

Sources of information on regional & local economies that are available on-line.

**national STATISTICS** UK Snapshot | Neighbourhood | Economy | Census | About Us

Neighbourhood Statistics Sign in or Register

**FIND STATISTICS FOR AN AREA** [More about areas](#)

This search allows you to find **detailed statistics** within specific geographic areas, for example in **neighbourhood regeneration**.

- 1** First enter the name of an area OR full postcode:  
  
 e.g. N51JP e.g. Clapham Park
- 2** Then select the type of area you need statistics for:  
 Local Authority  
 Ward  
 New Deal For Communities  
 Super Output Area  
[More areas](#)
- 3**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SUMMARY**

This search allows you to find a **summary report** for your **local neighbourhood**. If you want to more about the neighbourhood you or work in use this search.

Enter a full postcode from your neighbourhood:  
  
 e.g. N51JP

**navigation**

- home
- news
- about us
- consultancy
- training
- register with us
- my account

**home** Monday, 20 October 2003

Welcome to Nomis  
 Use this site to view or download official labour market statistics from sources including the Labour Force Survey, Claimant Count, New Earnings Survey, Jobcentre Vacancies and Annual Business Inquiry.

Full database  
 Download figures for a range of dates and geographical areas with access to data from the entire Nomis database.

**Wizard query**  
 Recommended for beginners and casual users. Guides you step-by-step.

**Advanced query**  
 Recommended for advanced users. Includes additional options but limited guidance.

**data**

- wizard query
- advanced query
- holdings
- release dates

**need help?**

- email helpdesk
- 0191 334 2680

**latest news**

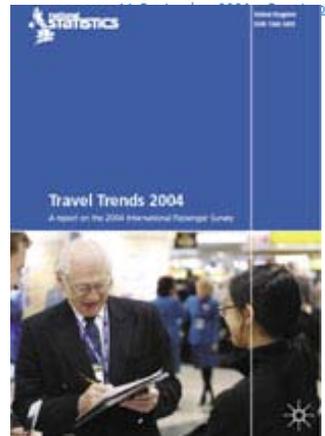
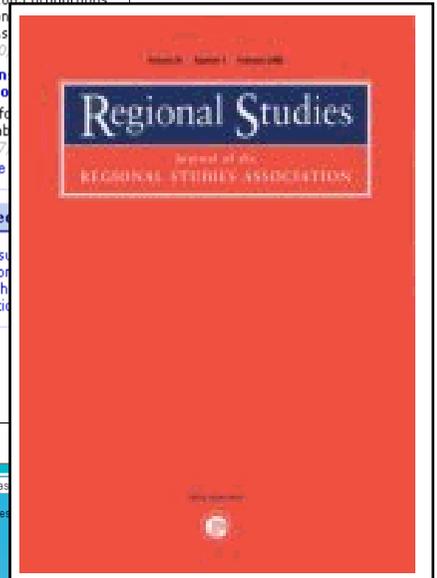
- Claimant count rates
- Sep 2003 proportions for con...
- TTWAs (15/10)
- Cen...
- Empl...
- Data fo...
- availab...
- (30/07)
- more

**I WANT TO:**

- [view or download data by topic](#)
- [create a customised table, chart or map](#)

**LATEST NEWS**

- 19 September 2006 - Extended C...
- Data Series
- 18 September 2006 - Council Tax Band
- Data



**neplace**

For an independent overview of local public services

Search for: Search this site in All areas  
 e.g. children jobs Access

**Home** About the site Search by area Search by organisation Performance indicators

**New to this site?**

Welcome to the Oneplace website. Here you can see how local public services are performing in England, if they provide value for money and where they could improve.

The Audit Commission, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectors of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation and Ofsted are working together to provide an independent overview of the quality of life in your area. You can also discover how well local public organisations, such as councils and police forces work together to meet local needs.

**Search by area**

Enter a postcode or area name in the search box or click on a region on the map.

enter area or postcode    
 example: SD17 or Bradford

- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and The Humber
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- East of England
- South East
- South West
- London

**Search by organisation**

Know which organisation you're looking for?

Search for...

example: Aylesbury Vale District Council or North Dorset District Council

Use the dropdown boxes to find a local organisation or public service provider

All regions   
 All areas   
 All organisations

**Performance data updated**

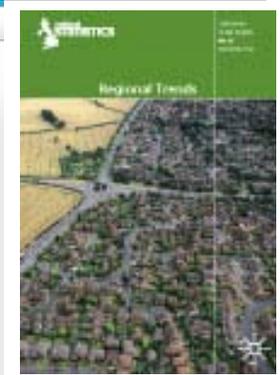
We have refreshed some of the performance indicators with more up to date data.

