, K Homenidou & A Dickerson	Jan - 06	This document is the first of three volumes that present <i>Working Futures 2004-2014</i> . Together they represent the most detailed and comprehensive set of employment projections ever published for the UK. It focuses upon the future patterns of demand for skills as measured by occupation. This first volume focuses on the <i>National</i> (UK) picture. http://www.ssda.org.uk/ssda/PDF/Working%20Future%20042014%20National%20Summary%20R%20060215.pdf
Working Futures 2004-2014: Sectoral Report	A Dickerson, K Homenidou & R Wilson	Jan -06	<i>Working Futures 2004-2014</i> has been commissioned by the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) to provide a sound statistical foundation for the deliberations of a number of its key partners across the skills arena about the future demand for skills. <i>Working Futures 2004-2014</i> presents historic and future employment projections for the period 2004 to 2014 separately for men and women by employment status - full-time employment, part-time employment and self-employment. Occupational projections are also available by the nine major and 25 sub-major groups of the SOC2000 occupational classification. All of the <i>Working Futures 2004-2014</i> employment projections are available for a number of different spatial and sectoral aggregations. The level of disaggregation available makes <i>Working Futures</i> the most detailed set of employment projections ever produced for the UK. http://www.ssda.org.uk/ssda/pdf/Working%20Future%20042014%20Sectoral%20Report%20R%20060215.pdf

<i>Working Futures 2004-2014: Spatial Report</i>	A Green, K Homenidou, R White & R Wilson	Jan -06	This document is part of the <i>Working Futures 2004-2014</i> series of detailed projections of employment, by sector and region. It was commissioned jointly by the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The results are intended to provide a sound statistical foundation for the deliberations of all those with an interest in the supply of and demand for skills, including individuals, employers, education and training providers as well as the various agencies and departments of government. It focuses on the situation in the constituent countries within the UK and the English Regions. http://www.ssda.org.uk/ssda/pdf/Working%20Future%2020042014%20Spatial%20Report%20R%20060215.pdf
The geography of poor skills and access to work	A Green & D Owen	Jan - 06	This report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation analyses access to work for people with poor skills in the context of important changes in the industrial and occupational profile of employment and the location of jobs. The key message from the report is that those with poor skills have fewer opportunities and face more constraints in the labour market both in skills terms and geographically than their more highly skilled counterparts. The quantity and quality of jobs available locally is of particular importance for them: geography matters most for those with poor skills. http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/1859354300.pdf
Maths4Life Pathfinder Report	C Hudson, J Colley, G Griffiths & S McClure	Feb - 06	This publication develops the findings of four Maths4Life pathfinder projects, which focused on motivating learners and teachers in post-16 numeracy and mathematics. http://www.nrdc.org.uk/publications_details.asp?ID=43
Does numeracy matter more?	S Parsons & J Bynner	Feb - 06	This study was designed to test whether numeracy is less important than literacy. The study draws on two major longitudinal studies of the British population which can identify patterns of change and can show how particular experiences and characteristics affect what happens to people over the period in question. http://www.nrdc.org.uk/publications_details.asp?ID=16
Developing an effective process for securing learning	S Gentleman	Jan - 06	The project investigated what would need to be in place to secure an effective process for identifying and supporting learning needs in work-based learning (WBL) programmes. An initial feasibility study was followed by the development of recommendations of an enhanced process concentrating on supporting learners' needs. The research has resulted in the development of revised guidance to support funding criteria for work-based learning, along with a practical guide for providers to support this process. This supplementary executive summary is a record of the research outlining the proposed new process and recommendations presented to the LSC. https://www.lsda.org.uk/cims/order.aspx?code=052309
Are Students ready for a Technology-Rich World?: What PISA studies tell us	OECD	Jan - 06	This report examines whether access to computers for students is equitable across countries and student groups. It also examines how students use ICT and what their attitudes are towards ICT; The relationship between students' access to and use of ICT and their performance in PISA 2003 and finally the report looks at the implications for educational policy. http://www.oecd.org/document/14/0,2340,en_2649_201185_36002382_1_1_1_1,00.html

