

## ● Recording studios in decline

**Britain's music industry has been one of the country's major success stories over the last four decades, however this may be under threat according to new research.**

According to UK Music, the industry generates over £6 billion per annum, providing more than 130,000 UK jobs, and contributing significantly to exports.

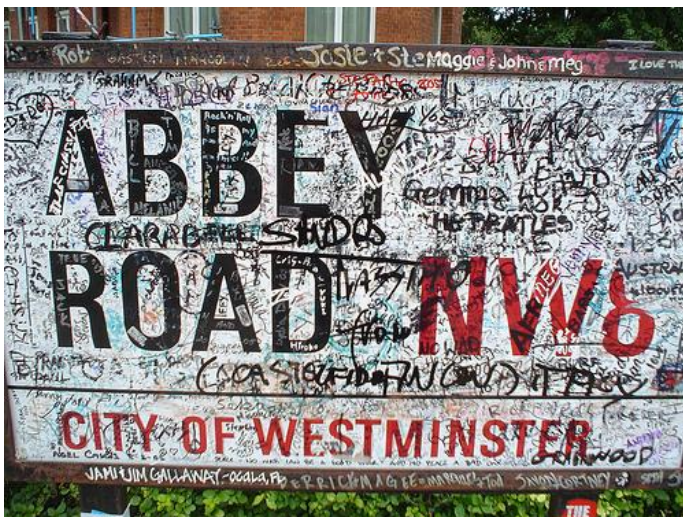


Photo by [aaronjwebb](#)

However, research carried out by geographer Professor Andrew Leyshon, of the University of Nottingham, has found that closures of recording studios, including ones that hosted the likes of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin, and redundancies are depleting the UK's recording studio sector.

In his research, Professor Leyshon visited studios around the country and found that the days of the record company owned and run studios appear to be coming to an end as artists turn to more affordable recording equipment and software, such as Pro Tools, Cubase and Logic, which allow them to make music at home or other non-traditional studio environments.

Commenting, Professor Leyshon said: "The sector at the moment is characterised by falling recording budgets, declining demand for studio space/time, worsening employment conditions, the destruction of barriers to entry, runaway production costs and studio closures."

"We do know this will have serious repercussions for the economic geography of music. What remains to be seen however is how this will play out, and what will be left of the sector for the future."

Recent closures include Olympic Studios, and Wessex Studios was sold to a property developer, who turned the building into luxury flats.

This is also by no means unusual, with the trend being followed in the other major recording cities of New York and Los Angeles.

Much attention has been paid on how software has changed how music is distributed, with the shift towards downloading, but this work is the first major look at its impact upon the actual physical infrastructure of recording studios themselves.

*The research has been summarised in a recent paper by [Professor Andrew Leyshon](#), *The Software Slump?*, published in the journal *Environment and Planning A* in June 2009 (volume 41, p1309-1331)*