Find out which indicators have been refreshed.

**Make a difference in your area**

There are many ways to get involved, from reporting problems to your public service providers, giving feedback, or volunteering.

[How to make a difference](#)



### 1. Aims

- To provide you with the information that will enable you to access a range of relevant web-based material for your study of Local and Regional Economics.
- To demonstrate the scale and scope of publicly available material in a web-based format.

### 2. Outcomes

- You will have the practical experience of **where** to source a wide range of relevant web-based material for your research into local and regional economies.
- You will have practical experience of **how** to access data direct from the Government Statistical Service and other sources and be able to retrieve academic articles via the University's Library system.
- You will have an aide memoir to help with future access of web-based material.

### 3. What is the Internet?

The World Wide Web (WWW) is characterised by the hyperlinks that can take you from one resource to another with the *click* of a mouse button. A link may take you seamlessly from a resource held on a local server to a resource held on a machine anywhere in the world. Although this has great advantages, it can also mean that you lose track of where the information is located. On the WWW it can also be difficult to tell exactly where one site ends and another begins: hyperlinks might take you to the front page of a site but they are just as likely to take you to the middle of a site, similarly with **search engines**. This can leave you wondering where am I, how did I get here and how can I get back!

The Internet is still the fastest growing source of information for researchers (academic and commercial). It is convenient and thus has lower opportunity costs than many other sources of research material, but beware there is an awful lot of information that is spurious and incomplete. Be prepared to re-visit original sources (i.e. published) to check authenticity. The data available on the net, particularly from National Statistics, is also available in printed form at the Frewen Library. If you feel intimidated by the WWW and prefer to mine your data from published sources this is OK, but give the Internet a try anyway.

Some government, academic and reputable commercial publishers provide extremely good sites but you may encounter a certain amount of frustration until you become proficient in the use of the net. There are suggestions that the web is becoming mediocre - certainly some sites are very poor, but others are extremely good - bookmark those you find useful discard those that are not.

### 4. What areas might we need access to?

- Statistical databases
- Academic papers and journal articles
- Government departments and publications
- Sub-national governmental institutions
- Research organisations (In this session we will concentrate mainly on the first two areas).

### 5. Obtaining UK Statistics

The Government Statistical Service's main gateway is at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>, below is a screen grab of the homepage. *Open this page and have a look around.*

#### Screen Grab 1

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Office for National Statistics. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for UK SNAPSHOT, NEIGHBOURHOOD, ECONOMY, CENSUS, ABOUT ONS, JOBS, and CYMRAEG. Below this is a search bar with an 'Advanced search' button. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Browse by theme' with a 'Select Theme' dropdown and a 'GO' button; 'Key statistics' with a list of categories like GDP, Retail Sales, Public Sector, Inflation, Population, and Employment; 'Quick links' with a list of links like Virtual Bookshelf, Time Series Data, Journal articles, Freedom of Information, and Statements & Stances; 'Other Websites'; 'Welcome to the Office for National Statistics' with a brief description; 'News' with several articles including 'UK Trade Deficit widened to £3.3bn in Dec 2009', 'ECONOMY Producer Prices Factory gate inflation rises 3.8 per cent', 'SOCIETY Divorces England and Wales rate at 29 year low', and 'HEALTH Alcohol Deaths UK rates increase in 2008'; 'Information' with a list of recent announcements; 'Social Trends 40'; 'FOCUS ON Older People'; 'REGIONAL TRENDS 41'; and 'Pension Trends'.

You will notice that there are a number of main features (in blocks at the top of the page) these include 'UK snapshot', 'Neighbourhood', 'Economy' and 'Census'. Other features on the home page are topical articles on; **UK Trade, Divorce and Producer Prices**, (these change from time to time) they include direct links to the full article and supporting data; **Key Statistics** opens a drop down menu showing the generic data series; and **Quick Links** provide connections to the **Virtual Bookstore** and **Time Series Data**. You can also browse by the main themes, via a drop down menu, which ONS uses to categorise its data resources (e.g. **Natural and built environment**).

