



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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Agents' Summary of Business Conditions - January 2005

The Bank is today publishing for the first time a summary of monthly reports compiled by its twelve Agencies, which are located throughout the United Kingdom. This summary is based on their face-to-face discussions with around 700 businesses in the period between late-November and late-December 2004. The information was available to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ahead of its meeting on 12-13 January. The Summary is being published alongside the minutes of that meeting.

The Summary provides information on the state of business conditions from firms across all sectors of the economy. The MPC uses the intelligence, in conjunction with information from other sources, to assist its understanding and assessment of current economic conditions. The report does not represent the Bank's own views, nor does it represent the views of any particular firm or area. The Bank previously published a quarterly Agents' Summary of Business Conditions with its quarterly Inflation Report. It has decided to publish monthly summaries to enable greater access to this information.

The Bank of England remains extremely grateful for the contribution made by its business contacts through their discussions and meetings with the Bank's Agencies. In addition to the regular work of the Agencies, MPC members also have a full programme of regional visits each year to all parts of the United Kingdom.

Notes for Editors

The Bank of England has Agencies for: Central Southern England, the East Midlands, Greater London, the North East, the North West, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the South East & East Anglia, the South West, Wales, the West Midlands, and Yorkshire & the Humber.

Further information about the Bank's Agencies and monetary policy is available on the Monetary Policy pages.

Key Resources

Agents' Summary of Business Conditions - January 2005

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100114080129/http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/agentssummary/agsum05apr.pdf>