

# Jobs axed as costs rise

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THE recession has been blamed for 15 job losses at a major Stroud employer, Redler.

Redler, who make conveyors and other bulk handling systems, were forced to make the redundancies because of the economic climate, said managing director Brian Gabbett.

The Dudbridge-based firm has a reasonable level of orders, Mr Gabbett went on. But high interest rates had increased the company's cost dramatically.

He also blamed price competition in the market. "Our order books are less profitable due to the UK

economic situation," he said.

Redler, who employ 290 people altogether, proposed to make the redundancies across the board, but not from the production section.

Negotiations have started with the unions involved and Mr Gabbett expected the workers to be gone within a few weeks.

The sackings were designed to reduce operating costs

Redlers are currently working on a major contract for Bass, making the brewery giants handling equipment. They are also producing grain handling systems for the Phillipines.