## 6. Neighbourhood Statistics

So let us get started. We are going to begin by *clicking* on the word "**Neighbourhood**"; this will transfer you to the front page of this feature it should look like **Screen grab 2**.

### Screen Grab 2

Activity sheet, Question 1; what is the name of the ward in which PO1 3DE is located?

Activity sheet, Question 2; Under the work tab, what proportion of working age people in super output area (P..... 016C) were drawing incapacity benefits in August 2007

This front page is divided into two parts. The left-hand side allows you to examine a local economy at different spatial levels – if you enter a name or postcode you must *click* the appropriate radio button (i.e. type Portsmouth and *click* on Local Authority). At the bottom of the left-hand side are two links that allow you to

produce bespoke charts, maps and tables as well as look at full data sets – these are all menu driven

On the right-hand side you can also access a pre-prepared summary of a neighbourhood area, which is smaller than the Local Authority.

So let's see what a summary looks like. In the box on the right-hand side *enter* 'PO1 3DE' and *click* the 'Search' button. This will open up a map with the postcode reference in the middle. You should find that a map that might be familiar (see **Screen grab 3**). Now answer **question 1**.

### Screen Grab 3

Above the map is menu bar this allows you to access a range of data about this particular area included are people, work, housing and education. Next *click* on the work tab and **answer question 2**.

**I WANT TO:**

[view or download data by topic](#)

Probably the most useful thing about Neighbourhood statistics is that it allows you to draw up a profile of your area. Next, we will look how to download data by topic.

Go back to the main Neighbourhood Statistics menu and click 'on the link at the left-hand side of the bottom of the page (view or download data by topic), this will take you to a screen that lists the various generic



subject areas available. You can select whichever you require but for the moment we will look at education skills and training select 'Education Skills and Training'. Click on the + sign to see all the variables under this heading.

Click the radio button for 'Qualifications and Students (KS13) then click next. At the next screen you will be asked if you want to view or

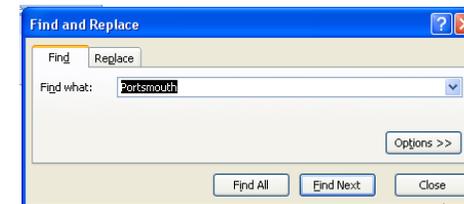
download select "download" and click next. You are taken to a screen that allows you to select the geographic level of analysis, select the radio button for "2003 Administrative Hierarchy" and click next. At the next screen you will be asked which format you require select Microsoft Excel press the open button on the next screen (see below) and the file should download.



**Activity Sheet Question 3: What proportion of people in Portsmouth aged between 16 and 74 have no qualifications?**

**Activity Sheet Question 4: Was the per capita GVA higher or lower in Southampton than that of Portsmouth in 2007?**

- a) Once you have acquired the file in excel go to the LA worksheet.
- b) Place the cursor on cell G7 and from the 'view' command on the header bar select 'Freeze Panes'
- c) Next go to the 'home' section of and click on the select find and select icon. Click 'Find' and in the pop-up box type 'Portsmouth' and click 'find next' then 'close'.
- d) Now answer question 3.



**7. Main Data Series**



To return to the National statistics home page go back to the Neighbourhood Statistics page and click the 'National Statistics symbol' hot link (see above).



Now start to explore the main data series contained within National Statistics.

- i. Use the "browse by theme" drop-down box, select "economy" and click go. From the next screen click on 'Sub-Regional GVA' next to the money icon.
- ii. Next use the related links at the top right of the page under Related Links and select Regional GVA.
- iii. From the listing (see below) select NUTS3 GVA 1995-2007 Data.



- ▶ Regional GVA (NUTS 1, 2 and 3) Statistical Bulletin
- ▶ Regional GVA December 2009 (720Kb - Pdf)
- ▶ GVA and COE NUTS 1 by 31 industries December 20
- ▶ NUTS1 GVA (1989-2008) Data (406Kb - Xls)
- ▶ NUTS2 GVA (1995-2007) Data (635Kb - Xls)
- ▶ NUTS3 GVA (1995-2007) Data (1.4Mb - Xls)
- ▶ Regional GVA (Production Approach) (Web link)

- 1. You will notice that the initial worksheet NUTS3 1 gives Headline GVA. Worksheet NUTS3 2 gives GVA per capita and NUTS3 3 GVA per capita as an index based on UK = 100. Portsmouth's headline GVA was almost 4.2 billion in 2007. Now try answering question 4.

