

More jobs go as print firm cuts back

THE jobs gloom deepened still further in Stroud today with the news of more industrial redundancies.

Old established printers Copeland-Chaterson of Dudbridge have served notice on unions that they wish to shed 23 jobs.

Managing director David Butler was unavailable for comment today, but workers' representative Nigel Costley said he understood the retail slump was to blame.

"Cope-Chat produce vouchers for credit cards. While people are not spending in the shops, the vouchers haven't been used,"

said Mr Costley, branch secretary of the Three Shires Graphical Society.

"Printing tends to reflect the rest of industry because everybody needs printing in some shape or form. We are a barometer of the rest of the economy and it is showing a continuing downward slide."

Mr Costley said Cope-Chat management and union representatives were involved in talks about the redundancies from a workforce of around 200 people.

Cope-Chat, founded in 1913, also trimmed its payroll last winter, shortly

before Mr Butler and his team bought out the stationery company amid optimism for the future.

The latest jobs blow comes only a week after 150 Stroud jobs were thrown into the balance when receivers were called into local firms Carr Tanning at Woodchester and Pim Holdings, the parent company of Pressboard also in Dudbridge.

Earlier this month there were redundancies at Lister-Petter and Lister Shearing in Dursley, Spicfix group in Chalford and Stroud College.