# Wylfa project could transform Welsh economy as nuclear jobs boom driven by English plants



A crucial decision looms regarding the future of the Wylfa nuclear site, which stands to become the largest single inward investment in Welsh history if a new project is approved. This development comes as a recent report highlights that the nuclear sector's contribution to the Welsh economy has surged by 20% over the past three years. By 2024, the sector is projected to contribute £850 million, largely driven by English nuclear projects such as Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C.

The Economic Impact of the Civil Nuclear Industry report, compiled by Oxford Economics for the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA), indicates that the nuclear industry now supports about 13,400 jobs in Wales, with 830 people directly employed in this sector. The growth can be attributed to projects across the border, particularly the construction of Hinkley Point C, which alone accounts for a quarter of the increase in nuclear jobs in Wales. This construction project is not only boosting the workforce but is also facilitating significant financial inflows, with Welsh firms receiving contracts worth nearly £190 million to deliver steel and other essential components.

Hinkley Point C is set to be a game-changer not just for Wales but also for the South West of England, contributing a projected £4 billion to the regional economy by 2024, reflecting a staggering 50% increase since 2021. The benefits extend further; as noted in the NIA's report, a similar project at Wylfa could unleash comparable economic opportunities in North Wales, especially in Anglesey, where the community stands to gain vital investment and job creation.

In addition, Welsh companies are actively engaged in the construction of Sizewell C in Suffolk, which has committed to investing £900 million in Wales and supporting up to 4,700 jobs. According to industry experts, there is immense potential for Welsh businesses to engage significantly with future nuclear ventures. A study highlighted that 345 Welsh companies have contracts worth £160 million in the sector, and should anticipated nuclear investments proceed, this figure could swell to around £1 billion annually over the next decade or so.

Tom Greatrex, Chief Executive of the NIA, emphasised the missed opportunities for Wales in light of the rapid growth occurring in England. He stated, “Wales is benefiting from jobs and growth that comes with the new nuclear plants being built in England, but this could be greater still with a Welsh project.” He underscored the urgency with which both the UK and Welsh governments need to act to catalyse new projects that will secure jobs, energy stability, and economic revitalization.

Yet despite these encouraging trends, the terrain remains tumultuous. A stark decline in nuclear employment over recent years has been noted, specifically a 40% drop since 2014 across the industry in Wales. More troubling is the revelation that Ynys Môn—a region historically tied to nuclear energy—has experienced a staggering decrease of 57% in nuclear jobs. Such figures highlight an urgent need for action to reverse these trends and stimulate growth.

The prospect of a rejuvenated Wylfa project has ignited ambitions among local engineers and workers. Kieron Salter, an electrical engineer at Hinkley Point C originally from Ynys Môn, expressed his pride about contributing to a crucial energy project. He envisioned returning home to apply his skills at a future Welsh nuclear initiative, asserting that the development of such projects is essential for creating opportunities for younger generations in the region.

As the nuclear sector continues to play an indispensable role in the energy landscape and economic framework of Wales, the time for decisive action regarding Wylfa appears critical. Without a clear path forward, Wales risks continued stagnation while opportunities are seized by neighbouring regions.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/), [[2]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/), [[4]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclear-renaissance-passing-wales-by-with-steep-decline-in-jobs/), [[5]](https://www.niauk.org/new-study-highlights-potential-scale-of-nuclear-opportunity-for-welsh-businesses/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.niauk.org/unparalleled-economic-benefits-of-hinkley-point-c-shows-need-for-sizewell-c/), [[6]](https://www.niauk.org/wylfa-is-the-biggest-prize-in-welsh-history/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/), [[5]](https://www.niauk.org/new-study-highlights-potential-scale-of-nuclear-opportunity-for-welsh-businesses/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/), [[3]](https://www.niauk.org/unparalleled-economic-benefits-of-hinkley-point-c-shows-need-for-sizewell-c/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclear-renaissance-passing-wales-by-with-steep-decline-in-jobs/), [[2]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/), [[5]](https://www.niauk.org/new-study-highlights-potential-scale-of-nuclear-opportunity-for-welsh-businesses/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.niauk.org/nuclears-850-million-boost-for-welsh-economy-driven-by-english-projects/> - A report by the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) reveals that the nuclear sector's contribution to the Welsh economy increased by 20% over three years, reaching £850 million by 2024. This growth is primarily driven by English projects like Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C. Welsh companies have secured contracts worth nearly £190 million for Hinkley Point C, supplying tens of thousands of tonnes of Welsh steel. The NIA advocates for a new nuclear project at Wylfa, which could be the largest inward investment in Welsh history, creating thousands of skilled jobs and bolstering energy security.
3. <https://www.niauk.org/unparalleled-economic-benefits-of-hinkley-point-c-shows-need-for-sizewell-c/> - The NIA highlights the significant economic impact of Hinkley Point C, noting £5.3 billion invested in the South West, 1,300 apprentices trained, and 30,000 more training places available. The association emphasizes the need for Sizewell C to replicate these benefits in the East of England, including job creation and regional economic growth.
4. <https://www.niauk.org/nuclear-renaissance-passing-wales-by-with-steep-decline-in-jobs/> - The NIA reports a 40% decline in nuclear industry jobs in Wales since 2014, with Ynys Môn experiencing a 57% drop. In contrast, England's nuclear workforce has grown by 65%. The NIA calls for new nuclear projects in Wales to reverse this trend and stimulate economic growth.
5. <https://www.niauk.org/new-study-highlights-potential-scale-of-nuclear-opportunity-for-welsh-businesses/> - A study by Cwmni Egino identifies 345 Welsh companies, including 114 in North Wales, currently engaged in nuclear sector contracts worth £160 million. This could increase to around £1 billion annually over the next 10-15 years if projected nuclear investments materialize, with over 10,900 Welsh companies potentially supplying goods and services to support these projects.
6. <https://www.niauk.org/wylfa-is-the-biggest-prize-in-welsh-history/> - The NIA describes the Wylfa site as the 'biggest prize in Welsh history,' estimating that a new nuclear project there could create up to 10,000 construction jobs and sustain 1,000 full-time operational jobs for 60-80 years. The association emphasizes the potential for significant economic revitalization in North Wales through this development.
7. <https://www.niauk.org/hinkleys-once-in-a-generation-economic-impact-shows-why-we-have-to-get-on-with-sizewell-c/> - The NIA underscores the transformative economic impact of Hinkley Point C, with over £5 billion spent with local businesses and 10,300 jobs created, including 644 apprentices. The association advocates for the swift progression of Sizewell C to replicate these benefits in the East of England, contributing to regional economic growth and job creation.