Regional economic data can also be accessed from the **Region Trends** series.

- Go back to the main ONS home page and *select* “**virtual bookshelf**” which is one of the “**Quick Links**”.
- From Compendia and Reference *click* on **Regional Trends**.
- This will take you to another page which displays all the recent editions of Regional Trends, select either **Regional Trend 41 Report or Latest Data**.
- Click* on the Latest Data link. You can now download either individual chapters or data. More importantly, there is a link to the sub-national data archive, which provide information below the regional levels to individual local authorities. *Click* on **Sub-national Data Archive**.
- At the next screen *click* on the link for **Regional Snapshot Archive: September 2009 release** this will open a set of excel files.
- Select the spreadsheet **Economy** and select the link to **Sub-regional Gross disposable household income** see screen grab 4
- Find the sheet for the Yorkshire and Humberside and **answer question 5**.

#### Screen Grab 5

Release Date	Regional Statistics - Directory of Online Tab
1 Oct 2009	
<b>Topic</b>	
<b>3: Economy</b>	
3.1	<a href="#">Workplace-based gross value added (GVA) at current basic prices</a>
3.2	<a href="#">Gross value added by industry groups at current basic prices</a>
3.3	<a href="#">Labour Productivity</a>
3.4	<a href="#">Gross value added by component of income at current basic prices</a>
3.5	<a href="#">Subregional: gross value added at current basic prices</a>
3.6	<a href="#">Residence-based gross value added at current basic prices</a>
3.7	<a href="#">Gross disposable household income</a>
3.8	<a href="#">Subregional: gross disposable household income</a>
3.9	<a href="#">Percentage of gross value added derived from agriculture, industry and services</a>

**Activity Sheet Question 5; which area in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region had the lowest gross disposable household income in 2007?**

#### 8. NOMIS

There is a wealth of labour market data stored in the National On-line Manpower Information Service’s (NOMIS) website this is located at <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/> (see screen grab 6).

#### Screen Grab 6

The screenshot shows the NOMIS website interface. At the top, it says "nomis official labour market statistics" and "national STATISTICS". There are three main sections: "sign in", "SUMMARY STATISTICS", and "DETAILED STATISTICS".

The "sign in" section includes a form for "Email address:" and "Password:" with a "Sign in" button. Below the form are links for "remember me", "forgotten password?", and "register with us".

The "SUMMARY STATISTICS" section provides a brief overview: "View a labour market profile of an area. Includes data on population, employment, unemployment, qualifications, earnings, benefit claimants and businesses." It lists three options: "Local authority (district/county areas)", "Ward (smaller areas)", and "Parliamentary Constituency".

The "DETAILED STATISTICS" section says "Create customised downloads from our full range of data sets." It offers two options: "Wizard query" (Step-by-step. For beginners and casual users.) and "Advanced query" (Full range of features.). There is also a link to "Learn about 2001 census data on Nomis".

At the bottom, there is a "popular datasets" section with several links and descriptions:

- annual population survey** (Dec 2004 to Jun 2009): A residence based labour market survey encompassing population, economic activity (employment and unemployment), economic inactivity and qualifications. These are broken down where possible by gender, age, ethnicity, industry and occupation. Available at Local Authority level and above. Updated quarterly.
- local area labour force survey** (1999 to 2003): Superseded by Annual Population Survey (APS). An annual labour force survey, compatible with the APS useful for data prior to 2004.
- 2001 census - standard tables**: The most detailed statistics for local areas. Presented as 129 tables for wards and higher areas; includes topics such as ethnicity not available in the CAS. Data for 2001 only.
- 2001 census - census area statistics**: Detailed statistics available for the smallest areas (output areas). Presented as 80 tables for output areas upwards. Data for 2001 only.
- claimant count with rates and proportions** (Jun 1983 to Dec 2009): JSA claimant count records the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. This is not an official measure of unemployment, but is the only indicative statistic available for areas smaller than Local Authorities.

- Click* on the wizard query
- From popular data sets *select* claimant count with rates and proportions

- c) In the drop-down box next to the tag 'local authorities unitary and local' *click all*.
- d) At the top of the page *click next*.
- e) On the subsequent page select December 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 the *click next*.
- f) At the next screen *click* the radio button and then *click next*
- g) On the next screen leave the total button as the default and *click next*.
- h) At the final screen leave the excel default and *click finish*.