Intelligence	SSDA	Mar - 06	INtelligence is a monthly e-newsletter which provides policy and research news. The aim of the briefings is to provide up to date intelligence relevant to their partners. http://www.ssda.org.uk/ssda/default.aspx?page=2545
A preliminary study on the current state of e-learning in lifelong learning	B Brenner	Jan - 06	The aim of this study is to contribute to the Commission policy development of ICT in the Integrated lifelong learning programme. This research aims to help prepare the ground for identifying the needs of further investigation of ICT for Innovation and lifelong learning for all. http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/news/default.asp?idnews=1132
Education & Training 2010	B Brenner	Mar - 06	This document provides an overview of the main policy initiatives and outputs resulting from the work of the European Commission in the field of education and training since the Lisbon European Council in March 2000. These form part of the integrated policy framework "Education & Training 2010" and includes Commission contributions to the Bologna intergovernmental process in the field of Higher Education. http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/news/default.asp?idnews=1323

b) Higher Education

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Who went to college in 2004? A National Survey of New Entrants to Higher Education	P J O'Connell, D Clancy & S McCoy	Mar - 06	This study examines the pattern of entry to higher education in the Republic of Ireland. It is based on a national survey of all those who enrolled as new entrants to higher education in October 2004. The study reviews the background and destination of students entering higher education for the first time by their age, gender, field of study, educational achievement and socio-economic background. In addition, the study examines admission rates to higher education both nationally and regionally. http://www.heai.ie/uploads/pdf/Who%20went%20to%20College%20in%202004.pdf
What do Graduates do? 2006	My Prospects	Mar - 06	This site shows information on the destinations of graduates from 2004, six months after graduation. It covers 28 subjects and shows how many graduates are in employment, the types of jobs they go into, and how many go on to further study. http://www.prospects.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/What_do_graduates_do_2006/plfbcldp
Students registered at one institution but taught by another 2004-05	hefce	Feb - 06	This document is one of a series that each year presents tables of the numbers of students who are registered at a higher education institution (HEI) but taught by another institution. The teaching institution is often, but not necessarily, a further education college. Such sub-contractual partnerships between institutions are diverse; although, where space is limited, they are referred to here as franchises, the term does not always describe the nature

			of the collaboration. Information is derived from the HESA data collections http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2006/06_05/
Demand for HE to 2020	B Bekhradnia	Mar - 06	In 2005 HEPI published a report "Demand for Higher Education to 2015-16", using the same methodology that had been used in previous years to produce projections of demand to 2010, and extending this with a tentative look to 2015. This present report refines and extends the projection further, and looks in detail at the various factors that will influence demand for higher education over the next 15 years to 2020. http://www.hepi.ac.uk/pubdetail.asp?ID=204&DOC=Reports
How exposed are English Universities to reductions in demand from international students?	T Sastry	Mar - 06	Analysis of English HEI's dependence, or otherwise, on their income from international student fees; and the impact of a hypothetical 25% drop in international fee income. http://www.hepi.ac.uk/pubdetail.asp?ID=206&DOC=Reports
Economics of Knowledge: Why education is key for Europe's success	B Brenner	Mar - 06	A study released by the Lisbon Council shows that educational progress in Europe is lagging behind, in terms of the quality and quantity of it's graduates, in openness of its education systems to students from all social backgrounds and in the availability of continuing education and training to those who need it most. http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/news/default.asp?idnews=1355
Universities: engaging with local communities	Universities UK	Jan - 06	This report, considers the impact of concentrations of students on local communities. The report highlights how local authorities, communities and higher education stakeholders are working together to better integrate students into their local environment. http://bookshop.universitiesuk.ac.uk/downloads/students_communities.pdf
Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05	S Finch, A Jones, J Parfremont, A Cebulla, H Connor, J Hillage, E Pollard, C Tyers, W Hunt & G Loukas	Mar - 06	The 2004/05 Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES) was jointly conducted by a research team from the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and IES. The survey covered a random sample of a little over 3,700 full-time and part-time (including Open University) students in higher education, in England and Wales at 88 institutions. It was conducted between January and April 2005, using face-to-face interviews and expenditure diaries (telephone interviews for Open University students). It was the first comprehensive assessment since 1998/99 and designed to set a baseline against which future changes, following the 2004 Higher Education Act, could be monitored. The survey collected data on students' income, expenditure, debt, savings and financial hardship and a range of personal information. http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14256&type=5&resultspage=11
Development of third stream activity: lessons from international	S Hatakenaka	Jan - 06	The purpose of this analysis is to provide a framework for thinking about the purpose of third stream funding, to help generate debate and to reach a clarity of understanding, both about the short and longer term.