Your data should now download as an excel file by *clicking* on the link see below



[Download data for Excel 97-2003\(.xls\) \[60KB\]](#)

Use the data to answer Question 6

**Activity Sheet Question 6; By how much did claimant unemployment rise in Portsmouth between December 2006 and December 2009?**

**9. [Time Series Data](#)**

Time Series Data gives access to around 40,000 sets of time series data on-line from National Statistics. You can select either 'Access Individual Series' or 'Download the Entire Series'. This is an extremely useful service for looking at long-run data and you may find it useful in other work that you do. Most of the data is in either CSV format (which is compatible with spreadsheets) or in 'Navidata', if you use the latter you will need to set up the software. Below are two

**Travel Trends - A report on the International Passenger Survey** Product

Presents the main annual results from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), which collects information from passengers as they enter or leave the UK by the principal air, sea and tunnel routes.

Travel Trends presents detailed analyses on visits overseas residents made to the UK and on visits UK residents made abroad. It also presents information on the long-term trends in travel to and from the UK, over a twenty-year period, and also shorter term trends, over a five-year period.

▶ [View more information about this product](#)

These National Statistics are produced to high professional standards and in accordance with the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Office for National Statistics (ONS), Annual, ISSN=13605895, Online edition, Contact: +44 (0)1633 455277

- ▶ [16/07/09 - News Release - Visits to UK fall for first time in seven years](#) (Pdf)
- ▶ [16/07/09 - News Release - Birmingham overtakes Glasgow in top 10 most-visited](#) (Pdf)
- ▶ [Travel Trends 2008](#) (1.6Mb - Pdf)
- ▶ [Latest on International Travel](#) (Web link)
- ▶ [Overseas Travel and Tourism - monthly estimates](#) (Web link)
- ▶ [Overseas Travel and Tourism \(MO6\)](#) (Web link)

screen grabs, which show the Time Series Data front page and the access page to the individual series, these can then be drilled down to get to the dataset you require. *Click* on download entire series and look at what has been happening to the profitability of UK companies, by *clicking* the 'Link to Tables' and in the dropdown box *select Rates of Return for all Private Non-Financial Corporations*, and *click Go*, in the next list select **net operating surplus in £million** and *click Go* at the next screen next to **Download** press **Go** then view on screen. This will download on screen the annual data u to 2008.

The screenshot shows the 'Time Series Data' interface on the National Statistics website. It includes a search bar, a list of categories like 'Gross Domestic Product (G)', 'Consumer Trends', and 'Profitability of UK Companies'. Each category has a 'Navidata' link and a 'Link to Tables' link. The 'Profitability of UK Companies' section is expanded, showing options for 'Net operating surplus in £million'.

These are extremely detailed datasets often on a national scale and you need to be conversant with the codes for each series. There is a data sheet for each series that can be accessed before downloading.

**10. [Virtual Bookshelf](#)**

Virtual Bookshelf is another feature of the National Statistics web site this gives access to publications and datasets most which are free. Try *clicking* on the words 'Virtual Bookshelf' in the home page then have a look around. You will find that the topic areas are almost the same as the index of contents. Take a look under 'Transport Travel & Tourism' look at 'Travel Trends, A report on the [International Travel Survey](#)' *click* 'Travel Trends 2008'

Look through the commentary in Travel Trends 2008 and **answer question 7**.

**Activity Sheet, Question 7; Which UK city, outside London, was the most popular foreign tourist destination in 2008?**

## 11 The Audit Commission

The Audit Commission has recently placed on-line a comprehensive set of data for local areas. This uses a wide variety of data from across Government to profile local authority areas. Go to <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/> and *click* on the Local Government tag at the top of the page. In the next page *click* the link to **Comprehensive Area Assessments** and on the following page *click* the link to the OnePlace website. *Click* on the map in the OnePlace website selecting the South East Region (7) and drill down until you find Portsmouth. (see screen grab 7)

### Screen Grab 7



Now answer Question 8.