experience			This analysis argues that the policy goal for third stream activities for universities should remain broad: to enhance the economic and social impact of universities. http://www.hepi.ac.uk/pubdetail.asp?ID=203&DOC=Reports
Evaluation of Aimhigher: Excellence Challenge Synthesis Report: Surveys of Opportunity Bursary Applicants and Economic Evaluation	A West, C Emmerson, A Hind, C Frayne, S McNally, O Silva & H Pennell	Jan - 06	This report relates to the Opportunity Bursary strand of the programme (strand 4) which provided certain eligible students with a payment of £1000 in the first year of their studies and payments of £500 in their second and third year. Opportunity bursaries were awarded to certain eligible young people aged under 21 at the start of their course who were from low-income backgrounds with little or no family experience of higher education. The aim was to help them meet the initial costs of starting a course in higher education and to offer them some financial confidence when applying for and in completing their studies. http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RB709.pdf
The Student Experience Report 2006	Ipsos MORI	Jan - 06	This report focuses on how students view their time at university. This is UNITE's sixth annual student experience report which highlights the whole university life experience encompassing academic endeavours, study support, sports, social welfare and accommodation. http://www.hero.ac.uk/sites/hero/resources/unite_2006.pdf

C) Further Education and Training

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
The initial training of further education teachers 2006	Ofsted	Feb - 06	This report sets out the findings from the inspection of the initial teacher training (ITT) for further education teachers on courses leading to national awarding body qualifications. The report also shows that many of the weaknesses identified in the 2003 Ofsted survey have not yet been rectified. The quality of the sessions is generally good but the quality of the practice elements is inadequate. Despite the weaknesses in training, most trainees reach a satisfactory standard in their teacher practice. However, the most capable trainees do not achieve their full potential. http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=pubs.displayfile&id=4153&type=pdf

Increasing the level of Research and Development

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Survey of Research and Development in the Higher Education Sector 2004 (HERD)	A Brereton, A Stockman, M Roche, H Connellan	Jan - 06	This survey gives an analysis of expenditure and personnel resources allocated to Research and Development performed within the higher education sector for the academic year 2004 with additional information on time spent on research. Information is also broken down by field of science, sources of funding, type of spending, occupation and gender. http://www.forfas.ie/publications/forfas060118/index.html
State Expenditure on Science and Technology and Research and Development 2004 and 2005	M Roche, A Stockman, H Connellan & A Brereton	Feb - 06	The "State Expenditure on Science Technology and Research and Development" publication is a comprehensive report on the government allocations and expenditure and performance of S&T and R&D in the public sector. http://www.forfas.ie/publications/forfas060207b/index.html
Gross Expenditure on R&D 2005: Research & Development in Ireland – at a glance	Forfas	Feb - 07	This report provides an analysis of Ireland's R & D activity and includes data on domestic and International sources of funding, sectors of performance, research personnel and gender, and other indicators. It brings together data from a number of Forfas publications including: Business Expenditure on R&D, State Expenditure on Science & Technology (S&T) 2004/05, and Higher Education R&D 2004. http://www.forfas.ie/publications/show/pub220.html

Helping Individuals Acquire Jobs

a) Routes to Employment

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
New Deal for Disabled People Evaluation: Eligible Population Survey, Wave Three	C Pires, A Kazimirski, A Shaw, R Sainsbury & A Meah	Jan - 06	The Eligible Population Survey is designed to obtain information about those eligible and invited to take part in the New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP). The survey aims to establish the characteristics of this population, their work aspirations and their awareness of, attitudes to and involvement with NDDP. A key feature of the study is to examine factors which affect participation and non-participation in NDDP. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep324.pdf
A review of the JSA sanctions regime: Summary research findings	M Peters & L Joyce	Mar - 06	The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is committed to conducting a full review of the sanctions regime as it currently stands. The review was instigated as part of a wider review of the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) regime, with sanctions being a fundamental aspect underpinning JSA and New Deal (ND) policy. This current review was partly triggered by concern that the process might have become too cumbersome to be effective for some customers. Specifically, the research sought to examine customers' understanding and knowledge of the sanctions regime; the processes involved in this; the potential effects of the threat of a sanction; and ultimately, the impact of receiving a sanction on Jobcentre Plus customers. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep313.pdf
Incapacity Benefit reforms – Pathways to Work Pilots performance and analysis	B Blyth	Jan - 06	This report provides analysis of performance of the Pathways to Work Pilots. In summary it shows evidence on the performance of the Pathways to Work Pilots is very encouraging. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/wp26.pdf

b) Other Labour Market Research

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
The impact of free movement of workers from Central and Eastern Europe on the UK labour market	N Gilpin, M Henty, S Lemos, J Portes & C Bullen	Feb - 06	The UK granted free movement of workers to nationals of the A101 countries following the enlargement of the European Union (EU) in May 2004. This paper describes the key features of migration to the UK since accession and evaluates the impact of migrant flows from these new EU Member States on the UK labour market, building on the initial assessment presented in Portes and French. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/wp29.pdf

<p>Report on the Functioning of the Transitional Arrangements set out in the 2003 Accession Treaty (period 1 May 2004–30 April 2006).</p>	<p>European Commission</p>	<p>Feb - 06</p>	<p>The report states free movement of workers since the 2004 enlargement had a positive impact. Workers' mobility from the EU Member States in Central and Eastern Europe to EU15 has had mostly positive effects and has been in most countries quantitatively less important than foreseen. Workers from EU10 helped to relieve labour market shortages and contributed to better economic performance in Europe. Countries that have not applied restrictions after May 2004 (UK, Ireland and Sweden) have experienced high economic growth, a drop of unemployment and a rise of employment. As to the 12 EU countries using transitional arrangements, where workers managed to obtain access legally, this has contributed to a smooth integration into the labour market. However, evidence suggests that some of these countries may also have faced undesirable side-effects, such as higher levels of undeclared work and bogus self-employed work. http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0048en01.pdf</p>
<p>The Long Term Impacts of Compulsory Schooling: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in School Leaving Dates</p>	<p>E Del Bono & F Galindo-Rueda</p>	<p>Jan - 06</p>	<p>For a very long time compulsory schooling has been considered a cornerstone of education policy. However, in recent years, the emphasis on requiring students to complete a minimum number of years in school as a policy instrument has dwindled in importance, while focus has shifted to a stronger emphasis on choice and quality. Among economists, compulsory schooling laws have also attracted considerable attention in recent years as part of a widespread effort to find credible instruments to identify the causal effect of schooling on labour market outcomes. http://cee.lse.ac.uk/cee%20dps/ceedp74.pdf</p>

Developing and Maintaining the Framework of Employment Rights and Responsibilities

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Work-life balance, management practices and productivity	N Bloom, T Kretschmer & J Van Reenen	Jan - 06	The study uses an innovative survey tool on over 700 manufacturing firms in France, Germany, the UK and the United States to ask questions about management practices and work-life balance. http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/special/wlbmanagementpractices.pdf

The following organisations and research bodies have all been monitored.

ARK Online Research Bank-
www.ark.ac.uk

Association of Northern Ireland Colleges
www.anic.ac.uk/

Centre for Economic Performance
<http://cep.lse.ac.uk>

Centre for Economics of Education
<http://cee.lse.ac.uk/pubs/default.asp>

Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning
<http://www.learningbenefits.net/news/newsletters.htm>

Department for Education and Skills
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/index.cfm?type=5>

Department for Work and Pensions
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

Department of Trade and Industry
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/>

Employment Research Centre
<http://www.tcd.ie/ERC/index.php>

ERINI
<http://www.erini.ac.uk>

Eurostat

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

FAS

<http://www.fas.ie/en/About+Us/Publications+and+Resources/>

Forfas

<http://www.forfas.ie/index.html>

Future Skills Scotland

<http://www.futureskillsscotland.org.uk/web/site/home/NewsEvents/Archive/NewsEventsArchive.asp>

Graduate Market Trends

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

HERO

www.hero.ac.uk

Higher Education Academy

<http://www-.heacademy.ac.uk/726.htm>

Higher Education Academy Ireland

www.heai.ie

Higher Education and Policy Institute

www.hepi.ac.uk

Higher Education Funding Council for England

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce>

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

www.hefcw.ac.uk/

Institute for Employment Studies

www.employment-studies.co.uk

Institute for the study of social change

<http://www.avataronline.net/issc/sections/publications.shtml>

Institute of Public Policy Research

www.ippr.org

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/>

Learning and Skills Network (LSN)

<http://www.lsneducation.org.uk/>

Learning Skills Research Centre

<http://www.lsrc.ac.uk/publications/index.asp>

LSE observatory

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/ICTObservatory/>

National Foundation for Educational Research

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk>

National Research and Development Centre

www.nrdc.org.uk

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

www.oecd.org

Policy Studies Institute

<http://www.psi.org.uk/>

Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA)

<http://www.ssda.org.uk/ssda/default.aspx?page=5>

Scottish Council for research in education

www.scre.ac.uk/pubs/index.html

Scottish Executive

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Scottish Further Education Funding Council

www.sfefc.ac.uk

Skope

<http://www.skope.ox.ac.uk/>