### Activity Sheet, Question 8: How did Portsmouth perform in the 2009 CAA?

## 12. Downloading academic articles

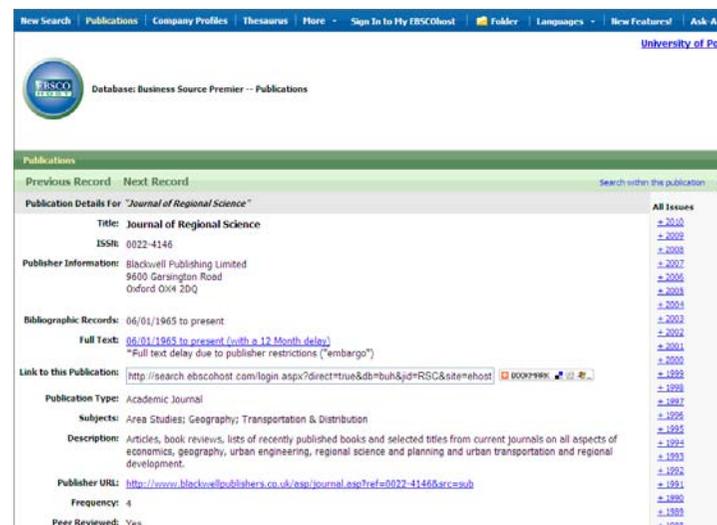
That's probably enough about mining data at this stage. You may, or may not be aware that a large number of academic articles are available over the internet. So how do we get at them? Probably the easiest route is via the University's Library

site at <http://www.port.ac.uk/library/>. This provides an extensive and versatile access point. It can be accessed from most machines in the university or from home. There is a direct link to the Library via the student support tab on University's home page. Once in the site *click* 'Ejournals'. Other useful links include 'Library catalogue', Databases and 'EBooks'. The EJournal tab allows you to search for a particular journal or select a subject category, this contains the main academic categories. Alternatively just pressing search without highlighting a journal or subject reveals an A to Z listing of journals.

Lets see if you can open an article.

1. *Select "J" from the alphabetical listing and page down* the listing of journals until you find the '**Journal of Regional Science**' (it's long way down). *Click* on **Business Source Premier** this will produce a web page as shown in screen grab 8.

### Screen grab 8



2. *Now select and click '2005 and select Vol. 45 Number 2 (May 2005)'.*

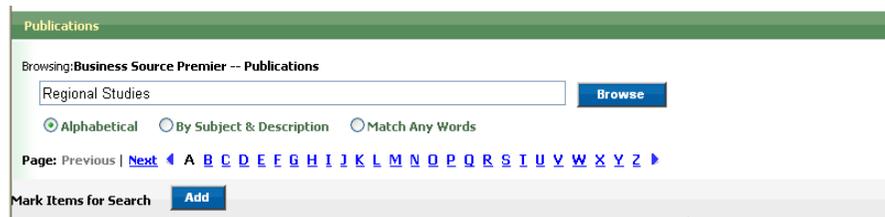
- Open the first article **Cluster dynamics: new evidence and projections for computing services in Great Britain** (hint use the pdf full text link) you can then open the file or save it to disk.
- Now **answer question 9**.

**Activity sheet, Question 9 At which university was Professor Bernard Fingleton based?**

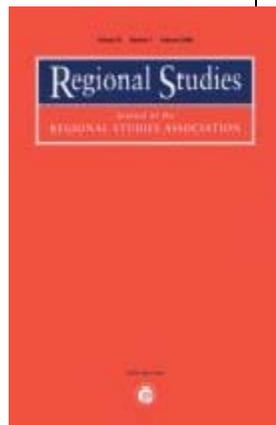
Now try to find a second journal. EBSCO host enables you to search for other journals by name.

- Click the **Publication** tab and *Type in 'Regional Studies'* (see below)

#### Screen Grab 9



- Next *press browse*'. The results lists all the journals containing the words in their title specified in your search string. In this case you should find Regional Studies at the top of the list. Had you typed in Regional you would have also seen displayed titles such as, Regional Science and Urban Economics, and Regional Outlook as well as Regional Studies.
- Click on '**Regional Studies**' this will show the standard EBSCO layout only this time the listing will be of publication years for Regional Studies.



- Select 2003 and then '**Vol. 37 Numbers 6-7 (August 1, 2003)**' then find the article '**The economic performance of regions**' by Professor Michael Porter.
- Open the article in pdf and **answer question 10**.

**Activity sheet, Question 10; According to Professor Porter what strongly influences the performance of regional economies?**

You should now have a good idea how to obtain data and look up key, recent, journal articles. If you have completed the activity questions fill out the worksheet and keep hold of it till the next seminar. If you haven't completed fill it in later.

**IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU WILL NEED THE SKILLS DEMONSTRATED IN THIS WORKSHOP TO COMPLETE YOUR ASSIGNMENT.**

Other useful websites you might like to look at include: [Department for Business Innovation and Skills](#); [Department for Communities and Local Government](#); [Regional Development Agencies](#) and the [Association of Regional Observatories](#)

We're creating a single website for everything to do with BIS but, while we do that, you'll find information in three places. > [Find what you're looking for](#)

**BIS** Department for Business Innovation & Skills

Contact us | Help | Site map

Search BIS

Home About us What we do Delivery partners Publications Consultations

A new strategy to boost strong sustainable, long-term economic growth in the UK has been announced by Lord Mandelson.

The strategy, [Going for Growth](#) outlines seven key areas where the Government will build on the foundations of *New Industry, New Jobs*.

10 February 2010

**Investing in our future**

**Real help now** Building Britain's Future

Recent additions

**News**

- 10 FEB BIS responds to the Space Innovation and Growth Team report
- 10 FEB Government backs low carbon aerospace with £45m of research projects
- Statement by David Lunn on products

**Quick Links**

- Sign up for email alerts
- Pay and the National Minimum Wage (NMW)
- Digital Britain
- Low Carbon Industrial Strategy
- What's new at the Department for Business

Our other sites

Corporate home | Contact us | Glossary | What's new | FAQ | Help | Sitemap

Direct contact 0303 444 0000  
contactus@communities.gov.uk

SEARCH  
Enter keywords GO

All content Publications

Advanced search

**Community Opportunity Prosperity**

Communities and Local Government's vision is to create great places where people want to live, work and raise a family...

**More affordable, more sustainable homes for the future**

Find out about our plans for three million new homes by 2020.

**What we do**

**Real help now** Homeowners Mortgage Support

- About us
- Cities and regions
- Communities and neighbourhoods
- Fire and resilience
- Housing
- Local government
- Planning, building and the environment
- Thames Gateway and the Olympics

**News**

- John Healey: Over £60m to lay green foundations of eco-towns  
8 February 2010
- John Denham - Government is Strengthening Local Democracy  
5 February 2010
- We won't leave a generation behind - Rosie Winterton announces new measures to tackle worklessness

**Publications**

- All publications
- Consultations
- Research
- Statistics
- Jobs and contracts

**Have YOUR SAY**

- Discussion forums
- Blogs
- Newsletters

**POPULAR LINKS**

England's Regional Development Agencies

Home Who we are What we do

Reports & publications Visit the RDAs About the regions

Case studies Contact us

Staff site

Regional successes - find out more about our biggest achievements

**Regional Development Agencies online**

Visit your RDA  
Advantage West Midlands Go

Find your RDA by Local Authority area  
Go

**Press releases**

Find out the latest news from England's RDAs

Go now

The Regional Development Agencies are helping to create prosperity across England. They are strategic leaders, bringing together views of the people who live and work in each region, and combining these with a unique set of business and economic insights to make the most of the opportunities globalisation brings.

To do this, they are strengthening and growing regional economies, guided by the principles of sustainability to ensure a healthy long term future for everyone. Each RDA is working with partners to build on their region's natural assets, develop the knowledge-based economy, revitalise places and meet the needs of regional businesses.

Our regions have already achieved some impressive transformations to become truly world class locations, and have the potential to achieve even more in the future.

**Latest news**

- 17 December 2009: RDAs support 2018 World Cup host cities
- Read more
- 11 December 09: RDAs position reinforced to support economic recovery

Accessibility | Text Only | Site Map | Text Size: A A A

**ARO**

Home About ARO ARO Members Reading Room Events

SEARCH Enter keywords... search

Welcome to the Association of Regional Observatories

ARO aims to add value to the work of England's regional observatories by promoting collaboration, and communicating their contribution to the shared aim of supporting evidence-based policy-making.

**Latest News**

- [The Environmental Limits on Returning to Economic Growth](#)  
Access interactive slides and PDF downloads from the most recent ARO network event.  
03 February 2010
- [Housing Statistics Network Launch](#)  
Communities and Local Government and the Royal Statistical Society are supporting the set up of a new Housing Statistics Network which is being launched at a free half day seminar at the RSS on the...  
03 February 2010

**Events**

- [ARO Board meeting](#)  
17 March 2010

**Annual Report 2009**

New! The Association's annual report for 2009 is now available from the Reading Room.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the ARO newsfeed

[More reports and publications](#)